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Vol. 28, No. 27

Sep 23 - 29, 2023

12 pages Free Circulation

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At Sri Navashakthi Vinayaka Temple in Luz, people started coming here early in the morning of the Vinayaka Chaturthi festival on Sept.18.





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## NOOKS

### SEWING MACHINES: SALES AND SERVICE

**Name of the shop: IMA Sewing Solutions**

**Address: 92/3, P S Sivaswamy Salai, Mylapore.**

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**Phone: 7200255355.**

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IMA Sewing solutions sells all models of sewing machine brands – Brother, Usha, Singer, Meritt, Juki and Jack. Servicing of any brand is also undertaken. This 12-year-old business has 4 shops across the city.

“We provide service for all models of sewing machines including industrial ones. Customers can book their requirements on our App. All the communication happens on the App and it is easy to track. Our highly-skilled technicians will

attend to the needs of the customers. Common atangled stitches. We also have a pick-up and drop facility, if required,” says Suresh Chandran, the owner, who has an experience of 35 years in the industry.

Suresh says today's machines are hi-tech models with HD and LCD touch screen displays. “Once the customised designs are fed, the mechanism itself handles the embroidery and stitching, unmanned. Any complex work is completed within a couple of hours,” says Suresh. IMA Sewing Solutions offers after sales service, without passing it on to the manufacturing company. They also support during the warranty period.

Tips for customers - 1. Sewing machines need yearly service even if it is rarely used. 2. Oiling, cleaning, thread tension adjustment and balancing are vital. The charges for servicing a simple sewing machine starts at Rs 300.

Report, photo : V. Soundararani

## CHECK THIS

### BHARATANATYAM DANCE-DRAMA. BY CHITRA VISWESWARAN

Lalitha Kala Mandhir, the fine arts centre of the Sri Muthukrishna Swami Mission Trust, is presenting a themed Bharathanatyam production titled Kollaru Pathikam. This show is on Sept.24.



This production has been choreographed and directed by dance guru and artiste, Chitra Visweswaran, a Padmashri awardee and the dean of Lalitha Kala Mandhir,

A note on the production – Thirugnana Sambandar's Kollaru Padikam is a timeless masterpiece, a symphony of devotion. Its verses weave a canvas of profound longing and surrender to Lord Shiva.

This performance promises 'a soul-stirring journey through the divine verses of Kollaru Pathikam where devotion and Bharathanatyam unite to create a mesmerising portrayal of spiritual expression'.

The event is on Sept. 24, 6 p.m. onwards. Open to all. At Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore

### EXPERT TALK ON BUILDING ENVIRO-FRIENDLY HOUSES

Everyone's dream is to build a beautiful, functional house. It can also be an environmentally-positive house.

Here is

a session open to all, where you can learn about the possibility of earthen

building embracing sustainable living. It is conducted by Krithika Venkatesh, an expert in earthen buildings.

She will cover issues like natural building practices, techniques and methods, explore earthen blocks, kandi bricks, lime, plaster finishes, and hand-made tiles that are available around us and share tips on building an eco-friendly house.

Registration is a must for this session. Contact 9087644455.

On 24th September. Time 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Seeragam - The Native Store, 14, Ananda Road, Alwarpet.



### LIL STUDIO'S PAINTINGS SHOW

Artist and art teacher Priya Natarajan is presenting 'Fantasia', an art show that is 'the expression of fantasy through the eyes and hands of 60 of my students.' Over 100 works of art in various media, created by Priya's students over the past year are on display at the gallery of C. P. Art Centre, Alwarpet. On Sept.23 and 24, 10 am to 8 p.m. Priya has been mentoring young and adult artists for the past 25 years at her art school, Lil Studio. Open to all.

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# Councillors hold area sabha meets. Held on weekdays, at short notice. Thin attendance by residents

By Our Edit Team

Local area councillors have organised this past week, area sabha meets. These are meets held in one area of the ward meant for residents, the councillor and local area state officials / staff to discuss local issues.

Councillor Amirda Varshini ( Congress ) of Ward 126 hosted a meet for Area 2 which covers many parts of Mandavelipakkam (photo above). The meet was held on Friday morning, at Kalyan Nagar Association hall. Local area government officials / engineers participated. This is the second area meet that has been held in this ward. The first was held in Jeth Nagar.

But since the meet was held on a weekday morning, the attendance was thin.

