

ADVERTISE
ONLINE

ON
MYLAPORE
TIMES

WEBSITE

RS. 1000* ONLY

*FOR 2 WEEKS

MYLAPORE TIMES

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSPAPER

November 27 - December 3, 2021

4 pages Free Circulation

CLASSIFIEDS

Rs. 250 + GST*

BOOK
IN

MYLAPORE
TIMES

*BASIC RATE. For 20 words.

Whatsapp 9445764499

OFFICE : 2498 2244, 2467 1122

EDITORIAL : 2466 0269

WEBSITE : www.mylaporetimes.com



Water stagnates for over 5 days after rain break at Chennai Corporation School in Bheemanapet.

GROUND WATER IS UP ACROSS MYLAPORE. SO SEEPAGE.

By Our Staff Reporter

When a team of workers from Rain Centre (Adyar based. Contact - 2441 6134) began work on digging spots inside the campus of Rani Meyyammai Girls School in R. A. Puram in August last year, they struck water at about 7 feet.

"We abandoned work. Normally, we dug wells that are 13/15 deep to sink the wells," said Rain Centre head, Sekhar Raghavan, a rainwater harvesting (RWH) expert. "It showed that the groundwater level even then was high in many parts of the city."

When the team re-started work for the RWH wells in the school in June this year, water stood at 11 feet below. 11 wells were sunk here, supported by CSR funds that Rain Centre receives, and the school has been tapping the bounty.

One needs to go back to the rainfall data for Chennai - to the 2020 monsoon season onwards - to realise that this city

has received copious rains over the past 11 months.

"The ground water level had risen over past months and we had to anticipate the problems of water seepage which is happening now in many areas," observes Raghavan.

He has been getting many phone calls from south Chennai residents who want a solution to the water seeping in their wells and campuses, well after the rains took a break. One such SOS call came from residents of an apartment block on Dr Ranga Road.

Raghavan says people who had RWH systems ignored that water source and made use of the supply from Metrowater. "Had they tapped the RWH sources, had many done this, water levels would have dipped a bit," he says.

So what is the solution to this situation?

"Sink tubewell after the monsoon goes away," is Raghavan's tip.

In Dr. Ranga Road, water is oozing out continuously in some plots

By Our Staff Reporter

Hemalatha resides in a block of four apartments, set away from Dr. Ranga Road. Every time she steps out to shop the past five days, she glances at the two long pipes which have been spitting out water that is gathering in a large tank once constructed in her campus.

"We are getting brickbats from people around for doing this but we have no options," she says.

Dr. Ranga Road was quickly flooded in the Nov.7 pounding record rain and so were the two Dr Ranga Lanes off this busy road. The floodwater on the road waned over days though not in one of the Lanes, where civic work is going on now.

But a few residents on this road, like the four families in Sri Rangam Flats realised that water was seeping from the ground, freely. This was also seen clearly in campuses which have sunk rainwater harvesting wells. "The water level is hardly a feet away from ground level here," said one resident here.

But in Hemalatha, and her community's case, action had to be taken because their plot is low-lying and water is not flowing out by itself and when the pumping from the tank, which is about 8/9 feet deep and perhaps it was sunk for the building's needs earlier on, was on the residents realised that the level was not going down appreciably.

"It keeps refilling from the ground, obviously the ground is heavily recharged," says Hemalatha.

On Wednesday last, two pipes were seen emptying the water on to the road and it rolled eastwards.

"We have to be alert because if flooding takes place although the ground floor is the parking space, our power connections are located here," says Hemalatha.

Rainwater harvesting expert Sekhar Raghavan says groundwater has risen sharply in most parts of the city and there is nothing one can do about it even as the monsoon continues. "It can be heavily tapped in January," he adds.

✉ WATER SEEPING IN YOUR CAMPUS TOO, AFTER RAINS?
Tell us more - mytimesedit@gmail.com



SINK TUBEWELL. MAKE GOOD USE OF GROUNDWATER

If you are to make best use of the abundant groundwater, you can so do so in early 2022. Here is what RWH expert Sekhar Raghavan suggests.

1 Ask an expert to assess the water level in your campus.

2 If you check this, post-Pongal season, and you strike water between 12/15 ft below, you can take the next step.

3 Arrange for a tubewell to be sunk to a depth of say 30ft. Start tapping the groundwater. This single job will cost Rs.30,000 approx.

4 Those who have bore-wells do not benefit from the copious groundwater because those wells are sunk 100ft-plus below and tap water trapped in rocky terrain, where water gathers from other sources, not from heavy rains falling on all surfaces.



