

**MYLAPORE
TIMES**

Office is open
10 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

CALL US: 2498 2244

MYLAPORE TIMES

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSPAPER

July 11, 2020

4 pages Free Circulation

**BOOK YOUR
CLASSIFIEDS
ONLINE**

All Classifieds are charged flat rate of Rs.200 (plus GST) for maximum 20 words. Will run for 2 weeks only. Pay via bank transfer only.

For details call 24982244 / WhatsApp 94457 64499 – 10 am to 6 pm.

OFFICE : 2498 2244, 2467 1122

EDITORIAL : 2466 0269

WEBSITE : www.mylaporetimes.com

A Mylapore PG medical student shares her experience treating Covid patients

By Preeti Srivatsan

Aparna. S (name changed), a 2nd year post-graduate medical student at a government-run medical college in the city and a resident of Mylapore says this past month has been quite challenging. And much of the challenges are posed in dealing with Covid patients.

For a young person, this long exposure to the pandemic time has made deep impressions.

And she chose to share her experiences with Mylapore Times on the promise of anonymity.

Ever since the lockdown was announced, the work schedule has always been the same, she says.

Post graduate students put in one week of regular duty, one week of Covid duty and then go into quarantine for a week. They cannot go home during Covid duty and the week after. Arrangements are made to drop them off and pick them up. She has put in four weeks of Covid duty since March.

In March and April, all those who worked in the Covid ward and those who were under quarantine were put up in hostels nearby. From June, they

have been put up at hotels.

Regular duty which was about 8 hours everyday in March and April has now increased to 12 hours. Covid duty however is for 6 hours only.

She says, "Once we adorn the PPE suits, we remove it only after we complete our rounds of the ward. That takes some time as each and every patient has to be carefully evaluated and the Covid ward can have more than 90 patients sometimes.

"As long as we are in the Covid ward we cannot eat or drink anything as it is not safe for us to remove the PPE suit. Once removed, the Covid suit has to be discarded."

In the Covid ward, the patients are screened on a case by case basis and depending on the

condition of the patients they are sent to different areas.

Patients with severe symptoms are treated on the ground floor and the less severe on the next floor and so on.

Despite difficulties, Aparna says there is no other place she would rather be. Taking care of the sick is something that gives her immense satisfaction.



Chennai Corporation sets up swab-sample collection centre in Mylapore. You too can walk in for a test.

By Dheepthi O. J.

To provide faster access to virus testing, Chennai Corporation has set up a sample collection centre at its AIDS prevention and control society near Thiruvalluvar statue off R.H. Road in Mylapore.

The centre started functioning here from today (July 8) morning.

Says the sanitary inspector, who is in charge of the sample collection centre, "Contacts of virus-positive persons, symptomatic and asymptomatic persons identified from fever camps will now be mobilised to this centre for sample collection."

Earlier, people from Mylapore had to go to the Corporation's kiosks at Nungambakkam or Triplicane for sample collection. "It took a long time to mobilise people there. Hence, to reduce travel time we have opened one here."

Chennai Corporation's technicians, wearing PPE kits will facilitate sample (throat swab or nasal swab) collection.

Collected samples will be sent to government hospitals for testing. The results will be provided within two to three days, we are told.

People having virus symptoms (cough, fever, breathlessness) may also visit the centre independently to get themselves tested. Open from 10 am to 4 pm on all days.

SETHU MOTORS Serving since 1979

CAR WASH

Car Sanitising Touched Surfaces

CONTACT : +91 9841319999, +91 9841819999

No 1, Saradhapuram 2nd Street, Mylapore

SERVICES

FOAM WASH	INTERIOR & EXTERIOR POLISH
UNDERBODY WASH	BIKE DETAILING
ENGINE COATING	BODY DENT REMOVAL
ALLOY TREATMENT	CAR AC WORK
CAR PAINTING WORK	OTHER CAR MECHANICAL WORKS

SMALL INVESTMENT BIG RETURNS

Minimum Investment Rs.10,000. Monthly Returns Rs.1000 & 10th Month Principal Return And

Free Coaching In Commodity Trading Monthly Returns 5% - 10% Profit

Business Class Commodity ☎ **93443 35358**

Double
Your
Investment
in
10 Months

Jottings

VINCENT D'SOUZA

I need to take a few breaks from work at the desk, through the day.

