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These two residents of Ramakrishna Math Students' Home, Mylapore chat and enjoy the sundal prepared for the Navaratri festival celebrations being held on this campus.

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FREE HEALTH, RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS SCREENING CAMP

Nandalala Medical Foundation is organising a free general & pulmonology medical check camp' on Sunday, October 18, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at 'Thoppu', No. 2/64, Dr. Ranga Road, Abiramapuram.

The camp will be led by Dr Gokul Prashanth, MD, respiratory medicine. People are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity for an early assessment of their respiratory health.

DONATE CLOTHES, TOYS, UTENSILS

This October, Goonj, a well-known NGO, is hosting its Joy of Sharing month, encouraging people to share what they can spare and donate to less privileged families. You can donate clothes, fabric, blankets, woollens, utensils, buckets, school stationery, notebooks, bags, and educational toys.

These goods may be dropped off on Oct.25, 10 am to 4 pm at a collection point in Sriram Nagar, Alwarpet. The address - : 2/14, West Street, Sriram Nagar, Alwarpet, Landmark: Corner building next to Mexe Kitchen restaurant.

Mangala Chandran - 9322402161 - is the local collaborator.

R R SABHA's DANCE FEST. OCT.19 ONWARDS

Rasika Ranjani Sabha Foundation is presenting young classical dancers at its dance festival themed Nrtyotsav 2026.

Two concerts every evening from Oct.19 to 21, on Oct24 and then from Oct.26 to 30.

These young dancers are senior students of city-based dance teachers - teachers like Priya Murle and Bragha Bessell, Radhika Vairavelavan and Meenakshi Chittaranjan.

18 classical dance concerts are scheduled. There will be two performances a day with a live orchestra. They are open to all.

Contact for more Information: 86103 57987.

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There are also classes in chess, karate, Sanskrit and in Hindi besides other streams. Enrolment for the new batches is open. For more details contact: 24643420 / 24643450 / 9884366700

MYLAPORE ARTS ACADEMY'S MUSIC FEST

As part of 61st anniversary Celebrations, Mylapore Arts Academy is presenting its 29th music festival from October 23 to 29 at Raga Sudha Hall, Luz Avenue.

Mohan Sreenivas, president, Narada Gana Sabha will inaugurate the music festival.

Artistes featured include Cuddalore S J Jananiy, Dr. K. Gayatri, S. Saketharaman and Dr M. Lalitha and Dr Nandini

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Dance academy celebrates 25 years

By Our Edit Team

Bharatanatyam teacher Padmalaksshme Suresh's Padmalaya School of Bharatanatyam marked its silver jubilee with a special event themed Sri Lalithaa Ranga Padmam, presented at Narada Gana Sabha, recently.

72 junior and senior disciples were featured for a Bharatanatyam production - they performed in the presence of Deva, film music director and B. Hemanathan, deputy director, department of art and culture of the state

The silver jubilee celebrations also honoured artistes and students for their contributions to Padmalaya's artistic journey. The awardees were Chitrambari Krishnakumar, Venkatasubramanian, Dr. Vijayaraghavan, Devaraj and Sivakumar. Among



the students, Sindhu and Subhashree were awarded.

Padmalayaa Foundation donated two wheelchairs to individuals affected by polio

The dance academy plans to hold events through the jubilee year. The academy is based in P. S. Sivaswami Salai, Mylapore.

Best music-dance sequences of old Tamil films
in 1950s. Screening on Oct.18

By Our Edit Team

Vintage Heritage is presenting a visual show themed on the classical dance teachers and gurus who played a key role in the dance-music sequences in Tamil films in the 1940s and 1950s and made them ever-green hits of that time. The sequences will be screened at the venue.

Dance student V. Shreya

will compere this unique show which is a collaboration of S G Sridharan archival collection of these visuals and film sequences.



