

Focus on

till Oct. 9.

decorated every day.

Photo: Madhan Kumar

at Sri Ramakrishna Math's Universal Temple, Mylapore, began on the first day of October. Rituals, bhajans and aarti were held on all days,

NYLAPORE TIMES

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSPAPER

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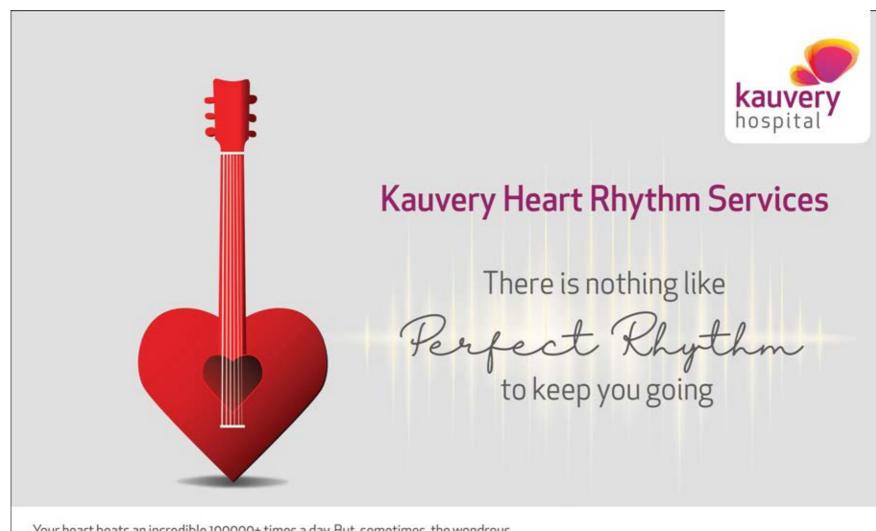
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ENGLISH COMEDY

A musical comedv is

Where inanimate objects in a

boutique come to life at odd

An evening of comic

relief. On Oct. 9 evening.

Alwarpet, Ticketed. Go to

At Medai - The Stage,

what Pulp Propaganda

Theatre calls its fun show.

2 NOOKS

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Owner: Mohd Riyaz Address: 225, TTK Road (near Vinayakar Temple at junction of Beemanna **Garden Street)** Phone: 9840704759 **Timings: Monday to** Saturday, 10 am to 8 pm

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Riyaz also makes rubber stamps.

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

BOLLYWOOD VINTAGE MUSIC

YEH SHAAM BHI AJEEB HAI - HEMANT KUMAR as Composer and Singer. A Retro of Bollywood musical evening.

Some twenty songs will be sung by half a dozen enthusiastic singers.

You are welcome. At Arkay Centre, Luz. Oct 10, 6 pm

CHAMBER CARNATIC MUSIC

Vocalist Kruthi Bhat performs at the Musiri Chamber this Oct. 9, 4:01 pm onwards. Set inside a charming old house, off the busy Musiri Subramaniam Road (Door. No.48/2). Get in early and sit on the floor for a warm musical experience. Free: first come first serve.

DANCE FEST OF TEENS

Bharatanatyam teacher and dancer Srekala Bharath's Tejas dance academy hosts its annual Bala Utsav on Oct. 9 and 10. Teens from various city dance academies will be on stage At R R Sabha. Evenings.

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



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hours.

This annual Raga Identification Competition for Carnatic music rasikas is organised jointly by The Music Academy, TAG Corporation and Ramu Endowments.

If you can identify a raga and the voice just by listening to an audio clipping, then this competition is for you.

The event, on Oct. 16, begins at 10 a.m. and is at Kasturi Srinivasan Hall, Music Academy campus There is no registration fee, no age limit and the event is open to individual contestants only.

(Performing musicians and advanced students are requested not to sign up). Pre-register now - send name, age, e-mail address and phone number to rajagopalk@tagcorporation.

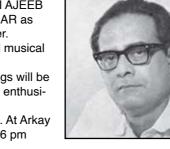
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90-year-old Veda Adhyayana Sabha to honour its past leaders

By S. Prabhu

As part of its 90th year celebrations, Veda Adhyayana Sabha will be honouring its past presidents, secretaries and treasurers this Saturday evening (5 pm) at the Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls HSS campus hall.

A 26-day Krishna Yajur Veda Ghana Parayanam has been going on at the Patshala premises on Pichupillai Street from Sept 28. Sixteen ghanapadigals are presenting the Parayanam from 8 am to 12 noon, 3 pm to 5.30 pm and 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

The Sabha had organised a four-day Veda Sammelanam in July this year. Launched in 1932 with the blessings of Kanchi Periyava, the Patshala run by the



Sabha is said to be the oldest in the city. Over 500 students have graduated over the years. As part of the patshala education, the students are also taught English and Math. The patshala is administered by a team of 20 committee members and run with the support of donors.







