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Tracing the treasures

By YOCEE Team

Going around Chennai can be fun. How is it when you trace the trails online and find a treasure every day to reach the grand treasure on the finale?

Ask the teams that participated in the online Treasure Hunt hosted by ThinkTops (a joint initiative by YOCEE and Bambaram Toy lending library). They would tell you how they cracked each clue carefully after hunting around on Google and Wikipedia and the archives of the city's newspapers.

The Treasure Hunt ACID9 (Around Chennai In 9 Days) was a completely online activity where the registered teams got clues to a particular location on their emails each day for nine days.

The had to trace the location using the Google maps and also keep cracking the clues for the grand treasure of the final day.

"It was like a real race online and we learnt a lot during the hunt," says Betsy, who along with her team mate Bertilla won the first prize. They

called themselves Flutterbyes and are from St. Dominic's Anglo Indian Hr. Sec. School, St. Thomas Mount.



For the team Chennai Super Kids, all help came from their moms. "We enjoyed hunting around as much as our kids did," confessed both Pranav and Harish's mothers!

The kids introduced themselves as

CSK in the award presentation ceremony held at the Children's Club, Mylapore. They are students of Sri Sankara Sr. Sec. School, Adyar.

The set of clues to the Grand Treasure consisted of finding 9 personalities basing on the links on the Google maps and the grand treasure was a place connecting all these personalities. (They were of statues of nine different personalities on the Marina and the Grand Treasure was the Marina Beach itself.)

The top 5 teams won the title 'ThinkTops

Hunter' for themselves, a trophy, certificate, Chennai Tees, mugs, a gift coupon from StoryTrails (www.storytrails.in) entitling them to be part of one of their walks.

(Continued on page 2)

Tracing the treasures ...

(Continued from page 1)

The third prize winners are the team Giggling Jingles - M. Sruthi Abirami and S.M. Srinithy from P.M. Dhawan Adarsh Vidyalaya, Royapettah.

The team Terrific Teens with Pooja and ShriPrasad studying in Chinmaya

Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar came fourth and the team Galatta Chums with Naresh Rengaswamy (MCTM school, Mylapore) and Ram Vignesh (Sir Sivaswamy Kalalaya) won the fifth place.

Poor waste management

Reported by Aditya Karekatte

Chennai is believed to be a clean city, perhaps cleaner than metros like Mumbai, Delhi, and other cities like Bangalore, Punjab, Gujarat, and more.

But in reality, how clean is Chennai? Because, the cleanliness of a place

However, many local shopkeepers are aware of the problems burning wastes causes, and it is only the household wastes from the nearby buildings are burned. The shopkeepers take adequate care of their waste disposal methods.

The Chennai City Municipal Corporation must take steps to prevent the



just doesn't depend on the amount of waste in sight, it also depends on how we get rid of this waste.

Adjacent to a dumpster in Thiruvanniyur, the passersby could witness a rather alarming method of waste disposal recently. Burning.

The garbage is dumped on the roadside and burned, producing a horrifying stink and a shockingly hazardous residue. An ecological disaster, but convenient, nonetheless.

burning of waste, because it's not just the cleanliness of the place that matters, it's also the cleanliness of the air, water and soil.

>>> Are you concerned about cleanliness of your area? Do such issues bother you? Mail us with pictures. Let us bring it to the notice of the conservancy officers!

Hosting events for kids?

Mail details to

editor@yocee.in

We will publish it!

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Founder - editor

Revathi R

Student reporters team for the issue

Aditya Karekatte

Nandini P.S.

Sandhya Varadharajan

Srishti Susan Mathew

Guest reporters

Vasudev J

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Editorial office:

15, 'Sri Padma'
Karpagam Garden First Main Road
Adyar, Chennai - 600 020

Email: editor@yocee.in

www.yocee.in

Phone: +91 98405 44629

The 'Out of the box' *Golu*

By **Shrishti Susan Mathew**

When we think *Golu* the first thing that



comes to our minds is getting dressed in those awfully hot and sticky silks and going to someone's house or inviting people over to see a bunch of dolls arranged neatly on steps depicting mythological scenes, village scenes, dance scenes etc. If one, tried to tamper with them we would be sure to get a yelling from our mothers!

But here it is – A *Golu* with a twist! Mrs. Mala Bharath along with her daughters Maanya and Mahita has come up with a *Golu* made of toys and those are not clay or wooden toys but those which are used by children to play with every day - Barbies, Elmos, Teddies etc.

"My Daughter Maanya wanted a *golu* after seeing one in other people's

houses," says Mrs. Mala Bharath with a laugh. "So she started setting up all her toys. I have just pitched in with ideas."

So, here is how it looks.

It starts out with an index placed outside the house. They consist of a toy from each of the themes wearing a sash with the theme written on it like 'Teddy terrain', 'Barbie

house', 'Toy library' and other such interesting themes.

In 'Toy Library' a set of toys sit reading their books very seriously (they are probably more studious than us!) Barbie's house shows a a gang of friends living together, enjoying life doing each other's hair, talking and reminding us of our own lives.

Teddy Terrain shows a miniature kingdom of teddies watching shows, going to toy hospital playing and watching the world go by.

There is also a really cute scene called the 'Toy Hospital' where there is a fluffy (not so scary) pink python on guard while the doctors tend to their poor wounded patients!! Imagine- a pink python? We can only think of pink panthers!!

The *Golu* really brings out the little kid in you. It makes you want to be a three-year-old again and go and play with Barbies and Teddies, as said in



the movie *Three Idiots*, "Give me some rain, Give me another chance I want to grow up again"!

This is one *Golu* which is 'out of the box' and has kids really interested.