The show is on Oct.18, Sunday at a hall in P. S. School campus, Mylapore. 6 p.m. onwards

(high tea starts at
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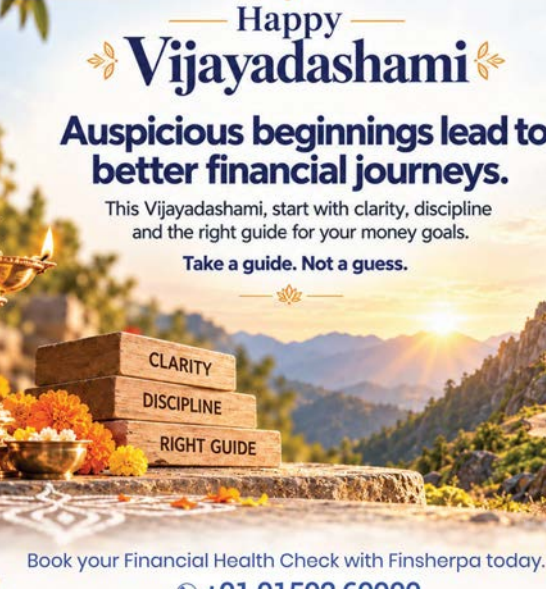
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VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

There are a dozen people on Mylapore's Mada Streets who I turn to when I need something basic.

Karna is one of them.

He and his family practically live on the street. For his earnings, he offers to transport goods in his three-wheeler cart.

I turn to Karna when we need to source stuff from the Koyambedu Market. Flowers, decoration leaves, fruits, coconuts and such things for events we host.

Earlier this week, I found him in a lazy mood and asked if we could get 50 thoranams a week before Pongal.

Kastam but we can try, he said. These come in lorry loads at festival time, he added.

Then I spotted his partly-re-furbished cart. The handlebar and front wheel mud-guard supported many framed pictures of MGR.

And one MGR was beautiful, even if the image had been Photoshop-ped deep.

I knew Karna is a passionate MGR rasigan. He listed all the films featured in the pictures his cart sported.

And he began reeling MGR stories. I told him - Let's keep that for another day.

People on our streets make a neighbourhood. The hawkers, the loadmen, the cart-drivers, the auto guys, the Urbaser civic workers, the watchmen and even some of us who use the streets to shop, take walks or go visiting.

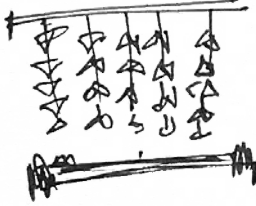
They often come to our aid, they can run errands for us, they share local information, they have connections too.

Last week, the men who were fixing some windows for me at home drew heavily from the power line, the supply tripped and our home was in darkness. I called two electricians I knew; both were at work, far away from our place. I needed the power restored inside the hour. I stepped out of our campus and asked the woman who runs the istri-services at her cart if she had a contact; she did. She called him and the man was at my door inside the hour.

The people of our streets and roads also make these spaces. They need to be there. Much as they earn their bread and serve a colony or a campus, they also partners in life.

One June evening, Karna had greeted me as I headed to Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. His niece had done well in the final exams and was going to be in Class 10.

He wanted to share this news. And he grinned.



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.



Attention TANGEDCO

The area around the TANGEDCO transformer installed in Subrahmaniam Street outside Ramprasad Apartments has become a dumping ground for debris, domestic waste and all other sorts of bags with discarded material.

Every time something is dumped, it becomes the responsibility of our apartments' team to clear the mess.

The only way to keep it clean is to put up a fence around the transformer as is being done in other places. Besides ensuring safety, it also prevents the habitual throwers of waste around the transformer.

- Ravikumar

Music Academy flyover: renovation has taken ages

The 'renovation' / beautification of the pillars and space under/alongside The Music Academy flyover is taking ages. Everything looks fancy. Wonder how much money has been spent from the tax-payers side for this job. Is it really needed?

- Usha Ravi

GCC: ensure flex banners are not erected at Mandaveli St. junction

Flex banners are erected often near the gates of Mandaveli Post Office. Banners for birthday celebration, deaths and political meets. We have witnessed incidents of flex banners falling on people, sometimes with tragic consequences. At a busy junction like this one around Mandaveli Street, where motorists and pedestrians including school children already contend with traffic, such displays are a hazard. GCC officials must act.

- A. Jayasankar

This unattended plot is a nuisance to neighbours

The property at No.19, P. S. Sivaswami Salai, Mylapore which was a house earlier and was demolished about three years ago, remains unattended in spite of reminders to the owners.

