

Issue: 1 June 2014 e-Newsletter of the INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE - MADURAI CHAPTER

INTACH – MADURAI CHAPTER
INAUGURAL ISSUE

Convenor's Message



Dear readers,

This is the first e-newsletter of INTACH - Madurai Chapter! Through this, the executive committee members of INTACH - Madurai Chapter hope to reach out to our existing members while encouraging new members to join us. We believe that, jointly, we can do much to create an awareness of the need to promote, preserve and project the uniqueness of Madurai. As you are aware, we are committed to the promotion of Madurai's art, culture and heritage, and have also been making concerted efforts to encourage the young children and youth of Madurai to appreciate their culture, heritage and city.

We invite you to contribute articles, photographs, etc., to this e-newsletter.

This being our inaugural issue, we have ambitiously built it up to 20 pages! However, in forthcoming issues, we will limit this to three to four pages as and when we get content. If need be we will bring out a special issue.

Hope you enjoy reading it!

- Uma Kannan

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMED ON FEBRUARY 2014

1. Mrs. UMA KANNAN
   Convenor
2. Mr. P. RAJESH KANNA
   Co-Convenor
3. Mr. JAYESH J. METHA
   Treasurer
4. Mr. ARAVIND KUMAR SANKAR
5. Mr. R. HARESH
6. Mrs. VALLI ANNAMALAI
7. Mr. M.D.VEL
8. Mr. G. VASUDEVAN
9. Dr. ARAVIND SRINIVASAN
10. Mrs. CHITRA GANAPATHY

INTACH – COMMITTEE (For the Nine Divisions)


Craft, Community & Heritage


Natural Heritage


Heritage Tourism


Heritage Education and Communication Service


Documentation


Architectural Heritage


Intangible Cultural Heritage

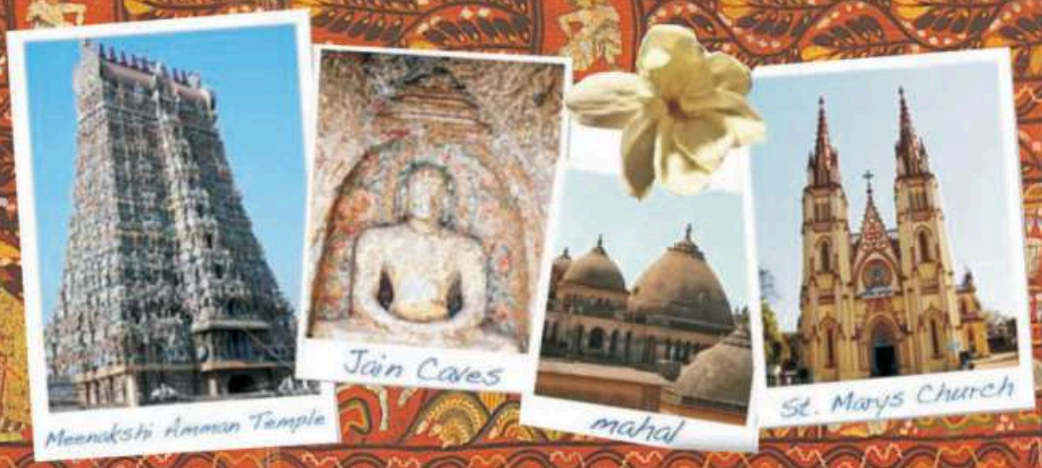

Material Heritage


Heritage Academy

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CONTRIBUTING TEAMS FOR THE NINE DIVISIONS



Craft, Community & Heritage

Committee Head:
Mrs. Valli Annamalai

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Mital Kailas Lalan
Ms. Mahroon Ismail
Ms. Divya Shyam Gupta
Mrs. Visalakshi Ramasamy
Ms. Mathalaimani Asaikani
Mr. Zafer Salim
Ms. Reshma Zafer



Natural Heritage

Committee Head:
Mr. R. Haresh

Member Volunteers:
Mr. J. Shenbagaraj
Mr. R. Durgaram
Mr. S. Nadanagopal
Mr. Saravanan



Heritage Tourism

Committee Head:
Dr. G. Vasudevan

Member Volunteers:
Mr. D. Gunasekar
Mr. A. Sudhir
Mr. Divya Gupta
Ms. Sridevi Murali
Mrs. Bhavani Vel



Heritage Education and Communication Service

Committee Head:
Mrs. Chitra Ganapathy

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Sita Krishnamoorthy
Ms. Sudha Renganathan



