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YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSPAPER

Vol. 29, No. 6

May 4 - 10, 2024

16 pages Free Circulation

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A top angle view of the Chennai Metro work zone at Luz Circle, as on April 15. This is a major zone for Metro's project where two stations serving two rail lines - one from north to south and one, east to west, will cross and hence be an interchange point as well as link to MRTS and bus services network.

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NOOKS

SHOP FOR PETS' NEEDS

Name of the shop: Oliver Pet Shop
Address: 6/3, 3rd Cross Street, R A Puram
Owner: Satham Hussain N.
Phone: 9841443021
Timings: All days 10 am to 10 pm. Sunday till 8 pm.



Oliver Pet Shop is a six-year-old shop which sells food, gravies, snacks and biscuits for dogs, cats, birds, fish, rabbits and hamsters.

"I am fond of cats and dogs. I worked in a pet shop for seven years before opening this shop," says Satham Hussain, the shop owner. The shop also sells imported cages, carriers for transporting pets, pet accessories like toys, belts, collars, chains, dresses, feeding bowls, harness, shampoos, diapers, perfumes and more.

Also, stuff needed for grooming and training the pets is sold here. The shop also stocks milk for pets (It is different for different animals) and hand-feeding syringes for birds.

"I provide tips to pet lovers on health-related issues and on adoption and also connect abandoned pets to people who may like to house them," says Satham Hussain: he says he feeds street dogs around his home and his shop.

Report by V. Soundararani

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CHECK THIS

CELEBRATING MRIDANGAM GURU KARAIKUDI MANI

Carnatic music guru and mridangam vidwan late Karaikudi Mani is remembered at this Laya Aaraadhana event to be held on May 4, 9.30 am onwards in Mandaveli.

Artistes who study music at the Sruti Laya Kendras that Mani founded in Chennai, Kumbakonam and Thiruvallur will perform here in turns.

There are also concerts and the daylong event ends with a mandolin concert by U P Raju and Nagamani, at 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Guru Karaikudi Mani Hall, Jeth Nagar, Mandaveli. Open to all.



ON THIRUVASAGAM

Madhuradhvani presents திருவாசக தொடர் இசைப் பேரூரை - 16 16 மதுகுதனன் கலைச்செல்வன் (by Madhusudhanan Kalaiselvan.)

Bhavya Hari - on vocal

At Arkay Centre, Luz. On Thursday, May 9, 6.15pm

SIX ACTORS PRESENT MONOLOGUES. MAY 4

This show is a tad different. Six male actors / story-tellers will be on stage at Medai, Sriram Nagar, Alwarpet, to present monologues - their tales could be from personal experiences and observations or fictional takes that seem to have impacted them.

The artists are V G Roshan, Divagar Ravi, S. Sabarish, Navaneeta Krushnan, Prasamma Rajaram and Shakti Shiva.

On May 4, 5 pm onwards. Ticketed show.

KUTCHERI IN PARK. MAY 5



The May edition of Mikeless Kutcheri in the Park hosted by Sundaram Finance will present a debut Carnatic vocal performance by P. B. Srujana.

This concert, as always, is held at Nageswara Rao Park and this one will be on May 5 from 7 am to 8 am - at the Chess Square zone in the rear end of park.

Srujana was slated to debut here in December 2023 but the concert had to be postponed due to torrential rains. Her guru is Kamala Ramanathan.

She will be accompanied by B. Kesavan on the violin and by Yashwanth Ravi on the mridangam and the performance will be in a verdant setting that is cool despite the summer heat. Mikes and speakers are not used.

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Nethra Kumanan qualifies for Olympics in sailing. She resides in Alwarpet

By Our Edit Team

Alwarpet-resident sportsperson Nethra Kumanan, a member of Tamil Nadu Sailing Association (TNSA) has secured her berth at the Paris Olympic Games to be held soon, marking her second consecutive qualification for the Olympics.

The achievement comes after her impressive performance at the last chance regatta held in Hyeres, where she competed fiercely in the ILCA 6 class of Boat.

Despite facing formidable competition, Nethra showcased her skill, determination, and unwavering resolve throughout the regatta. Her exceptional sailing prowess propelled her to a commendable 5th place finish, securing the vital 3rd spot allocated to countries in the Emerging Nations Program (ENP).