Councillor Vimala Krishnamurthy ( DMK ) of Ward 124 (photo on right, below)



hosted her first area sabha meet at P. K. Mahal, near Chitrakulam last Friday morning. Officials of the local area units were present here. Again, since it was a weekday morning, few people could attend the meet.

Councillor Revathy ( DMK ) of Ward 125 (photo on left) held this meet at a hall near Hamilton Bridge; a number of residents attended and debated issues that need attention.

Councillor Saraswathy (CPI-M) of Ward 123 said she had made arrangements at an Alwarpet school to hold a meet last weekend but the school could not accommodate this meet and then, at short notice, she held a meeting but this had limited participation.

Councillor 121 Mathivanan (DMK) said he held an area sabha meeting earlier last week at his office located off R. H. Road, near the Valluvar statue MTC bus stop.

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Kathakali Festival from **September 26 to 30, 2023**

Venue: **Bharata Kalakshetra Auditorium**

**Programme Schedule**

Day 1: September 26

**Inauguration - 5.30 pm**

Chief Guest: **Dr. K. Manivasan, I.A.S.**

Principal Secretary to Government Secretariat

Department of Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments

Guest of Honour: **Shri Har Sahay Meena, I.A.S.**

Principal Secretary / Commissioner, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

**Nala Charitam 2nd Day - 6 pm**

Day 2: September 27, 6pm

**Subhadra Haranam 2nd Part**

Day 3: September 28, 6 pm

**Santhana Gopalam**

Day 4: September 29, 6 pm

**Uthara Swayamvaram 1st Part**

Day 5: September 30

**Valedictory Function - 5.30 pm**

Chief Guest: **Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, I.A.S.**

Additional Chief Secretary / Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation

**Dakshayaagam - 6 pm**



## VINCENT's JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

A family finds the teen dead. In her room.  
This gets known perhaps at pre-dawn.  
The family is shocked.  
It hits them hard.  
Word gets around.  
In minutes, the news flies.  
And it is fanned by social media.

The news gets blown because the teen is the child of a well-known actor. The news gets multiplied when the case is treated as a suicide.

By this time, TV channels are on to it.

Their TV crews have landed at the actor's house. Then come in TV broadcast vans.

As actors and family visit to console the family, media men poke their mikes at them, beseech them, plod and nudge and every, and any word is relayed.

Meanwhile, online channels are creating visuals and memes and all the rest to broadcast. The actor's stills are recycled. Some even manage to get videos of the teen at her school's swearing-in event. Other channels magnify the teen's photos.

The crews move to a church where a funeral prayer service is on. They poke their cameras all over the place. Then they trail the hearse till the end. Some channels go live on all this.

This is the worst form of media insensitivity and crassness. But media producers don't care.

This is not the first time, the media has been ruthless in its coverage of sensitive issues of life.

But lots of people did express harshly, their criticism of the media and its behaviour.

And one online channel has issued an apology in general. And promises not to overstep in such situations.

As consumers of the media, what has been our attitude?

Many are content to consume the worst form of news coverage, licking and salivating at all the juice that comes out of film stars, popular people and the dirty world. And in doing so, we are only encouraging the media to be ruthless, heartless and downright crass.

It is time for you and me to switch off.

You do not know what could be your fate at the hands of a gossip and dirt-hungry media. The crews will stomp into your bedroom when you have been robbed of gold and silver. The crew will hop across your gate when you are a victim of a con-job or of violence. The crew will shove the mike into you if you are a 'witness' to a gory act. The crew will make you dance to its tunes for a two-bit soft news story.

We must learn to switch off the vulgar and the crass. Keep away Peeping Toms. And condemn an act when it hurts us all.



## LETTERS FROM READERS

E-MAIL your letters to - mytimesedit@gmail.com. Or WHATSAPP to: 8015005628.

Provide full name and short address.

● This column also contains comments posted on our social media pages.

Greenways Lane is dump space for detained bikes.  
Affects residents

Traffic Police often check drivers of bikes and cars and vans at the junction near 'Jesus Calls' and where Chennai Metro has its large work area, off Greenways Road. The police seize bikes of offenders, when it is required and these are parked alongside Greenways Lane.

Over the months, these bikes have accumulated - some are dusty, some have fallen across and some turning into junk. The temporary bikes parking yard is posing a hurdle to residents here who drive cars since the lane width has been lessened.

We request Traffic Police to remove these 'detained' bikes.