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Musical moments at Kalakshetra



Photo credit:
svanubhava.blogspot.com

Reported by
Sandhya Varadharajan

Some of the students of PSBB K.K. Nagar had the chance to visit the Kalakshetra campus in Thiruvananthapuram to be at the Svanubhava recently hosted in here.

Svanubhava is an experience for connoisseurs of music. It is a cultural movement by the students of the performing arts to inspire, learn and share. The series of events help students to get exposed to the various Indian art forms.

The students heard two concerts. One was by Sri Venkatesh Kumar and the other was by Sri Subbu Arumugam.

Sri Venkatesh Kumar is an Orpheus in Hindustani music. Hindustani music is the style of music sung in the northern parts of India.

Sri Subbu Arumugam is a titan at Villupattu. This form

of art is an old way of telling stories through music. They are based on folk tunes. Villupattu can be mostly seen only in Tamil Nadu. Instruments like Veesukol, Uduk-kai, Kudam and Chalangai were used for background music.

A documentary film about Ustad Asad Ali Khan on that day. Asad Ali Khan was a great legend known to play the Rudra Veena or Been.

The students from various other schools were also present at the event and they all had an opportunity to interact with the veteran musicians and artists.

It was a red-letter day for those who could experience the musical moments at the temple of arts - Kalakshetra.

>>> Were you too at an amazing event? Share the experience with young people like you. YOcee gives you an opportunity to do so. Mail to editor@yocee.in



- How eco-friendly is the festival Deepavali?
- Is it a festival of lights or just of crackers?
- Here is a chance to tell the world what you think of the festival.
- Go ahead and write in your views!

Deepavali - Celebration? Or Pollution?

Essay Contest

Rules:

You should be studying in class 6 to 10

You should choose to write on any one of the arguments - either celebration of pollution, not on both.

Your essay should not be more than 250 words

You should send your entries only by e-mail to editor@yocee.in

You should include a declaration that the essay is written by you.

Your entry should reach us on or before **Oct. 25, 2011**

Flowers add colour to the temple kolu

Reported by P.S. Nandini

A walk around the Kapaleeswarar Temple Tank in Mylapore revealed

past month.

The famed Kapaleeswarar Temple too, had its own kolu, the traditional display of dolls inside the temple



rows and rows of colourful and bright dolls being sold with vigour and enthusiasm to the ever increasing number of curious buyers. Yes, the Navarathri celebrations were in full swing in Mylapore during the

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premises.

Apart from this a separate area of the temple was devoted to decorations and designs done using flowers.

The man behind this was Mr. Srikanth, a resident of Mylapore. He is the person who has created a 'Nandavanam' around three corners of the temple tank. Mylaporeans find it a pleasure to walk on the road along the western end of the temple tank because of these plants.

Srikanth says that the flowers from these plants are the ones which form the 'maalai' (garland) offered to Sri Karpagambal everyday in the temple. He adds that around 20 people volunteer for the maintenance of the 'Nandavanam' by watering the plants and collecting the blooms every evening.

Asked if he would create a similar 'Nandavanam' in another place if given the space, Srikanth replied that it would be difficult as manpower is needed, but said he would be glad to give ideas for the same.

The floral arrangement at the temple was accompanied by the idols of 18 siddhas which are images that were found a long time ago inside the temple premises. A large mirror overhead enhanced the effect of viewing the floral design.

In yet another part of the temple the 5 avatharams of Lord Shiva were depicted in a huge drawing done entirely with grains.

In another end of the temple a temporary stage had been constructed where regular dance and music performances were given as part of the temple's Navarathri celebrations.

This is the time people visit the kolus put up at their friends and relatives place. Also is the time to visit the kolu at God's home too!



>>> Nandini captured more pictures of the grandeur kolu at this temple. View them all online at www.yocee.in

WRITE FOR YOceer!



- ◆ Do you stories of what happens in your school and neighbourhood to share with the world?
- ◆ Do you know of an awareness campaign and think more kids should partake?
- ◆ Do the traffic and garbage in your area bother you?
- ◆ Do you enjoy the sight of a winged visitor to your balcony?

Just put it in 100 words, tag a picture and mail it to YOceer.

To editor@yocee.in

Be a Guest Reporter and get published!

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Updated everyday

Celebrations in the open

*By Vasudev J
Guest Reporter*

Doesn't it feel great to sing in front of invited audience impromptu at kolus in your friends' homes?

Audience who may or may not know you, but you get applause at the end of a single song and rise to instant fame!

These are part of the south Indian cultures.

And here comes a concert that is hosted for three days, during the Navarathri where the neighbourhood community becomes the audience and you get a louder applause!

Beginning the last day of September, there were three concerts on three mornings were held at the Nageswara Rao Park in Mylapore and traditional music filled the air sweeping through the green tender leaves and bright flowers.

Sitting pretty like a doll, young Anirudh from Sri Sankara Sr. Sec. School, Adyar presented an hour's concert on day 1. It

was announced as his maiden concert. He is a disciple of guru Dr. Radha Ramji. He was accompanied on the violin by Parur Ananthalakshmi and on the mridangam by K.S. Sriram.

On the following days, there were group concerts. 15 young ladies, all disciples of guru Padma Chandilyan gave a vibrant concert.

On Sunday Oct. 2, it was a grand violin concert by 10 students of CARVA Rajasekar. Being Sunday, listeners were more and the concert had popular songs that people could hum their way along!

Sunday morning kutcheris have become a regular feature at this park. And all are in natural tones and mikeless.

Mark your dates for the first Sunday of every month and be there at the park at 6.30 a.m.



Photo credit: sundaykutcheri.blogspot.com