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YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSPAPER

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- Law & Order Inspector - 2345 2554.
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- Women's Police - 2345 2562.

DID YOU KNOW?

CIT Colony Residents Welfare Association

This community aims to represent and promote the common interests of the residents of this area of Mylapore. It is among the early City Improvement Trust neighbourhoods developed in Madras in the 1950s.



Here is a check list of the activities of the Association. Residents are welcome to join it.

- What are the core issues that the body handles now?

Everything to do with civic issues, water and sewage, law and order and maintenance of the Chennai Corporation park.

- What has been the most positive development by the body?

The development of what used to be tennis courts and later were kept locked and access denied. It was developed into a park when M. Subramaniam was mayor of the city.

This is the nerve centre of the community - drinking water and newspapers are also provided.

The Association also spends to maintain this park.

- What has been the worrying issue?

Parking by people who shop at stores located in what is a residential colony and by people who work in the offices and shops on and off TTK Road.

- How active is the Association?

A minimum of seven events are held through the year. We could not hold them last year due to the pandemic. This year, in January we held the Republic Day event in the park.

- How do members communicate?

We have a small WhatsApp group. Also, important information is posted on the notice board in the park.

- How strong is the membership?

It stands at about 100 till recently. There must be over 1000 households now in this colony but we do not go door-to-door to seek membership.

- Contact person for the Association - D. Vasanthkumar, Jt. Secretary - 9884274823

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Thyagaraja aradhana in R. A. Puram on Feb.7

A group of Carnatic music rasikas of R. A. Puram is organising a Thyagaraja Aradhana music concert on Feb 7 from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.

The composer's Pancharathna kritis will be rendered by four senior artistes and they will have music accompaniments.

The event is at Shri Sidhi Budhi Sametha Karpaga Vinayakar Temple hall, 2nd Cross Street, R. A. Puram.

Rasikas are invited to participate. Covid-time protocols like wearing mask and social distancing will be strictly implemented.

For details contact Ravikumar - 7550125779.

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159th jayanthi of swami Vivekananda celebrated

The 159th jayanthi of swami Vivekananda was celebrated at the Universal Temple of the Math in Mylapore through Thursday, February 4.

The day started with puja and homam and continued with bhajans and special aarati before noontime.

Sandhya aarati was in the evening followed by talks in Thamizh and in English by the monks.

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VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

We grow *karpooravalli* in two pots. One is for the small community in our apartment block.

The second of the Indian Borage grows from a small pot, left on a window sill of my apartment. Over time, this one has grown to be more decorative and I do not know how this has happened - it puts out teeny leaves on its lower half (is it because I kept clipping them off from time to time?) and larger leaves on portions that climb up like vines.

I tend to my plants. I leave it to my driver to set them up because he has green thumbs, and good ones at that.

We have grown a thick clump of bamboo and allowed giant creepers to grow wild in the small patch outside my French window. Bamboos multiply at their own, secret pace. One guy has reached up to the third floor and needs some spinal care now. The rest create the forest green I love and provide some musical interludes when the sea breeze sets in past noon.

In between, a creeper got a life of its own and has begun climbing to the second floor - since the apartment is empty I don't think it will be brutally yanked off - there are people who dislike the green ("The leaves are rubbing my head"....."The dry leaves are messing up my balcony").

Last week, I bought a graft of a sapota on the advice of friend Colin D' Souza who has nurtured a lovely terrace garden in San Thome - so lovely that the Rain Tree on the road arches into his garden and creates a canopy.

Now this sapling had a little fruit on it when we planted it and left it on the ground near the motor room. Two days later, the sapota had been pocketed. Somebody had pinched it and so, we are planning to cover it with a net and turn the campus CCTV cam a bit so we can embarrass the pincher!

Pinching flowers and fruits is the biggest headache that small gardening enthusiasts face. The 5 a.m. groupies who pluck flowers on their morning walks, the 11 a.m. residents who fancy a flower or a fruit growing in your campus, the 4 p.m. child who prefers live flowers to plastic toys.

I don't mind garden lizards or teeny birds feasting on the small riches we grow. Just now, a little bird has been nesting in my balcony and I have resisted the temptation of fixing a camera above the nest to record the new life.

Gardening enthusiasts are a passionate, crazy, dedicated lot; some welcoming, some possessive too.

Would it be worth their while to go beyond the online groups that exist and have monthly meet-ups in the local parks?

Sharing tips and saplings and cuttings and digging into some *podu iddlis* and *bhel puri* at the end of it all?

And, caring for the public park despite the vandalism that takes place here.

CORRECTION: The Jottings in last week's issue mentioned the name of Dr. V. Shanta wrongly. Apologies.

LETTERS FROM READERS

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

Clear dangling cables in public spaces

Dangling / hanging cable wires must be properly tied or removed if they are not in use.