And the best place I walk to is the campus at the rear of my block of apartments. Even at noontime when Madras' sun can sizzle your skin in July: yes, even after the showers on a few nights.

The variety of flowering plants and trees can provide some distraction. And some interest if you want to clock some pictures which I do.

When time permits, I design the flowers and leaves on the rexine seat of bikes of our neighbours and shoot pictures a bit differently.

Recently, I spotted the butterfly pea on a plant creeping alongside the motor pump room. And posted the photo on my Fb page.

And I got some useful comments.

My friend in Mumbai, Reena Martins wrote -

Have you tried making a tea from this butterfly pea aka shankhapushpi flower? Remove the stamens and pistil and immerse in warm water to get a deepish blue. Squeeze in lime and it turns purple. Add a spoonful of honey and you have a refreshing drink!

Another friend, Jaishree Iyer, who enjoys trying out all kinds of 'eco' and spice recipes and shares them on her page said - Tisane as they call it. Blue Tea!!

And Chitra Ragulan notes that this tea is good for people with heart problems.

Imagine the many strands of knowledge and information that can flow from what we mostly give the go-by.

Pottering in a green patch or watering the potted plants in the balcony surely has given scores of people a break, a pleasure, a distraction, an engagement at a time when the pandemic is finding all ways to get into us.

I do not have a green thumb. I refrain from re-potting a plant because more often than not that plant withers away. So I water the plants, add some manure /compost or massage the soil and leave it there. And I stare at the beauties. Even the leaves.

Thank God for green mercies.

A caregiver in a house with aged tests positive. Lockdown challenges. Mandaveli resident's story.

By Preeti Srivatsan

Mohan Gopalakrishnan is a resident of Thiruvengadam Street, Mandaveli. About two years ago, when his father's health condition became worse he had to hire a caregiver to take care of him. It was going on well till last week when the caregiver tested virus positive.

The family first noticed that something was wrong on July 1, when Mohan's father had a fever of 104 deg F. Mohan then decided to get his father and the caregiver tested for coronavirus at Medall Labs.

The first issue he ran into then was that despite the government having stated that a prescription was not necessary to get a test, Medall refused to render the test without a prescription.

Several doctors did not want to give a prescription and so it took a couple of hours to find one who would give a prescription for his father and the caregiver. The Medall team then came over and took the test.

In the meantime, with a prescription from his family doctor, his father was given Dolo 650 and Hydroxychloroquine.

His father's temperature dropped to 98 deg F. When the test results came, the caregiver who was asymptomatic and had been at their home for almost three months tested positive for the virus. His father tested negative.

The agency who had assigned the caregiver was contacted. The agency said that they would not be able to send a replacement. A separate room was given to the caregiver and she was placed under quarantine at Mohan's home.

The other members of Mohan's family were tested, both by Medall (RT-PCR test) and Thyrocare (antibody test) at home and all of them tested negative. The results were given out in 24 hours by both the testing agencies.

Mohan says, "To get a replacement for the caregiver, I contacted several agencies. A couple of service providers did not want me to disclose

that I had a Covid positive person at home. I declined and finally chanced upon the contact of a lady named Bindu at Meenakshi Home Care Services.

"She said she would send an ICU grade nurse who will take all the necessary precautions and will treat my father as if he were Covid positive. She charges Rs. 3000 per day but her services are very satisfactory".

Mohan hopes his experience will help others in similar situations.



MYLAPORE TIMES

Editorial & Publishing Office:

Shop 27, 2nd Flr., Corpn. Shopping Cplx.,
77, C. P. Ramaswamy Rd., Alwarpet, Chennai -18
Phone: 2498 2244, 2467 1122
E-mails: mytimesedit@gmail.com
mylaporetimes@gmail.com

Editor & Publisher	- Vincent D'Souza
Sub Editor	- Preeti Srivatsan
Reporter	- Dheepthi O. J.
Photographer	- M. Madhan Kumar
Designers	- S. Prema - M. Surendhar
Accountant	- K. Mohan
Advertising Executive	- R. Kathiravan
Manager	- M. Shanthi
Office Asst	- A. Nithyanandam

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

DISPLAY ADS

Basic rate (Black & white)	- Rs.220 pcc
Basic rate (Colour)	- Rs.260 pcc
Page 1 (Colour)	- Rs.380 pcc
Back page (Colour)	- Rs.320 pcc
Ear panel (Colour)	- Rs.3000
Page 2 (Colour)	- Rs.270 pcc

CLASSIFIEDS

Real Estate and Rental - 20 Words - Rs.390.
All other sections - 20 Words - Rs.340.
Rs.10 for every additional word.
Colour coded - Extra Rs.100
Display Classified ads - Rs.190 pcc (B&W) - Rs. 220 pcc (Col)

Classifieds booking closes on
Thursday 8 p.m.

