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Photo: Madhan Kumar



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GIRISH KARNAD's PLAY IN TAMIL

'Aanniyaal' is a Tamil adaptation of Girish Karnad's play - Broken Images. Performed by Latha Venkat, the play has been staged in various cities and got positive reviews. A note from the producer states - 'Aanniyaal' stimulates imagination, provokes thought, and evokes powerful emotions, it's a classic, a thought-provoking contemporary piece, promising a journey into different worlds and perspectives. Every moment is alive, unpredictable, and shared intimately between performers and audience. It's an opportunity to engage with two rich literary traditions simultaneously, celebrating the diversity and unity of Indian theatre. The play is to be staged on May 4, 7 p.m. at Narada Gana Sabha, Alwarpet. Open to all.

EVENTS FOR SENIORS

Tehneer Arangam of Dignity Foundation hosts weekly meetings for senior citizens in Alwarpet. Next week's programmes will be held in Zoom (online). This is the schedule - May 5 - Topic: One thing I am working to change about myself. May 6 - Singing for Pleasure. May 7 - Topic: Inspiring Tales from Thirukkural. May 8 - Topic: A Temple that touches my heart
 Registration is free. Contact - 7395938954, 7550207456



REMEMBERING KAARAIKKUDI MANI

Sruthi Laya Kendra is conducting the second Laya aradhanai in memory of guru Kaaraikkudi Mani on May 4 from 3 pm onwards at Guru Kaaraikkudi Mani Hall, No 6. Jeth Nagar, First Main Road, R A Puram.

The programme will commence with the performances of students of Sruthi Laya Kendra led by EPL Muthukumar. There will be special performances by R Ramesh (mridangam), R Nithyasree Rajaraman (vocal), Shreya Anil (violin), R Raghavan (mridangam), Dhayanand Bhagavathar (bhajans), among others. All are welcome.

CONCERT. MUSIC DISCOURSE


At Arkay Centre, Luz.
 - On Sunday, May 4 / 6.15pm - Saint Thyagaraja jayanthi - vocal concert by Dr Sumithra Vasudev.
 Dr Usha Rajagopalan - violin, Sherthalai Ananthakrishnan - mridangam
 - On Wednesday, May 7 / 6.15pm - Madhuradhwani presents ' Sangeetha Gananamu - musical discourse by Erode Balaji Bhagavathar. G Kailaspathy - violin, B N Bhuvan - mridangam

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

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Chithirai Thiruvonam Vizha was celebrated at Sri Madhava Perumal Temple in Mylapore. It started on April 21 and ended on April 30. On Sunday, April 27, a few hundred people participated in the ther (chariot) procession, many stepping in to pull the ther for a few minutes in turn.

Short media training course for college students

By Our Edit Team

Mylapore Times has announced a summertime media training, short-term course for college students based in the Mylapore zone. This course will help students who attend media UG courses or intend to apply for one here or abroad.

This free course runs for two weeks for each trainee chosen; he/she must dedicate two hours daily for 10 days. To do field work and write news stories, shoot pictures and videos. To produce reports for the newspaper and create videos for Insta, YouTube – all in Mylapore. Applicants who are chosen will be guided by the editor of Mylapore Times to

undertake assignments across the Mylapore – San Thome – R. A. Puram zone.

They will have to attend community meetings, go around busy streets, parks/ playgrounds / temples and drop into campuses. Those who do well earn a certificate of appreciation.

To apply – e-mail a report of five lines on any recent event held in and around your colony. Also, tell us about yourself in four lines (college, home address and key interests). Mail to – mytimesedit@gmail.com. Subject line; Summer J Course.

There are limited openings. First come first serve. The project runs through May and June.

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VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

I have been watching a few Tamil plays this past week - staged as part of the Kodai Nataka Vizha of Kartik Fine Arts, a sabha.

I make it a point to check out events of the sabhas now and then, be it music, dance, theatre or anything cultural: to keep a tab on trends in this world.

Does the backdrop dictate a story? I ask myself cheekily after sitting through three plays. Because in all these three plays, the backdrops are almost similar, some stained by usage, some of recent make.