Nethra's journey to her second Olympic qualification exemplifies her relentless pursuit of excellence, said Nilma V. Shah, secy.-general, TN Sailing Association (TNSA).

Her journey began with a childhood dream to excel in the sport of sailing, when she joined TNSA via its annual summer sailing camp. Through the years of dedicated training and hard work, Nethra has risen to great heights.

Her first qualification for the Olympics in Tokyo 2020 marked a historic moment for Indian sailing, as she became the first Indian woman to achieve this milestone in the ILCA 6 class.

She will leave for Spain soon, for further training.

Nethra has completed a course in B.E (mechanical engineering) from SRM University and is currently pursuing a MBA in SRM University – Vadapalani city campus.



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VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

We are never surprised by the inaction of state-run agencies - be it transport, civic, water and sewage, power supply . . .

We are never astonished at the helplessness of a community, at its attitude to neighbourhood affairs.

Over five months have passed since Chennai Metro began its ground work to lay railway lines that are to run underground two ways (N to S, E to W) and these are across the greater Mylapore zone. Till now, this company, CMRL, and agencies like GCC and MTC have refused to address basic issues that arise out of this work and deeply affect people.

The attitude borders on arrogance.

Here, I want to focus on the issue of public transport. Chennai Metro promises a better tomorrow, with its underground rail lines. And asks people to bear with the mess, the inconveniences and the shocks. Bear with all this for about three years. And yet, it fails so badly in addressing transport issues.

When key zones were made 'no go' zones by Metro for its core work, lots of changes in traffic routes were effected. Understandable.

Efforts were made to employ traffic marshalls at key junctions to direct vehicles which had to take new routes. Traffic signage was put in place and enhanced, as hiccups showed up.

But two key issues got conveniently bypassed. First, the streets and roads that had to take the extra traffic load due to the diversions, were not relaid / rid of encroachers / pot-holes set right. We saw Metro's contract staff partly cement, partly relay some streets and roads in zones where people complained a lot.

Metro was telling people - anyway you are tolerating the inconvenience, why not make do with some half-baked solutions.

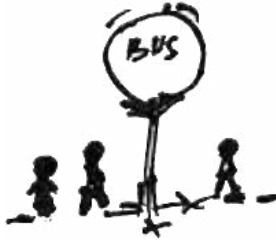
Issue Two - Metro officials did not even think it was incumbent to erect bus shelters at points where MTC buses would stop on its 'divert' routes. Be it in R A Puram or on Marina Loop Road or in Mylapore or in Alwarpet.

The past five months, commuters have had to stand on the roadside and in the blazing sun (39 degrees) while they wait for their buses. Or, they seek relief under roadside trees or sunshades of sidewalk shops.

Not that Metro officials who supervise work in the zone are blind to the sufferings of people. Not that they have not received e-mails from community activists.

Sadly, communities rarely join hands and scream and shout at the agencies that are supposed to make life a little better for all. Rarely, do people assemble in a public space and protest for 10 minutes and make their angst known in clear terms.

Reason why agencies like Chennai Metro go about their core business and do little for 'inconveniences' caused.



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.

Tree on St. Mary's Road; what to do with it?

File photo

● The time, effort and resources GCC spends on falling trees, and cleaning the damage those cause, every year, can be adequately compensated by taking care of them periodically, once or twice a year by inspecting them. They do have people in roles but frankly I don't really know what the responsibilities of those people are.

GCC is an organization with absolutely no long term vision in maintaining the greening of the city.

Some IAS officer will assume the top role, listen and act on the lines of the political brass and move on to some other position.

Where a tree existed, in front of my complex, until a couple of years ago until it fell, GCC contractors dumped waste from road relaying right in that pavement space.

- Sridhar Venkataraman

● The tree which protrudes on St. Mary's Road can be trimmed and transplanted, can we not? Near TIDEL park, agencies moved lots of trees for the U-shaped flyover that came up here.

- Giridharan K.



● Due to Chennai Metro work many buses have been diverted. But this is not a permanent fixture. Are you going to chop off a tree just because a MTC bus had its roof ripped off as its driver tried to negotiate a barricade there on St. Mary's Road?