Classifieds accepted on Friday till
11 a.m at discretion of office will be
charged Rs.50 extra. Advertisement
material for colour issue must reach
our office by Thursday 1 p.m.

Mylapore Times is published every Saturday,
is given free in the Mylapore area and has a
circulation of 30,000 copies.

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

The Editor and Publisher does not vouch any
claims made by advertisers and hence shall not
be held liable for any adverse consequences.
Mylapore Times is not responsible for any
unsolicited materials received at its office.



Civic workers, mostly women clean roads at night but they can do with a cup of tea. Your donation helps.

Remember this. Even in these times, there are people who work for the city and for you and me. Take the civic workers on contract who toil through the midnight hour to keep the city clean, all its main roads and key streets.

Community activist Baskar Seshadri of Mylapore says he observed one such group of some 40 workers, mostly women who report for work at a GCC school campus near All India Radio campus on Kamaraj Salai, off the Marina.

They report before 9 p.m. and work is over by 2 a.m.

Many are from north Chennai and find their own transport that costs a bit. They pay from their pocket for this.

Baskar found that these workers don't have a facility to pick up a snack or have a cup of tea; so with local donors and volunteers he has begun to support this group.

If you wish to support this community support act, call Baskar at 9841033888.

Photo: Baskar Seshadri

**DOES YOUR HOME
NEED A MAKEOVER ?**



**CRACK SURVEY &
RECTIFICATION
SERVICE**

**EXTERIOR
PAINTING**



**IS YOUR HOME
FREE FROM ?**



**LEAKAGE DETECTION
INFRARED THERMOGRAPHY FOR
BUILDING MOISTURE INSPECTION**



**Call the experts now!
91763 83400**

TERRAZA CHEMS
roof matters



File photo: pre-virus time

Despite challenges, Gomathi Mess continues to serve people

By Dheepthi O. J.

Despite some challenges, Gomathi Mess, the well-known home-made food joint at Mandaveli Lane continues to serve people during the pandemic.

Started at a small nook off Nallappan Street, the Mess has been offering home-like food for over 15 years now.

However, following the lockdown, the small eatery had to close for a brief period. But, it was back to serving customers soon after.

The past few weeks, it has been offering all its signature dishes – hot idlis, vadas and pongal for takeaways.

However, the lockdown has affected their business a lot.

Says S. Y. Ramakrishnan, who runs the mess along with his wife Latha Krishnan, “Due to restrictions in dine-in and lack of transport facilities, my customers have dwindled by half. Only those who stay nearby are able to come now.”

Some of his customers order via Dunzo for food delivery.

“With limited customers dropping in, paying salaries for my employees, shop rent and house rent has been very difficult. Besides rising prices of veggies, groceries and limited availability of packing material has also affected us,” he adds.

This has not limited their menu. Breakfast (idlis, vadas, pongal, kichidi) and the lunch set – rasam, sambhar, poriyal, kootu (except rice) is ready from 7 a.m. every day.

“We want to support people, especially seniors who are dependent on our food. Hence, we will continue for as long as we can,” he says.

However, Ramakrishnan says bouncing back to normalcy will take longer for them. “Even if the government allows dining, it is unlikely that we will return to normalcy any time soon.”

The mess takes all precautions. “We have a foot-operated hand sanitiser and all our staff wear masks. Also, only 4 customers are allowed to enter the shop for takeaways at a time.”

People can place an order the previous day via WhatsApp so it's easy for them to regulate social distancing and pack food hot the next morning.

The lunch set is priced at Rs.60. The mess is open on all days from 7 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. at Mandaveli Lane near Thandu Mariamman Temple. Call Ramakrishnan at 9444108923.

Fifth generation veena repair craftsman isn't down: uses WhatsApp to help clients make minor repairs of instruments



By Our Staff Writer

S. Balaji, a fifth-generation veena repair craftsman based in Mylapore has tapped into technology to help his customers during the lockdown.