Or does the drawing room make for the best setting to weave a script and produce a play?

I ask myself again, amused at my question but not shying away from seeking answers.

For, after watching three plays, not all of them till the curtain was brought down, the drawing room, is the inanimate but dominant character in these plays. This room seems so ideal for the writer to set a play.

Most plays have familiar storylines. You may say that they are very Mylapore in nature. They touch on stories that are real - men who are in their 40s and are still unsuccessful in looking for partners in life. Or the highs and lows of staying with a son or a daughter in the US of A for 3 / 6 months. Or the twists and turns of the lives of brother-in-laws, father-in-laws and all the rest who are all called 'mappillai'.

If the play carries lines of humour all through, the audience has a great time. People clap even before the punch line has been delivered. People don't mind that their lives are being caricatured, sometimes lightly, sometimes intently. But are they also laughing at themselves or is this just 'time-pass' at a play that does not charge you a rupee?

People in the audience easily identify the characters. For, these are you, me, my family and the people around me. Do they welcome stories of their lives being retold on a stage? Or are they laughing at the predicament of their neighbours and relatives?

You cannot be too harsh on theatre groups who are on the sabhas circuit. Theatre does not earn them anything. They do it because they are addicted to or wedded to theatre. They work hard to make people laugh and comment and clap in the auditorium. And they also wonder when people will start paying to watch their plays.

As I walked out of the hall on Monday evening after the play which was all about marriage, divorce, alimony and toxic young women, I wondered - would one of these drama troupes theme their next on people in their 60s, opting for live-in relationships?

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.

Visveswarapuram residents fear fast-moving vehicles in narrow street

I am a resident of Visveswarapuram, Mylapore. This is a street connecting D' Silva Road and Desika Road. Once this used to be a calm street with a few vehicles on the street. But, when Chennai Metro work started in Luz and around, all the vehicles going to Alwarpet traffic signal were diverted through D'Silva Road, Visveswarapuram Street and Desika Road.

Visveswarapuram Street is a narrow street. So it has been made One Way. But motorists ignore this and the vehicles are running (rather flying) both ways. Vehicles are also parked on either side of the street. There is a narrow bend in the street towards Desika Road. Vehicles plying here don't even slow down; many sound horns loudly, even at late night and early mornings. It is even difficult to walk to the nearby temple. Two-wheelers get very close to those who are walking here and pose a danger. A few days ago,



an old person was about to fall before the two-wheeler when it was driven very close to him. This is a residential area where many seniors reside.

I don't know whether the Metro or Police authorities can do anything about this! But we can thank the vehicle drivers, if they can realise what they are doing, drive without disturbing the residents, drive slowly and not sound the horns very loudly.

- Ramakalyani Venkatraman

BSNL connection issues

There are frequent breakdown issues with my BSNL optic fiber connection and I am unable to use my landline or internet connection. I request authorities concerned to look into this.

- D. Raghavan / 9840932049

Need better traffic management at Jesus Calls junction

Traffic management by Traffic Police in the R. K. Mutt Road (south end) - D G S Dinakaran Road zone is still not efficient; and the chaos caused by huge traffic volumes and diversions due to Chennai Metro work continues. During peak hours, there are police manning two key junctions but there is no co-ordination. There are no police stationed at Srinivasa Avenue - R K Mutt Road junction. There are more police stationed at a junction to allow VIP cars to cross over to Greenways Road.

- R. Ramesh

Mylapore Rewind

The weekly Mylapore Rewind column triggers warm memories.

Two excerpts did - the problem monkeys used to create in Abiramapuram and the Carnival restaurant on C. P. Ramaswamy Road.

- Usha R. T.

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 October 1995

Mass rally by TAMBRAS (Oct. 7 - 13, 1995)

The Tamil Nadu Brahmins Association (TAMBRAS), Madras District, will hold a mass rally from Panagal Park to R R Sabha in Mylapore on October 8. TAMBRAS functions from 75, C. P. Ramaswamy Road. Planned to coincide with its third district-level conference, the focus of the rally is to push for 20 per cent reservation for forward class and to press for a second shift in professional colleges. The rally will be flagged off by industrialist T. T. Vasu. G. Venkateswaran of GV Films will inaugurate the seminar at R R Sabha on the same day as the rally.