VINCENT's JOTTINGS

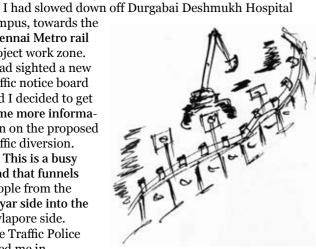
By VINCENT D' SOUZA

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Let us call him Venky. Was he Venky or did I name him? Let him be Venky for now.

campus, towards the Chennai Metro rail project work zone. I had sighted a new traffic notice board and I decided to get some more information on the proposed traffic diversion.

This is a busy road that funnels people from the Adyar side into the Mylapore side. The Traffic Police filled me in.



This is where I spotted Venky. I was not looking for him. I waved to a bunch of Metro workers and this young man walked up to talk.

His story unfolded as he let the chaat he had ordered grow cold and a policeman tried to shoo us down.

I had tapped Venky to sniff at the current work pace on the Metro, locally. And his fascinating story had unfolded; the chaat could wait.

I am keeping this story crisp.

Venky hails from the Dindigul area; a family member who had heard of Ramakrishna Mission Students Home in Mylapore, admitted the pre-teen here: he attended school, did a diploma course in an engineering stream on this campus, was picked up by an on-campus job scout. That launched Venky on a career he is enjoying - he has worked on Metro projects in Delhi, Lucknow, Pune and now, in Chennai.

- He is a kind of a seasoned Metro pro. And he earns very
- well, now with the giant company, L&T. "But sir, can I know who you are?!"

 - "Don't ask me."
- "I have been talking to you for so long ... " "I don't want to spoil your mood now. Go enjoy the

chaat."

I have met dozens of Venkys the past three years. They are fascinating people. These are the Metro professionals young, diploma/degree educated, sloggers at Metro sites and goal-set folks. They are highly valued in an age where Metros are popping up across our country.

Are our tech institutes preparing youths for such projects? Are our Skills Ministries and leaders visioning and setting the ground for trainees who can be employed for Metros, Speed Trains, Eco-Transport?

ERS FROM READERS

Letters to the Editor must carry the complete postal address of the correspondent. Mail to - mytimesedit@gmail.com



Nightmare on Srinivasa Avenue

The traffic diversion of all vehicles (due to Chennai Metro work) from Adyar via Srinivasa Avenue, at R A Puram, cannot be more ill-conceived. The flow of such heavy traffic makes it impossible to walk, let alone cross the street. One can see many, especially the elderly, waiting long for a lull in the traffic to cross over. An increase in noise and dust pollution is another thing to contend with. One does not know how long this will go on.

- Vijaya Ramaswamy

Fountain water in GCC park not clean

In Abraham Street, there is a Chennai Corporation park near Bharathi Airtel office. The fountain in the park emits dirty water. Children play with this water. It is also a breeding ground for mosquitoes. I request the GCC Park Dept. to change the water in the fountain regularly. - P. Preethika

Gutter near Metrowater office remains exposed

The gutter in front of Kolkata Chat shop on Dr. Ranga Road is left open. It is next to the CMWSB zonal office, and the officials are not bothered. The MLA's office is also located nearby. I had requested for mosquito fogging through the civic helpline, but it seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

- K. R. Subramanian

Calling Rani Meyyammai 'old girls'

This is call to alumnae of Rani Meyyammai Girls School. Am looking for Saiya Priya Patmanabhan, who studied with my mother Kanchana, daughter of Kuppuswamy, in 1984 when they were in Std.7. Call us at 8939025838.

- Bhargavi

Many roads, streets in bad shape

The roads in Mylapore are in very bad shape. P S Sivasami Salai (near Chaitra Hotel end), the stretch near the M K Amman Koil rail station's entrance and Nattu Subbarayan Street come to mind instantly. Compounding the issue are other factors, such as parking on both sides of the road and open drains. Is there a solution in sight?

- L. Venkatakrishnan

Dear MLA, we want permanent, not band-aid solutions

Our MLA is a dynamic and easily approachable person. He gives a patient ear to public pleas. Action is seen on the ground but it has to be more visible.

