

MYLAPORE

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OLD AND WISE

While addressing the emptiness in their own lives, two residents of Adyar, Jayanthi Sekhar and Pushya Sitaraman, have managed to ease the loneliness of many senior citizens who find themselves in a similar situation **P5**



UNINTERRUPTED STORYTELLING

Ramya Vasudevan keeps piling up audio stories through a disciplined schedule of recordings **P7**

That 'sinking' feeling again on RK Mutt Road



There is sometimes a "sinking" feeling to motoring on RK Mutt Road. There is nothing figurative about it. At various times, various sections of RK Mutt Road have shifted and sunk. On occasions, there have been cave-ins. Motorists are expected to live with sections that have sunk, as this image from RK Mutt Road taken on March 10, 2025 shows. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

Marina beach cleaned as a prelude to Kabaddi festival

The Marina Kabaddi Festival 2025 kicked off with a clean-up of Marina Beach.

A human chain was also formed. Over 2,500 students, NSS and NCC volunteers, and members from various social organisations joined hands for the massive clean-up drive, said a press release.

The event was graced by actor Rio Raj. The highlight of the morning was the record-breaking human chain formation, officially marking the launch of the Marina Kabaddi Festival 2025.

The human chain, stretching along Marina Beach, was recognised and registered in the Indian Book of Records, said the press release.

This initiative served as a prelude to the much-anticipated All India Men's and Women's Kabaddi Competition (scheduled for May 16, 17, and 18, 2025) at Marina Beach.

The festival aims to celebrate the cultural significance of Kabaddi.

READERS WRITE

Putting a finger on a problem

H.K. LAKSHMAN RAO

I am senior citizen – 88 years old – and recently, I hired an auto to reach the ration shop and get my monthly quota of sugar with my ration card. The trip ended in a disappointment. My finger impression not matching the one in the system, the person in charge of the ration shop turned down my request for sugar.

As age advances, there would be some changes in the finger impression and I have become a victim to this natural phenomenon.

The authorities must develop an alternative system to help senior citizens in such situations.

(H.K. Lakshman Rao is a resident of Krishnapuri, R.A. Puram)

Dear readers, you can be our volunteer-writer by writing to us about issues and events in your neighbourhood. You should send the write-ups to downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in Letters must carry the postal address and contact number.





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Snapshots of the event.



Care for women and Mother Earth emphasised

On Women's Day, Mandaveli Raja Street Residents Welfare Association organised a recyclable waste collection drive and a free health checkup for women

GANGA SRIDHAR

Women's Day celebrations this year at Mandaveli Raja Street had a different script: spreading the message of women's health care and also explaining how to care for the most

important woman of all "Mother Earth".

On March 8, the street was buzzing with activities all day long. A recyclable waste collection drive took place in the morning followed by a well women's health checkup camp organised by Spectrum Clinic in Raja Street.

Raja Street has partnered with Kabadiwalla Connect in the Invisible Recyclers Drive where residents have been actively participating in segregating and sending recyclable waste for effective recycling.

What more could a woman ask for if she could have a decluttered

house with door pickup of all the recyclable waste with cash remunerations and reward points notwithstanding the contented feeling of contributing to a cleaner environment by sending it all for recycling? One hundred and ninety four kilos of recyclable waste was sent for recycling during the two-hour drive on Women's Day.

Thirty women from different strata of society benefited from the annual free well women's health checkup (organised by Spectrum Clinic in Raja Street)

Free tests for BP, Blood Sugar, Haeomoglobin, Bone Mass density, Foot Neuropathy and free Gynaec and Ortho consultation were available. Master health checkups were made available at a discount.

Maids and house help were motivated by the residents to take time out and get themselves tested and get free consultation from the doc-

tors at the clinic.

The importance of women's self care was emphasised at the camp by Dr. Shanmugaboopathy (Ortho); he also shared the symptoms of osteoporosis to watch out for and tips for good bone health.