Latin Mass at Vianney Home every Sunday (Oct. 7 - 13, 1995)

By Lourdes Kamalini

The Catholic Church may have given up Latin. However, at Vianney Home, behind Nirmala Nilayam in San Thome, a Latin Mass is held every Sunday morning for the retired priests who reside at the Home. The revised version of the Latin Mass, introduced in 1967 is followed. The Mass is conducted by Fr. Antony Dass, a

G. Venkateswaran



retired priest. "Latin is the official language of the Church. This is our way of keeping up the tradition," he said.

Lucas-TVS donates Rs. 1 lakh to Gandhi Peace Foundation (Oct. 7 - 13, 1995)

A cheque for Rs. 1 lakh was handed over to R. Venkatraman, the former President of India, as a donation towards the Gandhi Peace Foundation in Alwarpet, by officials of Lucas-TVS. Venkatraman is the chief patron of the Foundation. The donation was made at a small function at the residence of the former president. T. K. Balaji, MD, Lucas-TVS, handed over the cheque. Lalitha Ramamurthy, chairperson of the Foundation, was present at the function, along with the vice chairman, treasurer and secretary of the Foundation.

Shops in Corporation Complex burgled (Oct. 7 - 13, 1995)

Thieves broke into two shops on the ground floor of the Corporation Complex on C. P. Ramaswamy Road. The owner of Shilpi, a women's boutique said that sarees, bed covers and Rs. 10,000 in cash are missing. Rs. 12,000 cash has been stolen from the other shop, Citi Xerox. The thieves removed the air-

conditioning units to gain entry to the shops. The owners said that their staff initially found nothing amiss when they arrived for work but saw things thrown around when they went inside. The Abhiramapuram police are investigating the case.

S. Ve. Shekhar's play to raise funds for NGO (Oct. 7 - 13, 1995)

S. Ve. Shekhar's Natakhapriya is staging a play, Eppavum Nee Raja, on October 12 to help raise funds for buying land for Aikya, an NGO for mentally challenged children. To be staged at the Music Academy hall, the tickets are priced at Rs. 100 and Rs. 50. Aikya director, Parvathy Viswanathan, a resident of Desika Road in Alwarpet, is seeking sponsors for staging the play.

Community donations brighten Karpagam Avenue temple Navaratri (Oct. 7 - 13, 1995)

This year's Navaratri is different at the Karpagam Avenue Vinayakar Temple. There are concerts by top-ranking artistes like Unnikrishnan, Ramani and Kumaresh and Ganesh. Every day's concert is sponsored by a local resident. Built in 1980, the temple is run by a Sat Sangh. Residents are members of the Sangh. There are members from outside the area too.

● This column is curated by Kanaka Cadambi.

SUMMER CAMPS: LIST

Complete listing at www.mylaportimes.com You holding a camp? Mail 4 lines to mytimesedit@gmail.com

ART & CRAFT

● Expressions Art Studio - camp in drawing and fine art. Baseline drawing, miniature, free hand drawing and craft will be taught. Children from 7 years onwards can join. For details call 9444033348

● Rishi Dhev - arts & painting classes. Both online and offline available. For details contact Kalai Suresh at 8451991126/ 044-42615317.

YOGA

● Sky Yoga Centre is conducting a yoga camp from May 5 to 17. The camp will include yoga, games, moral stories, songs, quiz, arts & craft. Fees - Rs 750. For details contact 044-24640211/ 8838354960.

● Kids yoga camp at Prana Yoga studio, 53, C P Ramaswamy Road starting from May 5. For registrations call 6369778469/ 9566923902

● Kids yoga class at Infinity Playspace - San Thome from May 5 to May 15 (5 pm to 6 pm). Fees Rs 1000. For details call 9840936833

MULTI ACTIVITIES

● Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's camp is from April 28 to May 9. The activities include vocal music, free style dance, yoga, drawing & painting, storytelling, sloka chanting, handwriting, cultural tour, games & puzzles.