Documentation

Committee Head:
Mr. M.D. Vel

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Sharmila C.Ganesan
Ms. Sudha Renganathan
Ms. Sujatha Srinivasan



Architectural Heritage

Committee Head:
Dr. Aravind Srinivasan

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Shanthi Senthil
Mrs. Vasantham Sundaravel
Mr. Jeyesh Metha
Mr. Rajesh Kanna



Intangible Cultural Heritage

Committee Head:
Dr. Aravind Kumar Shankar

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Shobhana Ramachandran
Mr. Manohar Devadoss
Mrs. Nandini Murali



Heritage Academy

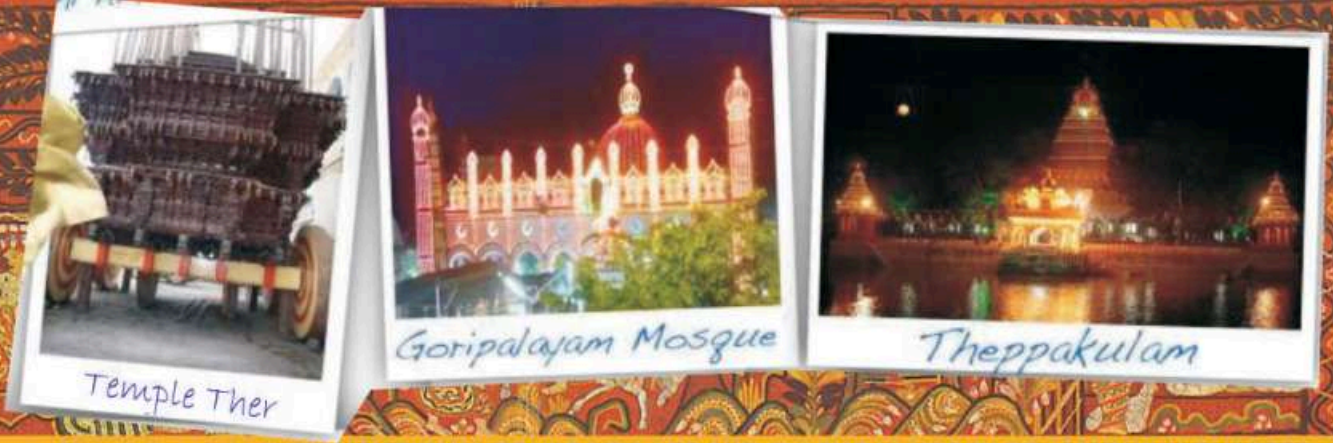
Yet to be considered for formulation



Material Heritage

Yet to be considered for formulation

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INTACH - MADURAI CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

(From February 2014 to may 2014)

Activity : Sky Walk
Venue : Thiagarajar College, Madurai
Date : Feb 8, 2014
Resource Persons : Dr. Venkatraman & Dr. R.V. Krishna Kumar

The skies at night

http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/events/the-skies-at-night/article5685206.ece

INTACH Madurai organized a lecture on the significance of stars and constellations. Historian Dr. R. Venkatraman explained how Indians mapped stars and understood their impact on life. He peppered his talk with scientific facts and tales from Greek and Indian mythologies.



Skywalk, an initiative by INTACH Madurai, illuminates interesting stories about stars and constellations.

"There is an order in the seemingly chaotic arrangement of stars and constellations," says Dr. Venkatraman. "Most of the stars were named by the Greeks and later in the medieval period, the Arabs coined terms for them as they were seafarers and needed to study stars." According to him, Sumerians and Egyptians were the first to discover 48 constellations initially. Today, humans know of 88 constellations in the sky.

"Indians have mapped the sky from time immemorial," says Venkatraman. "The Tamils were traders and they depended on the stars to navigate the seas. And hence, astronomy as we see today is followed and studied ardently in the South." Indian astronomy takes into account only 12 constellations that are present on the ecliptic path of the Sun and the Moon. "These 12 are called zodiacs. The moon passes through all these signs every year. That's how the birth star of newborns is calculated," says Venkatraman.

The study of Astronomy begins with the Orion constellation which is a trapezium with a band of three stars in the middle. "In Indian astronomy, Orion is called 'Thiruvathirai' and is associated with lord Shiva. Indians related stars with major Gods of the Hindu pantheon." For instance, the most beautiful constellation called 'Pleiades' was named 'Thirukarthikai' and was linked with Lord Muruga.

