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This is how the sands of the Marina looked this week. A huge sheet of water created by the heavy rains, beyond the Marina service road behind the Gandhi statue area.

Photo: Madhan Kumar

## Former Ranji cricketer R. Chandrasekaran gifts his flat to Sri Ramakrishna Math

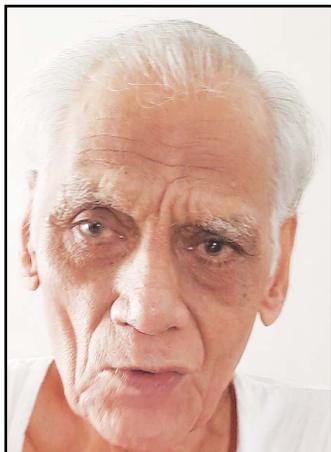
By S. Prabhu

In the week that an advocate's family sold their independent house on Pichupillai Street to a Trust dedicating it to the new temple for Maha Periyava, a former Tamil Nadu Ranji cricketer from the 1960s has made a gift to a mutt.

86-year-old R. Chandrasekaran has gifted his apartment (in Arun Flats) on West Circular Road, Mandavelipakkam to the Sri Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore.

He played first division cricket for State Bank of India for close to two decades and also represented a high profile All-India State Bank team comprising Indian Test cricketers. In 1963 - '64, he took over 100 wickets in the local season for SBI. He retired from the bank as the AGM in 1996.

This senior had lost his son Vasanth, also a former Ranji cricketer last month, aged just 45 on the night of the IPL final recently. Chandrasekaran had lost his wife a few years ago.



In what is a noble gesture, Chandrasekaran has handed the copies of his flat's documents to the Sri Ramakrishna Math for registration in its favour.

His brother R. Mohan, a former TN state footballer was with him when he handed over the papers to the Math. As per the agreement, the Math can take over the possession of his flat a month after his demise.

Chandrasekaran has been a multi-faceted personality in cricket all his life.

He has been a first class cricketer, an umpire, match referee, treasurer of the TNCA, scorer, selector, manager of the state team, owner of multiple TNCA league teams, committee member at the TNCA and a globe trotter who took teams on overseas trips providing opportunities to budding talent.

He also captained the P. S. School cricket team. Interestingly, the octogenarian has now taken to twitter (@chandracric) and expresses his views on politics and cricket on the social media platform.

## Thanksgiving fest at church in San Thome



By Fabiola Jacob

The CSI St. Thomas English Church community in San Thome, will be celebrating its annual Thanksgiving Festival on Sunday, December 5 starting with a special thanksgiving religious service at 7.30 a. m. The community has been invited in after months of online/live services due to pandemic regulations.

The service will be followed by a sale of eatables and goodies, in stalls put up by the various fellowship groups of the church.

Games and entertainment programmes have also been planned, in adherence to the Covid restrictions.



## Two students of community college in Alwarpet excel in para-medical course exam

By Our Staff Reporter

Through the season of rain, there has been good, warm news for the Greater Chennai Corporation Community College in Alwarpet. It notched a milestone in the vocational education provided here this past year.

In the recent IMA-conducted para-medical Board examinations, two para-medical students (attending the course of Diploma in Lab Technician) secured state ranks – they got the 2nd and 3rd position among the 750 students throughout Tamil Nadu.

B. Thenmozhi secured the 2nd rank and S. Divya, the 3rd rank. This community college has bagged the best performance award. This course is run in partnership with Kauvery Hospital, Alwarpet.

The state's local administration minister K. N. Nehru, at an event held in

Mylapore in early November felicitated the two students and the team that manages the college. GCC commissioner Gagandeep Sign Bedi was also present at the event.

This is the third time this college has received 'best institute performance award' given by IMA, stated a media release.

The GCC college is supported by the Rotary Club of Madras East led by the president. M. Srinivasa Rao, Rotarians P. E. Ramakrishnan, V. R. Sahit Kumar (college vocational director), Mahesh Pattabiram and Renuka Mohan Rao (college chairperson) and Nagalakshmi.

A number of diploma and certificate courses are run here, mainly for youths hailing from economically weak families. The campus is located behind Winners Bakery on C. P. Ramaswamy Road, near the Alwarpet flyover.

Call the college at 9941629635.