Sanga abhisekam for Karthigai

At Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple in Mylapore, starting the past Monday (Nov. 22), a 108 sanga abhisekam on each of the four Mondays in Karthigai has begun. It starts by about 10 a.m.

On the fifth Monday of the Karthigai season, there will be a 1008 sanga abhisekam.



Rahu kaalam pooja for Durgai at Sri Kapali Temple continues to draw big crowd

By S. Prabhu

It is 3pm on Tuesday, November 23.

All the sannidhis at Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple are open, an hour earlier than all other days of the week.

A steady stream of devotees are seen heading to the Durgai sannidhi, north of the Kapaleeswarar sannidhi for the Rahu Kaalam Pooja.

An archaka walks into the moolavar sannidhi just after 3pm and he is immediately directed by chief priest E. Venkatasubramanian Shivachariar to the Durgai sannidhi. For the next 90 minutes, devotees continue to make their way to the Durgai sannidhi and it is only at 4.30pm does the crowd thin out.

Venkatasubramanian Shivachariar explains the background to this trend that caught up in the 1980s.

“To trigger the Bhakti movement that had slightly dipped in the 1970s, the concept of Rahu Kaalam Pooja was initiated around 40 years ago.

Till about a decade ago, the crowd was so overwhelming that we had assigned two exclusive priests for the Durgai sannidhi on Tuesday between 3pm and 4.30pm.”

“It was a phase when devotees would come with a lemon and light the ‘lemon lamp’ at the Durgai sannidhi,” he says.

While Rahu kaalam pooja has not been prescribed in the agamas, this concept has definitely caught up at this temple since the 1980s.

He says that the devotees believe that performing a pooja during the Rahu kaalam for Durgai will be good for a happy married life and also in child-birth.

Interestingly, when it was decided to allow devotees into the sannidhis after the lockdown restrictions were lifted a couple of months back, the authorities at the temple chose Tuesday as the only day in the week to allow devotees in to facilitate the rahu kaalam pooja for Durgai.

Only subsequently, a few weeks later, were the devotees allowed entry into the Moolavar sannidhis on all other days of the week: such has been the importance given to the Rahu Kaalam Pooja for Durgai in recent times.

Theatre community celebrates centenary of Poornam Vishwanathan

By Our Staff Reporter

The centenary of a celebrated theatre personality, Poornam Viswanathan was celebrated on November 15 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in a grand manner.



The family members of Viswanathan and members of Poornam New Theater and Gurukulam in association with Kartik Fine Arts and the Bhavan arranged this event.

The programme commenced with the screening of a documentary on Poornam Viswanathan, produced by Mudhra.

K. N. Ramaswamy, director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan spoke about the great qualities of Poornam Viswanathan and said the Bhavan will offer a space in its premises for rehearsals to the drama troupes totally free of cost.

The guests of honour were theatre-person Kathadi Ramamurthy. He said, “Poornam Viswanathan always attended all the dramas with his wife and gave great support to the drama troupes with his encouraging words.”

Vasanth S. Sai, film director, recollected how emotional he became after seeing the play ‘Oonjal’ in which Poornam Viswanathan gave a sterling performance. He also touched on his performances in three of his movies including his debut film

Keladi Kanmani.

Poornam Viswanathan’s wife Suseela Poornam Viswanathan graced the function with her presence and did so despite her weak health condition – Vasanth Sai asked the audience to give a standing ovation to her and the audience happily obliged with a thunderous applause.

The Poornam Viswanathan Centenary Award was presented to T. D. Sundararajan, senior theatre artiste for his contribution to the world of theatre (featured in the photo here). The award was given by Dr. R. Nataraj, former director-general of police. The award was sponsored by Rama Kamalam Trust.

Nataraj spoke of his uncle – Poornam Viswanathan. He said Viswanathan came to the position of such greatness with lots of dedicated hard work and sincerity.

Siddharthan, son of Poornam Viswanathan reworded to his father’s life – he recollected his appa’s daily routine of writing a diary, his dining table interactions with family members, his style of writing inland letters when he was studying in BITS Pilani and his meticulous way of keeping accounts and his sense of humour.

Kartik Sekar, the secretary of Kartik Fine Arts spoke about the long term association of his father, Rajagopal and Poornam Viswanathan and pledged Kartik Fine Arts’ continuous patronage to all art forms.

A short Thamizh play, ‘Vandhavan’ written by Sujatha and directed previously by Poornam Viswanathan was performed by the team members of Gurukulam. Viswanathan’s association with writer Sujatha was close and their combination produced successful plays like Kadavul Vandhirundhaar, Dr. Narendranin Vinodha Vazhaku, Adimaigal and Oonjal.

