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Is your rainwater harvesting system really effective? Metrowater is on a campaign to remind you.

The zonal team of Metrowater is on a localised, focussed campaign on rainwater harvesting. To remind residents that this is the time to take a good look at their RWH system.

Now into its fifth day, this campaign has contract staff meeting residents in every colony to talk about their RWH system.



and garden and campus waste gathering inside the wells.



Metrowater has employed a campaign vehicle on which a model of a house with a RWH system in place has been mounted – this van will create some buzz in this campaign.

Its engineer said that it will issue a notice to residences whose RWH system is not well-maintained to get the residents activated

and may even take follow-up action as per law.

Metrowater reps are also doing spot tests of water samples and sharing the data with residents.

DO YOU HAVE A WELL IN YOUR CAMPUS that is half full now? Shoot a photo and share the story with us!

“Though the RWH system is present in many residences, its maintenance and upkeep is what needs attention for it to be effective,” says a Metrowater engineer who works in eastern Mylapore.

Most residents assume the RWH will work by itself. Its effect wears off a year or two after construction, with sections of it loosening or falling away



R. A. Puram playground turns into hub of Chennai Metro project

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Metro rail project which covers the Mandaveli - R A Puram zone has picked up in its preliminary stage in this area.



Just now, the Chennai Corporation playground at the far end of R. A. Puram, opposite the Jesus Calls campus is the hub of activity. Some 75% of the ground has been

bounded off and now, metal barricades are coming up on the R. K. Mutt Road side.

On the main gate is a banner asking people to stay out - which means local youths will have to make best use of the north end of the ground for any form of exercise or games from now on.

Onsite office cabins and cranes have been set up in the campus.

This work is related to Phase 2 Corridor 3 of Chennai Metro's plans – a rail line that runs from Madhavaram in the north and runs south beyond Adyar and Thiruvanniyur and on to Sholinganallur via Perungudi with this line also linking Chetpet and Thousand Lights and passing through Luz and Mandaveli.

As work progresses, much of which will take place after the city has gone to sleep, traffic movement on the roads around this ground will be greatly affected. This zone is already a busy one, with traffic jams occurring during peak hours.



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A dirty wall and pavement gets makeover in R. A. Puram. Community action.

By Our Staff Reporter

The stretch of Canal Bank Road from the junction of R. A. Puram First Cross Street measuring to a length of 140 feet was the most misused spot here.



Scrapped cars and autos were dumped here with accumulated garbage underneath. Passersby were also using the space for relieving themselves and the stink made people double off.

R A Puram Residents Association

(RAPRA), decided to beautify this space with the help of a NGO, Karam Korpom, a foundation headed by the duo Uma and Shiv who paint public walls.

Prior to this effort, the street was fully cleaned with the help of Urbaser civic staff and sanitized with the aid of GCC health officials.

The canal wall was painted with three coats of white.

On Sunday, Sept.5, with the help of police, the parked vehicles were removed and volunteers drew beautiful pictures on the wall.

Mylapore MLA Dha. Velu too dropped by and tried his hand at painting. He appreciated the efforts of RAPA in beautifying this spot and assured of his help for any issues faced by the residents.

About 30 children from Mylapore and R A Puram joined in the painting.

RAPRA has turned many such ugly spots into pleasant spaces.

Kozhukkattai, pongal, sundal and vadais: festival goodies

By Our Staff Reporter

Mami Tiffen Stall on Mylapore's Pitchu Pillai Street is a popular destination for foodies seeking traditional snacks.

For Vinayaka Chathurthi, the team here began making special sweet and spicy kozhukkattai and taking bulk orders (minimum order is for 100 nos. but you could buy any number – 10 or 20 – at the counter.)



File photo

Since Mami's gets lots of orders and since pandemic time regulations are in place, the popular food joint did some pre-publicity to seek orders. Besides kozhukkattai, there was medhu vadai, sweet and ven pongal and sundal on sale / delivery. Call 24643525/ 94440 71656.