What we need are permanent fixes for age-old problems of drainage, power cable faults and water supply rather than band-aid solutions

- Ravi Nandyala

Clear the platforms on Mada Streets

Senior citizens like me find it very difficult to walk to Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple because vendors and shopkeepers have occupied the platform. Walking space has really narrowed on the Mada Streets. The platform seems to serve the vendors and shopkeepers instead of us, the pedestrians. Can the MLA clear the space meant for us? - Mrs Narasimhan

MY STORY



Navaratri memories: Mylapore, mada veedhi shopping, sundal making ...

By CHITRA SIVAKUMAR

Mylapore zone and what a wonderful journey this has been! Navaratri is a very special festival in our house and all of us chip in to make the festival memorable

Preparation for Navaratri begins almost a month before the season. Cleaning, dusting, changing the curtains . . . are done meticulously. Next, is the most exciting agenda - shopping in Mylapore's mada veedhis.

I wouldn't trade Mylapore mada veedhis for any place in the world. It is so special to me and holds beautiful memories. Purchases begin from Srividya Kumkumam shop and we drop into many other shops to buy 'return' gifts. The range available will send your head reeling. You won't feel like leaving

It is four decades since I started living in the 🔅 out anything! Kolu bommai shops on the pavement entice us. And every year there is something new. The Kapali Kovil ther (chariot) set which I bought a few years back is still a big hit among our guests.

Coriander and mustard seeds are soaked, so the saplings help to create a real park. Parks are made for the theme kolu. Park-creation was always the kids' domain and they were proud to display their creativity

Kolu padi is brought down from the loft and assembled and then dolls are arranged on it. My mother-in-law, even at the age of 92, used to enthusiastically help me dust the dolls before assembling them. Once all that is done, I plan the neivedyam for all nine days and the kolam designs. Delicious pattani, kadalai paruppu and Kabuli

channa sundal are the regulars. Poli, carrot halwa, kesari and pal payasam along with sundal make a yummy combo. Friday is moong dal sweet puttu at our house and my friends make it a point to visit us that day

The festival is for nine days and is very hectic because you have to play the role of host and guest simultaneously. Ayudha Pooja is a very busy day for we have the pooja at home and later, one at my husband's clinic. Plus, we got to make the delicacies like vadai soovan sundal pavasam

On Vijayadashami day, the children go to their music / dance classes to pay respects to their teachers. I make it a habit to go to the mada veedhi on that day to purchase bommais! We can buy dolls at reasonable prices as the vendors from neighbouring districts are in a wind-up mode!

My mother-in-law used to chant slokas like Devi padam, Laltha thirisadhi and Lalitha Sahasranamam for nearly two hours on all the nine days. All these create positive and warm vibes. You feel as if a big wedding is on at our home . . .

[•] Chitra is a resident of Abhiramapuram. She likes to listen to music. watch comedy tracks and enjoy a good laugh at memes.



It had been raining gently through last Wednesday morning but this weather did not discourage young parents from pursuing the Vidyarambham ritual that is special to this day, that is Vijayadasami.

At Sri Ayyappa Temple in MRC Nagar in R. A. Puram, there was a steady stream of families who wanted the priests to guide them with the ritual. The arrangement was simple and easy - a few couples and their kids, mostly two and three-year-olds - sat in one row and went through the ritual, some children creating the light moments of a happy and momentous occasion.

Classes in Korean calligraphy, Korean folk painting at InKo Centre

By Our Staff Team

You can now learn Seoye (Korean calligraphy) and Minhwa (Korean folk painting) at the InKo Centre in R A Puram.

Seoye or Korean calligraphy is not a symmetrical arrangement of conventional shapes but rather, something like the coordinated movements of a skillfully choreographed dance. With simple, basic rules learn to write Hangul – the graphic Korean alphabet and draw flowers like chrysanthemums and cherry blossoms.

Minhwa or Korean folk painting, is an extraordinary, unconventional form of traditional Korean art which encompasses a variety of subjects and methods of expression and displays a strong adherence to symbols and events drawn from everyday life. Minhwa ranges from bird and flower paintings to the tiger and the dragon and the ten longevity symbols. Strong lines, vivid



tional wit, humour and innate optimism combine to create a philosophy that is uniquely Korean.

The classes are conducted by Park Soon Jin, a Korean artist with over 20 years of experience.

Registration commenced on October 3.

Minhwa: Tuesdays & Thursdays / 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. Course commenced on Thursday, October 6.

Calligraphy: Mondays & Fridays / 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Coaching for UPSC Pre-lims at state centre in R. A. Puram

By Our Staff Team

The Govt. of Tamil Nadu is inviting those who wish to be coached for the prelims of the UPSC exams for 2023, to apply for training at its centre in R. A. Puram.

The All India Civil Services Coaching Centre has an extensive basket of programmes.