Neighbours are facing severe mosquito and insect menace from this open plot which is full of overgrown bushes and garbage.

The plot is also used as a urinal. We request Chennai Corporation to take action.

- L. Sundararaghavan



MYLAPORE REWIND

This column carries excerpts from Mylapore Times 1997 onwards. This week, we focus on July 1997.

Test cricketers grace finale of cricket camp (July 5, 1997)

By A Ashok

The two-month summer cricket coaching camp, organised by the St. Bede's Sports Foundation, wrapped up with a valedictory function recently. Test cricketers K. Srikanth and W. V. Raman graced the occasion, alongside Dr. G. Natarajan, an executive member of TNCA and Ashok Kumbhat, the honorary Secretary of TNCA. Out of 209 participants, 60 were awarded prizes at the valedictory function. Pace bowler K. Aravind said that he has reduced bowling wickets after attending this camp. Mohan Ram, a parent, pointed out that along with the technical tricks, having a good attitude should also be taught at the camp. K. Palani, an alumnus of the school was the chief coach for the camp. He said he plans to have another long camp soon. The facilities at the camp included five nets and two grounds, with a turf wicket and the other with a matting wicket.



K. Srikanth, Ashok Kumbhat and W. V. Raman at the finale of a cricket camp of St. Bede's Sports Foundation

14 students do this Mylapore teacher proud (July 5, 1997)

By Chitra Sivakumar

recitation competition organised by the Madras Music Academy recently. Settled in Madras after her husband's retirement, Indira started teaching music at her Warren Road residence in Sharada Apartments.

She is the daughter and disciple of Rukmani Rajagopalan, who is Sanjay Subrahmanyam's guru.

Indira could avail of unlimited learning opportunities, "even during playtimes," as she recalls. Refusing to feel threatened by the invasion of satellite television, she stresses that Carnatic music is safe in the hands of today's generation.

President of Gananjali - Centre of Classical Music, Mylapore, Indira Ramanathan is beaming with pride. Fourteen of her students won the third prize at the Ramayana

Kai murukku mannam fills this Mylapore street (July 5, 1997)

The area around 5C, Kesavaperumal Sannadhi Street, Mylapore, is always filled with the heady smell of fresh bakshanams, including the kai murukkus and athirasams. To support her family, Latha got into the bakshanam business. She gathers some family members and makes these delicacies. She caters to wedding orders, birthday parties, small functions and on-customer-demand orders. Latha proudly says that she personally oversees the entire gamut of preparatory tasks, including grinding the rice.

Mandaveli dancer gets award (July 5, 1997)

By S. Janaki

Lavanya Ananth, a disciple of guru K J Sarasa and a resident of Mandaveli, received the Thanjai Nalvar Memorial Award for Bharatnatyam from Sri Ragam Fine Arts, Mylapore. The organisation was founded by Vazhuvoor Ravi of Mandaveli. It has earlier honoured Srinidhi Rangarajan and Krishna Chidambaram with the Balasaraswati Memorial Award.

● This column is curated by Kanaka Cadambi.

Arangetram:
V. Madhumithaa



By Our Edit Team

V. Madhumithaa, a resident of TSV Koil Street, Mylapore had her Bharatanatyam arangetram on September 20 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan hall, Mylapore.

She began her Bharatanatyam tutoring at Chidambaram Academy of Performing

Arts in Alwarpet in 2017.

Currently pursuing a B.Com course at M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women, she is also a talented visual artist with a flair for Mandala art and intricate mehendi.

In dance, she has been tutored by guru Chitra Visweswaran and Sukanya Ravindhar.

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'Renovated' Nageswara Rao Park opened. But hurried civic jobs show up

By Our Edit Team

The 'renovated' Nageswara Rao Park in Luz was formally opened to the public on October 16 by Mylapore MLA, P. Venkataramanan in the presence of a host of Chennai Corporation officials and the area ward councillor, Saraswathy.

The park has been opened even though at least 20% of re-worked jobs are yet to be completed.