The Bhavan is also conducting intensive short-term courses for children 7 years and above. The courses are on from May 1 to May 31 for 20 days - one hour per day. There are courses in keyboard, drawing & painting, freestyle dance, yoga, vocal music and veena. For details call 98843 35700, 9884366700.

● Summer camp in Reading, Handwriting, Basic Arithmetic, Games, Craft & Yoga. Timing 9:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m. For registration. Contact: 9841269624

● The Nest Play Home, CIT Colony, Mylapore is conducting a 10-day camp. The activities include music, movement,

art stories and more. Fees Rs 3000. For registrations call 9176092272

● Parampara workshop at Kasturi Rangan road, Alwarpet from May 6 to May 10 for children from 6 to 14 years. Fees - Rs 2000/-. The camp will include yoga, music, chitra katha movies, tradition and science, traditional games and hands-on activities. For details call 8825878560/ 6369935191.

● Shiksha Viharam will conduct workshops on DIY and storytelling for children between the ages 3 and 7 on May 3 and on DIY and science experiments for children between 7 and 12 years on May 10. Contact: 9384108025

● Tusk & Quill, R A Puram offers four different programs for May. Fun activities for kids aged 3.6 & above and crash courses for handwriting improvement, basic Tamil and English reading are offered for kids aged 6+. Contact 9940522883.

LANGUAGES

● Online spoken French camp. For more details call 9043989429

SPORT

● Mylapore Chess Academy conducts chess coaching classes, from May 1 to May 5 by FIDE-rated player, daily two hours evening. Contact Meenakshi: 9962682794.

RELIGIOUS

● Tattvaloka on Eldams Road hosts a "Sanatana Dharma" camp for high school students - from April 28 to May 2 - the sessions intend to enrich the knowledge and provide clear insights on the wisdom of "Sanatana Dharma". Those who wish to participate should make an online registration at : <https://tinyurl.com/SSChennai> All details on the camp are in the online-registration forum. Contact - 24328124 / 25. 9042765660.

Go to www.mylaportimes.com for a listing of over 60 camps



Snacks bunk 'takes over' pavement

Here is a good example of flagrant violation of public space. A case of how small shops / bunks encroach on the pavement space. This bunk shop - Mylai Maska Jaska - is on Venkatesa Agraharam Street in Mylapore - closer to the east side.

The food joint has been erected on the pavement and clients here have to stand on the roadside to have a snack. Residents of this area who already face problems posed by dozens of hawkers who have set up shop on this busy road where the Sai Baba Temple is located, and from heavy traffic caused by a diversion due to Metro work ask why local area GCC officials (GCC Unit 124) have allowed the food bunk to operate.

Report, photo - by Baskar Seshadri

● REPORT on such violations / serious civic issues in your area. Mail a note - add a photo - mytimesedit@gmail.com

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Donate to help fund students' studies

Mylapore Times Charitable Trust (MTCT) is on to the 2025 project to raise donations which will help fund part of the fees of economically-weak, bright students who move up in senior school or get admitted to colleges in the new academic year.

This is an annual project of the Trust and it supports as many as 25 to 30 students of the neighbourhood. The funds are

raised with generous donations by Mylaporeans, in the area and from outside. Donations can be made online now / it can also be collected by staff.

You may call Mylapore Times office manager Shanthi at 2498 2244 (11 am to 5 pm) for guidance on how best to make the donation. Tax exemption available

Recent donor - Shanthi Vijay, Royapettah - Rs. 50,000

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Some light, some gripping, some let-downs at this drama festival

By Our Edit Team

At the end of a hot summer's day, a few hundred people look forward to some entertainment in air-conditioned comfort.

The annual Kodai Nataka Vizha, a festival of Tamil plays hosted by Kartik Fine Arts Sabha at Narada Gana Sabha's main auditorium is hugely welcomed by Mylaporeans whose staple is music, dance and drama.

12 Tamil plays, all new ones, presented by well-known artistes in this field, are staged at this hall and all of them get a full house.