- Last date for submitting online application Oct.27. Date and time of entrance exam - Nov. 13, 10.30 am to 1 pm. This coaching is for the UPSC's prelim exam.
- Those who have undergone full-time coaching here need not apply, says a note from the government.

All details at www.civilservicecoaching.com

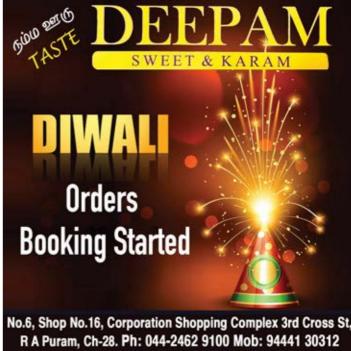
Course commenced on Friday, October 7. Course duration: 3 months. Contact – InKo Centre 18, Adyar Club Gate Road. Phone: 24361224

Google maps QR



Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.

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MYLAPORE TIMES KOLU CONTEST The Winners

By Our Edit Team

6

Ten kolus created by Mylaporeans were chosen for recognition as part of the annual Mylapore Times Kolu Contest, held in late September.

The prizes were given for five kolus that were set up in the best traditional manner and five which impressed with their additional creative, theme displays.

Surendranath of The Mylapore Trio judged the entries, all of which were sent online.

Here are the winners -

 G. Harithra Devi - R. A. Puram
 Kalyani Muralidharan - Mandaveli
 Prabha Krishnamurthy - Karpagam Avenue 4. Revathi Chandramouli - Mylapore
 K. Amirtha - Mylapore 6. Gayathri Ramapriyan - Kesavaperumal Puram 7. Usha Sankaranarayanan - Mylapore
8. R. Selvameena - Mandaveli. 9. Aarti Bala
- Mylapore 10. V Excel's YES Unit led by
Gayathri - Luz Church Road.

Seven Mylapore-based businesses supported the contest. They are Karuppiah Pharmacy, K K Garments, Suriya Sweets and Greens, Deepam Sweets & Karam, Uyir Organic Farmer's Market, Hari Agencies and Natural hair and beauty salon, Alwarpet.

Prizes were personally handed over to the ten winners on Vijayadasami evening. Each was given a unique trophy, created by Mandaveli's Vijayalakshmi Sivakumar.

All families who took part will get a small souvenir next week, mailed to them.

WATCH the 3-part Video Show on all contest entries at www.youtube.com/mylaporetv













OLU CONTEST



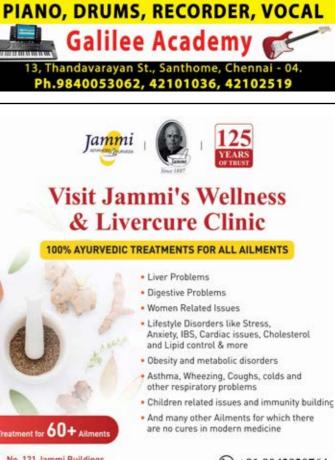


First Row: G. Harithra Devi Kalyani Muralidharan, Prabha Krishnamurthy, Revathi Chandramouli

Second Row: K. Amirtha, Gayathri Ramapriyan, Usha Sankaranarayanan, R. Selvameena

Third Row: Aarti Bala, Gayathri & V Excel Team

 The unique trophies made by Vijayalakshmi Sivakumar; for the 10 winners



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Chennai Metro: traffic diversion in R. A. Puram

By Our Edit Team

Chennai Metro staff and Traffic Police have joined hands to ensure that the traffic movement diverted at the area off MGR Janaki College for Women due to Chennai Metro work has been a smooth one from the start - since last weekend.

While some Metro staff put out alerts to motorists over a

hand-held PA system, telling them of the diversion, with vehicles from the Adyar side asked to skip the R. K. Mutt entry point, police manned the barricades and guided cars and bikes to take a left turn and move into Kamaraj Salai.

The crowded end of Kamaraj Salai, which is partly a parking space for bikes of residents of KVB Gardens area, cannot take





the big volume of traffic. But changes made on the ground has made the vehicle movement smooth.

Many motorists turned right again, into Srinivasa Avenue to join R. K. Mutt Road. Cars and bikes moving south from the Billroth Hospital / Sangeetha restaurant side also have to take this road now.

This road is slowly becoming a busy one and some seniors living here have begun to complain – of the noise, dust and fast-

moving traffic. Bikers took 'short cuts' via Kutti

Gramani Street, a narrow one and created chaos, more during office peak hours.

The diversion at the sprawling site of the Chennai Metro work-spot which used to be a playground, is necessary for rail line work to be carried out across the R. K. Mutt Road junction, said Metro officials here.