- D. Parthiban

Fill up potholes

While I appreciate Chennai Corporation commissioner J. Radhakrishnan's initiative to prevent mosquito breeding in the city, there are many roads / streets in Mylapore where rainwater stagnates in the potholes facilitating mosquito breeding. There are two large potholes on Mundagakanni Amman Koil Street, Mylapore - one near the MRTS station and another in front of the Third Lane, near Medplus. The latter was half-filled when Nattu Subbarayan Road was re-laid recently.

These need GCC attention.

- N. Mahadevan

Tribute to C. K. Gopalakrishnan

Reading the Obituary on C. K. Gopalakrishnan in *Mylapore Times*, I recall the time when I served him as a banker when I worked in State Bank of India, Mandaveli, during the late 1970s and 80s. He was a humble man who never expected VIP treatment. With a smile on his face, he used to mingle freely with all of us. My condolences to the bereaved family.

- K. R. Jambunathan

Area sabha meets: held at short notice and on weekdays

The area sabha meetings to be held by councillors of our wards must be held in a sensible manner if they are to serve the purpose for which they have been outlined for grassroots democracy.

But we see in Mylapore zone that meetings were held by councillors with short notice and not all the residents of the area get to know of them. Also, holding such meetings on weekdays during work hours is not a great idea at all - no wonder at some meets, there were 8 and 10 people.

It seems as if this area sabha process is just something that has to be done and is being held to tick the boxes.

- V. Arul

HM's Story was interesting

The 'My Story' column in *Mylapore Times* dated Sept.16 by Pushpavalli, the headmistress of Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls HS School was interesting. It gave us an understanding of a teacher's and HM's role and responsibility.

- R. Puspha

## MY STORY



### Life at St. Bede's, and around: in the 60s

By EUNNAN REGO

I was born in Bandra in Mumbai and the family moved to Madras in May 1956, on a transfer for my father.

The very first thing my father did after getting suitable accommodation on Kutcheri Road, beside Raja Hair Dressers, a popular barber shop, was to register his name and address at the San Thome Post Office (which stood on a plot on the main road where the Airtel office now is). Then he registered as a parishioner at San Thome Basilica and then, registered for admission to a local school.

It was providence that my elder brother and I were admitted into St. Bede's Anglo-Indian School in San Thome - this was in May 1956, by Rev. Fr. Malon, the then principal of the school. We were admitted even though it was five months after the new academic year had begun (in those times, the

year began in January).

Beginning school from Std.1 under the care of Mrs. Pillai, I was able to get a double promotion at the end of the academic year to Standard 3, which ran a joke in the family that I was promoted for being the tallest in the class.

The initial years were spent making friends - both with day scholars and boarders too - and the bond of friendship through study and fun and mischief started building my foundation.

I was not particularly engaged in studies, being slow to grasp mathematics and Hindi. In Std.4, I failed miserably but on consideration I was promoted on trial to Std.5 by Mrs. Pillai. My parents paid serious attention to my studies and so I had to attend tuitions in maths and Hindi at home and I was able to manage 35 marks.

Then came Std.6, where the going for me got tougher and under teacher Lazarus, I had to be detained in class for an hour after school hours - for special coaching. At that time, Fr.Menezes was our principal; he was a tough person but to encourage us, we were given prizes for doing well in the special classes.

Thereafter from Std.7 right up to Std.11, my studies improved - with teachers like Mrs. Gomes, Mr. Rodrigo, Mr.Gonzaga, Mr. Perry, Mr. Fletcher and Mr. D' Netto.

Our outing, once a year, was to the Madras Zoo or to a cinema. Towards the end of the year, it was time to shoot a class photograph by Cherian Bros. and later, by the staff of G. K. Vale studios.

Those days, St. Bede's excelled in games like athletics, cricket, hockey and football and we were winners at most inter-schools tournaments. Cricket was for day-scholars and boarders played hockey and football.

The area where I grew up, on Kutcheri Road, was more like family, since the population in those days was not that big and generally, we knew each other not only by face but by name too.

The local shops were also limited - Raja Hair Dressers ('official hair dresser' for St. Bede's boarders and priests), Shanti Stores, National Ice-cream parlour opposite St.Raphael's School, Ceylon Bakery and Crown Bakery. Our favourite was Chakrapani. the Big Man who sold a variety of gram near the school.