Scenes from 'Killadi Mappillai' (above) and 'Kalavu Neekiya Padalam' (below)

multiple people speak into mikes and make people laugh; some pedestrian backdrops are used on stage to enhance the living room colour. But for the full-house, the humour and the crazy moments, it was paisa vasool entertainment on Day One, all served free since the shows are not ticketed.

Not all dramas premiered at this fest work - people walked out 30 minutes into 'Boomer Balu'.

'Kalavu Neekiya Padalam', written by V. Sreevathson and directed by M. V. Bhaskar, staged on April 29 evening, was perhaps the best play this far. It is a 'thRee' production of Lavanya Venugopal and M. V. Bhaskar.

The play, a courtroom drama with parallel cases, was taut, changed scenes quickly and moved at a good pace to grab and retain the interest of the audience right through. Actor Lavanya, whose character blossomed over time, got rousing rounds of applause.

The theatre fest is on till May 3.

● **SHARE YOUR SNAPPY NOTES on this festival. WhatsApp to - 730563 0727**



On the inaugural evening, April 22, the hall was packed, with people who rarely go up to the balcony at the far end, searching for empty seats.

That evening, Sathya Sai Creations presented 'Killadi Mappillai' written by Ezhichur Aravindan and directed by Mapilai Ganesh.

You may call this play a kind of stand-up comedy (most plays of this kind are) where



This was a get-together for pets and their owners. On April 20 evening, the Pets101 store in Alwarpet's Seethammal Colony hosted this event which included a pet adoption drive and a talk by a canine nutritionist. The event was curated by JusfurPets, an initiative that aims at creating a world where every pet finds a loving home.

Bharatnatyam teacher and dancer Meenakshi Chitharanjan and her students performed at the Navaratri Mantapam of Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore as part of the vidaiatri festival which follows the Panguni festival. Music and dance concerts were held from April 14 to 25.



Chellammal Vidyalaya Nursery and Primary School, Mylapore had the Kindergarten convocation event on March 28 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore.

Handicaps have not curtailed this tailor-trainer

By Baskar Seshadri

Meet Mala, a differently-abled tailoring teacher. She offers a course in Mandaveli.

Due to a polio attack lost the use of her two legs at the age of one. She studied in various schools upto Std.10 .

She then learnt tailoring while taking a diploma course held in Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam in Alwarpet and later she started teaching tailoring.

Now she is a full fledged tailoring teacher (teaching mainly to the mothers of special children). She takes classes in Alwarpet in a small portion located behind Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam in Ambujammal Street.

She also teaches tailoring at her residence in Mandaveli in the evening hours.

Mala says this training is part of a six-months course for a fee of Rs 1500 per month. She says, "One can become a competent tailor with this very training."

Contact Mala at 824 853 4410



Hotel Sukha Nivas in Luz shuts down



By Baskar Seshadri

Popular south Indian food restaurant Hotel Sukha Nivas in Luz had been shut temporarily. This due to a steep fall in patronage indirectly caused by work on the Chennai Metro project here.

A notification hung on the shutters said that the services will be offered at Hotel Chaitra on P. S. Sivaswami Salai which is also a popular food joint . The notification says the unit will be re-opened after the Metro work is over.

Sukha Nivas has been a hugely popular restaurant for decades and a landmark in Luz Circle - much known for its Udupi brand of food.

Business dropped as soon as the area on Luz Church Road was barricaded and now that access to the space is very difficult, the management here decided to do what many other retail stores have done the past year.



Learn to play the guitar, keyboard at this Alwarpet studio

By Preetha K.

Alwarpet-based Audio Media Inc, run by T. Selvakumar, is conducting classes in music on the guitar and on the keyboard.

One-on-one classes are offered and the course comes with international certification.

Besides music classes, music technology training and Youtube video production facilities are also available here.

“Audio Media Inc has been around since 2000,” says Selvakumar. “Earlier, Sadanand was taking classes. After his retirement, I conduct the classes. I teach guitar and keyboard for both basic and advanced levels.”