## Parrots feast on this terrace at feeding time

Photo: Vijayalakshmi



By Our Staff Reporter

Parrots are now a small community who mark attendance on the terrace of a Mandaveli residence twice a day. And with them, fly in pigeons too.

This is because resident Vijayalakshmi Sivakumar feeds them everyday on her terrace. "I serve them boiled rice I get at the ration shop that is soaked in water," says Vijayalakshmi.

And they fly in at the appointed time – around 6 a.m. and after 4 p.m. And when it rains, these parrots take refuge in the neighbouring tree.

Vijayalakshmi loves animals and birds. For years, she has been caring for street dogs in her area.

She has a busy daily life, known as she is, for her micro craftwork using beads, which are booked and sold here and abroad.

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### SHORT TERM COURSES

These are the short-term courses run by this community college - Diploma in Lab. Technician, Dip. in Health Asst., Dip. in Dialysis Technician, Dip. in Radiology, Dip. in Operation Theatre Technician. Also certificate courses in Spoken English and in Computer Tally.

## Why is the tank of Sri Kapali Temple not filling up fully?

By Our Staff Reporter

Why did not rainwater falling in and entering the tank of Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple overflow or even

fill to the brim this monsoon?

Many people, especially those who have a special place for this temple tank in their hearts and minds

have asked this question the past week.

This is how rainwater harvesting expert Sekhar Raghavan of Rain Centre explains this situation –

Traditional construction of the tank had created an outlet at the south east end of the tank almost at the top level which would allow rising water in the tank to flow out.

This outlet was linked to the Chitrakulam, the tank closeby which had to receive the excess water. So if this system is still working and the pipeline is not blocked, then water has been flowing into the Chitrakulam and perhaps is the cause for water overflowing into the streets around the Chitrakulam recently.

Water in the Chitrakulam as on Wednesday evening (Dec.1) was almost to the brimming level. MylaporeTimes physically inspected the south east end of the tank of Sri Kapali Temple. There are two outlets here, as seen in the photo.

Local people said that one outlet was 'useless', meaning there was no flow of water any way. It is not clear what the function of this outlet is.

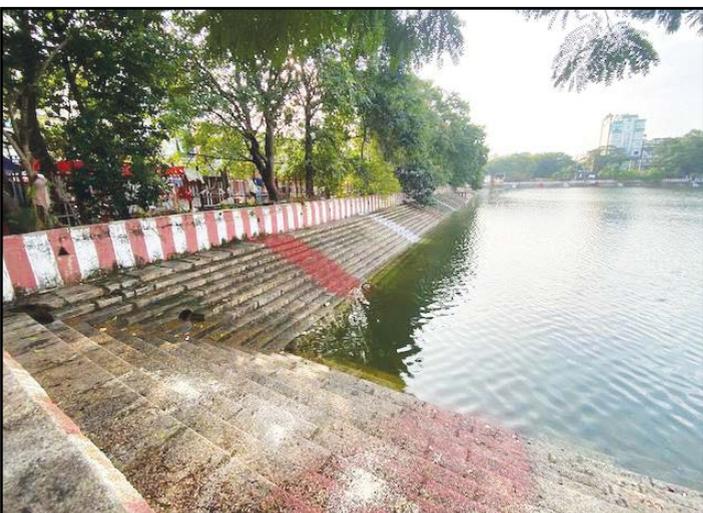
In the second outlet, rainwater from the area outside flows into the tank, people said.

Incidentally, months ago, Chennai Corporation relaid the Tank Street that adjoins the eastern border of the tank of Sri Kapali Temple, constructing outlets and

connecting them to pipes all along the street so that rainwater flows into the tank via these outlets, thus tapping much of the rainwater falling on the street. This was a positive step in harvesting rainwater.

D. Kaveri, executive officer, Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple told Mylapore Times that the water in the tank did not brim because there is an auto reverse system in the tank that pushes the water back into the channels that carry rainwater from areas around the tank.

Sekhar Raghavan says water level drops in this tank because the hundreds of borewells used privately in spaces in this zone tap all the groundwater year-round.



By Our Staff Reporter

On the west is the Buckingham Canal, struggling to carry the floodwaters of this part of the city. All around its campus, houses of all sizes and shapes - small though - hug its boundaries, making this one of the thickly-inhabited colony which is called Ramakrishnapuram.