Tree cover in the Adyar-Mylapore-Alwarpet belt has drastically reduced due to Metro work. Please do not chop off what is remaining. Try to create a go-around. One go-around I would suggest is to remove parking on this road.

- Latha P.

● Lots of trees have been chopped on our streets. Let us not chop the tree on St. Mary's Road. Find an alternate method or route for the MTC bus.

- Vijaya Bala R.

Yummy podi, snacks

Refer the report in Nooks, on Pranavamm Home Needs shop; their garlic parupu podi is the best one and the vazhakai kaara chips are good snacks too.

- Vijayalakshmi Sivakumar

Mylapore Hindu Benefit Fund:
'shocked' client

Mylapore Hindu Benefit Fund has been around for more than 150 years, so it should take drastic steps to clear all the earned interests of clients. It should be responsible for additional interest for not paying in time - the Fund collects penal interest from our clients who delay. It seems the Fund managers are dodging us. We are shocked by what's going on.

- R. Venkatakrisnan

'Poor' customer service
by Airtel

I had lodged a complaint on April 24 with Airtel that our land-line was dead, but there has been no response till date. This has been a recurring problem. I have made multiple visits to the customer care desk on San Thome High Road but the issue remains unsorted. The contact numbers of higher officials are not shared and we get automated messages saying the issue will be resolved in 48 hours, but no technician visits or contacts us. We are seniors.

- Sashikala Chandran

MY STORY



Musings of a Cub Journalist

By CHARA SHREE KATARE

I was one of the students-in-training at the recent Journalism Camp hosted by Mylapore Times, the neighbourhood newspaper. I got to know about the course from a WhatsApp forward. Knowing I would be stuck at home after the Board exams, plus thinking it would help improve my reporting skills at MUN conferences, I decided to give it a go.

The newspaper's editor-publisher, Vincent D'Souza asked us, as our first task, to collate info to form a database of our neighbourhood.

The first lecture was no-holds-barred. Vincent ran a tight ship - no flowery lines or frills in the writing, keep the lines short and simple. How do you see? And what?

This was something entirely different from what I was taught at school. I felt like a fish out of water during the first few lectures and felt somewhat insecure about my skills. Real-life journalism was nothing like I was used to.

But out in the field (we had daily assignments), I uncovered new things everywhere - a man selling handicrafts, an aspiring female entrepreneur . . . I realised that we all miss what's right in front of us.

One evening, Vincent led us to the Mada Streets zone. We stared at the Chennai Metro work zone - what do you see? How do you see it? He teased us. And pushed each one of us into happenings around - one boy was coaxed to the keerai hawker stall, another to a roadside temple, and a third to the Chennai Metro zone.

On the street, we learnt to take better pictures; I interacted with a mute, utensils-seller here and spotted a flower vendor using a speaker to blare her stuff and offering a GPay facility. We didn't notice all this till Vincent pointed them out; and when we observed

our fellow students at work and the slips they made.

The Lok Sabha election season also provided us the space to report on it. I covered a meeting at Mangollai (East Mada Street end), where a few people were hesitant to speak in front of a camera. I had to learn how to make people feel comfortable to talk with me. On polling day, I got to see the booths a day before polling at Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls' School. And we were at local booths on polling day.

At the end of the course, I took home some new lessons. I learnt that people were eager to talk if you were willing to listen. On how to ask the right questions and to jot down responses, in the middle of a crowd. I still remember interviewing an old lady preparing lamps with her family at Chithirai Pournami, during a walk around Kapaleeswarar Temple!

I found the course helpful in getting a 'rhythm' in my writing as well. I didn't learn this in a classroom - but I'm glad I learnt something worthwhile here.

● Chara Shree Katare is a Std.11 student of P. S. Senior Secondary School, Mylapore.

 **Obituary**

84 year old **Christine A. Fernandes**, a retired St Bedes AIHS School teacher, passed away on April 25; her funeral service was held on April 29 at Our Lady of Guidance Church, R A Puram and she was laid to rest at Quibble Island Cemetery.



Old Bedeans and Christine's colleagues from St Bedes joined the bereaved family as they farewelled the grand old woman who is said to have been the longest serving teacher at St. Bede's.