Traffic Police say this diversion will be on for some weeks.







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MYLAPORE TIMES

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REAL ESTATE SELLING

• FLAT for sale - 2BHK with car park, apartment near Vivekananda College. Contact: 9884131913. Rajesh.

• 2BHK Third Floor, 720 Sqft, No lift, New flooring, Only 2W parking, Mylapore, near Ramakrishna Mutt, 69.80 Lakhs. Negotiable. Ct: 9941257824, 9884422387

• ALWARPET 3 ground, east facing, for ground 5.90cr. 1350 sqft, 2BHK, 2nd floor, no lift, UDS 1000 sq ft, 1.60cr. San Thome 1550 sqft, 1st floor, UDS 650sqft, 3BHK, 1.50cr. S A Realty: 9840015106



• R.A. PURAM Sangeetha hotel near 3BHK flat, north facing, 1300 SF, UDS 540 SF, 8 years old, 2nd floor, lift, 1 covered car park, 1 crores 80 lakhs. Ct: 9444268171.

• MADIPAKKAM Flat for Sale, 1BHK 605 sqft, Ram nagar(S), 12 years old, calm residential area, 1.75 km from Velachery Railway Station, UDS 320 sqft, 25 Lakhs. Contact: 9962945446.

• MANDAVELI Good location 3 BHK luxury flat, 1562, UDS 969 Sf, 12 years old, first floor, north facing, lift, 1 covered car park, 2.25crores. Ph: 8939936055.

• NAGESWARA Rao Park back side, 48/30, east facing, entrance, 4.5cr. 40 ft road Mylapore, land property. 9884464769, 9884064769

• MANDAVELIPAKKAM, 3rd trust cross street (Near Chaitanya School), 510 Sft, 1BHK flat, 2nd floor. Brokers Please Excuse. Contact: 6382584590, 9444056748

• R.A.PURAM, 2 BHK, 940 sqft, 2nd Floor, lift, 17 yrs old, 1ccp, north facing. Agent: 9840745243

• MYLAPORE 790 square feet flat, grd floor with car parking, 20 years old, 80 lakhs. Royapettah Balaji Nagar new 1200 square feet, 15000 per sq feet. Ph: 9840630359

• R.A. PURAM, 3 BHK Duplex Flat, 1350 sq. ft, 1st and 2nd floors (Semi-furnished) for sale. Contact: Margaret at 9940294532, 9884220984

• MYLAPORE Kutchery Rd, only 4 flats available, CCP, Lift, Power backup Ct: Raghavendra builders 9047398617

• ABHIRAMAPURAM brand new apartment 1650 sq.ft., 3 BHK, 3 bath, 2 CCP, lift, power backup, East facing. Ph: 7299141164, 6380844247

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• ALWARPET, gated community apartment 1210 sq.ft., 2 BHK, Rs. 1.72 crore, lift, 2 CCP, all amenities. R. A. Puram, 1250 sq.ft., 2 BHK, Rs. 1.40 crore, swimming pool, lift, OCP. R. A. Puram, 850 sq.ft., 2 BHK, Rs. 1.20 crore, play area, lift, OCP. Ph: 7010257539

• MANDAVELI posh area, 1600 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 2.25 crore, 3 bath, 100% vasthu, 1000 sq.ft., UDS, lift, CCP, security. Ph: 9786270339

• RESIDENTIAL Flat, Cenatoff 3BHK Flat, 1600sqft, UDS 1000sf, CCP, Rate 2cr. Cenatoff 3BHK Flat, 2200 sqft, UDS 1100, Rate 2ccp, 2.60cr. Narendran: 9841571836

 R.A. PURAM, 3BHK, 2025 sq ft, East Facing, Uds-825, Lift, Genset, Gym, 2 CCP, 8939519299
 ALWARPET nearby Cenotaph Road 2212

sq, 3 bedroom, 2CCP, Genset, 100 percent vastu, UDS 1100 sq, 2,65 c. R.A.Puram, 1350 sq, UDS 700 sq, 3 bedroom, CCP, 1.40c. Ct: 9840736132, 9003621068

• LAND sale Mandavelipakkam, North facing, 40feet road, 45x90, Total area 4050sqf, Price 10 crore. Ph: 9884137904

• GOPALAPURAM 2BHK, 1073 sq ft, FF, Alacrity Flat, UDS 707 sq ft with Study, Balcony, OCP, Lift, 1.3 Crores. Not negotiable.

