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Vol. 31, No. 23

Sept 26 - Oct 2, 2026

12 pages Free Circulation

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Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme, promoted by the current state government of Tamil Nadu was launched by chief minister C. Joseph Vijay on Sept.22. Food is cooked at neighbourhood kitchens and supplied to schools that fall under this scheme - which extended the beneficiaries in government and state-aided schools. This photo shows students lining up for the breakfast of pongal and sambar at St. Lazarus Middle School off Madha Church Road, R. A. Puram

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FREE EVENTS FOR SENIORS

Here are free events for seniors hosted by Dignity Foundation at Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam, Ambujammal Street, Alwarpet.

Sept. 28 - Zumba and Art & Craft sessions - 11 a.m.
Sept. 29 - Singing for Pleasure (theme: 1980s hits songs) - online session - 4 p.m. Sept. 30 - Indoor games - 11 a.m.
Oct. 1 - Yoga - 11 a.m. For registration: 8610386212



HAVE OLD GOODS AT HOME? DISPOSE THEM AT THESE POINTS THIS SEPT.27

This weekend, get rid of old stuff lying at home - clothes, electronics, cutlery,

luggage and stuff. Use the services provided by EcoKonnectors and



Spreco. On Sept.27, 10 am to 4 pm (do not drop off goods after 4 p.m., request the organisers).

You must pack the goods in boxes and leave them at these collection points -
1/ R K Nagarra Assn - Tiruveedhiamman Koil St., Ramakrishna Nagar, R. A. Puram.

Contact Bala - 7010848668

2) Karpagam Avenue park - 4th Street, next to Pillayar temple, Karpagam Avenue. Contact Bindu Veerabahu - 9176776767

3) Poonga View RWA and Mandaveli Raja Street RWA - gate of Aishwarya Apartments, 29 Raja Street Extension, Mandaveli. Contact Ravi Subramanian / 94440 76428

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For 25 years, Duchess Utsav has been a popular destination-event for two communities - women entrepreneurs who use this platform to showcase their products and effect sales and shoppers looking for something nice.

Hotel Saveria and a team of women have been the movers behind this venture.

This year, some 90 women-led businesses will be taking part in this Utsav at Hotel Saveria on September 25 and 26.

From handwoven sarees, fashion jewellery, mod apparel to home décor and gourmet organic foodstuff, the stalls will have lots to offer. The Utsav is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ONLINE 'DROP-IN' MASTER CLASS IN CARNATIC MUSIC

Hamsanadam Music School in Mylapore has introduced a monthly online drop-in master-classes conducted on the last Sunday of every month.

This month's class will be on September 27. These sessions are specially curated for learners interested in expanding their repertoire with rare music compositions.

Open to all Carnatic music enthusiasts who are at the varnam/ krithi level of training. Each session includes notations and audio files. The fee is ₹500 per session. For registrations and inquiries, send a WhatsApp message to 9176197223.

Dr. Shubha Ganesan, artiste and teacher runs the school.

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MYLAPORE TIMES
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77, C. P. Ramaswamy Rd., Alwarpet, Chennai -18
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Mylapore Times is published every Saturday, is given free in the Mylapore area and has a circulation of 25,000 copies.

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires before entering into dealings with advertisers who advertise in this publication.

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Mandavelipakkam residents sore that local police seem ‘cool’ to series of petty thefts

By Our Edit Team

Residents of at least five houses in Mandavelipakkam have reported that in recent weeks common water taps have been stolen. Also, people in two apartments have reported that iron covers for their sumps have been stolen.

Similar thefts have taken place in two streets in Mandaveli - a bike was stolen here (Raja Street, and the adjoining street).

The petty crimes were reported to the local police and residents said that the Foreshore Estate police did not show much interest in pursuing the cases.

So the residents took the issue to the Commissioner’s office by posting it on social media. In less than 24 hours, the police told residents that one man has been arrested and that they are after the other thieves.

“If these thieves are not arrested quickly then they will be emboldened to commit more serious crimes,” said a senior citizen of this area who wished to remain anonymous.