You can get to this area by taking the small street leading off Kutchery Road, opposite the 'Dinakaran' newspaper office. Or take the bridge over the Canal near the Mundagakkanni Amman Temple MRTS station.

Chennai Middle School caters to families who reside in this part of Mylapore. Before the pandemic set in, there were some 175 children on its rolls.

This November, when the school re-opened minus the KG classes, not everybody marked their attendance. But they are trickling in.

And the teachers have a few challenges they have resolutely handled.

First, they had to ensure the children followed the protocols - wearing masks, sitting apart and washing their hands.

Recently, a NGO called Sanitation First India presented the school with sets of hands-free operated hand-wash units; (photo below).



# AFTER RE-OPENING, HOW DO WE MANAGE THE SCHOOL?

The Chennai Middle School in Mylapore has faced many challenges. Including handling less abled children.

Its volunteers trained the kids in its use.

"These units have come in handy and we are grateful for these," said Anthony Kavitha, the headmistress who has been here for some 10 years after serving the previous avatar of this school not far away from this area.

The second challenge was to gently nudge the students to slip into a new academic year since all of them had been off campus for over 17 months.

The third was very new even to the experienced teachers - there are only four now including the HM. Making comfortable the students who had this far studied at private schools but got their TCs and got admitted here because their parents could not afford to pay the fees there, since they were badly hit financially due to the pandemic.

"We had to make our campus welcoming and comfortable in this new environment," says the headmistress. "Their parents kept watching us all the time."

For Kavitha and her team of teachers and staff, there are other tasks that sit on their heads. They say they find innovative, smart ways to deal with them.

When the junior classes needed furniture and Chennai Corporation took time in addressing the issue, they got to know that another GCC school in V. P. Koil Street was disposing of its tables and stools since it had got funded for a new set by the local area parliamentarian and Kavitha did all she could to get the old furniture carted to her classrooms.

Now, she says the classes for seniors need some more furniture and she is banking on the Mylapore MLA to help fund that need.

"There are always some shortcomings but we must find ways to solve them," says the headmistress.

The team is glad that the GCC education officer for this zone, Bhakta Priya appreciates and encourages the efforts.

Says the headmistress, "I keep encouraging my teachers to dress well, keep positive and let that attitude rub on the parents of the kids and on the students." This outlook seems to have worked.

This team is proud that its efforts to integrate some 17 less abled children into the mainstream here is working.

"We now have wards of families from Adyar and Saidapet who admitted their wards here," says Kavitha. "They trust us after what they have seen and heard of our work."



## Naada Inbam's December Season fest will offer only online music concerts. Free.

File photo



By Our Staff Reporter

There are hybrids. There are 'all live'. And also 'only online' music and dance festivals this December Season. A reflection of the state around us.

And arts promoter Jayalakshmi who has just released the schedule of Naada Inbam's December Season music fest has said a firm 'no' to live concerts.

"Though we would love to have rasikas here I don't want to take the risk since many guests are seniors and now the Omicron variant has popped up," she said.

Yes, the hall, Raga Sudha on Luz Avenue is being rented out for short festivals where rasikas are invited to come in - the Kedaram Isai Vizha is being held here from Dec.3 to 5, with an awards event followed by concerts every evening.

But Jayalakshmi decided the Naada Inbam festival had to be only webcast. In association with Parivadini, the concerts have been recorded and will go on the YouTube channel of Parivadini: they are free and open to all, with concerts available after the webcast too.

This fest is on from December 10 to January 3, 2022. Daily, concerts at 4 and 6.15 p.m. From Dec.18 to Jan.2, 2022, there is also a concert at 10 a.m. ( Refer Naada Inbam's Face book page for concerts schedule)

The fest remembers Naada Inbam's founder S. V. Krishnan and features all leading artistes and young talents.

Jayalakshmi says she gets many families and patrons who sponsor a concert of the evening and this partly takes care of artistes' fees and expenses.

For many rasikas, especially residents of East Abiramapuram and Nageswara Rao Park zone, live concerts would have been very welcoming at Raga Sudha Hall which has been their haunt for years. But it will not be for the second Season now.



Kartik Fine Art's opening event

## December Season is on: Bhavan and Kartik Fine Arts festivals launched

By Our Staff Reporter

Four music and dance artistes, two senior and two young ones were decorated with awards at the launch of the 47th edition of the December Season cultural festival which took place at Vani Mahal in T. Nagar last Saturday (Nov. 27).