Payment Only Cheque. Ct: 9444084310 • NANGANALLUR good area 3000 sq.ft., land with 4000 sq.ft., builtup G+1 floor, 6 BHK, Rs. 2.50 crore negotiable, 1 CCP, good frontage. Ph: 7200718369

• MYLAPORE, 1750 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 2.96 crore, 1st floor, 5 balconies, lift, 2 CCP, 1100 sq.ft., UDS, near Saibaba temple & Nageswararao Park. Ph: 8148339369

• NANDANAM, near Boat club, 1200 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 1.45 crore, lift, CCP, full backup, 7 years old, 660 sq.ft. UDS, security. Ph: 7010257539

 MYLAPORE, East Abhiramapuram posh area, 1600 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 2.50 crore, 3 bath, North facing, well maintained apartment, 55% UDS, reputed builder. Ph: 7200718369
 ALWARPET, 1800 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 3.60 crore, 3 bath, new apartment, lift, 2 CCP, full backup security, 100% vasthu, pooja, balcony. Ph: 9786270339

• MANDAVELI posh area, 1050 sq.ft., 2 BHK, Rs. 1.80 crore, dining, modular kitchen, full wood work, balcony, close to Hari Shree Vidhyalaya. Ph: 7010257539

• ABHIRAMAPURAM, 2150 sq.ft., 3 BHK, lift, 2 CCP, power backup. Alwarpet, 2100 sq.ft., 3 BHK, lift, 2 CCP, power backup. Abhiramapuram, 1600 sq.ft., 3 BHK, lift, CCP. Ph: 9884681106

• MANDAVELI, 40 feet road, 2850 sq.ft., 42x68 frontage, Rs. 7 crore. Abhiramapuram, 40 feet road, 2775 sq.ft., 37x75 frontage, Rs. 6.30 crore. Abhiramapuram, 25 feet road, 2560 sq.ft., 32x80 frontage, Rs. 5 crore. Ph: 9840326355

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TIMES

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TN Chief Secy visit hastens civic work on monsoon eve

By. S. Prabhu

Last Sunday afternoon, TN state chief secretary Irai Anbu visited the east end of Dr. Ranga Road for an inspection of the storm water drains work.

He looked around, stepped on to the banks of the Buckingham Canal where machines were busy clearing the muck and chatted with local officials. GCC head, Gangandeep Singh Bedi was by his side.

He had told the team here to speed up work and finish it ahead of the monsoon. This seems to have had

an immediate bearing as



workers were seen working extra hours the next night.

Two workers, one from Andhra and the other from West Bengal, were seen slogging it out at Dr. Ranga Road – Warren Road intersection that has been a nightmare for road users over the last month. A concrete mixer lorry arrived at the junction to provide resources. The busy intersection was open, both ways for traffic.



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Civic activist does a good turn. Gets muck at drains cleared

By Our Edit Team

If you want to ensure that your street or your doorways do not flood after a steady rain this monsoon, there is one little act that you as a civic-minded citizen may want to do.

Take a look at the condition of the drains alongside pavements, the waste traps that let water flow into the drain but holds back plastic and vegetable waste, the inlets that allow rainwater to flow easily into the drains.

Here is what community activist C. R. Balaji did the other day. Walking down Luz Church Road at break of



dawn, he noticed food and package waste atop the traps to the SWDs (drains) alongside Sri Navashakti Vinayaka Temple in Luz.

He spotted Urbaser Sumeet civic workers at their jobs, called one woman and requested her to clear the waste so rainwater could flow into the drain freely.

Balaji says he hopes Mylaporeans inspect the civic condition of their street, report it to local civic workers, and coax them to set things right.

Aarthi created kolu to spread message of recycling and minimalism

By Our Edit Team

Aarthi Ravichandran of Alamelumanga Puram, Mylapore, keenly re-cycles stuff at her home. She says she follows a 'minimalism' path in life.



For Navaratri, this chartered accountant brought her philosophy to play to her kolu.

"Stemming from the principle of minimalism which I am trying to follow, I have been researching and working on waste reduction and segregation. The kolu idea came up at around 4 am when I was feeding my threemonth-old. I wanted to spread the importance of waste segregation and reduction," she said in a note.

She used red and green cloth pieces to differentiate the right and wrong. Stitched them, used reusable wooden clips, one-side printed paper, reusable glue instead of plastic cellophane tapes.

And instead of bommais, she placed stuff of everyday use at home which can be recycled and re-used.

"We had asked our guests to bring their own bags to reduce waste and ensured we



used the actual whole betel-nut and turmeric pieces instead of the plastic packets which are sold at shops and markets these days," she adds.

The family also tried to avoid using Ziploc bags and instead, used dhonnai/butter paper.

