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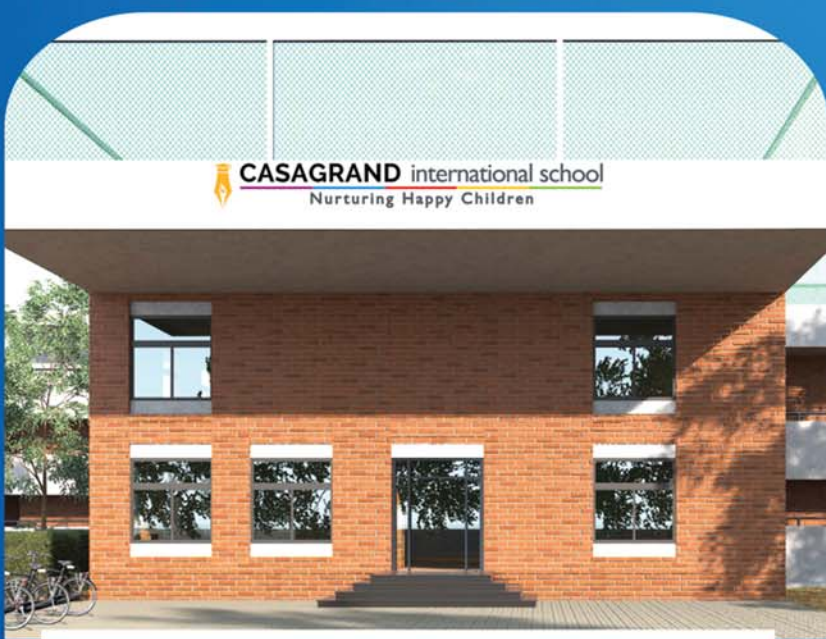
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# Community >

## ROKA's event to clear up the City collects 10 tonnes of waste



By R. Swathi

Residents of Kasturba Nagar Association (ROKA) conducted their 8th edition of the waste collection drive on the Jan.6 and 7 at the Kasturba Nagar Residents Association Hall and Chennai High School, Kamaraj Avenue, Adyar. Like the earlier edition, this edition too showcased new ideas for sustainability at the venues. "Apart from collecting waste, ROKA feels that we also must showcase alternatives so people are aware of them and contribute to reducing plastics," said Janani Venkitesh, Secretary of ROKA, as she introduced the refill truck concept, thrift store and 'Nilayaan' a sustainability solutions provider for kitchenware and composting.

ROKA partnered with Wasted 360 Solutions, Recycle Mart and Bisleri for the drive and collected clothes (including undergarments), e-waste, pens, empty tablet strips, X-rays, footwear, mattresses & pillows, toys and books, bags, glassware, hard and soft plastics and pictures of deities. Wasted 360's refill truck was a unique concept that offered handwash, detergent, floor cleaner

and dishwashing soaps to interested people, with a catch that they bring their own bottles. "The basic concept is to reduce plastics. These liquid soaps always come in plastic containers, thus with the refill truck, we are giving an option to people to bring their own container and refill the soaps," explained Janani.

The thrift store displayed many fabulous dresses apart from books and toys. While the book genres ranged from fiction to children to management, toys included Mindbender games, puzzles and collectables like the Quidditch ball from the Harry Potter series. Nilayaan too gave an overview of the available sustainable kitchenware - cutlery, bowls, glasses, toothbrushes and flasks. "Coconut shells are not biodegradable. Due to their enhanced shelf-life, they can make amazing bowls and glasses," explained Deepesh as he also showed a variety of composters - for apartments and homes, apart from another specifically for pooja flowers.

The two-day drive was packed with not only individuals bringing in their waste but also institutions that gave away products - a catering company gave away more

than a hundred porcelain plates and saucers, a boutique gave away clothes and a hotel gave away cartons of glass bottles. Other items that came in were: iron tables, CRT TVs, washing machine drums, bestseller books including the Asterix and Oblix series and Tintin series etc.