The GCC's assistant executive engineer who led the execution of the project after it went into limbo for months and the GCC reworked the plans and budget for this project, said that her team and the workers would ensure work that remains incomplete will be executed in a week's time.

A walk around the park will show up the sloppiness of super-quick work that has been executed; sheets of grass slapped on the elevated section in the east side of the park (where a large drain was constructed a year ago) are signs of hurried work with patches pockmarking this corridor.

Of concern here will be the effect of steady rain during the monsoon season.



There are many areas in the park which will be flooded with rainwater.

For now, we learn, Urbaser Sumeet staff will maintain the park and act as 'security guards' too till formal staff are appointed.

Thankfully, two granite plates that commemorate the people who donated land for the creation of this park from what was a kuttai at its core, and the VIPs at the park's inauguration, have been installed though they are not the original - the original plaques were badly damaged by insensitive workers of the contractor who handled the 'renovation'.

Inputs from Baskar Seshadri and Madhan Kumar

Interesting themes, performances mark theatre fest of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan



By Our Edit Team

On a rare occasion, the profile of the people at the main auditorium of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan was different - they were here from different parts of the city for the Bhavan's fourth edition of the Multilingual Theatre Festival, held from October 5 to 10.

Plays in Hindi, English, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu and Bengali by well-known groups were presented on stage.

Some made a good impact, some provided laughs and

some were intense.

Said K. Venkitachalam, deputy director of Bhavan, "What makes this festival distinctive is its attempt to bring the many voices of Indian theatre together on a single platform. The Bhavan wants to offer Chennai audiences an opportunity to experience the rich and diverse theatre traditions of different parts of India."

The intention of Bhavan is to present plays that rarely make it to the city, and in various languages, different from the staple '100 laughs in 100 minutes' fare that some local troupes are content to stage year round.

But curating even a fest of this kind has not been easy - travel, accommodation, properties of the stage and hiccups did challenge the host.

A full house on all the evenings would have pleased Bhavan's team a



lot. The fest ended last Saturday, with an English play, 'Animal Farm' by Alchemy from Bengaluru.

NAVARATRI CONTESTS: UPDATE

The Navaratri Colouring Contest presented by Mylapore Times has received a record 69 entries. Prizes and complimentary gifts will be distributed to children-participants next week.

Entries to the Kolu Contest closed by 5 p.m., Oct.17 and winners and participants will get prizes / complementaries next week.

Up next from Mylapore Times, the Deepavali Lamps Design Contest.

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Contract workers were seen clearing muck and vegetation in the Buckingham Canal alongside Thirumayilai MRTS station, Mylapore - delayed action in the city's civic body's preparedness for the monsoon. However, similar actions were not seen in the Mandaveli - R. A. Puram section of the canal.

INTACH HOSTS TWO TALKS

INTACH - Chennai Chapter is hosting two talks in the days ahead. Venue: Ashvita Art Galley, No.4, 2nd Street, off Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore (near Seethapathy EVK Clinic). Open to all.
< On Wednesday, October 21, talk by R. Gopu at at 6.30 pm. Title of the Talk : 'The Story of Indian Scripts'.
< On Friday, October 23; talk by T. S. Subramanian at at 6.30 pm. Title of the Talk : 'Recent Excavations in Tamil Nadu.'



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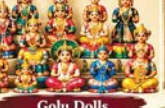
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Shop Eseva store at new location. Revenues generated here support welfare projects

By Baskar Seshadri

Shop Eseva store, a unit of Sevalaya which was functioning in East Mada Street, Mylapore had moved to Royapettah High Road, Mylapore.

Shop Eseva displays and sells products sourced from rural artisans, and these are marked up nominally.

The Shopeseva store offers bangles and hand-bags,

handcrafted goods and utility products. It also offers snacks like sweetmeats and biscuits.

The revenues earned at this store are transferred to Sevalaya for its social welfare projects.

Sevalaya is engaged in a host of social welfare projects and also maintains a home for destitute children in a village in Tirunindrur.

The store is now at Rs.114/ 93, Royapettah High Road, opposite Arkay Centres.

Contact Ramesh - 97109 07675/ 98418 10290. The showroom is open six days - from 9.30am - 5.30 pm. (Sunday is a holiday).