Venkatraman says that ancient Indians named the months and the years based on the positions of celestial bodies. Even festivals were timed based on astronomical calculations. He points out Pongal as an example. The harvest festivals marks the beginning of the Sun's journey towards the north, referred to as 'Uttarayanam'.

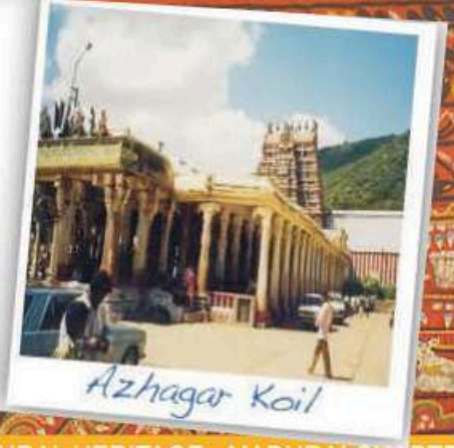
Dr. R.V. Krishna Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, Thiagarajar College, elucidated the theories of atom and space and their relation to astronomy. "It's amazing how people made astronomical calculations in the olden days. They devised days and months just based on naked-eye observations," says Krishna Kumar. "The order of days in a week is based on the movement of planets. Astronomy is a combination of Mathematics and science."

To take the initiative further, INTACH has planned to arrange a star gazing event later in the year.

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Activity : Bird Watch - Birds of Madurai
Venue : PPT Presentation @ Thiagarajar College, Madurai, Bird Watch @ Avaniapuram Tank
Date : Feb 23, 2014
Resource Persons : Dr. Badri Narayanan, Mr. Kumaran Sathasivam (Expert Bird Watcher)

This wait-and-watchgame is interesting

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/this-waitandwatchgame-is-interesting/article5721775.ece



Nature enthusiasts taking part in a bird watching programme near a waterbody in Avaniapuram on Sunday. Photo: R. Ashok

Birdwatchers spot 25 species near Avaniapuram tank

A group of nature enthusiasts, photographers and students descended near Avaniapuram tank, one of the avian habitats on the outskirts of the city, here on Sunday to catch a glimpse of exotic birds.

Around 40 people led by a couple of birdwatchers and equipped with binoculars, telescopes and high-end cameras, braved bushy growth and a rocky terrain to take vantage positions to see the birds. They managed to spot at least 25 kinds of species, including migratory birds from Central Asia.

Kumaran Sathasivam, an expert birdwatcher, said, "Birds like Rosa Starling, Shoveller and Common Swallow were spotted near the waterbody."

Later speaking at a presentation programme held in Thiagarajar College, Mr.Sathasivam said, "Bird watching is an exciting hobby. You don't need cameras or expensive binoculars to become a birdwatcher. Sitting at a point for hours and noticing birds flying overhead itself is a great experience."

Expressing concern over the dwindling number of common bird species such as home sparrows, he said the absence of trees was one of the prime reasons.

Before registration, the participants were given a brief introduction on the objective of the programme. Such events were being held to create an awareness of watching and conserving birds among the public, said P. Rajesh, convener, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). The bird watching programme was organised by the INTACH's Madurai chapter.

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Activity : World of Women - Heels on Wheels (Treasure Hunt)
Venue : Thirumalai Naicker Palace, Madurai
Date : March 8, 2014
Resource Persons : Mr. P. Rajesh Kanna and Mr. Jeyesh Mehta and Organised by 'THE HINDU'

Women feel Madurai is safe

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/women-feel-madurai-is-safe/article5766679.ece





Members of a panel discussion at the Women's Day celebrations organised by The Hindu in the city on Saturday. Photo: R. Ashok

Thanks to its traditional and conservative set up

On Saturday, 29-year-old G. Usha, a mother of two, explored the temple city for the first time.

"Though I was born and raised in Madurai, I had no idea about the historically significant structures that are in the city. The treasure hunt event gave me a chance to get to know my city better," said Mrs. Usha, a participant of "The World of Women" event organised by The Hindu to celebrate the International Women's Day.

Around 75 women took part in the treasure hunt organised in the surroundings of Tirumalai Naicker Palace and Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple by The Hindu along with the IndianNational Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). At the same time as Mrs. Usha and others were hunting for treasures in one part of the city, nearly 100 women took out "Heels on Wheels" an all-women two wheeler rally from Teppakulam to V Grand Hotel near Mattuthavani, where exciting cultural events awaited them. The rally was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner of Police Samant Rohan Rajendra.