YOUR CONTACTS

MYLAPORE TIMES

☐ PHONES
24982244 / 24671122
☐ WHATSAPP
9445764499

MYLAPORE TIMES

- 77, C. P. Ramaswamy Road, Alwarpet, Chennai 600018.
- Ph: 24982244.
WhatsApp - 9445764499
- E-mail - Admin & Advertising - mylaporetimes@gmail.com
- Editorial - mytimesedit@gmail.com

Photo: Dinesh Jaikumar



ROWING GIRLS

Madras Boat Club is training a group of students of St. Raphael's School, San Thome as part of its CSR project. And the teens are shaping well.

By Our Staff Reporter

Every morning, at the crack of dawn a group of school girls in their early teens row down the Adyar after a long spell of warm-ups and exercises.

They have been doing so for many weeks now, their training supported by the Madras Boat Club, as part of its corporate social responsibility programme.

If these girls train well, they may go on to represent Tamil Nadu at the Nationals in the juniors. And then have the opportunities to shine further.

These girls are students of St. Raphael's Girls School in San Thome, run by the FMM congregation of nuns, the ones who also manage Rosary Matrixes School and Stella Maris College in the city.

And all of them come from economically poor families.

"Unlike the regular student rowers at the Club, these girls have the dedication and fire in them," says their coach Hareendra Shankar, who is more than a coach to this group - godfather, counsellor and benefactor too.

When Madras Boat Club decided to lookout for students from neighbourhood schools who could be trained in rowing on the Adyar river, as part of its CSR project, its scouts got a quick response from St Raphael's.

The school, located off Kutcheri Road, has a large naval wing in its NCC community since the NCC encourages schools located close to the coast to set up this wing, for obvious reasons.

Twelve girls were chosen, all 12 and 13-year olds and though the tough training led to some drop-outs, seven of them not only survived but have impressed the Club.

The girls are - Vidhyasree Prabhu, Messey Monila Aruloli, Deepika Pushparaj, Lipni Queen Jayaseelan, Hemalatha, Divyadharshini Shanmugam and Maria Keerthana Selvi.

Says the school's PT teacher and NCC wing leader Priscilla George, "Our school encourages sport and these girls who come from very, very poor families have grabbed the opportunity."

Divyadharshini Shanmugam, Deepika Pushparaj, Maria Keerthana Selvi



Trainees Vidhyasree Prabhu, Messey Monila Aruloli, Deepika Pushparaj, Lipni Queen Jayaseelan, Hemalatha Sekar. The rowers are seen with school PT teacher Priscilla, Club president and coach Hareendra.

Training at the Boat Club starts by 6 a.m. While two girls cycle their way to the banks of the river, the others have their means of getting there on time. "I focus on fitness and physical training a lot," says coach Hareendra.

The girls have been given kits, have lockers, can use the washrooms and when the rowing for the morning is over and the girls have freshened up, they are also provided breakfast.

"The Boat Club has been really doing all it can to support our girls," says Priscilla. And since the time, schools re-opened after the pandemic lockdown, the girls carry their school uniforms with them and change into them at the Club and head directly to their school campus.

"I'm particular that all of them feel secure and safe," says Hareendra. "Sometimes, I drop them off in my car."

Evidently, the professionalism and care provided by the Club has enthused the girls a lot. They have been reporting at this R. A. Puram campus without fail and coach Hareendra is hoping to see this team compete in the under-15 rowing championships later and make a mark.

Hareendra says he has been impressing on his wards the opportunities they can seize if they excel in the sport. "They can easily get admission to colleges on the sports quota, they get monetary rewards if they win medals at Nationals and they can even get a job later," he says.

This initiative was started by the earlier president of MBC, K. V. Balachander and is being continued by the new president, N. Subramanian and by the Captain of Boats, Sandeep Somani.

On the Adyar, now refreshed by the monsoon and the opening of the sand bar at the river's mouth, a sports activity that is inclusive in a way, seems to be rowing on calm waters.

PASSIONATE GURU

He gets up at 2.30 a.m. Has a cup of coffee by 3. And is at the Madras Boat Club by 4 a.m. to walk. And is ready at 5.30 a.m. to train his rowing wards.



Hareendra

This is Hareendra Shankar's life.

This Mandaveli resident who joined the Club in the 1970s earned his Club colours and has rowed in all the major championships.

Rowing had to be abandoned after he got involved in an accident and was struck by an illness. But he became senior coach at MBC and when the St. Raphael's school girls came under his watch, Hareendra took it up enthusiastically.

His devotion and commitment has earned the respect of the girls and their PT teacher.