Residents had shared proof of the crimes - using CCTV recordings of young men who slip into bungalows and apartments, look for the common taps and unscrew them – all done in



Graphic for illustration

less than five minutes – and walk away as if they were workmen or delivery boys.

In one camera grab, three men casually walk down a street in Mandavelipakkam, two slip into a bungalow and come out with a small bag in their hands.

One resident said that costly taps were stolen and a tank-full of water was wasted at dead of night.

■ ARE PETTY CRIMES / LAW & ORDER ISSUES AFFECTING life in your area?
Share details –
Mail – mytimesedit@gmail.com

Swimmer Aravind to compete in Asian Masters meet

By Our Edit Team

Swimmer Aravind K., a SAP consultant with Deloitte USI, excelled at the 2026 Masters Nationals, winning a



silver and a bronze medal and has qualified for the Asian Masters 2026, where he will represent India.

The Masters meet is meant for swimmers in the age group 25 to 90 years.

The Asian meet is to be held in Bengaluru in early October.

A former national medalist swimmer and a ASCA certified swimming coach, Aravind returned to competitive swimming while continuing his professional career at Deloitte USI.

Aravind is a resident of Shanthi Apartments in Adam Street, Mylapore

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VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

Krishnamurthy is my go-to man when we have urgent needs at home. A loaf of bread. Some onions and potatoes. A can of water. His shop is at the far end of our street, located right - for it is accessible to the hundreds of families who reside in the many lanes that run off the main road here.

On a slow evening when I choose to walk aimlessly in the area and I have to go past Krishnamurthy's shop, I stop if I spot him inside. And chat. In recent times, I have noticed that the space in front of his shop is packed with dozens of drinking water cans - the low priced as well as the high priced ones. "I get more calls for water cans nowadays," he told me. "They exhaust fast and when the delivery van does not arrive every morning, customers are cross with me."

One evening, I saw him loading three cans on to his scooter.

"Why don't you get a tricycle for this delivery if water is what brings you better profits," I told him.

"No *dubbu* sir!"

It is from him that I have got to know much about my neighbourhood and of his colony which borders Besant Nagar. Of the times when carts carrying the dead went through patchy groves to the burning ghat on the sands. Of the days when very few state-run buses covered Adyar and Thiruvannamiyur. Of the tiny water bodies that dotted areas like Sastri Nagar.

Owners of small shops make time to converse - when there is a lull in business.

When I dropped into the '1Kg Biryani' shop in our area which made the best biryani in this part of the city, the manager was keen to learn about how newspapers managed to make money! And how a free-circulation weekly earned its revenue.

If you are the type who steps out to shop at local stores, you may have observed how the owner juggles chatting with two or even three customers as their orders are handled by his men inside - talk about his trip home for the temple festival, talk about why the quality of tamarind is not good nowadays, talk about controlling diabetes.

Small shop owners make time for small and friendly conversation. And this peeps up both sides.

Such conversations have dropped off, in the Swiggy and Blinkit world of door delivery in 5 minutes. Do you sometimes wonder how small conversations at the local shop lightens you up?



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.



Image of statue of Dr Rangachari located inside Madras Medical College

GCC: this road must be called Dr. Rangachari Road

Dr Rangachari was a famous gynaecologist and surgeon who also cared for poor patients. In his honour, a road in Alwarpet was named as Dr. Rangachari Road. The TN government, as part of its drive to remove caste names in streets/roads, cropped his name and deleted the 'Chari'.

Actually, the doctor's formal name is Rangachari. There are Rangacharis, Raghavacharis, Krishnamacharis, Desikachari and many such in all castes. A 'achari' suffix denotes Viswakarma community and achar denotes Madhwas.