Balaji along with his father Shankar has been managing the well known ‘Shankar Musicals’ veena repair shop at Mundagakanni Amman Koil Street for several decades now.

These craftspeople are carrying on a tradition they say spans five generations.

And since the March lockdown, he has helped dozens of people in carrying out minor repairs of their musical instruments through WhatsApp chat/video calls.

Says Balaji, “Following the lockdown, as customers could not venture out they kept seeking tips to repair their musical instruments”.

That is when Balaji came up with the idea of using WhatsApp. He soon started asking his customers to send pictures of their defective musical instruments via the App. “I would see the picture. If it's a minor repair, I would guide them to fix some strings

and the repair would be done in seconds.”

“Till now, I have helped dozens of music college students and young instrument learners with minor repairs,” he says.

But if the issue is a major one, Balaji says he asks his customers to wait for a suitable time to get across to the shop. “Customers were excited that they could repair their instruments on their own.

And I too was happy that I could be of some help to them during the lockdown.”

Their shop has recently re-opened and begun undertaking manufacture and repair of veena. Besides, they also repair other musical instruments like guitar, violin and tambura.

Balaji says repairs will be done at the shop following all precautions to prevent the virus spread.

For minor repair works, people may call/ WhatsApp Balaji at 9677070086.

At 7/2, Mundagakanni Amman Koil Street, Mylapore.

Open from 10 am to 6 pm on all days. Ph: 24985383.

SHRUTHILAYA SCHOOL OF MUSIC & ARTS

For Ladies & Children only

Awarded the “Best School of Music & Arts”

Admissions Open for Online Classes



Proprietrix of Shruthilaya “Isaimamani” Vidwan Mrs. Revathy Bhaskar Receiving the Award of “The Best School of Music & Arts” from the popular Cine Singer of Tamil Nadu (Dr. P. Susheela) in a function at Chennai

Excellent Coaching in Key Board (Western & Indian) Veena, Harmonium, Violin, Guitar, Vocal, Piano, Bharathanatiam, Tanjore Painting & Glass Painting...etc

Arranging to appear for Trinity Exam and Carnatic Grade Exam

Limited Seats Only. Register Immediately. (100% Success Assured) Stage Performance in (One Year) Short Term Course of One Month Also. Taken Properly.



2 Month Fees Discount



Special Classes Taken for Working Women & Housewives and NRI

Address : New No 65, V.K. Iyer Road, Mandaveli, Chennai - 28. Diagonally Opp to Janamma Hospital Opp to Bank of Baroda

Classes will commence on 18.7.2020 Timings: 10am to 1pm 4 to 6pm

For Enquiries & Admissions

Call: 98417 00157 www.sruthilayaschoolofmusicandarts.com



Face behind popular Janal Bajji Kadai passes away



Photo given by Ramesh family

One of the persons behind Janal Bajji Kadai, the hugely popular snacks joint, Ramesh alias Sivaramakrishnan passed away on July 5.

Relatives of the family said he was admitted to hospitals for some illnesses and that a Covid test later turned positive.

The body was moved to a city crematorium for the final rites, directly from the hospital.

Operated out of a house on Pon-nambala Vadyar Street, the food here was handed over to customers through a grill-less window which went on to earn the name for this 'nameless' food joint.

Idlis and pongal was served in the morning and bajjis and bondas in the evening – and its chutneys were something special that foodies raved about.

Sivaramakrishnan was the face of this shop; he often assisted his brother Chandrasekaran, the owner of this business and his wife and was stern with clients who either tossed off the paper plates instead of placing them in a bin or pushed themselves to get their orders. Plus, he shooed people who wanted to click photos of the 'janal' or of himself behind it.

The bajjis and bondas were the most popular evening time snack (pongals was the sold-out item in the mornings) and many Mylaporeans swore by the food, gobbling up on their way out of Sri Kapali Temple or on local shopping errands.

It was one of Mylapore's must-visit joint for those on Food Walks seeking the city's quaint and traditional food spaces.

Shared below are some tributes posted by people on social media page of Mylapore Times –

Giridharan Kesavan :

Been there so many times.

This was on top of my list of places to visit after lockdown.

Revathi Natarajan : Everyone at home used to visit Jannal Bajji Kadai and have bajji whenever we go past Sri Kapali Temple...