Aarthi says she has been recycling all the dry waste, hazardous waste and e waste and composting wet waste.

"I have been trying to promote this inside our compound first and hope I can get others to do the same," she adds.

IF YOU HAVE A COLOURFUL NAVARATRI STORY TO SHARE, mail – mytimesedit@gmail.com



You like our work?

There was some extra buzz in the Chennai Schools run by the city's civic body recently as student teams engaged in a contest that asked them to use simple/waste materials to create model projects on themes like 'Climate Change' and 'Wealth from Waste'.

The contest, held at the local and cluster level has now moved to the finale.

At the local and cluster level, prizes were given to student teams who got the judges nod.

Says Anthoni Kavitha, Headmistress of the Chennai Middle School in Ramakrishnapuram, located off Kutchery Road, "We allowed our junior students to work with their parents on the theme and asked them to keep the models simple. We received some good entries."

The photo here shows the team from CMS, Slaterpuram (located behind the MRTS' Mundagakanni Amman rail station).

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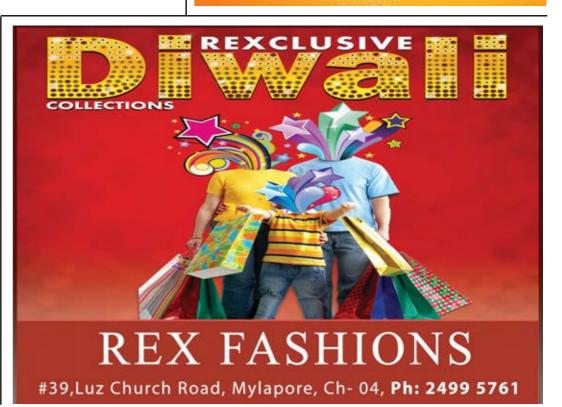


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Learn Kalaripayattu in Alwarpet

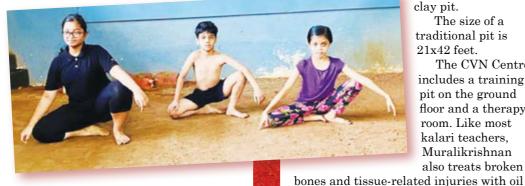
By Kanaka Cadambi

Here is a Kalaripayattu training centre - located off the busy TTK Road in Alwarpet.

and fitness of each student.

The training sessions are for about an hour each. Students are required to wear loose-fitting clothes. They are trained barefoot on a red

massage and therapy. Normally, senior



CVN Kalari, at SPARRC, offers training in what is

considered the oldest surviving martial art. Practising the art is believed to improve one's agility, sharpness and focus. The sessions are

steered by Muralikrishnan, grand-nephew of kalaripayattu legend, C. V. Narayanan Nair. 57-year-old

C. R. Muralikrishnan started learning the art in his childhood and he says he has been teaching it for more than 25 years. He has been teaching at SPARRC for ten years.

Anyone in the seven to 65 age group can enrol for training. There are about twenty-plus students currently training under Muralikrishnan, the oldest being a 63-year-old! The sessions are curated based on the endurance

The training sessions are for about an hour each. Students are required to wear loose-fitting clothes. They train barefoot on a red clay pit. The size of a traditional pit is 21x42 feet. Anyone in the seven to 65 age group can sign up.

Trainer Muralikrishnan (left) with his guru Gopalakrishnan (right)



students are given the task of training others. But Muralikrishnan's passion and involvement pushed him into taking on the mantle himself, with no one to assist him. Learning kalaripayattu is a lifestyle to be followed meticulously,

The size of a

room. Like most

kalari teachers. Muralikrishnan

also treats broken

The CVN Centre includes a training pit on the ground floor and a therapy

according to him. Classes are held in the mornings and evenings. Mornings - Monday to Saturday, between 6.15 am and 7.45 am. There are evening classes too. Thrice a week. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 5.30 pm to 7 pm.

For more details, contact 45066131 or drop in at SPARRC, 4, Alwarpet Street, off T. T. K Road, behind Hush Puppies showroom, Alwarpet. (landmark: opposite Old Madras Baking Company).

GANDHI JAYANTHI Drawing Competition @ Mylapore Club Opp. Kamadhenu Theatre		
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NAVARATRI SNAPSHOTS



1. Universal Temple on Ramakrishna Math campus: decorated for Durga puja celebration

2. Karpagambal at Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple this past week. *Photo: Prabhu*

3. At artist Priya Nataraj's house, her students sought her blessings on Vijayadasami day.

4. Celebrations at Jeevan Bhima Enclave, off Dr. R. K. Salai.

5. Dandiya night at Ragamalika Apartments, Mandaveli.











Music floats at Navaratri time inside temple

By S. Prabhu

15 students of Shubha Ganesan presented a 90-minute vocal kutcheri last Friday evening as part of the Navaratri concerts series organised at the Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple.