Therefore, GCC must restore the full name of this road - call it Dr. Rangachari Road

- K. J. Suriyanarayanan

GCC has ignored blocked SWD across Seshadri Road, Alwarpet

Huge volumes of rainwater from two streets and a lane of Venus Colony, Murrays Gate Road and Maharaja Surya Road, Alwarpet flow through a single storm water drain on Murrays Gate Road. This flow gets blocked at the Seshadri Road junction because it has never been desilted nor re-constructed for over 20 years. Although a new SWD across Seshadri Road was sanctioned as early as March 2025, no action has been taken. Venus Colony residents have petitioned the GCC top officers many times, but nothing has been done. Many houses will be flooded again if we have a strong monsoon.

- Sujatha Vijayaraghavan

LPG : nomination issues

In his letter published in this section, K. R. Jambunathan has sought nomination facility for seamless transfer of LPG connection to the kith and kin. The facility to transfer the gas connection to the relatives of the deceased is available and the procedures are simple. Recently I got the gas connection which was in the name of a deceased relative, transferred to his wife, by submitting the death certificate and the ID/address proof of the transferee.

- V. S. Jayaraman

Buckingham Canal memories

Last week's column, *Vincent's Jottings* that wrote about the boatmen on the Buckingham Canal in the 1960s brought back pleasant memories of my student days. I used to watch the huge, flat bottomed wooden boats in the Canal carrying firewood, straw, rice and even construction materials.

The boatmen who made a living by transporting these goods, lived with their families in the tiny, covered portion of the boats. While the men navigated the big vessels, the women would be busy cooking food.

- N. Rama Rao



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MYLAPORE REWIND

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

How a century-old temple came to be in R. A. Puram (May 31, 1997)

Jeevaratna Vinayakar Temple in Thiruvalluvarpet, R A Puram, is being renovated and readied for a kumbhabhishekam. Jayavel, a resident of this area is said to have built the temple in 1896. Sampathkumar, who has been living here since he was born, recalled that Jayavel was the grandfather of his neighbour, Sankarasathguru. It is said that when Jayavel had proposed marriage, it was turned down because he lived in a thatched house. Piqued, he went abroad, worked hard, and earned enough. He returned home and built a proper house where the thatched house once stood.

He also built the temple. An archaeological department official has noted that the idols in the temple are at least 130 years old. These idols—of Vinayakar, Shiva, and Murugan—are said to have been sourced from the saints of that time. The temple's renovation, including the plumbing and electrical work, is being executed by the youth of the locality.



Renovation at Jeevaratna Vinayakar Temple

Cheaper voting machine (May 31, 1997)

Food technologist from Mylapore, K. R. Raja, says his late cousin, K. Ramanujam, designed a "foolproof" voting machine, which can "100 per cent" eliminate invalid votes. According to him, his cousin built the machine in 1947 and released a working prototype in 1949. Raja now intends to upgrade this model, which he claims is still in working condition. Raja says

that leaders like Nehru, Rajendra Prasad and Rajaji had taken a look at the machine, and that *The Hindu* newspaper had featured it. Raja lives at Vishwakamal Apartments on R. K. Mutt Road.

Abhiramapuram teen wins ticket to Dubai (May 31, 1997)

Participating in the Star Plus Sardari Begum TV contest, Mylaporean Nirupama Sekhar won two return tickets to Dubai. The prize also includes accommodation and 500 dollars for expenses for four days. This 15-year-old student

of Rosary Matriculation School plans to take her sister Anupama with her. A school topper, Nirupama loves photography, painting and travelling. Nirupama is a resident of Subramaniam Street in Abhiramapuram.

Dietetics student gets state second rank (May 31, 1997)

V. Varsha, a Class 12 student of nutrition, dietetics and food preparation at Adarsh Vidyalaya Matriculation School, Royapettah, topped her school in the Board exam and secured the second rank at the state level. Using the ingredients specified for the practical exam, Varsha prepared sooji halwa and pakodas to score a perfect 200/200. Overall, she scored 1125 out of 1200. Varsha says she hadn't expected a state rank.



V. Varsha

● This column is curated by Kanaka Cadambi.

How to secure special child’s future:
meet to discuss such issues

By Our Edit Team

Are you parents of a special child who wonder about the course of your child’s life?
Or are you interested in exploring life-long options that can be offered to young, special people?
Issues like housing, counselling, fellowship and personal care?
Then you may want to attend this Sept.26 meeting to be hosted by V-Excel which has been providing lifespan services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 2001.