Born in Royapuram, raised in San Thome and settled in Foreshore Estate, Christine was a much loved teacher whose skill in moulding young minds was lauded by many at the funeral.

Facebook was alive with tributes paid by her 'old' students around the world, who fondly remembered their Std. 1 teacher, "the

first smiling face" that welcomed them to school.

Christine worked as a primary school teacher for 33 years at St Bedes - her service as a teacher was warmly recalled by Fr. Sebastian and Fr K. J. Anthony, principals of St Bede's during Christine's tenure, who celebrated the funeral Mass.

Fernandes joined St. Bedes in 1965 as a Std.4 teacher, after completing her Teacher's Training course at Church Park. In 1973, Fr. Sebastian, the then HM, observing her love towards her students, asked her if she would teach Std.1, the most challenging class to handle, and the rest is history.

Said 'old' student Neville Philip (batch of 2000), "Hundreds, if not thousands of boys, would remember Christine Fernandes as 'my first standard teacher'".

Christine is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

The family contact: suzsouza4@gmail.com
- Tribute by Dr Suzanne D' Souza

MLA, with sponsors, hosts free tailoring camp for women



By Our Edit Team

About 30 women who reside in different parts of Mylapore are now attending a free sewing course at a private hall in Mandavelipakkam.

This camp was initiated by Mylapore MLA, Dha Velu and is supported by AMD Foundation and Exnora International.

"At a previous camp on zari craft and stitching, some women requested a tailoring camp and that is why this one has been organised," said the MLA.

The camp started on April 30 and runs for two months.

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On R K Mutt Road, Mylapore.

MTC COMMUTERS ROASTED. NO BUS SHELTERS ON 'DIVERT' ROUTES

By Our Edit Team

Months after Chennai Metro began work on two new rail lines criss-crossing Mylapore zone, neither CMRL nor the city's services have bothered to care for ordinary people.

One issue where Chennai Metro and MTC have failed is in providing bus shelters at makeshift bus stops created on routes on diverted passageways. Despite a stream of e-mails and tweets, MTC and Metro officials have remained quiet - the oast many weeks.

In the 37 degrees heat, commuters are being roasted at these stops, saved only by the shade of avenue trees or sunshades of local shops.



On Luz Church Road



On Marina Loop Road

'ROASTING' BUS STOPS

- Karpagambal Nagar, Luz Church Road - some trees provide shade here
- Outside Sri Anjaneyar Temple, Luz Church Rd., Alwarpet - old bus stop hijacked by flower

- hawkers. Commuters stand on the roadside.
- Kamaraj Salai, R A Puram - save for a bus stop board, there is nothing else for commuters



- Srinivasa Avenue, R A Puram (east end) - major point for local school students, workers. Commuters seek shelter at two local shops.
- Marina Loop Road - from Light House to Pattinapakkam. No proper shelters.
- Junction of Thiruvengadam Street and Venkatakrisna Road, Mandaveli



Arundel Street temple kumbabishekam held

By Baskar Seshadri

The kumbabishekam of Sri Valampuri Vinayaka Temple on Arundel Street, Mylapore was held on April 27 morning.

A large number of people gathered around it on the street to participate.

As the temple was renovated extensively, some people raised objections, saying that the temple was not located on recognised land. But the priest and temple managers have said that they have valid documents to prove that it is legal.

The Mylapore MLA took part in the kumbabishekam.

Teens enjoy presenting this play on Robin Hood



The timeless tale of Robin Hood – the champion of the underdog, the thief with a cause, and the hero in green tights – has been told and retold through generations.

Recently, TalkAct Productions' staged 'Robin Hood and His Merry Men' and director Tasneem Unjhawala, founder of this theatre group for children and teens, brought her own zest into the production.

The performance, held on April 22, at Dakshinamoorthy Auditorium, Mylapore transported the audience straight to the heart of Sherwood Forest. The set was a delightful patchwork of hand-painted trees and makeshift rocks, streams, and a human bridge, creating a whimsical backdrop that was a labour of love.

The story follows the benevolent rogue Robin Hood, played by young Pranav K. His merry men, a diverse group of spirited boys and girls, added a layer of camaraderie and comic relief to the tale. Notable among them were Friar Tuck, played by Burhanuddin Dahodwala, and Stable Boy, Kaushik whose comic timing and physical humour brought gales of laughter from the audience.