Almost all trees in and around Mylapore serve as posts for such cables in addition to the companies posts and poles!

The people who provide cables for connection don't bother to remove them when they do the disconnection.

I spotted a set of cables on San Thome High Road near the entrance of CSI School for the Deaf - they were close to the platform.

- Jayanthi Murali, San Thome

Photo: Jayanthi Murali



On gas cylinder inspection fee

This has reference to the letter from a reader in *Mylapore Times* (Jan 23, 2021 issue).

My letter on the same subject was published in *Mylapore Times* (Dec 28, 2019 issue) under the heading "Sham about LPG facility 'inspection' fee". Neither was there any clarification from IOC/ gas agency nor was there a visit for a check, subsequently.

- R. Somasundaram, Dr. Ranga Road

Publish Useful Numbers Booklet

May I request you to publish the updated contact list of useful contacts of the Mylapore zone in one go or in the form of a booklet which will be useful for all.

- Joseph Kamal Francis, San Thome

Statue for Dr. Shanta

In last week's *Vincent's Jottings*, reference was made regarding installation of a

statue in memory of Dr. V. Shanta One of the ideal places to install the statue may be at the junction of Sardar Patel Road & OMR (where you can have a small round tana with a properly maintained garden.)

- M. Balasubramanian

Wishes for MT from Ernakulam

It is thrilling to see *Mylapore Times* back. During my stay in Nungambakkam from Oct. 2015 to July 2019 I made trips to the tank area to collect a free copy of MT.

My Mylapore connection is because of my wife, she being Mylaporean. I moved to Thiruvananthapuram and then on to Ernakulam, post retirement in May 2020 but I do browse its website to catch up with Mylapore news.

My salute to D' Souza and team in the 26th year of MT - theirs is a wonderful effort.

- Jayaram K., Ernakulam

MY STORY



Making sense of data on the Virus

By SRIDHAR VENKATARAMAN

It wasn't until June (2020) that I realized that I could be at high risk because of my age and afflicted with hypertension.

With my parents aged above 80 and most of the COVID-19 deceased falling in the older age-group segment, it was essential that I had to understand the causes and preventive measures.

With my data analytics skills, I was able to use technology to extract data from the daily Tamil Nadu state bulletin and drill down into the details of co-morbidities that caused the deaths.

The primary causes for deaths were Diabetes Mellitus (DM), Hypertension (HT), Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), Chronic Kidney disease (CKD). Most of the deaths in the initial days were because of late admissions to the hospitals. Once people with symptoms were tested and admitted, the chances of death was considerably low unless they were afflicted with serious co-morbidities.

This is how I worked on the data. Python language scripting enabled converting the pdf data into a format that could be loaded onto Excel which was then filtered and charted based on requirements. The scripting was fine tuned over time to enable the whole data conversion and cleanup to be done in minutes.

The process was quite streamlined that I could come up with necessary charts and tables 30 minutes after the state's daily bulletin was released.

My family was quite accommodative of this activity of mine, freeing me from the household chores during the evenings.

The reactions from people to my daily Facebook posts, comprising the charts and tables, was highly appreciative because of the focussed and insightful presentation of the data. Unfortunately, I did not get any feedback from any state officials.

It was also apparent that as I came to know about the infected people in the streets in East Abiramapuram and analysed their details, they all were adventurous in either moving out of their home without following precautions or employing people, in their homes, who had not taken COVID-19 seriously and acted as carriers.

When we progressed towards Deepavali last year and three of my relatives, not living with me, contracted the infection, it was apparent that all of them did not take due care in following preventive measures.

It is not exactly known how they contracted the infection but it was quite apparent that they were indifferent to the seriousness and were frequent shoppers in malls or shopping areas during the times when the state was posting high numbers.

It took me a 10-month wait to re-visit my parents and all the data analysis was useful in educating myself and the community I live in to avoid the infection.

In the weeks leading to Deepavali, people did wear masks and were reluctant to move out but the lesser COVID numbers reported since Deepavali is a reason why most people have given up on masks and are indifferent to the possibility of asymptomatic infections.

The attitude of people to fill the theaters for Pongal to view entertainment when we are still dealing with asymptomatic infections is appalling though.

● Sridhar Venkataraman worked in the IT sector, taught at a Chennai School under a NGO project and is active in community issues.

Happy People at Teppam fest

Bigger crowds were at the tank of Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple on day two and three of the annual teppam of the temple. And they went home happy. Happy that they had been allowed access to the steps of the tank to watch the float.

But they were allowed into the tank and to sit on the steps on all three sides only after the float had gone through two rounds inside the tank.

On these two evenings, it was the turn of lord Singaravelar and his consorts, all decorated in colourful alankaram to be taken out in a procession to the tank from the temple.