For some years now, people have been asking this organisation to initiate a project that accommodates their special children. There have been some discussions in the past.
But now, a few reliable people have shown interest to explore collaborations in this project. And so, they and V-Excel want to listen to the ideas and suggestions of parents of special children.
The meet is open to all. Starts at 10.30 a.m
Venue: Thiruvengadam Street, Mandaveli. Phones: 24956373 / 24620243



Mylapore MLA and state minister P. Venkataramanan participated in the launch of the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast scheme at a symbolic event held at the Chennai Primary School run by GCC on Sringeri Mutt Road on Sept.22 morning. Also present was local area councillor Amirda Varshini.

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This Vidya Mandir alumni meet was graced by 60 teachers

By Our Edit Team

When 60 teachers decide to attend a breakfast meeting hosted by an alumni group of their school, there must be a lot more than courtesy that brings them to the venue. Perhaps this enthusiastic response says a lot about how the 1996 batch of Vidya Mandir school in Luz has vibed closely over many years, with the men and women who moulded them in school.



The batch, which meets informally every year, had a formal meeting in late July at the school. Some 125 members are active online and the core group, led by USA-based K. C. Jayanth chose to focus closely on one aspect - ensure all their teachers were invited formally, give pride of place at the table and be felicitated.

Group members flew in from the USA, the Gulf and from Europe to attend the get-together where each teacher was presented with a scroll which extolled his/her qualities and contribution.

Some teachers like Arun-

dathi, now in Australia and Annie George, now in the Gulf, flew in to be present. And those who could not make it due to ill-health or advanced age, were surprised with personal visits by the 'old students'. Said Visalakshi Jambunathan, a retired, middle-school science teacher who attended this meet.

"The carefully designed scroll was a very thoughtful gesture."

"We usually have our informal meets at clubs or hotels but this time, we were keen to meet at the school," said T. P. Priya, a core mem-

ber of this alumni batch. "It also allowed many alumni who are here once in a while to visit the campus."

Rewinding to campus life in the 1990s dominated the chatter after the formal event. Priya says that two of her classmates turned up in the school uniform that they had stitched for this occasion.

So what binds a group like this with the school?

Priya says it has to do with the close ties that her generation has had with Vidya Mandir and its early years "Many of us are part of the people or families who either had a hand in founding or nurturing the school in its early days or studied here," she says.

"In a way, many of us are part of the extended Vidya Mandir family."

The batch is considering some ideas on ways to support the school. Scholarships for students who need support while seriously pursuing performing arts and sport is one thought.

By Baskar Seshadri

State Bank of India's branch on Luz Church Road which was gutted by a fire has re-opened after extensive repairs and interior work were carried out.

It was closed for a fortnight but staff sat outside under shamianas and guided customers who needed help.

The chief manager of this branch said all banking services the branch offers are now available. The ATMs section is not ready though and work is underway here; a mobile ATM is stationed outside the bank premises.

This branch is close to Nageswara Rao Park, Luz.



Obituary



B. Madhavi, 62 years old and a resident of Karpagam Avenue, R. A. Puram passed away on Sept. 1.

She was the secretary of Lalitha Kala Vedika, a private cultural body founded by her father B. V. S. S. Mani and his wife Lalitha Ratnam. The Vedika hosted music concerts at small venues till recently.

Madhavi was a trained Carnatic music vocalist. Her guru was vidwan Calcutta Krishnamurthy. Madhavi and her sister Sundari sang for their dancer-sister, Lakshmi Mani at her Kuchipudi concerts.

The family maintained seven cows in this residence and Madhavi personally took care of them. "She was so fond of the cows that if one of them mooed even at midnight, she would get up and visit the cow shed" said Padma Prakash, her sister.

The family's contact is - 9940165272

Rajiv Krishnamurthy of Citadel Fine Pharmaceuticals, a passionate traveller and a keen wildlife enthusiast and photographer, passed away on September 7.