The easy access to a gynaecologist at the camp was a welcome not only by young girls but also women in perimenopausal state who were enlightened about what to expect and how to handle the phase with good diet, meditation and exercises.

A strong message was sent out that every woman has to keep herself physically and mentally healthy with timely checkups and corrective measures to be able to take care of her family and work.

(Ganga Sridhar is a member of Mandaveli Raja Street Residents Welfare Association)

P.S. school students trained to be life savers

The children were trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation by a team from Kauvery Hospital; the programme was coordinated by a Class XII student of the school

As part of the Community Service Initiative of the school, P.S. Senior Secondary School, Mylapore recently collaborated with Kauvery Hospital, Alwarpet to conduct a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training programme for the students of Class X.

The event, coordinated by Abhinav, a Class XII student saw over 50 students participate in the programme, where a doctor accompanied by a paramedic guided the students through the procedure to be followed during an emergency.

The programme aimed to equip students with life-saving skills and boost their confidence in handling medical emergencies, which can be critical and make



the difference between life and death.

Through an interactive session, the students had gained hands-on experience in performing chest

compressions and rescue breaths, in addition to learning the procedure and importance of the Heimlich maneuver.

Both the students and faculty



members found the session to be extremely helpful, as it enabled them with the knowledge to assist during real-life medical crises. The management and faculty of

the school laid emphasis on the importance of such training and the importance of inculcating such activities into the curriculum.

Rowing down the Adyar river for *five decades*

Five former employees of Parry & Co. recall the time when they were part of a title-winning team



(From left) Revi Thomas, Rabindranath Rao, S. Radhakrishnan, Naresh Vassudhev and P Venkatram have served on the managing committee of Madras Boat Club in different capacities over the years.



The Parry & Co. team that won the Challenge Fours Trophy in 1975: (L to R) Rabindranath Rao, Revi C Thomas (Bow), K. R. Ganapathy (Coxswain): S. Radhakrishnan (stroke) and H. T. Bhaskar Rao.

PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

K. KEERTHIVASAN

In the mornings, around 6 a.m., both on weekdays and weekends, one can spot a small group of men who are in their 70s, rowing down the Adyar river, cracking jokes as they go.

They are no ordinary folks. The five rowers, Revi Thomas, Rabindranath Rao, S. Radhakrishnan, Naresh Vassudhev and P. Venkatram, all former employees of Parry & Co., who won medals at major regatta events in the 70s and early 80s, are still at it, waking up early in the morning, going to Madras Boat Club and rowing with all the joy that the sport brings. Naresh and Revi, who rowed for MBC, were honoured with the

prestigious Club Colours.

In fact, Parry & Co. won the Challenge Fours Trophy, a main event in the prestigious Merchants and Bankers Trophy, for two consecutive years in 1974 and 1975. Barring a few, members of that winning team are still maintaining a link with rowing.

S. Radhakrishnan, part of Parry



When we won the tournament in 1974 after 17 years, our managing director invited us to the boardroom and the victory was celebrated

team that won the Challenge Fours Trophy, says it feels great to be part of the sport for 50 long years and still rowing.

“Every morning, we sit together and reminisce about those days, at the Madras Boat Club. Whenever we are in Chennai, we meet and row at MBC. We have been rowing for 50 years now. We are at MBC at 5.30 a.m. and finish our warm-up by 5.45 a.m. and by 6 a.m. we start racing. It is such a good feeling that at 82 I am able to row six kilometres. Of course, the body feels the pain, but it is a pleasurable pain,” laughs Radhakrishnan.

Seventy-six-year-old Rabindranath Rao, who was part of the team that won the Challenge Fours Trophy twice, says winning the titles felt great. “When we won the tournament in 1974 after 17 years, our Managing Director invited us to the boardroom and everyone celebrated. We were thrilled,” Rao recalls.