● Eunnan Rego was into industrial products trading. He now resides in Secunderabad. Contact - eunnie2003@yahoo.co.in





A music festival to mark Sri Vinayaka Chaturthi is on at Sri Karpaga Vinayagar Temple in R. A. Puram's 2nd Cross Street. On Sept.20, violinists Usha Rajagopalan and Meera Sivaramakrishnan performed. The fest ends on Sept.24 with a musical discourse at 7 p.m.

# ‘Kathadi’ Ramamurthy decorated with unique Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit award

By Our Edit Team

Veteran stage and film actor ‘Kathadi’ Ramamurthy was presented the special Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit award by the vice-president of India on September 16 at a grand event held in Delhi.

The award was constituted to honour Indian artistes aged above 75 years who have not been accorded any national honour in their career so far. The honour carries a purse money of rupees one lakh besides a tamrapatra and angavastram.

“The arrangements were top class,” said Ramamurthy. “We stayed at Hotel Ashoka and they took good care of us.” He said he was overwhelmed by the experience to meet and move around with a number of the country’s best-known artistes. “Though my Hindi is poor I managed to interact with a few of them,” he said on his return to the city.

In his early 80s, Sundaresan ‘Kathadi’ Ramamurthy, a resident of Alwarpet, continues to keep a busy schedule - shooting for ad films, films and TV serials and acting in plays. And he makes it a point to be present at all cultural events in the Mylapore zone.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards to 84 artistes from varied fields of performing arts.

# Post Office holds one-day special camp

A special India Post camp was held on September 13 at Mylapore Post Office. This camp provided people the window to clarify / set right / initiate or sign up on any of the services that a post office provides - Aadhar card, Postal Life Insurance, PO Savings, special schemes for women/children, etc. Five counters were set up in the post office premises to handle people’s queries, attend to their needs as fast as possible, said a post office staffer. This post office is on Kutcheri Road.



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Priests, nuns and lay people took part in a rally and silent protest in San Thome around the Cathedral last Saturday evening ( Sept.16) to seek peace in Manipur and put an end to violence.

The community first gathered inside the Cathedral campus where archbishop Rev. George Antonysam of Madras-Mylapore diocese addressed them and then flagged off the procession. Later, the participants linked up from the Cathedral point to the Light House point, holding up placards and banners. They remained rooted even as the skies opened and it rained heavily.

This event was organised by the clergy and laity of Madras-Mylapore diocese.

## Sri Adikesava Perumal Temple renovation to start soon



By Our Edit Team

Major renovation work is to begin at Sri Adikesava Perumal Temple in Mylapore's Chitrakulam zone. This will lead to the temple's kumbhabishekam for which a date is yet to be set.

The balalayam rituals were held inside the temple ( seen in the photo), a prelude to allowing work to be done in the various shrines.

The temple will be open to people as usual – from 6.30 am to 12. 30 pm and from 5 to 9 p.m.

## R. A. Puram Assn. hosts eye camp, bazaar at its AGM on Sept.24

By Our Edit Team

R. A. Puram Residents Association ( RAPRA) is having its AGM on Sept.24 at Raja Muthiah School, Srinivasa Avenue, R. A. Puram.

Preceding the AGM, scholarships will be granted to 40 students studying in GCC schools and govt.-aided schools.

Also, a free eye-screening camp has been scheduled at the venue; it will be conducted by the reputed optician, Lawrence & Mayo.

Timings - 9 am to 1 pm. Tests for refraction, colour vision, acuity of vision and eye pressure will be done.

Lawrence and Mayo is giving discount coupons for items purchased. RAPRA is also donating 10 spectacles to the needy of this area.

There will also be a Sales Zone in the campus that day - stalls will offer horticulture products, garbage bins, solar power sets and other useful home / utility products.

Contact - 9841030040



## Special event for pre-schoolers

By Our Edit Team

Little Millenium's Alwarpet centre conducted what it called 'Little Exploration' project for its children recently.

This project, says Dr. Shilpa, the promoter of this centre, is to encourage kids of 1.5 to 6 years of age to discover the wonders of education.

This event allowed these children to connect with colours, seasons, alphabets and numbers.

There were a series of interactive activities – children who are pre-schoolers, were invited to display their favourite colours, patterns, and drawings that represented themselves. The highlight of the day was the 'Alphabet and Colour Parade.'

Dr. Florence Helen Nalini heads the centre.

## Teen commits suicide

The daughter of actor and music director Vijay Anthony was found dead in her room early on Sept.19 at the family's house located off TTK Road in Alwarpet.