Some of the residence communities, like CeeDeeYes Velachery, Karpagam Gardens and Nawab Gardens collected waste in their locality and sent it through logistics providers. The event saw a footfall of more than 400 people and collected around 10 tonnes of waste.

At the event, representatives from Bisleri also recognised ROKA members for their efforts in the 'Punch the Plastic' initiative. ROKA has partnered with Okapi Research and Advisory (an IIT Madras incubated company) and Bisleri to collect single-use plastic and multi-layer plastic (MLP), from residents of Kasturba Nagar, for recycling. The initiative was started on Oct 11 and till December mid, the neighbourhood collected 21 kgs of plastic. ROKA thanked all the participants, the Corporation and the volunteers from Loyola College's MSW department, for their support.

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## Hamsadhwani Drama series

Hamsadhwani is organising a drama series from Jan.19, dedicated to Founder R.Ramachandran's birth centenary year. Programme schedule at 6.45 pm at Youth Hostel, 2nd Avenue, Indira Nagar, Adyar:

- **Jan.19:** Kalai Ilamani S. Sruthi's Naatya Naadha Nataka Sangamam Presents 'Thazhal Veeram';
- **Jan.20:** Lavanya Venugopal and M.V.Bhaskar's 'thRee' presents 'Paayum Oli';

- **Jan.21:** Legally Yours presents 'Bakkunnu Pathikichu';

- **Jan.25:** Stage Creations presents Kathadi Ramamurthy in 'Pillayar Pidikka';

- **Jan.26:** Dummies Drama presents 'Kaani Nilam';

- **Jan.27:** UAA in association with TOM Mediaas presents Y.Gee Mahendra, Madhuvanathi and Sureshwar in 'Lakshmi Kalayana Vaibhogame'.



▲ Ramnath Mani - President (Hamsadhwani), Rachna Kumar - Vice President (Hamsadhwani) and Sudha Shivkumar - President (FICCI FLO) presents the Hamsadhwani R. Ramachandran Award of Excellence to V. Susheela - Secretary of Avvai Home. Dr Sudha Seshayyan, Former Vice Chancellor of Dr MGR Medical University also offered her felicitations to Avvai Home, and tributes to Hamsadhwani Founder R. Ramachandran. Hamsadhwani members R. Sundar - Secretary and Aparna Gopalakrishnan - Treasurer also participated.

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# Pongal >



◀ Adyar Vyabirigal Sangam conducted community Pongal celebrations on Jan.11. They organised many fun games as part of the celebrations, apart from making pongal in paanai and feeding the cow. M.S.Chandrasekaran, President; Lion K.Veeraiya, Chief Secretary; Lion P.Kodhandapani, Treasurer, presided over the event.



◀ Indira Nagar Women's Association celebrated Pongal on Jan.9 at their premises. A 'Pinnal' kolam competition was held in which members participated with enthusiasm. They also entertained the audience with a kummi and kolattam, sang Pongal songs, and conducted team games. Members worshipped Sun God by offering sarkarai pongal.



▲ Appayya Dikshitha Foundation (ADF), Kottivakkam, as part of the Pongal festival, distributed Pongal gift hampers to the underprivileged people, on Jan.10. The hamper contained rice bags, dals, edible oil and all other essentials, besides new sarees, dhoties, towels and other readymade dresses. The recipients include conservancy workers, roadside sweepers, flower and vegetable vendors etc.



## Balancing Opportunities

% Occurrences with returns at	Rolling 3YR CAGR		
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Nifty 50	2.8	24.4	72.8
Multi-Asset Portfolio	0.0	32.7	67.3

Back testing of the proposed portfolio says that the addition of Gold and Debt to Equity demonstrates that the occurrence of a loss is eliminated when you hold your investment for at least 3 years, and also the portfolio has a high frequency of delivering inflation beating returns. Average inflation during this period has been 6.43% per annum.