He is also pleased MBC has also committed itself to the coaching of the girls and may entertain more such talented teens who do not get the opportunity but have the talent.

Hareendra used to work in the engineering sector.

Later, he moved to the entertainment world - he handled Little Folks, the fun campus for kids located on the East Coast Road, and later the Dolphins Park this management set up. Both are closed now.

But rowing is close to Hareendra. The MBC his second home. He will perhaps be the happiest when his wards stand on the podium, in the near future.



For Karthigai Deepam, volunteers set up and then lit thousands of earth oil lamps on all four sides of Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple tank, a formation that was a feast for the eyes that Friday night. Steady rain had made the volunteers give up this lighting the previous day.

They light up the tank every year for this festival.

Photo: Madhan Kumar

Birth anniv of Bhagwan Sathya Sai Baba: event held at Bhavan



The 96th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Sathya Sai Baba was celebrated this past week by the Mylapore samiti at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore.

There was soulful music by the music group, alternately by men and women sevadals who were on stage. After the bhajans by samiti members, there was an hour's music recital by

Sai Saraswathy, professor of Madras Music College and her team of percussionists and students.

Lunch was served. Laddoo prasadam and vibhuti were given as take-aways.

To mark Sathya Sai Baba's birth anniversary, members of the Mylapore samiti arranged for lunch to be served to the public at a junction on Dr. Ranga Road.



Bhavan's December Season music fest is on. Live and webcast too.

Tamil Nadu's governor R N Ravi was to launch the annual December Season festival of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore on Nov.26.

Bhavan's head, K. N. Ramaswamy says many leading artistes are featured in this fest, with two concerts daily (5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.) and one more on Sundays - mornings. The fest is on till December 15. Admission is open to all, but pandemic-time protocols must be followed.

The concerts are also webcast live, courtesy the Bhavans of Kolkata. Go to www.bhavanschennai.org.

This year, the artistes include T. M. Krishna, Ramakrishnanmurthy, Ranjani-Gayatri, Prince Rama Varma and Nithyashree Mahadevan.

Sannidhi for Maha Periyava to come up in Mylapore

By S. Prabhu

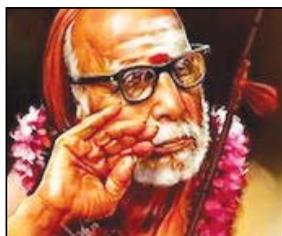
A location for a sannidhi for Kanchi Maha Periyava has been finalised on Pichupillai Street by the Mylai Maha Periyava Anusham Trust.

Upanyasakar Ganesh Sarma told Mylapore Times that the search had been on for the last four months to find an independent building around Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple.

The search ended at a developed, two-storeyed residential block on Pichupillai Street, diagonally opposite Mami's Tiffen.

It measures one ground and is located on the south side of Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple. "We have now finalised this location. The cost including the site, redesign and alteration is estimated to be around Rs.10 crores.

An advance has been given to the owners of the property. Since the money



has to be funded through devotee-donors, we have asked for a year's time and the owners have been kind enough to give us that time period for the full payment."

He said initially the sannidhi will come up on the ground floor of this house. Once the entire money has been collected from like-minded devotees, the Trust will finalise more specific plans on the remodeling of the property.

Ganesh Sarma said that since Mylapore is an auspicious place and Maha Periyava has graced this place, they wanted a property located within the four Mada Streets where they could organise religious processions.

The Trust holds monthly anusham as well as the annual jayanthi with homams, paduka pooja, Veda parayanam and spiritual discourses – all in the name of Maha Periyava.

Charsur's December Season online music fest

By Our Staff Reporter

Charsur Foundation based in Alwarpet which has been conducting a music festival for the December Season is continuing with its fully online concerts for Season 2021.

This festival features vocal and instrumental concerts, talks and lecture demonstrations by senior musicians and musicologists, says a note from Charsur.

The Foundation also works on a new theme every year providing opportunities to experience newer kritis and ragas.

'Sarvam Vishnu Mayam - The Preserver' is the theme for the 2021 festival.

Among the artistes on stage are Amritha Murali, Gayatri Venkataraghavan, Vignesh Iswar, the Akkarai Sisters and Jayanthi Kumaresh.

This festival will go LIVE from December 15 to 31 with 2 concerts everyday at <https://www.tikkl.com/charsurartsfoundation>

First concert is at 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the second concert 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Passes can now be bought online - to book tickets: <https://www.tikkl.com/charsurartsfoundation>

The ticket fee - INR 2750 + GST / US\$ 50

The fee for a single concert ticket: INR125 + GST / US\$ 5