The girl was a Class 12 student.

Police investigating the case said that this was a case of suicide.

## Hindu cultural centre to come up in R. A. Puram. A state government plan

By Our Edit Team

Preliminary work has begun to build a centre in R. A. Puram that will promote and host Hindu religious-based cultural activities and support projects in this field.

State minister P. K. Sekar Babu who handles the HR & CE portfolio has said that this project was tabled in the state Assembly, sanctioned and now, the HR & CE department is working on the plans.

This complex of three floors is to come up on a large property belonging to Sri Kapali Temple, Mylapore. The plot is in south Kesava Perumal Puram. It measures 22.80 grounds.

A sum of Rs.28.76 crores has been budgeted for this project and plans have been sanctioned.

The plan includes building three floors and will provide for exhibition and display halls, community dining space and performance / meeting spaces.

The performance space can be rented for religious-themed recitals / concerts/ events by private parties.

A library on Hindu religious themes is also planned.

Also in the plan, is building a safe room for vintage idols which have been stolen from temples and recovered by the state.

File photo used here for representation purpose







# VYJAYANTHIMALA TURNS 90. DANCE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES MILESTONE

By Our Edit Team

Well-known Bharatanatyam dancer and film actress Vyjayanthimala Bali turned 90 in late August and one community decided to have a party for this Alwarpet-based personality to celebrate this milestone.

Members of the Association of Bharatanatyam Artistes of India (ABHAI) hosted a private event at a hotel in R. A. Puram.

The invitees were select and a small number. Among them were senior dancers, Padma Subrahmanyam, Chitra Visweswaran, Sudharani Raghupathy and the Dhananjayans.

A specially-baked cake



was cut by the artiste.

Then followed a snappy concert by flutist Sruti Sagar and mridangam artiste Guru Bharadwaj.

Later, S. Janaki, who recently retired as editor of 'Sruti' magazine, spoke on Vyjayanthimala's career, spicing her speech with many anecdotes.

As pleasantries got underway, Padma Subrahmanyam coaxed the birthday doyenne to dance for this occasion.

Vyjayanthimala didn't bat an eyelid; she got up and performed to a Thirupavai piece. And was given a long round of applause.

● **SHARE your best memory of Vyjayanthimala Bali.**  
Mail - mytimesedit@gmail.com

## Obituary

'Sikkil' Neela, the younger of the Sikkil Sisters, celebrated and senior flautists in Carnatic music, passed away on September 17 morning. She was 85.

She was a resident of Jeth Nagar, Mandaveli.

Neela was decorated with several awards including Padma Shri, the Sangita Kalanidhi given by The Music Academy and Sangeet Natak Akademi award.

She, along with her elder sister Kunjumani ( who predeceased her) were also top grade artistes of All India Radio and DD, and the duo had performed extensively all over India and abroad.

Neela learnt flute from her sister Kunjamani. Kunjamani, began giving concerts from the age of nine and Neela from the age of seven. The Sikkil Sisters had been giving concerts together, as a duo, since 1962.

In a 2002 *Mylapore Times* interview with the sisters, Kunjumani said: Yes. Neela learnt from me and gave her first concert when she was seven at the Singara Velavar Temple in Sikkil. We gave our first concert together during the Adi kirthigai utsavam at Sri Viswanatha Swami Temple in Thanjavur. Everybody liked it and from then on we performed as a duo. Basically it is fate that we're playing together. God has given us the opportunity to play together."



## Free dental check camp. Sept. 23



A free dental screening camp is being conducted by Durgabhai Deshmukh Hospital, R. A. Puram on Sept.22 and 23. The camp, open to all, is on between 9 am and 1 pm. The basic check-up is free.

Cleaning, filling and extraction of teeth, root canal fillings, dentures and braces – all these services are offered at discounted rates at the camp, said a note from the hospital.

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# Children star in play on Nandanaar staged at sabha hall



Krishna Kala Mandiram presented a musical play based on Nandanaar at the Mylapore Fine Arts Club on Sept. 3, to a packed audience. And all the artistes were children.

The story of Nandanaar is a part of Periya Puranam. Geetha Narayanan, who is credited with the story, dialogues and direction said that the entire play was performed by children aged 5 to 15 years.