Photos: Madhan Kumar



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- SANTHOME, Karpaga Avenue, 4th floor, 1635 sft, UDS 540, 3 BHK, lift, car park, 20yrs old, 1.90crores. Contact no 9884137904.
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- ALWARPET, independent house, 4500 sft, 4 BHK land, 1.27 grds, modular kitchen, Rs. 10 Cr nego. Contact: 9841044802, 9840499982
- MYLAPORE, near Chitrakulam, 700 sft, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, wood work, 1 balcony, 4 years old, 2 wheeler parking, Rs. 57 Lakhs. Owner : 9003199551.
- ROYAPETTAH, near Police Station Main Road, 713 sft land, built up 1800 sft, G+2 with show room, suitable for commercial, Rs. 1.80cr. Gopalakrishnan. 9380964793.
- SANTHOME, near Church, 850 sft, 2 BHK, fully wood work, 3rd floor, lift, covered car park, UDS, 462 sft, 14 years old, Rs. 95lakh. K. Gopalakrishnan. 9380964793.

- INDIRA Nagar, prime area, 5200 sft with old building, 60786, north facing, 40 feet Road, Rs. 10.10cr, negotiable, Mandaveli, 2666 sft with old building, car park, Rs. 3.90cr, nego, Swami Iyer Realty. 9884084762.
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- 2 BHK flat. 811 sft, 2nd floor for sale, only 2 wheeler parking, no lift, Rs. 72lakh, negotiable, broker excuse. Contact : 7406015733.
- MYLAPORE, 6/2, Chitakulam South Street, 540 sft, two wheeler parking, Rs. 55 Lakhs negotiable, brokers excuse. Ph: 9444144377 / 9498053280

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On a recent morning, a bunch of cranes were spotted in the scrubland off the Marina Loop Road in Foreshore Estate beachside. They were feeding on the remnants of fish that the local fisherwomen had thrown here. Locals said the cranes are seen here often.
- Caption by Juliana Sridhar

San Thome gym users want Chennai Corporation to provide more equipment

By Our Staff Reporter

The Chennai Corporation gym on San Thome High Road needs better attention from the civic body. And perhaps, from the Mylapore MLA to whom gym users have handed over a request.

Says Praveen, a Nabikkai Nagar resident and passionate fitness youth who lost his job due to the pandemic, "We collected some of the equipment from the old gym that had to give way to the Infinity Park and the Amma Unnavagam."

Some women who walk in the park or in the local streets have also dropped in to see if they too can use the facility but are not keen to step in because it is full of men.

Praveen says women would welcome a gym space exclusively set up for them.

He says his colleagues also welcome Mylaporeans to sponsor equipment for the gym.



The regulars at this gym which was set up over a year ago and re-opened after the lockdown have only one request – since many people, young and middle-aged use the gym, the limited equipment here is just not enough to cater to the local needs.

Users say that when the new gym, located next to the Amma Unavagam and near the Nilgiris store on the main road, was first opened there were only few pieces of gym equipment around.

"We have also pooled some money and got in some more weights and rods."

The gym, open from 5 to 8 am and from 5 to 8 pm draws an average of some 50 to 60 people from the seaside colonies and from Mandavelipakkam.

"We need a new hydraulic multi-use system and additional weights. We want Chennai Corporation to provide this because we cannot afford to buy all this on our own," says Praveen.

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Church community celebrates a Saint

Photos: Madhan Kumar / MT

The grand part of a longtime religious celebration by the community at Our Lady of Guidance Church on Lazarus Church Road is the car procession on the eve of the feast of saint Lazarus celebrated on a Sunday.

This year, the procession took place last weekend evening after Holy Mass. And the feast was celebrated on Sunday.

But what is usually a grand, long drawn and looked-forward-to procession was toned down due to pandemic regulations – people were asked not to join the procession, fireworks skipped and street hawkers restrained.

But some traditions held good. Nine cars made the procession. Years ago, there were only three but over time, families have donated statues of various saints and the cars have increased.

Recalls F. J. Vincent, San Thomite and a senior member of the Trust that manages this fest, “We had three cars to start with and all the statues were imported. In normal times, the procession ends only at midnight because the cars stop at every home of the parish people.”

Vincent belongs to the third generation of a small group of people who have curated this festival closely; recalling the times when he first participated in it in the 1940s.

The statues of saint Michael, saint Santiago, saint Roche, saint Sebastian, saint Francis Xavier, saint Anthony, saint Joseph, saint Lazarus and of Mother Mary are set in decorated cars for the procession.

Families who reside in the church zone create their own ways to greet the ‘march of the saints’. Sophia Peter not only set up an illuminated statue of Mother Mary in her drawing room but also designed kolam / rangolis right up to her doorstep.

A music CD in honour of St. Lazarus was released on the weekend. The music has been composed by X. Paulraj and the lyrics are by J. Albert.