Two recently-constructed police stations opened



By Our Staff Reporter

Two recently-constructed police stations in the neighbourhood were formally opened recently. One is the Abiramapuram police station located on Greenways Road near the MRTS station and Mylapore Tahsildar's office complex.

The other is the Marina police station located off the Light House campus, south of it.

Both were ready for use for some time. The Mylapore Deputy Commissioner of Police did the honours at the inauguration. The Mylapore MLA and station officers were present. Both are multi-storied buildings with offices for all departments of the police.

Book on Sanskrit compositions of Madurai G. S. Mani released



By Prabha Ramachandran

The book release function of Dr Usha Prasad's book "Rajapujita Ramyam – Stuti Gitams", 101 Sanskrit compositions of Madurai G S Mani was held on August 26 at Arkay Convention Centre, Mylapore.

Many music personalities graced the function – Umayalapuram K.Sivaraman was the chief guest and Dr. Sriram Parasuram, Dr. R S Jayalakshmi, Dr. R Thiagarajan and music composer Vidya Sagar were the guests of honour. K V Prasad introduced the guests.

The evening began with a rendition by students of Dr Usha Prasad's Voice Academy – of a few of G S Mani's kritis in Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu.

Dr Usha Prasad opened the official function with a short talk about her experiences with her guru, the making of the book, the contents in the book and thanked all those who helped her in this process.

Umayalapuram Sivaraman went down memory lane spanning more than 60 years of his association with G S Mani as a co-artist, friend and contemporary in music.

Contact Dr Usha Prasad (9444990666) or Prabha (9840714729) for procuring a copy of the book. Book is priced at Rs.500.

This woman has pumped up newspaper circulation despite pandemic challenges

News agent Ranjithavalli Rajesh is at her post at 3 a.m. everyday

By V. Kalidas

Crowning the design, pre-press and printing of the daily newspaper, is its distribution system. The daily sheet has to reach its reader every morning. On time.



Ranjitha is seen with V. Kalidas, receiving a copy of his book on his years with *The Hindu*

A newspapers' Circulation Department operates in close tandem with the network of news agents, sub-agents, hawkers and delivery boys!

Ranjithavalli Rajesh is an ideal

example of a diligent news agent who is totally dedicated to the supply of THE HINDU every morning to the nooks and corners of R. A. Puram.

In rain and in shine, in Covid times and during monsoon rages, she and her husband Rajesh have been at the job bravely on keeping the supply - line faultless - doing this even through the worst days of the pandemic in 2020.

Distribution had its problems in gaining access to subscribers during the height of the pandemic phase; entry past security, collection and communication through a mask proved a set of imponderables!

Ranjithavalli says that of late they have been able to recover a major part of their clientele though some institutions like hotels are yet to revert to their indents.

Ranjithavalli and Rajesh came to Chennai from their village of Achuthapuram in Nannilam (which gave the world the late K.Balachander and the now famous Vittaladas of Govindapuram) and helped their elderly relative, Sundaravadivel in the conduct of THE HINDU agency.

He handed over the mantle to Ranjithavalli in 2012. Thanks to her enterprise and commitment, the agency has since taken the sales of THE HINDU in her territory from 700 to 1700 copies , according to her.

This achievement was made possible by her waking up without fail at 3 a.m. and personally overseeing the distribution of the copies from the various selling points.

The couple have a teenage son and daughter, both of whom are in the care of her parents in her ancestral village in Achuthapuram. They closely monitor their education through frequent calls and visits



Rotary Club awards V. Sriram, historian and heritage activist

Rotary Club of Madras Central (RCMC) presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to V. Sriram, entrepreneur, columnist, historian, and heritage activist as a part of the special Vocational Service Award conferred by RCMC.

Sriram was presented this award for his contribution to arts, culture and heritage of South India. He was honoured by Justice Prabha Sridevan (retd.) during an online felicitation ceremony which was held on August 30 in the presence of Rotary District Governor (RI DIST 3232) J Sridhar.