Rao enjoys the time with his close friends at MBC. “We keep meeting regularly and are close friends. Once you start rowing, you cannot forget your crew so easily. We race for 10 km; there is rigorous training,” he adds.

Thomas is now a member of MBC, as are Radhakrishna Rao and S. Radhakrishnan. The 77-year-old, who was part of the two titles, is supremely active, ready to row at MBC at 5.45 p.m. “It is not that we meet every day, we meet whenever we can. We do row with different members. It feels great to row,” he says.

The senior citizens are not just content rowing, they continue to train young rowers at MBC. “We also love to coach youngsters. It is very satisfying,” says Revi.

READERS WRITE

Illegally parked vehicles removed from Canal Bank Road



The area near Sai Baba temple at Canal Bank Road, opposite Nandala temple, was misused for illegal parking of autos and vans. Several complaints were made to the traffic police. Recently, GCC's AE Kumara-



vel representing Division 123 took the initiative and developed one portion by planting trees after levelling the area. This exercise comes under GCC's social forestry scheme. The illegal parking area

has been barricaded. Now steps are being taken by the officials to improve the second section of this area.

Baskar Seshadri
Mylapore



‘All buses should halt at Church Park bus stop’

The Church Park bus stop at the Thousand Lights stretch of Anna Salai witnesses a good number of commuters. But not all Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses halt here.

Especially, the services to Forshore Estate, Tambaram, Poonaallee, and Kundrathur skip

this stop.

This is inconvenient as commuters have to go to the nearby stops – either to DMS or to Thousand Lights – which are a bit far. Metropolitan Transport Corporation must look into this.

V. Johan Dhanakumar
Bajanaikol Street



Feeling the pulse of a street and a neighbourhood

An open house on March 21, 22 and 23 that is being organised as part of an initiative titled The Pelathope Urban Living Lab will explore the questions of social cohesion and meaningful development in neighbourhoods



Event Details:

Dates & Timings

March 21 (5 p.m. - 8 p.m.)

March 22 (9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

March 23 (9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

Location: New No. 11, Old No. 6, Pelathope Vedanta Desika Swami Street, Mylapore, Chennai 600004

the rich history and cultural heritage of Mylapore.” As the name suggests, the Open House is open to all, and it is aimed at discussing “opportunities to collaborate in setting up a meaningful community design initiative focussed on the neighbourhood scale as part of the urban living lab.”

The open house would be marked by exhibitions, archival showcases, guided walkthroughs, and community conversations (which allow visitors to can engage with architects, historians and residents about the past, present and future of Mylapore).

The communication notes the Open House would witness the launch of two key initiatives: The Pelathope Community Archives and The Mylapore 15-Minute Cultural Neighbourhood Map.

The communication elaborates that the Pelathope Community Archive consists of oral histories from previously unrecorded or forgotten narrators, archival photographs, and documents highlighting the history of Pelathope and Mylapore, organised around thematic areas of culture, community, infrastructure/planning, and ecology. This exercise is underpinned by the hope that the “discovery of unexplored histories will resonate with others in the neighbourhood, leading to alternative readings of Mylapore that can foster a better understanding

of the dynamics of neighbourhood change.”

The communication adds: “The Mylapore 15-Minute Cultural Neighborhood Map is a crowd-sourced document that seeks to highlight the unique cultural heritage of the neighbourhood. This serves as a starting point for creating a broad-based and inclusive (re)development framework that leverages the cultural and heritage assets of Mylapore. The expected focus of this framework includes enhancing the local economy, preserving and enhancing tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and identifying high-impact community projects such as last-mile connectivity interventions and shared community spaces that can improve social cohesion and tangibly enhance the quality of life in Mylapore.”

The organisers are also running a photo contest – Mylapore Through Your Lens – which will be exhibiting shortlisted entries and announcing winners at the Open House.