He was 69. He was a resident of Janaki Avenue, Abiramapuram.

Rajiv studied at Vidya Mandir, Mylapore and continued his studies at Vivekananda College.

He worked all his life at the family's business - Citadel Fine Pharmaceuticals.

"His passion for travel and adventure took him to all corners of the country and the world," his family said.

He was also a keen wildlife enthusiast and deeply interested in photography. His other obsession was Carnatic music.

"Whatever he was interested in, he involved many people from his expansive family and friends circles. His personality was blunt and dependable, maintaining deep friendships across his life," his family said.

Said well-known music artiste, author and activist T. M. Krishna in a tribute : 'Rajiv was an unusual man - loud, opinionated, boisterous, generous and full of life. He brought people together, he was impatient, he loved a good laugh and never placed himself in front.'

Rajiv's eyes were donated.

The family resides in Abiramapuram.

N. Venkataraman, a long-time resident of Mylapore, passed away on September 13. He was 87.

Born on September 4, 1939, Venkataraman retired as office superintendent of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

He studied at P. S High School and went to Vivekananda College for his undergraduate studies. He then got a job with TNEB and worked for it for around 35 years.

His family said he often donated for the medical or educational needs of people who sought his help.

He visited Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple daily, and did so till his end, his family added. After the temple visit, he would drop into a sabha hall to listen to Carnatic music concerts.

His family said that he was so keen to know all that happened in Mylapore that he would never miss to read *Mylapore Times* on Saturdays.

The family resides at Maruthi Flats, Chitrakulam North Street, Mylapore. Contact - 7305052400

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

SBI branch in Luz Church Road re-opens

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By Madhan Kumar

Over 200 images of lord Vinayaka were immersed in the sea off Pattinapakkam on Sunday, September 20, following Chennai Corporation's presentation to the National Green Tribunal that this would be the last time this zone would be used for the immersion.

(The Tribunal has been hearing a petition which said the immersions went against coastal regulations and must be stopped. GCC has said a zone in Kovalam off the ECR will be chosen next year)

The immersion was well organised - vans transporting the idols were led to join a queue on the road leading to the sands, volunteers then moved the idols to the shore one by one; the smaller ones were carried by the young men and immersed while cranes were used to lift and immerse the large idols. Police staff were assigned here to regulate crowds. There were a few police on horseback too.

Urbaser Sumeet staff posted on the shore kept removing waste that was washed up on the shore and sending it to lorries. They did this through the day and did a thorough job. The Urbaser staff were back here on Monday to clear loads of waste on the sands and because of their work, the sands are clean now.

KOLU BOMMAI SALE: Hawkers have set up stalls on North Mada Street for the Navaratri shopping season



Update on phone usage inside Sri Kapali Temple

By Our Edit Team

An update.
Cellphones are not allowed into Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore as per a recent government order.
They must be deposited at the counter set up near the east gopuram of the temple, outside the temple. However, the fee of Rs.5 that was charged has been dropped.

MYLAPORE TIMES

Navaratri

Art Contest

FOR CHILDREN

DETAILS NEXT WEEK

Mend your clothes, bags at this event

By Our Edit Team

A Do-It-Yourself (DIY) mending workshop is to be held on Oct.2 at Sree Karpagavalli Vidyalaya Middle School, Mangollai, Mylapore.

If you have a T-shirt, a saree or trousers or a bag with a tear or a loose seam, you can learn to fix it yourself and continue using the Tee or the bag, instead of throwing them out.

This is what this event promises to offer. "We help you stitch by stitch by using our tools and materials," said a member of Team Samposhan which is hosting this event - open from 10 am to 12.30 pm

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MYLAPORE TIMES

KOLU CONTEST

This contest will focus on a combo of a traditional kolu as well as creative thematic set/s around it.