More than 250 women were part of the cultural events organised by The Hindu. Vovinam, a team from Puducherry, performed martial arts.Fun games and dance events were conducted, following which prizes were distributed for the teams that won in the games and the best dancers. Following the cultural events was a panel discussion on "How Safe are Women in Madurai". Dr. Rohini Sridhar, Chief Operating Officer of Apollo Speciality Hospitals, S. Selvagomathy, Deputy Director of Soco Trust, Janet Sankar, Professor at Madurai Institute of Social Sciences, and Bimla Chandrasekar, Director of EKTA Foundation for Women, were in the panel discussion moderated by Soma Basu, senior journalist of The Hindu Metroplus.

Madurai is safe for women unlike big cities like Delhi, but it can be made safer, said Ms. Bimla. "In a recent survey, college students admitted that there was no fear of extreme violence, but they were being eve-teased in public places. It is a collective responsibility to make people realise that women have the right to use the public place," she said.

Ms. Janet noted that in a city like Madurai, public did come in defence of women when they were subjected to eve-teasing. Discussing reasons why Madurai was safe for women, Dr. Rohini said that the traditional and conservative set up of Madurai is a positive factor. Following the panel discussion, Dr. Rohini Sridhar distributed prizes to the winners of the treasure hunt.

"The World of Women" was presented by Pink Fitness Centre for Women and was powered by Anjali Refined Sunflower Oil. The associate sponsors were State Bank of India, Lalitha Jewellery and INTACH. The hospitality partner was V Grand Hotel, the radio partner was Hello FM, fuel partner was Sundar Filling Station (IOC), gift sponsor was Roshan Bags and event manager was Rise Advertising Private Limited.

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Activity	:	Bharathanatiyam - Dance Performance
Venue	:	Thigarajar College of Engineering, Madurai
Date	:	March 22, 2014
Resource Persons	:	Priyalatha Arun & Balakrishnan – Dancers
		Pandanallur Pandiyan – Nattuvangum
		R. Gomathinayagam – Vocal
		S. Deva – Mridangam
		Thillai M. Muthukumaran - Violin

Poetry of movement

http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/dance/poetry-of-movement/article5839563.ece?css=print



Singapore-born Bharatanatyam Danseuse Priyalatha Arun Enthralls Madurai With Her Performance

Priyalatha Arun grew up in Singapore watching her idol and Indian actor Vyjayanthimala dance in films and on stage. "I never missed her stage performances in Singapore. She has everything a dancer can ask for, dancing toes, grace and charm, big eyes, the dedication and mastery in the arts she pursued," says Priya.

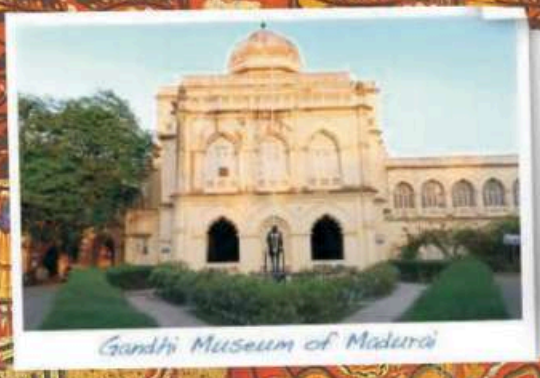
Belonging to a family of lawyers, Priya too became a barrister. But that didn't mean she let go her passion for dance. At the age of eight she enrolled herself in the Singapore-India Fine Arts Society (SIFAS) and started taking classes from teachers who came from Kalakshetra, Chennai.

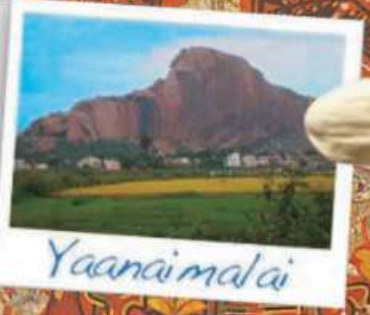
In just five years, she says, she was ready for arangetram and quickly gained recognition for her performance. "I think I was born to dance," she smiles as her dancing career never looked back even as she multitasked, as a barrister, as a wife and a mother and a stage actor.

Sadly, she says for most Bharatanatyam students in Singapore, both in the past and now, the love for dance culminates with the arangetram.

Though the arts are not usually remunerative, Priya never allowed it to take a back seat in her life. She continued her *sadhana* and took Bharatanatyam to a new meaning in a foreign land. "I was the first in my family to practise law, dance and act together, and luckily, found the support for all three," she says.