Two structures would be central to the exercise. One popularly known as 40 Pelathope (which now goes by the new number 16 while retaining its old number 40) is steeped in history; so are the three row houses right opposite this structure. A section of the row houses which underwent a renovation, one that was easy on its original character, will mark the physical space of the Pelathope Urban Living Lab by being a congregating point for residents as well as entities that have the agency to effect positive changes in Pelathope as well as the rest of Mylapore.

A view of Pelathope; and a close look at ‘40 Pelathope’, a famous address on the street. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Though running parallel to North Mada Street, Pelathope hardly shares in its spotlight. Pelathope is a cul-de-sac and its days unspool to a rather fixed script with little room for improvisation. The odds are high that anyone unfamiliar with Mylapore has not heard of

Pelathope (which means “jackfruit grove” in Tamil). Even Google maps would be silent on it: as this old name of the street is overshadowed by an official name, one popularised by Google Maps – Vedanta Desika Swami Street.

Next weekend – March 21, 22 and 23 – is going to be in the public

glare as a result of what is called The Pelathope Urban Living Lab – Open House, an initiative by SKDO in collaboration with PLUS, Curating for Culture, UCAN and Cultural Heritage Narratives.

According to a communication from the organisers, the initiative offers an “opportunity to explore



During a recent meetup held at a member's house in Mylapore where participants played traditional games; and (below) Pushya Sitaraman (third from left) and Jayanthi Sekhar standing next to her.



Old and wise

While addressing the emptiness in their own lives, two sisters, Jayanthi Sekhar and Pushya Sitaraman, have managed to ease the loneliness of many senior citizens who find themselves in a similar situation

LIFY THOMAS

Recently, in an ancestral house in Mylapore, traditional games kept a gathering enthralled. The sight of shells moving across a wooden board revived memories of *pallanguzhi*. There was a game of Seven Stones. Paramapadam and *aadu puli* were among other games that took a motley group of senior citizens down memory lane. Numbering over 20, the group had gathered at the house of a member as part of the monthly activity of Wise Owl Club.

Led by two sisters - Jayanthi Sekhar and Pushya Sitaraman - the activities of the Club are run under the Wise Owl Foundation, a registered body born in October 2023. Wise Owl Club currently has 40 members and is keen on growing bigger.

The forum was started for senior citizens looking for a recreational club that is off the beaten track. The meetups do not have a fixed venue or date - they are held either at a club or a member's house.

The idea to start a recreational club for seniors came up when the sisters themselves were trying to



infuse fresh meaning into their lives.

"Our children are away and there is some emptiness, that is when we thought of starting this club," says 65-year-old Jayanthi, a resident of Adyar, who was helping the family business before starting the Foundation.

The curated workshops try to offer activities that people are really longing to take up or something that they had grown out of but now want to return to.

Book owls, gardening owls, theatre arts owls, creative owls, playful owls, healthy owls and arm-chair travel are the broad themes of these workshops, offered to members as well as non-members.



In the book owls, for instance, participants stitched a story together - each adding a para in what would finally emerge as an audio book.

Nostalgia is a big hook at these workshops. Pushya, a practising lawyer who is in her 70s, recalls how two ladies discovered that they went to the same school and was taught Bharathiya songs by the same teacher during a session to remember the writer and poet.

While experts are brought in for the workshops, in some cases members would volunteer be the resource person.

The cause

Until last year, Wise Owl Club has been conducting two activities a month - one online and the other offline. While the online events are free to attend, the in-person ones levy a nominal fee for workshops as they would entail the purchase of material such as canvas and paint.

The recent one at Mylapore was a free meetup. There were many new faces among the participants.

"If any of our members offers to host a meetup, we encourage it, as that has the potential of bringing a new set of people on board," says

Jayanthi, adding that K.R. Jambunathan and wife Visalakshi were invited as special guides to help participants get their moves right in the games.

The sisters have been trying to pass on the benefits of such recreational activities to an old age home in the city.