Source: Bloomberg; Computation: In-house. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Rolling Returns calculated on a daily basis. Multi asset model portfolio considers theoretical allocation of 25% to Gold, 10% to 10Y G-secs and the rest towards Nifty 50. Equity allocation to Nifty 50 ranges from 50% to 65% based on asset allocation framework using market valuations. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future. The index used is CPI combined (2012 base).

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		Nifty 50(%)	Gold(%)
Taper tantrum	Jun '13 to Aug '13	-6.3	24.6
Correction post election rally	Mar '15 to Feb '16	-17.7	11.2
Covid pandemic	Jan '20 to Mar '20	-28.6	0.7
Ukraine-Russia conflict	Jan '22 to Jun '22	-9.0	6.3

Source: Bloomberg, In-house computation. Gold returns based on MCX Gold Index. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future.



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ADYAR TIMES wishes its readers and advertisers a Happy Pongal. Our office will be closed on Jan.15 and 16.



(L) ROKA's waste collection drive at full swing; (R) A refill truck refilling organic soap solutions and detergents in bottles brought in by people. More on PJ2.

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▲ Rathnam Koothapiran, from Koothapiran Navabharath Theaters, was on Jan.1, awarded the prestigious K. Balachander's Award of Excellence in Theatre, by Brahma Gana Sabha, for 2023.

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# Community >

## New initiatives by Samskrita Bharati

Samskrita Bharati, Adyar is starting free Samskritam coaching that will not have any deadlines, exams, etc. It will be continuous coaching / learning and weekly two classes by the senior most Samskritam teacher of Adyar. Ph: 99400 09869.

Also, their second batch of Aksharabhyasam - Learn Samskritam Alphabet is about to start. Only 10 online classes - one hour each; Free coaching; Just 6 students per batch. To register for batch 3, contact 93800 09736.

## Art Exhibition

Theosophical Society will be hosting an art exhibition by sculptor and artist Hemalatha Senathipathi from Jan.12 to 26. The exhibition will include marvellous sculptures, paintings and reliefs, displayed at the Conference Hall of the Adyar Library and Research Centre of the Theosophical Society.

Hemalatha, an artist, sculptor and painter from Cholamandal Artists' Village, Injambakkam, is the daughter of the renowned artist M. Senathipathi. She has, over three decades, dedicatedly been working in the medium of metal in the form of sculptures and repousse reliefs. Common themes of her metal works range from mythological to abstract renderings of animal and bird forms, evocative human figures as well as masks inspired by African tribal art. She is a recipient of the Government of Tamilnadu State Award in 1991 and 2019.

The exhibition is open on Fridays from 3 pm to 5 pm and other days on request. For more information, contact outreach@ts-adyar.org. The artist can be reached at 99411 42952.



## Atma Bodha classes in Tamil

Bhakta Mandali and Prgnana Prakashika invite all to the 'Atma Bodha' classes in simple Tamil, to be conducted by Acharya Vasudevan at Rathnagiriswarar temple, Besant Nagar. Classes will be conducted every Tuesday from 7 pm to 8 pm. For more information, contact 99622 11726.

## Jumble sale for helpers

Valmiki Nagar Women's Club is organising a jumble sale for all our helpers on Jan.21 from 2 pm to 6 pm. Items will be priced at Rs.20, Rs.50 and Rs.100. Clothes, kitchen items, accessories and bags, in good condition will be put on sale.

Only cash transactions, thus people are requested to bring sufficient change. It is also requested that people bring their shopping bags. At Thillaiyadi Valliammai Madhar Sangam, Kuppam Beach Road, next to Tasty Bakes.

## Online sloka classes for kids

Gurukul Sloka Classes Chennai shall be starting a new batch on Jan.18 for online teaching of Sanskrit slokas for kids. Twelve classes shall be conducted per month.

For details contact S.Sriram at 93825 13825 or visit www.gurukulsloka.com.