The director's choice to blend traditional storytelling with contemporary elements allowed the young audience to connect well with the historical narrative.

Costumes were designed by Lamya Asif.

- Reported by Tasneem Akbari-Kutubuddin

SUMMER CAMPS

If you plan / hold a camp in Mylapore zone, e-mail 3 lines on it. Mail - mytimesedit@gmail.com. All info on camps is posted at www.mylaporetimes.com

ON GANDHIAN THOUGHTS, HANDWORK

This camp is all about learning Gandhian ideals, relationship and community service, craft and art, communication and Net safety tools and Nature appreciation. Open to children in classes 6 to 9. For 15 days from May 6, full day. Presented by different

resource people. Lunch served. Rs.5000. Call 9962860350

SWIMMING

Savera Hotel, Mylapore offers swimming coaching classes. Second batch is to start on May 2. Children in the age group of 8 and 16 years are admitted. There are two sessions - one in the morning

and the other in the evening . Two weeks coaching.

Final batch starts on May 20. Classes are on all days except Sundays. The fee - Rs 7000 plus taxes. For details contact 98401 02462 .

BAKING

Baking camp for kids - May 28 to 31 - covering making cupcakes, jar cakes, pies, tarts, donuts & pizza. Timing - 11am - 2pm - with lunch & refreshments. Age group - 8-18 years Contact - 9962048088.

Classes are at a Boat Club Road venue.

MULTI ACTIVITIES

CK Wonder Kidz in Mylapore is hosting two camps - Yoga, dance, storytelling, shloka recitation and writing activities. Mornings only. Call 42124100 / 8754006262

ON MANTRAS AND RITUALS

The Madras Sanskrit College is hosting a camp where kids will be taught mantras and

their meanings, the science behind mantras and practices, and practical ways to master them. Dr. L. Sowjanya Kumar is in charge. May 12 to 21. Evenings. It is free but for 25 teens only. Registration at College office, R. H. Road, Mylapore.

CLASSICAL DANCE

Bharatanatyam / Kathak classes at this camp for freshers to this classical dance. Starts May 6 / 7. Call 9841410517.

Vacation Bible School at San Thome church

By Juliana Sridhar

A Vacation Bible School is on now at CSI Saint Thomas Tamil Church in San Thome. 95 children from ages 4 to 17 are attending this camp.

The directors of VBS are Renita Pratap Singh and Roselin Devanesan - there are 12 teachers to teach the syllabus that is provided by the CSI Madras diocese.

An exam will be conducted and certificates will be given to all the children who attend the camp. There will be a function on the final day, May 5 evening at 5.30 pm where there will be music, dance and drama.



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It was a quiet start to the Chithirai festival that is on now at Sri Madhava Perumal Temple in Mylapore, which had its grand kumbhabishekam recently.

The evening of May 1 was reserved for a procession of the lord in the *punnai maram vahanam*. About hundred-odd devotees, mostly from the temple zone, took part in the rituals leading to the procession.

Mylapore Times Online Summer Mag invite writings from teens

MYLAPORE TIMES has launched its annual, online magazine for the summer holidays - and it invites school and college students who reside in Mylapore to write, sketch and illustrate and contribute.

Contributions are welcome from school / college students of Mylapore. (Open to students Class 5 upwards). The magazine does not accept drawing/ artwork.

The Mag will publish original creative work – short stories (max – 200 words), non fiction like travel stories, experience of summer hols, community meet-ups, etc., essays on current themes – on Marina environment / walking paths / market zones: 'middles' (humour located locally!) and poems (max – 12 lines) and even a comic strip.

Contributors can also add illustrations, photos, doodles to their creative writing.



This Mag is open for contributions from May 1 to June 1, 2024.

Mail your creative work to – mytimesedit@gmail.com – DO NOT send attachments.

The SUBJECT line in your mail must be – SUMMER MAG.

Appeal for donations to help bright students

MYLAPORE TIMES CHARITABLE TRUST (MTCT) has set a target of Rs.3 lakhs to collect from well-wishers and donors in order to support economically-weak students who excel in Board exams and need financial support.