Says Rotarian K A V Ramesh Kumar, President RCMC: "On the back of the Madras Week celebrations, we wanted to honour V. Sriram for his valued contributions in preserving and documenting the history of our wonderful city and several other cultural icons."

Sriram is a resident of R. A. Puram.

Alwarpet school shut down after one student reports Covid positive



By Our Staff Reporter

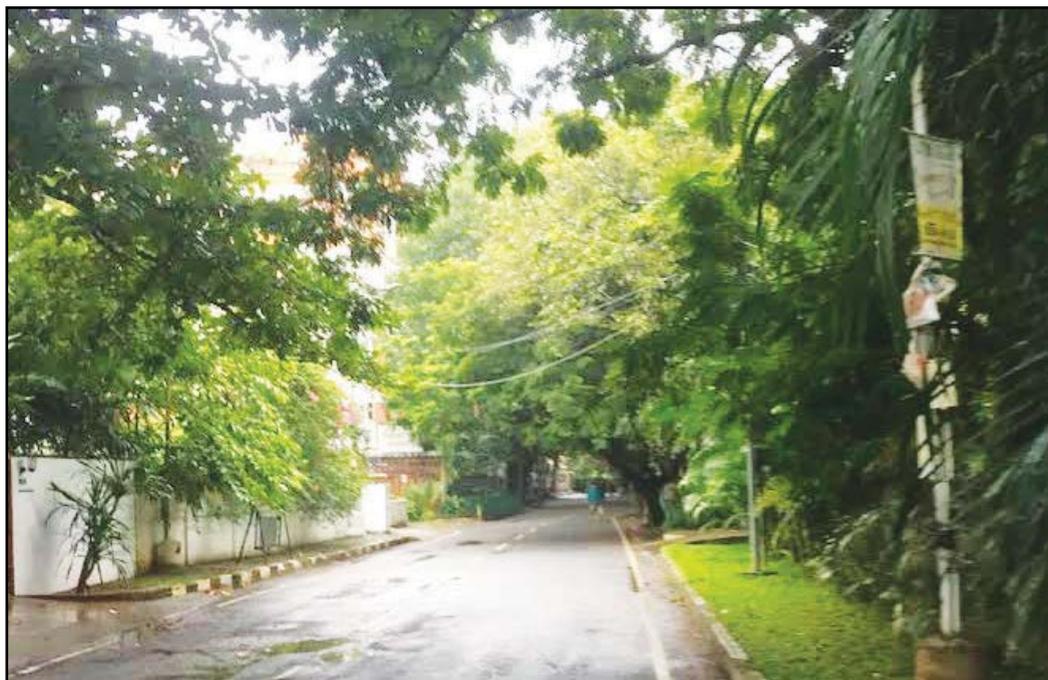
The Grove School inside the campus of C. P. Ramaswamy Foundation in Alwarpet has been shut down after one student reported to have tested Covid positive.

The school was closed after being fully sanitised on Monday after the family of the student reported the case.

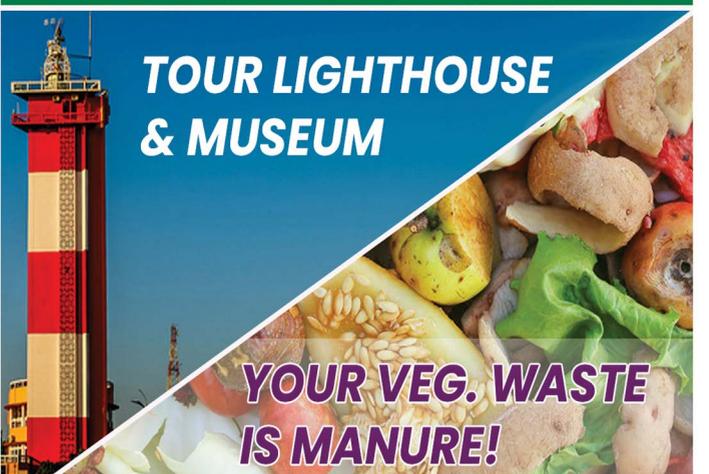
The school had reopened on Sept.1 for students of the higher classes.