T. Nagar is still flooded in most streets this monsoon and guests to this event had to either be deposited in the Vani Mahal campus by their cars or wade through the ankle-deep water.

This was a small, formal, no-frills event, shifted to this venue because this sabha could not hire a venue in Mylapore – usually Kartik holds its launch event at Narada Gana Sabha, Alwarpet.



Sembanar Koil SRGS Mohandass and his troupe at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

The awardees were Bharatanatyam guru Sudharani Raghupathy and Carnatic music vocalist Dr. S. Sunder, dancer Jagyaseni Chatterjee and vocalist Sandeep Narayan and R. Nagarajan of R R Sabha. There were also awards for artistes Aditya Madhavan and Akshaya Arunkumar.

The unveiling of the portrait of late industrialist and philanthropist K. Anantharamakrishnan was on top of the agenda at the launch function of the December season music festival of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Mylapore on Friday, Nov. 26.

Present to do this honour was the patron's grand-daughter Mallika Srinivasan who heads TAFE company and is on the boards of a few companies.

While speakers recalled how K. M. Munshi, founder of the Bhavans made

a connect with Anantharamakrishnan who owned the property where the Bhavan in Mylapore stands today and how this donation was made, writer-historian V. Sriram, one of the special guests at the event recalled that the property originally belonged to advocate Jayarama Iyer and his wife Alamelu.

Sriram, while tracing the founding of the sabha culture in colonial Madras, in the late 19th century highlighted the role played by Alamelu in promoting Carnatic music. Being a passionate rasika, she went on to found and manage a sabha in Muthialpet (north Madras) and cleverly managed music fests to raise revenues in order to pay artistes and meet expenses.

Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi was

the chief guest. Others on stage were Nalli Kuppaswamy, N. Murali, M. Murali and K. N. Ramaswamy, head of Bhavan's Chennai kendra.

Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple's asthana nagaswaram vidwan, Sembanar Koil SRGS Mohandass and his troupe began the event with their concert. The rain had taken a big break, enabling a sizeable number of people to attend the function. And all of them wore masks – the governor also reminded them of the protocols in his speech.

Artistes Rajhesh Vaidya on the veena, U. Rajesh on the mandolin, Patri Satish Kumar on mridangam and S. Karthick on the ghatam later performed the first concert of the fest that runs till mid December, is open to all and is also webcast freely on [www.bhavanschennai.org](http://www.bhavanschennai.org).

## National award for visually less abled advocate

A. M. Venkatakrishnan has a  
pan-India clientele



Advocate Venkatakrishnan being awarded at a past function

By Subha Dilip

An advocate and international attorney, A. M. Venkatakrishnan who is a resident of Mylapore has been selected for the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2020.

He has been selected by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the category - best self-employed - visual impairment. The award is to be presented by the President of India on December 3 at New Delhi.

Venkatakrishnan's passion for law started as a self motivated idea. Through continuous support from his family, Venkatakrishnan who has a degenerative condition, Retinitis Pigmentosa, worked hard throughout his school days to learn and excel in academics. His visual condition was something he had from birth.

He says he vividly remembers how his mother would read through his books and he would type the content in his Braille typewriter.

"The contents would then be bound as a book and I used it for the academic year," he recalls. The entire process took about six months each time for the family and this went on every year till he finished his schooling. The effort paid - he got the top rank and led him to law college.

For his legal studies, Venkatakrishnan studied rigorously by recording lectures in audio cassettes and taking help from fellow classmates to record related contents. Yet again, he proved his ability to excel, by topping the class in law school.

When he was all set to practice, he was taken aback when prospective clients declined to give him cases quoting his visual challenge as a reason. With the help of his senior, V. Narayanaswami, he started handling a few cases. By arguing and winning those, he started to prove that the perception people had about him was entirely wrong.

At present, Venkatakrishnan has a clientele of many corporates who not only engage with him but also retain his services year after year. Leading a team of 40 colleagues spread across Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and New Delhi, he now practices across India.

Venkatakrishnan also encourages visually-challenged law students to join his team and work towards the upliftment of society.

He resides in Mylapore with his wife and two kids.



**December Season**

**CONCERTS  
SCHEDULE**

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