Under the watchful eyes of their guru, the students presented songs that included *Karpaga Manohara* (Malayamarutham/Kandachapu), Parashakthi (Ragamalika/ Aadhi). There was a sizeable crowd encouraging

and Maatha

the young artistes. Interestingly, Thirunavukarasu, one of the trustees of the temple, stood through the entire programme watching the presentation.

R. Harini has been a senior student of Shubha Ganesan and had presented a solo performance at the 'mikeless' kutcheri at the Nageswara Rao Park many years ago. She said she was delighted to be part of this group in front of such a big audience. V. Samyuktha, who is the daughter of ghatam artiste D. V. Venkatasubramaniam, has been learning under Shubha Ganesan for seven years and has presented group kutcheris at Thirukadaiyur and Thiruvarur temples.

She said this concert after the long pandemictime break was particularly special for her. "We were performing as a group after two years. All of us were excited to be given this opportunity by our guru and we practiced hard as a team for well over a fortnight."

The trustee took the students and the guru for a darshan of Kapaleeswarar and Karpagambal at the end of the programme.

Othuvar Sathgurunathan has been involved in identifying and selecting the groups for the kutcheris over the ten days.

Muralis Market in Alwarpet has pulses and pastas, millets and veggies, appalams and vadams

Report by V. Soundararani

A branch of Murali's Market opened a few months ago in Venus Colony, Alwarpet. This store for food-stuff has ready-to-cook foods, beverages, dairy, gourmet food, a variety of pasta and noodles – all displayed in neat racks.



The store also comes to the aid of people who must cook in a hurry and need the musthave stuff in the kitchen. Traditional angaya podi, veppilai katti, vathal kuzhambu, kariveppillai, kuzhambu pastes and podis, all types of vadams, tomato appalams and

Photos: V. Soundararani



pickles. Quick mixes which include idli dosais and kanji maav are on sale.

The 'mandi' section has a variety of breakfast cereals and a range of different grains and seeds and nuts – you can buy these in small measures. Brown rice, red rice, Kavuni rice, millets, chia seeds, pumpkin seeds, cereals, nuts and dry fruits are on sale.

> You can also get Bydagi chillies, syrups like lemon ginger, pineapple.

Varieties of rice, pulses / dhals are available too. There is an exclusive counter for filter coffee powder, freshly ground. Fresh vegetables are available every morning – rates are reasonable. Avoid picking these up late evenings.

Gift packs of Sri Krishna Sweets and a wide range of Indian snacks, a variety of breads and spreads – mayo and sauces – are stocked. Online orders are executed by delivery apps.

Visit muralismarket.com Call 9003099000 for home delivery orders – serves only the area around the store.

Murali's Market is at the junction of Murray's Gate Road and Venus Colony 1st Street. Timings: 7 am to 9 pm on all days.

CAFE OFFERS BREAKFAST, SNACKS

A Deli section alongside the store serves bread items, hot tea / coffee and snacks like boli, kozhukkattai, appams and dosa-vadai combos – you may stop here for a light breakfast. Tea-time snacks are a big attraction now.

At lunch time, sambar, lemon and curd rice, pidi kozhukkattai, mor-kali and cut fruits – packed in containers – are on sale at the store's billing counter.



From Saligramam to Mylapore, morning and evening. To serve at temple

By S. Prabhu

16

Since Monday last, 32-year-old mechanical engineer Deepak Rajagopalan

(Keshav to his temple teammates) has been travelling all the way from Saligramam to Mylapore, every morning and evening to perform the Sripatham service during the street processions at the annual Vedantha Desikar Utsavam at the Srinivasa Perumal Temple.

He says he is delighted to work with his team at the temple which has people from different walks of life and in different age groups.

"The enthusiasm and commitment of the Sripatham personnel at the Desikar temple has kindled my devotional spirit and makes me come all the way from Saligramam every day," he says.

While he started off with the Sripatham service some 10 years ago, he has since branched off into another activity during the procession - the carrying of the Kudai.

He says that carrying different sized Kudais for different processions is a challenging task and that it is all about the art of balancing. "I learnt the art of manoeuvring the Kudai during peak hour traffic, away from trees and on windy days.'

He is always seen bubbling with devotional energy when he is at

his post. Seeing his devotional commitment, the Sripatham association made him a treasurer of the Trust three years ago.





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