## Music competition

Nalaiya Sigarantal, one of the pioneers in grooming budding singers, is going to conduct its 26th Annual music competition on Feb.4 at Ramakrishna Mission Higher Secondary School (South), Dhandapani Street, T.Nagar.

The competition will be for different age groups in three categories A, B and C (5-15, 16-35, 36-70) in both Carnatic and cine vocal. For more information contact Mr Raman at 94444 21264 or mail to nalaiyasigarantal@gmail.com. Registration fee applicable.

## Pongal sale at Cotton House

Checkout the special festive collection at Cotton House, a budget friendly apparel showroom at Thiruvanniyur.

The shop has a wide range of Kanchipuram saris, handwoven Benaras silks, designer saris, Tussar silk with temple



## Pongal collection at Shoba

Shoba, a dress shop on L.B. Road has launched a diverse line of clothing for the Christmas and New Year. This 3-storied textile shop is a popular shopping destination for families in and around Adyar, OMR and ECR for their eclectic selection of outfits for every occasion and every member of the family.

Salwar sets, Anarkalis, kurtas, denim tops, leggings, and other items are available in the ladies section. Their sari assortment comprises silk, silk cotton, Poonam and designer saris. Blouse fabrics as well as ready-made blouses are available.

Men's clothing includes traditional veshtis

to casual and formal wear, as well as accessories like belts, socks, and more. The kids' section features a festive variety for both boys and girls, including colourful shirts with veshtis, sherwani suits, pattu paavadais, gowns, Anarkali suits, and more.

At 74, Lattice Bridge Road, Periyar Nagar, Thiruvanniyur. Ph: 48564477.



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# News >

## Dream India distributes cyclone relief kits to students

Partnering with the Varun Hope For Children Charitable Trust and Celebrating Life team, the Dream India team provided 2000 school students with cyclone relief kits to these schools: CHS Kamaraj Avenue Corporation School (255 children); ADWHS Virugambakkam (171 children); GHSS Alapakkam (1255 children); Vasantham, Udhavum Nanbargal home and SV Home Children (119 children)



During the rescue and on-field work, the Dream India team assessed and found that many children had their notebooks and bags damaged by water entering the house. Hence the kit was prepared, taking stock of the needs of the children with each child receiving: a school bag, 8 notebooks and a pencil pouch along with a stationery kit.

Dream India team thanked Mr Venkat and the team of Vasantham, all the volunteers, and staff and children of the schools for the wonderful support to ensure the smooth execution of this project.

Residents and community organisers in the Adyar area are invited to alert this newspaper to events in your area.

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■ **BESANT NAGAR** 1461 sft. 3 bedroom, hall, kitchen flat, gated community, backup, 1 covered carpark. Hanu Reddy Realty: 8929268639, 7824868459.

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# Letters >

Letters and events are welcome. Please include writer's name, address and telephone number; may be edited for purpose of clarity or space. Pics. welcome. [adyartimes@gmail.com](mailto:adyartimes@gmail.com)

## Elliot's Beach or Elliot's Market

■ Senior citizens like me who have visited Moore market in its prime period and felt the pulse of the market, get the same feeling today while visiting the Elliot's beach.

Nearly half of the sand in the Elliot's beach in its prime area is now occupied by thatched shops selling assorted goods and eatables, providing seating facilities too.

While Chennai corporation has spent substantial money in building the two pathways with some statues in between as a part of the beautification exercise, there are several handcarts placed near the pathways and even a few on the pathways selling all kinds of materials. One feature that Elliot's beach has, which Moore Market did not have, is the number of stray dogs loitering around or sleeping on the pathway.

Of course, they seem to be fed well with eatables thrown away by the visitors. When there are so many stray dogs, inevitably excreta are also there. What is even worse is the number of fish stalls that are spread at one end of the Elliot's beach spreading nauseating smells and forcing the walkers to close their noses with a piece of cloth.