Hemalatha Ramani : It was a window of great promise. For them, it was a window that brought them their regulars, appreciative of their culinary skills. For us, it was a window into a bygone era of magic when grandmothers sat for long at the stove dishing forth magic.

Brindh Manickavasakan : I have had some yum bajjis here, wonderful memories near this kadai.

Rekha Raja : He was a senior auditor at Acct. General's office. We met him when we were doing our training at the AG's office and he used to enquire every time we visited his shop.

Narayanan Ravishankar : This is shocking news; the best bajjis and chutney one can ever have.

Vallabha Srinivasan : Could not my control tears. Such a nice person he was. Feeding so many bachelors and poor people. He would give away a hot plate of bajjis to the poor if they appeared in front of his shop. My kids liked his bajjis and chutney so much.

Harish Sridharan : This is a one of a kind concept in the entire city.. Pongal used to be awesome in the mornings.

Arunachalam and Geeta

R. A. Puram-based couple Arunachalam and Geeta, who were known for reaching out to visually challenged and physically challenged community across Tamil Nadu, passed away recently.

While 58-year-old Geeta passed away on June 29, after succumbing to the virus, Arunachalam aged 61 passed the next day (June 30) due to heart disease.

Says Velayudam, the elder son of Arunachalam, "We were treating both at Government Multispeciality Hospital at Omandurar Estate. However, as mother had diabetes she passed 10 days after testing virus-positive."

"Soon, though father was not virus-positive, he too passed due to heart disease," he says.

For over 35 years, the couple based in KVB Gardens, R.A.Puram ran an association called All India Blind Progressive Association, through which they carried out various welfare activities for visually challenged and physically challenged persons.

During lockdown too, despite their old age, the duo arranged a van and distributed groceries and essentials to over 100 daily wage earners of this community.

Besides, during the Lok Sabha Elections 2019, Arunachalam surveyed the whole KVB Gardens and actively helped people locate their names in the voter roll. Known as Thalaivar in the local area, he was also reaching out to people in his neighbourhood during their difficult times. The couple is survived by two sons Velayudam and Manikandan. Velayudam can be reached at 9962441592.



M. N. Raghunathan



M. N. Raghunathan, a feted officer of Life Insurance Corporation who grew up and worked in Mylapore passed away recently.

He lost the battle against the virus on June 26.

He was a resident of Mylapore for a good number of years of his life. He did his schooling in San Thome High School, followed by undergraduate studies at Vivekananda College.

He joined as a development officer in LIC, Mylapore in the year 1990 and was said to have been an outstanding performer ever since, rising to the top in the Chennai Division.

Friends say he was an excellent mentor and successfully guided over 100 agents under him, including an 83-year old. He was fondly known as "MNR" in his office. Friends said he was a compassionate person, who always lent a helping hand. Those who knew him when he lived in San Thome / R A Puram said they were shocked at the news of his death and recalled many happy times spent locally.

The family moved to live in Gandhi Nagar, Adyar. He is survived by his wife Smita and daughter Nisha, who is a doctor by profession.

The family's e-mail ID: raghulic65@yahoo.in

- Inputs for this Obit came from Suba M.

Andhra Mahila Sabha DURGABAI DESHMUKH GENERAL HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE

REQUIRES:

- GYNECOLOGIST - DGO or MD (O & G)
- PAEDIATRICIAN - DCH or MD
- NURSING SUPERINTENDENT
- OPERATION THEATRE STAFF NURSE- Minimum 5 yrs Experience
- AMBULANCE DRIVER - Only Night Duty

Contact: THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT / PH: 044-24938311 /21 Ext., 302
Andhra Mahila Sabha, R. A. Puram, Chennai 600028. email: ddghrc@hotmail.com

nexus



Lenovo

Limited Offer **Unbelievable Deal**

Lenovo Tab M10 (X505X)

MRP ₹20,000 **Deal price ₹13,490**

Nexus Innovative Solutions Private limited
✉ nexusdeals@nexusi.in ☎ +91 89398 58510

- > 10.1" LCD HD Display
- > Android 9 with Qualcomm Snapdragon 429 Processor
- > 2GB Ram, 16GB Rom (Expandable Upto 256GB)
- > 4850mah Battery
- > 5MP Rear Camera, 2MP Secondary Camera
- > 4G VoLTE + WiFi

One Year Lenovo warranty

Free delivery & COD available