She added – the bhakti and bhava enacted by the innocent children took devotion to a higher level. Techniques in picturising the much revered story were appreciated by the audience. The life of the Pulaiya community Nandanaar and his relation with Lord Shiva was beautifully portrayed by the team.

Geetha Narayanan is a theatre artiste with Stage Creations (Kathadi Ramamurthy's troupe). Credits for this play – Deeptha Pattabhiraman, asst. director, music by R. Giridharan, special effects and screening by Rahul, Guna and Kavitha Shivakumar.



## Avishya store: new in Alwarpet

The brand was selling handloom sarees online. The store has a range of clothes now

By Preetha K.

Avishya handloom, which was a 100% online platform retailing handloom sarees, opened its first flagship store in Alwarpet in June.

Started in 2016, Avishya's promoters say it has built a strong and loyal online customer base and over 60% of their customers are women from the Indian diaspora in the U.S, U.K and other countries. They also have a strong customer base in Indian cities.

"We wanted to cater to customers who want to touch and feel the products before buying and so, our first physical store was launched. There is a revival of saree wearing. Indians want to get back to roots and culture," says Kalaivani Sadagopan, one of the two founders, who believes that youngsters should be educated more about India's handlooms.

Kalaivani and Jawahar Singh were former colleagues who shared the common interest of entrepreneurship and hence was born Avishya, which sources handloom fabrics from north, south, east and west of India.

A US-based angel group has invested \$1.4 million in Avishya for their business expansion plans. The store offers intricately woven sarees, elegant salwar suits, ready-made kurtas, luxurious dress materials, exquisitely designed blouses and more.

There are also value-added services like customised stitching, Aari work, hand embroidery for saree blouses, kurtas and salwar suits.

Avishya is located at 281, TTK Road, Alwarpet. Ph:7358028474

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## One-day bazaar of women entrepreneurs

By Our Edit Team

Every year, Sadhana, the women's wing of The Kalyan Nagar Association in Mandavelipakkam, hosts a Sadhana Bazaar at its premises.

The bazaar hosts self-employed, small women entrepreneurs based in the city.

This year, this bazaar is on Sept.23, from 9 am to 7 pm.

Stalls will offer household goods, dress materials and readymades, foodstuff, snacks and sweets and more.

The venue is located at one end of T. M. S. Road and the sale is open to all.



## Children enjoy clay-Ganesha making at this cafe in Alwarpet

On the eve of Sri Vinayaka Chaturthi, a bunch of children sat down and enjoyed taking part in a eco-friendly clay Ganesha-making workshop.

It was held on September 16 at the Eko-Lyfe Café, No.3, Ananda Road, Alwarpet.

After they had made handcrafted clay Ganesha, and an eco-friendly umbrella for Ganesha, the children got involved in some themed singing and dancing for this occasion.



## INDOOR BADMINTON COURTS OF GCC NOW OPEN TO PUBLIC FOR A FEE

This facility is located in Karpagam Avenue



By Our Edit Team.

The indoor badminton court facility in Karpagam Avenue in R. A. Puram, of Chennai Corporation, has been revived now.

A private sports club based in Pattinapakam has taken charge of the sport activity here. Recently, Mylapore MLA Dha Velu and local councillor Geetha Murali formally opened the activity here.

This indoor space is fitted with the basics for playing badminton, indoors - the floor is set for the game, the lighting is sufficient and two courts are available.

Suresh Memorial Football Club, which runs football coaching classes off the Marina Loop Road for school girls and boys and for adults and also manages a team, has taken charge of the badminton courts in this R. A. Puram colony.

The facility was made ready a long time ago and was being used by residents but it seems that it was not properly managed and used.

Currently, there are two parts to the activ-

ity here. One that provides coaching to school students from government, GCC-run and aided schools, from this zone. Two, coaching as well as playing windows for residents and the public.

Nirmal of the Club says he has to pay GCC a monthly fee for use of the courts and use of the basics. "So while the students' coaching is free we have to charge others," he says.

People who wish to play / be trained here, either in the morning or in the evening, will need to pay Rs.1000 per month. There are two courts. One coach has been trained at NIS (National Institute of Sports).

Coaching for school students is undertaken during the early evening hours. Word has been sent to local area schools on the free coaching provided here. But Nirmal says his Club also needs donors who can help fund purchase of racquets, shuttle cocks and shoes.

He says, "There are students who cannot afford all this but want to play here and any support is welcome."

Address: Karpagam Avenue 4th Street. Contact Nirmal at 8122143861.



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