Certainly, Elliot's Beach is one of the most beautiful beaches in the world, perhaps, next only to Marina Beach. This beach can make Chennai proud if it can be maintained neat and clean by the authorities, which is not to be. Anyone who has seen a beach anywhere else would certainly feel distressed at the prevailing conditions in this naturally beautiful beach and think poorly about the commitment and capability of Chennai Corporation, which is supposed to be responsible for maintaining the beach.

This is not the first time that citizens have expressed unhappiness about the conditions in Elliot's beach but there seems to be little hope that conditions will improve, as the past expression of unhappiness about the conditions by the citizens has not made the authorities act. Obviously, the authorities are unwilling or incapable of ensuring that the beach sand would not have multiple and scattered shops.

Finally, there is no doubt that a lot of money has been spent by the Chennai Corporation in beautifying the beach. But, how can there be beauty when cleanliness is not maintained on the beach sands?

- N. S. Venkataraman, Besant Nagar.

## All roads lead to the ration shop!

■ Let me first appreciate the Besant Nagar 2nd Avenue ration shop counter employees for their patience amidst chaos and commitment against all odds in managing the rush while distributing the flood relief.

The ration shops as a whole need total renovation; and the flooring outside the building frequented by elderly residents need levelling and seatings. I happened to witness an elderly lady falling on the ground recently bruising her hand and knee.

There were special counters for respective shops for checking eligibility of flood relief by verification of card numbers in manual registers. Again, it's strange how the majority of cards (even among rice cards) do not find a place in the above official manual printed booklet/register.

The website 'TNPDS.GOV.IN' when logged in, generates an OTP through the registered mobile number and later gives all details about our Ration card and also the Eligibility, date and exact time of receipt of relief if you have received the same.

The left-out people are made to apply in a separate form by giving personal details, which shall be scrutinised and funds shall be routed through Bank account transfers. First of all, why are cash disbursements made instead of bank transfers? There is also no clarity from concerned quarters whether all are eligible for this gesture or only rice card holders.

Many residents were surprised rather than upset when they were denied forms and told that the last date was Dec.22.

Considering the rush and confusion, the public should be given enough time, probably till Jan.31 at least, as it's our hard-earned savings in the form of income tax and GST returned to the needy.

- K. R. Chandrasekaran, Besant Nagar.

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reach this neighbourhood

## Waterlogging in Indira Nagar

■ This has reference to the water stagnation on 1st Avenue Indira Nagar. Storm water drain was laid only recently on this road, however, it has not solved the water stagnation problem on the road. The stagnation is on one side of the road, whereas the drain is along the other side of the road. The stagnation forces pedestrians to walk in the middle of the road, exposing them to road traffic hazards.

The residents of the apartments too encounter difficulties in crossing the water puddles in front of their apartments. The depression in the road on the water stagnation side should be levelled with a slope to avoid water stagnation and to facilitate water flow towards the stormwater drain. Request the Corporation to consider this problem and provide a solution to the issue.

- C. Namachivayam, Venkatrathnam Nagar.



## Craters caused by water cause accidents

■ At the junction of LB Road and Parameswari Nagar 2nd Street, overflowing sewage water has remained stagnant for more than a month.

The problem has aggravated after the recent rains. A huge crater in the middle of the stagnant water has caused many two-wheelers to fall down. CMWSSB must take immediate action and rectify the problem.

- K. Mukundan, Parameswari Nagar.



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## Debris dumped on the road by the park maintenance team

■ I would like to bring to your notice the debris dumping issue which has been happening for the last month on 6th Lane, 4th Cross Street, Indira Nagar, Adyar (Near Indira Nagar Corporation Park). In December, as part of the park cleaning process, all the waste (fallen leaves, bark) that had accumulated over the months was dumped on the road. This is causing nuisance to the residents of 6th Lane and 4th Cross Street.