V. Kalidas shot this picture of a road in the Boat Club area during a recent walk on a morning the rain ended as a drizzle.

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The last batch of Covid workers bids goodbye to R. A. Puram. Pandemic assignment ends.

By Our Staff Reporter

It was a party in the park. And in all the young men and women in the middle, there were mixed emotions. For, some 30-plus Covid workers contracted by Chennai Corporation were bidding goodbye on the last day of August after serving the community in the far end of R. A. Puram for over 17 months, since April 2020.

Taking care of Ward 173 of GCC.

There was a cake to cut and share, gifts to be given and a hearty lunch to be partaken in the verdant, open air space of Dharmambal Park of GCC at the far end of Kamaraj Salai – a park which had become a second hangout for all these workers since early 2020 soon after the pandemic broke out.

“It was a happy occasion alright but there were many of us who wondered about getting another job assignment,” said Deepa, who is from Pattinapakkam and a senior Covid worker.

“This assignment came in handy for all of us who needed money badly as the pandemic ravaged, jobs were curtailed and incomes fell,” added Deepa, who has

studied HR and has been recognised for her work here. “We hope some NGO or the Corporation will engage us next.”

All the contract workers are in their 20s/30s and hail from the Mylapore zone. They were recruited for a variety of assignments, some trying and challenging, some very demanding. Some became friends of the community, some were chased away for asking people to take the jab, some got skilled in people management in difficult times.

Those who worked in areas like KVB Gardens where the pandemic struck badly in late 2020, affecting clusters in this highly congested area of R A Puram faced big challenges. So did the workers assigned to the kuppam zone.

At one point, the team of workers was over 175. Over time, residents, NGOs and the Mylapore MLA provided for a cup of tea or breakfast for the team. In recent weeks, as GCC clipped the numbers, the team was reduced to 30 plus.

✉ **DID YOU INTERACT** with these workers and got some help when the pandemic was raging? Share your experience - mytimesedit@gmail.com



Local area anganwadis get a new life after re-opening

By Our Staff Reporter

Shalini had her hands full on September 2.

As the teacher/ co-ordinator of one of the three anganwadis located close to the popular Sri Munda-gakanni Amman Temple in Mylapore, she was not only welcoming some 15 kids to the centre after many, many months but also chatting with their mothers as some of their wards bawled or cried loudly.

This was the first day of their kind of ‘school’ and many were happy to be there; in fact, almost all came dressed up in their weekend best.

Anganwadis are for kids in the 2 to 5 years age group. The children spend 6 hours at the centre, are taught a few life skills meant for their age and served lunch, free of cost.

But soon after the pandemic swept the city last year, the anganwadis had to be shut down and later, the state arranged for rice and dhal packs to be supplied by people like Shalini to the kids’ families.

Now, the centres have come alive. And they will, if all goes well, warm up to some classes too.

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1984 batch alumni of San Thome School planning ‘grand’ Reunion



The 1984 batch alumni of San Thome Higher Secondary School met for the first time as a group at a club in Gandhi Nagar on Sunday last.

It is planning to organise a grand Reunion with classmates from abroad and from other cities here in India during December 2021 but plans depend upon the pandemic situation and travel restrictions.

Seen in the photo: Sitting – from left: Vendhan, Deepak, Nakkeeran, Srin, C R Balaji, Ram Unnikrishnan

Standing: Swinthun Manohar Pratap Singh Alex Murikken Achu Gerard Kumar Prabhakar Phillip ShivaKumar Henry Robert Alex, Ram Mohan, Bernard Pon Ravi George Martin.

Contact Balaji at 94446 26942. / Paul Raphael Elaventhana / 98403 58440

- Report by C. R. Balaji