PLAY ON INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE

'Endru Thanियum' is a large-scale Tamil theatrical production that brings alive 300 years of India's freedom struggle.

It is presented by Komal Theatre and directed by Dharinin Komal.

A show of this play will be presented on Oct.24 evening at Mylapore Fine Arts Club sabha hall. Open to all.

The play touches on all the key turning points in the India freedom story.



Obituary



Mridangam vidwan Guruvayur Dorai passed away on Oct.10. He was 91.

He accompanied seven generations of musicians, starting out by performing alongside the late maestro Chembai Vaidhyanatha Bhagavatar

His arangetram was performed at the age of 8; he accompanied Chembai Vaidhyanatha Bhagavatar at the temple in Guruvayur, Kerala.

His guru was Palghat Subramania Pillai.

When his stature as a mridangist grew, he began to play alongside M. S. Subbulakshmi and did so for a long time.

Though he was affected by polio when he was a child, he overcame his physical disability and focussed on his music education.

He was honoured with the Padma Shri (2025), Sangeet Natak Academy award and the Kalaimamani award.

He lived in Saradhapuram Second Street, Mylapore. His family can be reached at 94444 55012

● Obituary news can be emailed to mytimesedit@gmail.com. Always provide contact details.



By Our Edit Team

They have been singing bhajans, they have been dancing on stage, and they have enjoyed being in costumes. Children star prominently at the Navaratri celebrations in Mylapore’s temples and at private halls in this zone.

B. Ramana Kumar of Mylai Poompavai Sabha Trust tell us that over 350 children are taking part in the programmes the Trust (its head is V R G Raji) has organised at two venues - inside Adi Kesava Perumal Temple and at Kamala Thottadri Hall, recently opened by its promoter, the Sri Vedanta Desikar Devasthanam.

“Our focus has been to invite groups of children to perform for Navaratri,” he said. The programmes have included bhajans, music and dance. Small gifts are presented to the performing teams. And special prasadam, prepared by Anandha Caterers of Abraham Street are also guven to the children and guests.

At Nandalala Centre, Dr. Ranga Road, co-ordinator Ra-jasekar has also made it a point to include groups of children, besides women, in the cultural events held every evening.

Every day, sundal is prepared in the Nandalala kitchen and this and a sweet dish and betel leaves and nuts are offered to guests here.

Children are also at the centre of the festival held at Ramakrishna Math Students Home, Mylapore. They set up the traditional kolu in the campus hall, led the morning processions around the campus zone in Mylapore, attended bhajans and concerts in the evening and volunteered to offer prasadam to guests in the evenings.



- 1/ Concert at Bhavan’s festival
- 2/ Alankaram for Kolavizhi Amman at the temple
- 3/ Morning procession by residents of R K Math Students Home
- 4/ Bhajans at Nandalala Centre
- 5/ Volunteers offer prasadam at Nandalala
- 6/ Theme display at Sri Kapali Temple
- 7/ Dancers who performed at Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple; they were felicitated by Mylapore MLA



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Mahalaya Amavasya was observed on October 10. A time for people to remember the memory of their parents and others who have passed away. Hundreds of people lined up along the R. K. Mutt Road side to wait for their turn to take part in rituals priests conducted on the pavement off the tank of Sri Kapali Temple. Police were on patrol in this zone – they helped to regulate the traffic.

Meet for residents of Mandaveli. Oct.17 Discuss monsoon issues

By Our Edit Team

Area councillor Amirda Varshini has invited the residents of GCC ward 126 to participate in a discussion with Greater Chennai Corporation officials on the measures being undertaken during the monsoon season ahead, as well as to discuss other civic concerns.

Date: Saturday, October 17. Time: 10:30 a.m.

Venue: Kalyana Nagar Association, No : 29, T M Soundararajan Road, Mandavelipakkam.

The areas of Mandavelipakkam, Leith Castle Streets, parts of Mandaveli, Trustpakkam, Devanathan Street, Jeth Nagar and Trustpakkam fall under Ward 1216.

The meet is being treated as a Area Sabha meet, which has to be held now and then in each GCC ward.

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