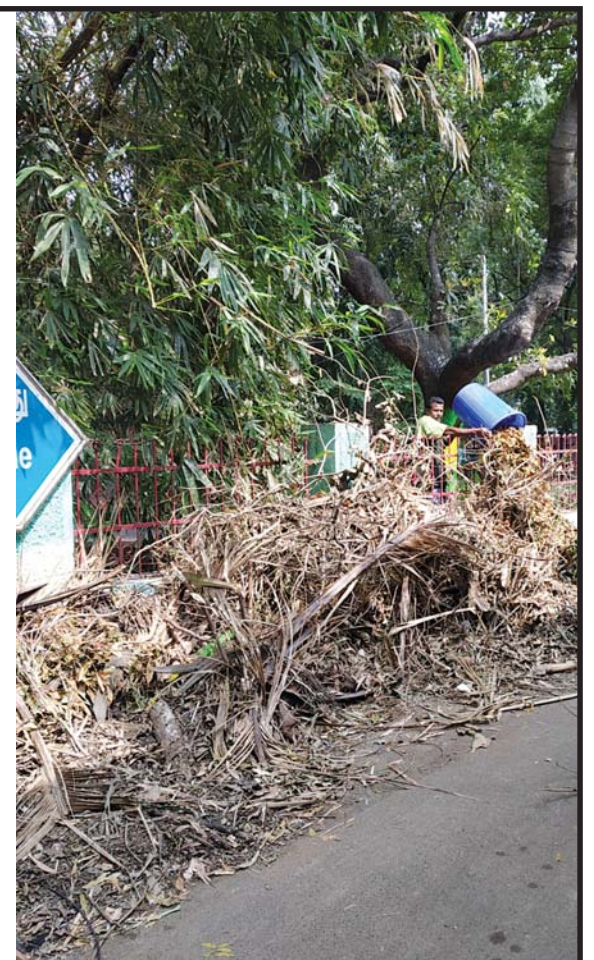
1. The debris is leading to mosquito breeding.

2. It is blocking almost half of the road and causing hindrance to vehicle movement.

3. It leads to the blockage of stormwater drains and hence water stagnates even for short spells of rain.

We have raised multiple complaints and see that the debris is not completely removed and the park cleaning team is continuing to dump on the roads frequently.

- R. Sandhya, Indira Nagar.



# Sports >

## A Ride to Gold

Chennai has become a hub for Horse Riding Champions who specialise in Dressage, which is an Equestrian Olympic Sport where the horse and its rider need to perform dance moves synchronized with music.

The ASC Centre & College in Bangalore hosted the annual Junior National Equestrian Championships. Horse Riding Champions from all over India travelled to Bangalore to compete for a National Gold Medal. The Chennai Equitation Centre prepared 10 champion horses and 10 talented riders to enter the events and fight for the top rankings amongst 500 horse-rider pairs.

The youngest riders amongst the competitors are just 10 years old. These young children can precisely and accurately navigate a 700 kg horse through the course!

Isabelle Hasleder, one of the coaches at the Chennai Equitation Centre explains, "For us, horse riding is not just a sport, it teaches us many important life lessons. When you learn how to ride a horse, you learn how to communicate through your thoughts and actions rather than with words. As a good rider, you need to feel and understand every little movement of your partner - the horse, so you can be in harmony while performing difficult moves. This feeling and sensitivity for the needs of others is a very important life skill that is often overlooked. Horse riding is also about determination and learning to overcome your fears."

In the Children 1 Dressage category Ananya Sajit and Miraya Dhadabhoy both from the Chennai Equitation Centre had a very close finish - taking home individual Gold, individual Silver and even a 4th place along with a Team Gold Medal. Both the girls entered the competition with two horses: Ananya Sajit with Xaria and Knock-out, both female horses from Netherlands who are specifically trained for Dressage.

Miraya Dhadabhoy competed with Escobar and FT. Her horse FT whose full name in German is Fuerstentanz, translates to The Dukes Dance - and when you see this horse performing, you know why! Look out for the horse with the golden shimmer coat.