"Whatever little we get conducting activities from our paid workshops is used to conduct similar activities at an old age home," says Jayanthi. This year, Pushya says, they want to conduct at least one such workshop every quarter at an old age home

Cycling

is just what this doctor ordered

LIFFY THOMAS

If you happen to see a bicycle with a board in Tamil on it that offers a pitch for cycling as “a cheap and an effective medicine”, then the cyclist is likely from a clinic in Old Pallavaram. The founder of BHS Geriatrics and Diabetes Centre in Old Pallavaram, Dr. B. Hari Shankar encourages his staff and patients to take up cycling to beat lifestyle diseases. He practises what he preaches.

“My staff and patients would have never seen me in a car or motorcycle as I cycle to the clinic every day from my home in Nanganallur, a distance of around eight kilometres,” says Dr. Hari Shankar, who has been running this clinic in Old Pallavaram (as well as one in Keelkattalai) for the last 14 years.

In the morning, on his way to the clinic, he often drops his daughter at her school in Keelkattalai.

In fact, Hari Shankar started cycling inspired by the words of a patient's son-in-law who had a stint in Japan where cycling is common.

To encourage his staff to bicycle to work, the management offers a monthly travel allowance of ₹1000. Besides, it covers expense incurred



in maintaining the bicycle such as changing the tyres and any other unexpected repairs. “Employees have to produce the bill to get the amount,” says the geriatric physician who is a graduate of Chengalpattu Medical College.

Employees not keen on investing in this eco-friendly mode need not bother as the centre has a ready pool of bicycles - more than 20 cycles ready to hit the road. These were bought gradually over the months. “Many are gently used cycles that we got repaired to the point that they look new,” he says.

Time taken to cycle on the busy roads is often a deterrent to switch entirely to this green mode of transport.



Dr Hari Shankar cycles to work every day.



“My staff and patients would have never seen me in a car or motorcycle as I cycle to the clinic every day from my home in Nanganallur, a distance of around eight kilometres,”

Nurse S. Banu is one of them. For the last two years, she has been availing the ₹1000 allowance every month. She cycles close to 10 km from her home in Velachery to the centre in Old Pallavaram, and swears that cycling has been an effective way to lose weight.

Social health worker P. Radhakrishnan, who had a history of health issues, is another inspiration. His cycling habit and work at the centre which involves cutting wood ensures him a good night's sleep. A nurse who comes from Nanganallur is also a diehard cyclist.

Recently, a patient at the centre sought a bicycle and found his request met. Dr. Hari Shankar says he tells his patients and senior citizens that running, cycling and walking are effective ways to beat lifestyle diseases such as obesity, diabetes, sleep apnea, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

“Generally an invention brings solution for one and problem for the other, so we have adopted several practices on a trial and error basis. Like food at the centre is cooked on firewood and vegetables are served half cooked. We get wood from carpenters and from households that are planning to discard them,” he says.

The centre has 50 full-time employees on its rolls and does not like to impose anything on patients and staff.

Like a few of the young female nurses found it odd to cycle with the board so it was removed for them. “One size approach does not suit all,” adds the doctor.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

A music event for a cause

Rotary Club of Chennai Port City presents ‘Mega Isai Kondattam,’ a musical evening on March 16, 6 p.m. at Kamarajar Arangam. The event will feature performance by Mellisai Thenndral Ganesh Krupa Orchestra, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary.

The event will bring together 35 celebrated playback singers including Ananthu, Krishnaraj and Super Singer winners Nikhil Mathew, Alka Ajith, Saicharan, Hritik, and Mookkuthi Murugan, said a release. Acclaimed music directors Sabesh, Murali, and Srikanth Deva will

grace the occasion as the guests of honour. N.S Saravanan, governor, RI Dist 3234, will be the chief guest.

The proceeds from the event will be sent for the humanitarian initiatives, including providing treatment for children affected by Thalassaemia, improving education and sanitation facilities in government schools, and equipping rural hospitals with essential medical equipment, added the release.

For ticket, contact C. Muthusamy at 9444061166.