These are students from Mylapore zone schools who will apply to the Trust once the results are out. Students from some 15 schools apply. The first appeal for support has come from Rani Meyyammai Girls School, R. A. Puram. Donating is easy - just call Mylapore Times at 24982244/ 47662029, ask for Shanti or Neela, and the MT staff can pick up your cheque. Online payment made by bank transfer is also possible. All donations get IT exemption receipts.

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File photo

Digital campus of Sanskrit College now offers 25 courses

By Preetha K.

The digital campus of the 117-year-old Madras Sanskrit College in Mylapore has increased its number of courses recently.

“The digital campus of Madras Sanskrit College was started seven years ago with the idea to spread the knowledge of the college beyond the physical boundaries. We have now made courses accessible to the entire world,”

says Ramesh Mahalingam, the spokesperson for this campus.

He says that the digital campus started with six basic courses. Students who finish those courses will be able to read and write Sanskrit well, he assures.

These are self-study-cum-interactive courses.

Teachers will teach through Zoom sessions. Lessons are in Tamil, English and Hindi medium.

“Though the commercial value for these courses may not be significant,

people keen on learning, enroll for these courses out of their own interest. There is no pre-requisite. They can start from scratch,” says Ramesh.

The digital campus offers courses in basic Sanskrit, Yoga, Vedanta, advanced Sanskrit learning, philosophy, Jyotisha, Vyakaranam, among others.

In the last 7 years, 12,000 students have registered for the courses: 25 courses are offered currently.

The certificates are provided by the College; in some cases, the certificates are issued by the University of Madras.

Those who complete any of these courses can teach school children, we are told.

The digital college's YouTube channel is populated with 300 videos on various subjects.

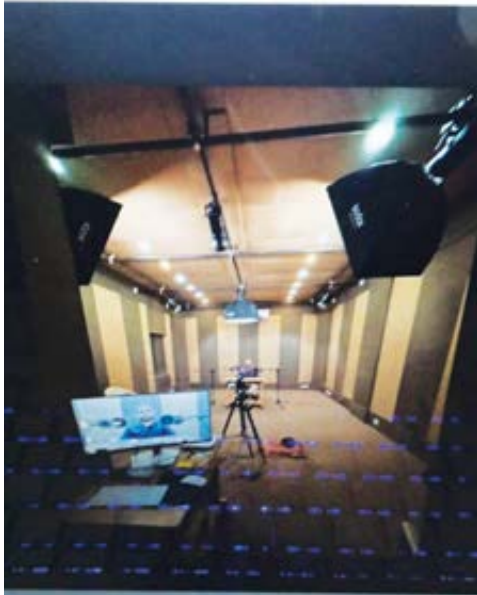
Says Ramesh, “We are aggressively expanding our offerings. We will have more courses in the days to come.”

For more details, log on to Digital campus:

www.madrassanskritcollege.com

Main Campus: <https://www.madrassanskritcollege.edu.in/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@MadrasSanskrit-College>



Campus studio where lessons are recorded

The digital campus offers courses in basic Sanskrit, Yoga, Vedanta, advanced Sanskrit learning, philosophy, Jyotisha and Vyakaranam



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The annual Vasant Utsav dance festival is on now at Sri Kapali Temple, Mylapore. Dance concerts, two daily, are held in the evening, with artistes of different styles and from different parts of India on stage. The fest is on till May 11 (it takes a break on Sunday, it being pradosham evening)

This fest is hosted by Saraswathi Education, Cultural Charitable Trust of the Gariyali family. Photo shows dancers of Kalai Koodam, Madurai on stage on Thursday evening.

Sri Vedantha Desikar temple hosts grand finale to milestone event

Sri Vedantha Desikar Devasthanam commemorated a century of the installation of Srinivasa Perumal and Ubaya Nachiyars at the temple.

was the ensemble of a hundred music vidwans, showcasing their mastery over the nagaswaram and thavil, creating music that floated through

The trustees of Sri Vedantha Desikar Devasthanam said they were thankful to supporters and devotees who made this celebration a memorable one.

For inquiries, contact: No. 4, K. P. Sannathi Street, Mylapore. Tel: 24953799 / 43863747



There was vedhi purappadu of Perumal and Ubaya Nachiyars and Swamy Desigan swami on April 22. The event was marked by a blend of ancient rituals and cultural performances, as the procession did the rounds.