- This report had inputs from Juliana Sridhar



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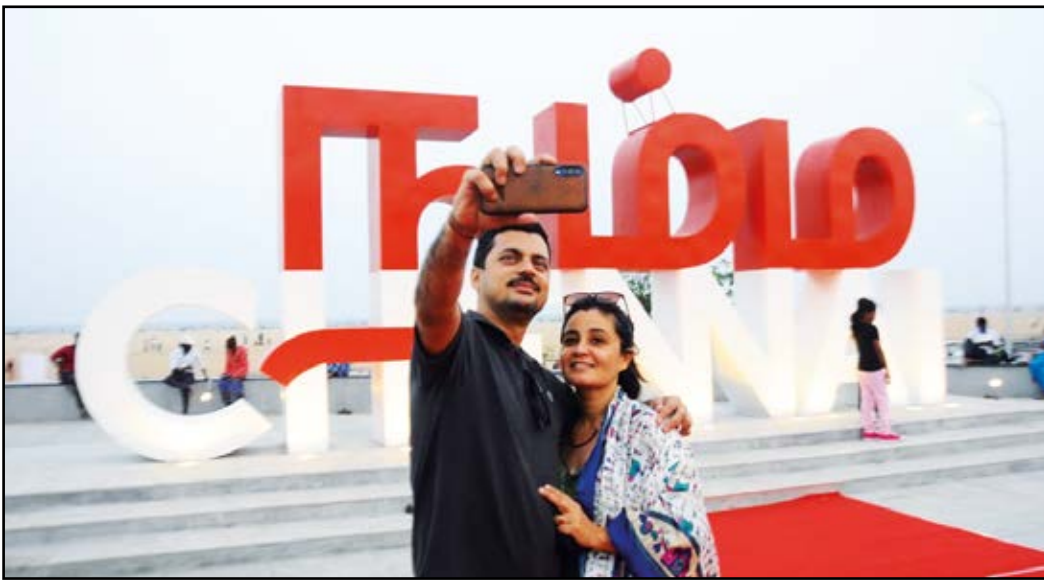
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Installation on Marina promoted as selfie point

By Our Staff Reporter

The city has got a new place where people can take selfies. And flaunt the name of the city.

An installation on the Marina beach lawns closer to the Vivekananda Illam and not far from Queen Mary's College, which is very large in size, is called Namma Chennai

in red and white and has the sand and sea as its natural backdrop.

The project is part of the Smart City Mission project that is overseen by the city's civic body. Already, beach-goers and others have been shooting pictures and taking selfies.

Recently, Mylapore MLA R. Nataraj was joined by a group of Mylapore residents at this installation for selfies and photo shoots.

Thyagaraja aradhana: at two venues



Two Thyagaraja aradhanas were held in the Mylapore zone last Tuesday (Feb.2) to mark the samadhi of this great Carnatic music composer in Thanjavur.

The first was held in the morning at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan where a few artistes and rasikas participated; it was held in the main auditorium.

The event was the first live one to be held here after the shutdown due to pandemic regulations last year. (Second photo)

Later that evening a more intimate and warm tribute was paid at a private house in Mathala Narayanan Street, Mylapore where a few artistes and their students sang the pancharatna kritis; the portrait of Thyagaraja was finely adorned.

This event here has been a long-standing tradition. (First photo)



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1971 batch alumni of P. S. High School dedicates washrooms built for school

The alumni of the 1971 batch from P. S. High School, Mylapore dedicated a block of new and upgraded rest room facilities built at a cost of about Rs 14 lakhs for the school as the first project of the alumni's golden jubilee reunion to the school on Feb.1

The event was anchored by V Kapaleeswaran. D Suresh (the well known writer Suba) welcomed the audience, which included the students of the 1971 batch as well as other batches, the secretary of the school management, Gopalakrishnan, the headmistress, Dr.Kala and school faculty.

V. Raman said that the batch took up this project as per the requirements

expressed by the school.

He also said that this would be the first of a series of projects that are planned for the year.

Gopalakrishnan thanked the 1971 batch for not only meeting the request for the new restrooms, but also upgrading the existing facilities and providing landscaping and tiling to the adjoining areas.

G. Ramesh proposed a vote of thanks.

The facilities were formally declared open by the school secretary, the headmistress and S. Ravichandran, representing the 1971 batch.

E-mail: cs.loganathan@gmail.com / Pshs1971alumni@gmail.com

Kalvivaru St. closed to traffic

Kalvivaru Street, which runs along the Buckingham Canal from the gates of the Mundagakanni Amman Temple MRTS station to Kutchery Road has been closed to vehicular traffic due to the ongoing civic work here.

Wide pavements, relaid road, landscaped edges, better lighting and a wall raised along the Canal banks is part of this much delayed project.

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