Workshop on bee keeping

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a culinary workshop on March 20. According to a press release, the session will focus on ready-to-cook food items such as idli, adai, murukku, puttu and a few more. Another workshop on bee keeping will be held on March 21. Both the sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 29530048

CUMTA and StartupTN conduct contest on urban mobility

Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) in association with StartupTN has come up with a contest called Urban Move wherein participants are expected to develop innovative solutions for urban mobility challenges in Chennai.

The contest aims to address transportation issues such as lack of reliable public transport information, increasing traffic congestion, and the absence of a unified database for civic infrastructure and road asset management, says the press release. Hence, the organisers of the contest have laid down five themes which are the following:

Interactive open web map

Developing an interactive web-based map visualizing transit modes, routes, and stops while ensuring accessibility across devices and also suggest solutions for disseminating transit information to non-digital users.

Seamless ticketing

Simplifying public transportation ticketing by designing an IoT or AI-powered solu-

tion that eliminates the need for smartphone apps, ensuring universal accessibility while enhancing fare collection efficiency.

Infrastructure mapping

Creating an AI-driven mobile application to crowdsource mapping and auditing of urban infrastructure, detecting footpaths, potholes, tree coverage, speed breakers, and safety conditions during night using smartphone cameras and GPS.

AI-based traffic data

Utilizing real-time CCTV footage and AI detection to analyse traffic flow, classify vehicle types, optimize signal timings, forecast congestion, and enhance traffic management.

Augmented reality

Developing an AR-based mobile application to map, visualize, and manage urban utilities such as pipelines, electrical lines, sewage systems, and surface infrastructure in a 3D interactive environment.

To register visit:
<https://cumta.tn.gov.in/openinnovationchallenge>

Last date for registration is March 28.

Uninterrupted storytelling

Ramya Vasudevan keeps piling up audio stories through a disciplined schedule of recordings



Ramya Vasudevan

R SAI VENKATESH

Not all heroes wear capes. Not all heroes are known by their faces. Some manifest as disembodied voices. In the wider world, Ramya Vasudevan chooses to be more heard than seen, thanks to an unstinted commitment to producing audio stories in Tamil.

Ramya has narrated over 2,060 stories, and made them heard on platforms such as Spotify. Irrespective of their tone and theme, the stories are bundled together under one brand identity, "Under The Tree". This 'Tree' grew from a carelessly tossed seed. Back in 2019, Ramya WhatsApped a friend her story narration based on a book she had just finished reading.

"My friend nudged me to narrate summaries of books, blogs or personalities through audios as she found them quite appealing. She created a

WhatsApp group and forwarded one of my audios to it. Soon, it branched out to three more groups [this was at a time when only 256 members could be added to one]. And the pandemic happened, after which the number only grew," recalls Ramya, an Adyar resident.

Until recently, Ramya had to keep the story recording session for the fag end of the day as she was on a private firm's payroll. Though quitting that job has freed up time, the overall pattern is intact: she still posts her stories in WhatsApp groups and the Spotify channel around 8.30 a.m. On Mondays and Wednesdays, she narrates Tamil short stories; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, spiritual lessons; Fridays, general short stories; and Saturdays, lessons from any English book of any domain. Besides these, she condenses books specifically for children, and posts them on her channels.

Today, over 700 episodes of her content have been stored in public

and school libraries, including the Anna Centenary Library, the Ashok Nagar Government Library and the Avarampalayam Library in Coimbatore across different parts of the State. Three years ago, with her husband's help, she launched a website (underthetree.me), compiling her audios.

Under The Tree also holds a storytelling contest for persons of all age groups once a year, and distributes prizes to winners. It also honours persons who have made significant strides in literature at the event. "For these events alone, I go looking for sponsors. If nobody turns up, I spend out of my pocket," she adds.

"Some of those who listen to me have turned volunteers for Under The Tree," says Ramya and cites the example of Karpagam, a librarian from Coimbatore, who stumbled upon Ramya and her audios during the pandemic and would later set out to Chennai to visit her.