The milestone celebration commenced with a prabandha goshti, resonating with the recitation of the 4000 Divya Prabandam and Veda Parayanam.

A highlight of the event

the mada vedhis of Mylapore. There were also traditional dances performed.

People joined in the bhajans, led by bhagawathars, donning the attire of Garudan, Narasimhar and Anjaneyar.

The year-long celebration since April 2023 started with a grand Theppotsavam at Madipakkam lake followed by monthly programmes.



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VASATTA STUDIOS



This Montessori resource centre readies for admissions

Vijayalakshmi Ramanath, who launched this in 2018, runs two centres. Both in the heart of Mylapore

By Preetha K.

Vijayalakshmi Ramanath is preparing for the admission season. And she has a few new ideas to introduce at her Montessori centre.

A resident of Appu Street, Mylapore for the last 21 years, she is the founder of Glowing Minds, a Montessori Resource and After-school Activity Centre.

"I have always wanted children to experience the joy of knowledge for which they need a safe and secure environment. Glowing Minds does just that," says Vijayalakshmi, who has attended a post-graduate course in human resource management and has a decade's experience in the education sector.

A Montessori-trained professional from Indian Montessori Training Centre (IMTC), she also has a masters in counselling psychology from the University of Madras.

She has attended various



child-focused mental wellbeing programmes at NIMHANS, Bangalore which she says will help her create a happy space for the students in her school.

"Glowing Minds thrives around the strong belief that the childhood of a little one is precious. It is meant to be enjoyed and cherished," she said.

She launched the centre in 2018 by conducting after-school activities. Now, she runs two branches – one on Appu Street and one on Nadu Street.

She credits her husband

Ramanath for support in establishing Glowing Minds.

Ramanath, a civil contractor, was a long-serving team member of Kartik Fine Arts sabha passed away some months ago.

Apart from morning sessions for toddlers, Glowing Minds also has day-care facilities and classes in spoken English, phonics, calligraphy, drawing, reading, writing, life skills, Tamil, Hindi and yoga.

Vijayalakshmi loves to drive cars, to draw and to paint. She is also interested in fitness and music.

Address - No. 11, Appu Street 1st Lane, Mylapore. Contact numbers: 9566128788, 9840358805.

Organic food, milk, veggies. This couple sells from R. K. Nagar

By Laya Subramanian

Lalitha Sivakumar, an IT professional turned organic farmer and Sivakumar, a businessman run Shristi Farms.

Though the farm is located in Edaiyur village, Veerakuppam, the sale of the organic products happens from their house in R. K. Nagar's 2nd Cross Street every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings - between 6.30 a.m. and 8.30 p.m.



The couple are into natural farming of the country and native variants of vegetables, fruits, pulses and oil seeds.

Some of the products available include black urad dhal, coconut oil, country cow butter, country cow ghee, cow dung manure, gingelly oil, kasturi manjal, nattu sakkarai, paneer, ponni raw rice, milk from country cows and more.

"I home-deliver perishable items like milk, the order for which are placed through local groups. Based on availability, seasonal dry-food items are also home delivered to places in Chennai and sometimes to different cities, if the bill is above Rs 1000. We have been running this business for the last two years, though I got into farming in 2015," says Lalitha.

All products sold are produced at Shristi Farms, adds Lalitha. One litre of country cow's milk is sold at Rs 110 per litre.

Interested people can visit <https://vyaparapp.in/store/ShristiFarms> to place an order online.

For more details, call Shristi Farms at 98844 16963.

■ Laya, a P. S. Senior student, attended the Mylapore Times Journalism camp recently

SUMMER CAMP BASICS OF JOURNALISM

Offered by MYLAPORE TIMES. Starts May 6

This short course is conducted by Vincent D' Souza, editor and publisher, Mylapore Times, a 30 year-old neighbourhood newspaper.

It is open to students in Class 12 / those who have completed Class 12 / College students.

For those who value skills in news gathering, interviewing and writing, photography and online story-telling. For those who intend to pursue writing / journalism / broadcasting.