HOW TO TAKE PART

- Shoot 4 sharp, clear photos of the main kolu (2 photos) as well as the thematic set/s (2 photos) you create around it.
- The photos must carry the date of shoot. DO NOT send Videos.
- E-mail them to - **mytimesedit@gmail.com**
- E-mail the contestant's full name, full address and phone number. Also, mention in two lines the special features of the Kolu and the Theme set/s.
- In your email, mention **KOLU CONTEST 2026** in the subject line
- Open only to Mylapore residents.
- Contest closes on Oct.17, 9 p.m.**
- PRIZES:** 10 Prizes for Best Entries. Gifts for all Participants

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The Nartaka Festival 2026 presented by Natyanjali Trust was held on Sept.17 and 18 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore. On Sept.18, there were three recitals. First - by Shreejith Satyan and Arun Velayudhan, followed by the trio - Unnath, Pavan Kumar and Bhuvan Kumar and the finale - by Parshwanath Upadhyaye and P V Adithya - which was perhaps the best of the festival.

Sivanisai festival goes big. Many thematic concerts

By Our Edit Team

The annual Sivanisai festival this year is going to be big, thanks to some generous sponsorship.

This festival celebrates the music of Papanasam Sivan and marks his 136th birth anniversary and it will be on from Sept.26 to Oct.1, curated by the Papanasam Sivan Rasigar Manam. The venue: Narada Gana Sabha auditorium, Alwarpet.



Papanasam Sivan

The highlight of the opening evening is the staging of Sivan's 'Andal Charitham' by the Kalakshetra dance troupe.

On Sept.27, 7.30 pm, Subhasree Thanikachalam of the popular QFR Live! music house, presents 'Sivan Vazhiyil Cinema', highlighting the best of Sivan's musical work in Tamil cinema of his time.

On Sept.28, veena artiste Rajesh Vaidhya and his artiste-colleagues will present 'Film Hits of Papanasam Sivan' On Sept.29, Dushyanth Sridhar presents a 'san-geetha upanyasam' themed on Sivan's music.

Said vocalist and festival curator Ashok Ramani, "We have some great sponsors this year and hence decided to present some of the top artistes and also some thematic shows."

The finale is to be held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore on Oct.1 evening. Vocalist Sikkil Gurucharan will be decorated with the 'Sivanisai Selvar' award and Gurucharan will perform later.

The festival also features music concerts by artistes like Ramakrishnan Murthy, Bharat Sundar, M. Balamuralikrishna, Gayathri Venkataraghavan and Ashwath Narayan.

Lancor is the prime sponsor of this festival. Open to all.



THE KODAIS THAT STOOD OUT

A few interestingly-designed kodais (umbrellas) were submitted for the Mylapore times 'Design a Eco Umbrella for lord Vinayaka' contest held in connection with the festival.

We feature the designs that stood out.

1/ Ritika Dash of V. P. Koil Street, Mylapore used old newspaper, wrapping paper, beads, rice and foam sheet for her kodai.

2/ Sai Varsha of 1st Main Road, R. A. Puram made use of packing materials in a fruit box she bought, cardboard paper (from a recent parcel she received), cloth, leaves and a few other things.

3/ Abarna Vankatraman of 2nd Main Road, CIT Colony used pista shells, disposable containers, old blouse piece, unused threads and beads of a bracelet for her creation.

4/ Akshaya Venkat of G N Chetty Street, Mylapore used paper shopping bags, cardboard, old newspaper, color papers, thread, and beads.

She said she made small flowers, bells and rings from waste materials.

5/ Priya Ramesh of 2nd Cross Street, CIT Colony used old newspaper to create a mesh for the base, made rolls from newspapers and also used dried flowers and bindis for decoration

6/ Kiruthika of Canal Bank Road, R. A. Puram said she used old newspapers, pista shells and colour pen refills for beads for her kodai.



Taste the Gelato of Anutham's on South Mada Street

By Baskar Seshadri

Anutham's Gelato is new on South Mada Street, Mylapore. The third outlet, after

Gowriwakkam and Besant Nagar and promoted by Kameswaran Papuraj, offers a range of gelato flavours besides milk shakes,

rose milk, Waffles and even steaming cups of filter coffee.