Selvakumar has a unique credit to his name - in 2002, he became India’s first certified trainer for Apple Pro-Application; this led him to audio media training. He says he also played a significant role as a beta software

tester for Apple Computers USA for the Final Cut Pro and Cinema tools. The Audio Media premises was recently renovated and now has a recording studio and a shooting floor as well.

You can be of any age to sign up for classes here. There are guitars and keyboards available here for learners.

Online and offline classes are conducted. “As of now, there are one-on-one sessions but group classes will be started soon,” says Selvakumar. He insists that one-on-one classes are vital when the student is starting off at the basic level.

“Thereafter, they can study further and get international certification from Trinity College, London,” he says.

To get a free feel of a music learning session, call 9884058595

Audio Media Inc is at Bheemanna 2nd Street, Alwarpet. Ph: 24671245

Vidya Mandir marks its 70 years with outdoor event



By Subha V Dilip

A long-distance running event called ‘Miles of Smiles’ was hosted by Vidya Mandir school to mark its 70th year. It was held on Sunday, April 20 morning in Besant Nagar’s 3rd Avenue, off Rajaji Bhavan complex.

Over 1000 people participated in the 2km / 5km run. These included sub-teens as well as 70 year olds - students, teachers, parents and grandparents of the students as well as alumni.

The event was flagged off by the school’s secretary, Srikanth. Medals were given to all participants.

Vidya Mandir principal S. H. Kanchanamala said, “The success of the event was made possible by the collective effort of the dedicated school staff, VMPTA (Parents Teachers Association) and the school alumni.”

Subha Dilip is a Mylapore Times reader who also reports local events. You too can do the same for this newspaper. Mail - mytimesedit@gmail.com



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Season for Maavadu

Three women of Mylapore who enjoy making the famed pickle share this season's experience



MYTHILI SUBRAMANIAN / Mylapore

There has never been a season when I have not made maavadu pickle. I use different varieties to make maavadu. Make sure you buy the baby mangoes with stalks on them. I soak the mango in gingelly oil, salt and turmeric powder; keep tossing once or twice daily. The trick is in tossing the mangoes regularly in a jar so they soak well.

We can use the juice left by the soaked mangoes to dip idlis at tiffin time. We can also use that juice to do pachadi.



MALATHI SUBRAMANIAN / Luz

Everybody at home loves maavadu pickles so I make it every year. I look for these mangoes from late February onwards.

I make something like 20 kilos of maavadu; it lasts for close to a year and never spoils.

The key is to get the mangoes as they are plucked from the trees and are in bunches. Not the ones that have been cleaned up.

I follow a process: I wash the mangoes clean one evening and spread them on clean cloth.

They are all dry next morning. I begin the process only after I have had a bath.

When we let the maavadu soak in salt, it must be kept that way till it is soaking in salt water. Only then, must we add the other ingredients.



RADHA RAMACHANDRAN/ Mandaveli

Be patient when you choose the mangoes when shopping.

The stalks must be there. At home, chop off most of the stalk but leave a bit of it on the mango. Cleaning them all well is important. Leave them to dry.

I put them in large glass bottles and add rock salt, not salt powder.

Days after they are well soaked,

I take out the salty water, add ingredients to it and soak the mangoes in that mix.

WATCH VIDEO of these women talking about their pickles.
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Candies, sodas and milk shakes. At this shop in Mandaveli market zone



By Akshita K.

Located in Mandaveli market zone, Thunder Super Soda has become a hub for candy lovers.

Owned by Gowri Pan-kaj, the shop has revived 90s candy classics like Kismi toffee, Mango Bite, and Chupa Chups, priced between Rs.5 and Rs.10, drawing in both adults and children eager to relive their childhood

Besides candies, Thunder Super Soda

serves refreshing sodas, milkshakes, ice creams and candy-inspired snacks priced Rs.20 and plus.

The owner says the shop's popularity has grown thanks to its vibrant atmosphere and its sponsorship of re-unions and other community

events like school reunions, helping people reconnect over shared nostalgia.

The shop's contact – 6374340528

– Akshita K. attended the Mylapore Times Journalism Course

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