Many of the riders from the Chennai Equitation Centre (CEC) return home with a National Medal. In 2023 the CEC team had broken their own record of winning 14 National Medals in the JNEC (Junior National Equestrian Championships), making them India's most successful club in Dressage.

"Successful horse riders have to be physically and mentally strong. It takes years of practice and a lot of determination to get back on the horse when you have a fall! It's like in real life, you have to learn how to get up, dust your pants and get back on the horse again," says Kishore Futnani, the founder of Chennai Equitation Centre in Sholinganallur.

The ambitious horse riders dream of representing India in the Asian Games and Olympics in the future. Chennai Equitation Centre is at No.130, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Sholinganallur. Ph: 95000 76968.

### Results:

#### Dressage - Age Group: Children 1:

- Individual Gold - Ananya Sajit
- Individual Silver - Miraya Dhadabhoy
- Team Gold - Miraya Dhadabhoy, Ananya Sajit, Neil Kendall, Inaraa Luthria

#### Dressage - Age Group: Juniors:

- Individual Silver: Sri Tanvi Karthik
- Individual Bronze: Tasha Neethirajan
- Team Gold: Dwijdeep Singh Ahluk, Sritanvi Karthik, Tasha Neethirajan, Geethika Tikisethi

#### Dressage - Age Group: Children 2:

- Team Silver - Kevin Gabriel, KS Dhikshith, Zara Swittens

#### Dressage - Age Group: Young Riders:

- Team Gold: Samanna Everaa, Aadithri Rajaram, Shlok Jhunjunwala, Niharika Jaisinghania

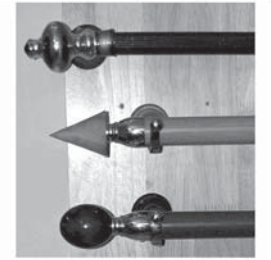
#### Show-Jumping: Preliminary:

- Team Silver: Dwijdeep Singh Ahluk, Saravanan K, Varun Shastry, Rahul Rajesh



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# Tribute >

## Tribute to Founder S.P.Ambrose

### P. Haridas, Thiruvanniyur

In the passing of Mr S.P. Ambrose IAS (Retd.), Founder and Editor of *Adyar Times*, the neighbourhood of Adyar lost a great citizen who made the life of the neighbourhood people very interesting, among his other contributions.

Mr Ambrose allowed his tabloid to speak for himself, could have been his way of ensuring the quality of the paper. The quality and the importance of the paper have grown to the level of preferring it over 'The Hindu' on Sunday mornings for a first-glance of the paper. Another important and interesting fact about the publication has been that it never failed to come for circulation early on every Sunday morning. There had been occasions when I would go around the neighbourhood to catch hold of a circulation boy to collect a copy of the paper a little before it arrived at our residential colony.

The paper has made the job of real estate buyers and sellers a lot easier and could decide on a sale or purchase or rental of properties at a very low cost without the role of a broker. The paper has become a tool to reach out to government agencies to sort out issues that deserve resolution from them. Once I resorted to finding a solution to liquor consumption on an open street by local men in one of the streets of Besant Nagar by writing a letter to the column of the paper; on that Sunday

evening police petrol van started visiting the locality and that brought an end to the issue, at least temporarily.

The space that '*Adyar Times*' has been offering to economically marginalised people like the contract workers of the Corporation remains a noteworthy feature of the paper. The paper contains a lot of interesting articles and pictures besides the letters to the editor column which has taken it up to the level of quality magazine. The paper has come to stay as a quality publication for our neighbourhood since 1993 for the development of various sections of our neighbourhood. One only hopes that that paper ensures the same quality in every publication as a way of tribute to Mr Ambrose.

### Malakshmi Gourishankar

Remembering Mr Ambrose. He did Geology Honours with my husband Gourishankar. From being classmates, they became very good friends. His wife Padmini was a great and loving person to know.

Our house was always beautified by her neatly arranged colourful floral arrangement.

My heartfelt condolences to the family and to the staff of *Adyar Times*.

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