From Madagascar Vanilla and Belgium Chocolate to Tender Coconut and Lotus Biscoff, this smart space, where previously Cothas Coffee existed, offers choice Gelato flavours. Prices are in the Rs.120 - Rs.135 range.

By the way, gelato uses whole milk, has

very low fat content and its air content is also low.

Kameswaran says his operations and production is based in Gowriwakkam, in his 2000 sq ft space, with machinery and raw materials imported. "We transport all the food from our base to Mylapore and store it here," he says.

To add to the menu, the shop also offers rose milk and badam milk - two local favourites which sell fast at many shops in this zone.

And since this zone is a 'coffee hub', the shop also offers piping hot filter coffee; reason why the shop opens at dawn and stays open till after 9 p.m.

The space is smartly designed, is air-conditioned and can seat 8/10 people. Contact: 93453 61785



School student Sahana publishes first book of 'tales'

By Our Edit Team

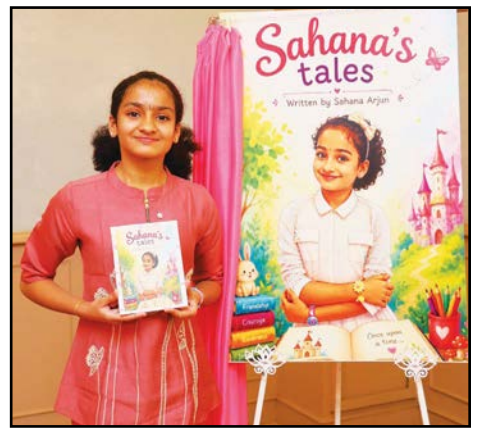
Sahana Arjun, a resident of Narasimhapuram in Mylapore has recently released her first book. It is titled 'Sahana's Tales'.

She is a Class VII student of Bala Vidya Mandir, Adyar.

Sahana said she began writing short stories and simple comics when she was around nine years old. Her early pencil-written stories, lovingly preserved over the years by her parents, have now been compiled and brought out in her first book.

The book was released by Dr. J. Sundar, principal, Bala Vidya Mandir, in the presence of V. Shanthi, vice principal, and S. Lakshmi, founder trustee of Mirra.

Said the school girl, "I actively write stories when I have the time. I love storytelling."



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Maitri expands its Montessori education project to more anganwadis in R. A. Puram

By Our Edit Team

Maitri Charitable Trust, based in R. A. Puram focuses on providing Montessori-based education at local area anganwadis. And it has done commendable work for some years now, quietly. Stepping up, Maitri recently extended its support at two anganwadis, thereby extending the reach of its Pre-Primary Support Program.

“This initiative will benefit 40+ additional children, in addition to the 350+ children who are currently receiving Montessori-based education through the programme,” said Jayanthi Ramesh, founder trustee.



The launch of the latest initiative was attended by ICDS officers Jayashree and Usha. Maitri’s long-term associates, Madhan, Uma Madhan and Hari Madhan, also graced the

occasion and donated Montessori materials to the anganwadi team.

Maitri was started in 2011 with the aim of creating better learning opportunities for children from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

In addition to the Pre-Primary Support Program, Maitri provides personalised learning support to 60+ children in Grades 1–5 across four schools in the R.A. Puram area. The programme focuses on developing functional literacy in Tamil and English, along with basic mathematics skills.

Through its Life Skills Program, Maitri reaches 450+ children annually, between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

If you are interested in volunteering/collaboration with Maitri and would like to contribute to this cause, contact - 97918 72011 / 94452 64805. URL: www.maitritrust.org



To mark International Peace Day, the Brahma Kumaris of the Mylapore branch organised a collective meditation meet for people on Sunday, 20th Sept.20 2026 at Kalyana Nagar Association hall, Mandavelipakkam.

Prakash M. Swamy and K. Parthasarathy were the special guests. B K Swarnalakshmi heads the Brahma Kumaris’ unit in Mylapore. Free Rajayoga meditation classes are conducted in Mandavelipakkam, near St. John’s CBSE school. Call 9840743354

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