The chosen youths will have to attend a few office-based lectures (at the newspaper's office in Alwarpet) and undertake field assignments, daily.

The training runs for 12 days. Starts on May 6.

Only those who attend all lectures and complete daily assignments will get certificates.

To apply, mail a 50 words report on any recent event or buzzing place in your area. Also, add a 5-line biodata.

Those who are chosen will get an invite from the Editor of Mylapore Times.

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By Our Edit Team

These 'old boys' may have all been senior citizens but they drummed up a high octane get-together at this School Reunion.

Members of the Class of 1977 High School students of St. Bede's Anglo-Indian High School (San Thome) met up on February 10 at Hotel GRT Grand in Chennai, for their 47th year Reunion.

56 members of that batch checked in Among those present were 'old boys' who had travelled from Australia, France, the Middle-East, USA, and from multiple locations across India.

The event was meticulously planned and executed by a working committee led by D. Dhanagopal whose attention for nostalgic detail was deeply appreciated by all.

Immense support came from K. R Rajeesh Kumar whose skills in event execution and photography helped capture precious Reunion moments.

At the venue, guests were offered kamarcatt and

'Old' Bedeans of 1977 batch have a party

Among those present were 'boys' who had travelled from Australia, France, the Middle-East, USA, and from multiple locations across India

some 'old boys', including spouses of some, who have passed away in the intervening years.

Brief, impromptu orations were then given by some 'old boys' as hors d'oeuvres was being passed around.

There was a sumptuous buffet that included a variety of delicious vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes from all corners of India.

The parting thought



sweetmeats and invited to fool around with marbles and wooden tops - simple but intense games that students of the 1960s and 70s played on school grounds or

in local streets.

While the amusement went on, small groups caught up with their former classmates, doing this for only the first time since



they graduated in 1977.

There were lots of hugs and handshakes and banter. The event commenced with a brief but touching memorial to

- to meet at the fifty-year Reunion in three years. Contact - rajeeshg3@gmail.com

- Reported by K. R Rajeesh Kumar

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The Mag will publish original creative work - short stories (max - 200 words), non fiction like travel stories, experience of summer hols, community meet-ups, etc., essays on current themes, 'middles' (humour located locally!) and poems (max - 12 lines).

Contributors can also add illustrations, photos (max - 2 pics), doodles to their creative writing.

We do not accept Drawings / Paintings.

This Mag is open from May 1 to June 1, 2024.

Mail your creative work to - mytimesedit@gmail.com - **DO NOT** send attachments. The **SUBJECT** line in your mail must be - **SUMMER MAG.**

Durga sells yummy snacks on sidewalk. Dreams of opening a food joint

By Chara Shree Katare

Durga Devi sells traditional snacks at a pavement side stall in East Mada Street, Mylapore. On sale daily, 4 p.m. onwards, is sundal, sambar vadai, kozhukattai, mini idlis and dosas and gulab jamun. The offerings change from time to time.

Durga said she set up the stall around the Panguni utsavam time of Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore. Since sales were good, she stuck on this spot.

Durga completed her MCA studies and decided to follow her passion instead of chasing a IT job. She said she liked the idea of cooking and becoming a woman entrepreneur. She plans to open a small food joint and sell home-made food.

She cooks the 'tiffin' in small batches between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and carts the lot to her stall.

The prices of snacks start from Rs 15. Durga also sells ghee at Rs 90 for 100ml.

The stall is open from 4 p.m. to about 7:30 p.m., adjacent to Mylai Coffee, opp. Bhavans.

■ Chara Shree attended the Mylapore Times Journalism Camp recently.



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P. S. Matric School (North) offers commerce stream in Class XI

By Our Edit Team

P. S. Matriculation (N) School, located at Mundagakanni Amman Kovil Street, Mylapore is introducing the commerce stream for Class XI, starting from the academic session which starts in June 2024.

The commerce curriculum is designed to equip students with the skills necessary to pursue careers in professional courses such as

CA, CMA, CS, as well as providing a foundation in finance, capital markets and law, says a note from the school.

Additionally, the school will host skill development courses covering AI, robotics and entrepreneurship. The school gets the support of Madras Management Association (MMA).

For inquiries or admissions, contact the school - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm - or call Kalpana at 95512 94472.

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