"I requested Ramya to hand me her audio collection, and approached several libraries, including the Anna Centenary Library, and got them stored there. Later, I started a group for like-minded librarians, and circulated her audios there, pressing them to store them in their libraries as well. I also shared them with my readers, went to schools, formed a group of teachers, and submitted her audio collections so as to get students to listen to them. At one point, we even met the Chennai Mayor to get the audios installed across schools in the city," says Karpagam.

For Sridhar, 64, a retired bank official from Chennai, not a day goes by without listening to Ramya. He maintains a database of her work. He says: "The beauty of her work is mainly her short stories. I sometimes wonder how she manages to find time to do this amid her busy schedule. And imagine the reading she has to do to churn out audios!"

Gated community in Mandaveli celebrates Women's Day



More than 30 senior citizens got together to celebrate Women's Day at Ragamalika Apartment in Mandaveli. Youngsters did *padha pooja* and spoke about the greatness of their mothers at the event.

Fun games and a crown for the participant who won maximum prizes were the other highlights. The event ended with a delicious dinner.

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Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya celebrates a **milestone**

The matriculation school launched its silver jubilee celebrations

Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School (SSK MHSS) kick started its silver jubilee celebrations on March 9 with a grand march. Clad in school colours, more than 50 faculty, staff, alumni and well-wishers gathered at the Radha Swamy Centre of Excellence where the school was housed in its early years.

To the triumphant sounds of the marching band, the symbolic walk began honouring its humble beginnings at the Mandaveli location and wove through the neighbourhood streets to its current campus on East Mada Street in Mylapore.

Chief Guest Srinivasan K. Swamy, president of the National Boys' and Girls' Education Society (NBGES) flagged off the march.

SSK MHSS opened its doors on July 17, 2000 as a truncated school



The rally and (below) guests at the event. PHOTOS: S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

(catering to higher secondary classes) with four staff and 96 students, said a release. Now it has 530 students and 36 staff from high school to higher secondary.

As part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, the school has launched transformative student



development programmes as well as pioneered student-corporate initiatives, including the Springboard Internship Programme, Student Corporate Outreach Programme (SCOPE), Catch Em Young; Placement Programme, and International Education Sessions in collaboration with various Consulates, added the release.

The Springboard Internship Programme provides students with hands-on experience in leading corporations, ensuring they step into the professional world with confidence and industry exposure.

The school has planned special events every month of the coming academic year, added the release.

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Students take part in trade fair

Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women in George Town participated in a trade fair on March 12 and 13.

The students showcased their artistic abilities at the fair through captivating performances, including mime acts, dance, and singing. The display dedicated to Tamil Nadu Government schemes was a key highlight, said a re-



lease. Informative charts and models were presented to give the public valuable insights into various government initiatives to improve citizen welfare.

This initiative helped raise awareness about social schemes and fostered a sense of community responsibility, added the release. Veeru Samy, deputy secretary; Uma Sankar, additional director of Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, and officers from the education department visited the stalls and appreciated the exhibits displayed by the students.

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Women Entrepreneur Award presented



The Rotary Club of Madras East, in collaboration with the family of Late Mrs. Rajeshwari, held the annual Wo-

men Entrepreneur Award on March 6. Every year, the Women Entrepreneur Award is conferred upon a distinguished woman

who has made a significant impact in the business world.

The award was conferred upon Namrata Sundaresan, co-founder of Käse Cheese for her commitment to excellence, sustainability, and social impact, said a release. She was honoured with the Nari Shakti Puraskar by the President of India in 2018.

Namrata spoke about how she and co-founder Anu's desire to start a baking unit for differently-abled women turned into a cheesemaking venture.

Special guests at the event were Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, trustee and director, Sundaram Medical Foundation and Dr. Rangarajan Memorial Hospital; founder and executive director, CAN-STOP.

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