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FORTH COMING EVENTS

- Heritage Talk on – Indian Culture – An Introduction
- Heritage family retreat to Karaikudi or to a Heritage site in Madurai
- Guided tour of Meenakshi Amman Temple
- Traditional Folk games and sports competition
- Heritage Cookery Demonstration
- Puppet Show
- Visit to local vedapadasalai

INTACH, Madurai Chapter invites…

A travel into the timeline of the world

With Dr. R. Venkataraman

What is culture?

What is civilization?

What was the great discovery of the early humans?

Why was the stone the foundation of early human culture?

Did the stone man have a religion?

Was the 'stone' man artistic?

Come let's meet our stone man, our great grand fathers…

through the eyes of Dr.R.V.

A platform for your inquisitive instinct

Come, hear, interrogate, interact & enjoy…



Let's slip into the Stone Age and discover the good old times.

Intach invites you with family

Venue:

Laico Hall (Lions Arvindh Institute)
Arvind eye care Systems,
Anna Nagar, Madurai -20.

Date:

14-06-2014 (Saturday)

Time:

Starts at 7.00pm (Sharp)
Dinner at 8.00pm



heritage home hunt

Madurai Region

Madurai and its neighboring districts have heritage houses & building which are architectural marvels and many are hidden treasures. In a way to glorify these living movements. Intach Madurai chapter, (Indian National trust for art and cultural heritage) is organizing a 'heritage home hunt' for the region.

Do you or your family own a heritage house or building in Madurai or its neighboring districts? (Madurai / Dindigul / Sivagangai / Virudhanagar / Theni Districts)
(Which should be older than 75 years)
Register at heritagehome@gmail.com
send us a maximum of 10 photos of your house/building (Interior & exterior),
write a few pages about the history of your house and interesting happening, occasions & distinct features which add to the heritage value of the house /building in Tamil or English.
All eligible participants will be felicitated & momentos will be given.
Special prizes for top entries from each district based on the antiquity and history of the house. Presentation of interesting authentic information & pictures will decide. Size of the house or building is not a criteria. (Decision of the judges will be final, they will visit your house if required.)

Date of registration, starts from June 30th to July 30th 2014.

Felicitation function will be held on 17th August 2014, Sunday, Time 11.00 am

Venu : Laico Hall (Lions Arvind Institute)opp. to Arvind eye hospital, Anna nagar, Madurai - 20.

Guest lecture by Dr.R.Venkatraman, (art historian) & Mr.G.Balaji (Conservation Architect)
for clarifications and assistance contact, project co-ordinator, Mr.P.Rajeshkanna Cell: 9443332292,
Mr.Jayesh Metha Cell : 9442103490
visit : www.intachmadurai.org for details on Intach Madurai chapter.

Madurai is the cultural capital of Tamilnadu.
A renowned ancient city.
The Meenakshi Amman Temple, The Thirumalai Nayakar Palace, Gandhi Museum and many other architectural wonders in and around the city from cave temples to colonial buildings Madurai has an interesting story to tell. The living heritage houses of Virudhanagar, colonial homes of Kodaikanal the grandeur of chettinad houses are marvels, to look for and appreciate.

Institutional Partner: Thiagarajar College of Engineering
(Architecture Department)



heritage home hunt

Madurai Region

Intach Madurai நடத்தும் Heritage Home Hunt, Madurai Region.
மதுரை மற்றும் அதன் சுற்றி உள்ள. மதுரை விருதுநகர். திண்டுக்கல். தேனி. சிவகங்கை மாவட்டங்களில் உள்ள பாரம்பரிய இல்லங்களின் பெருமைகளை வெளிக்கொணர்ந்த இந்த இல்லங்கள் குறித்த விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்தும் முயற்சியே இந்த Heritage Home Hunt.
உங்கள் இல்லம் குறைந்தபட்சம் 75 ஆண்டுகள் பழைமையானதா?
ஆம் எனில் Heritage Home Hunt நிகழ்ச்சியில் பங்குபெற heritagehome@gmail.com என்ற முகவரியில் பதிவு செய்யுங்கள்.
உங்கள் வீட்டின் அதிகபட்சம் 10 புகைப்படம் மற்றும் 2 பக்கங்கள் நிறைந்த கட்டுரை எழுதி அனுப்புங்கள். அதில் உங்கள் பெயர்.விலாசம் மற்றும் தொடர்பு கொள்ள தொலைபேசி எண்களையும் heritagehome@gmail.com என்ற முகவரிக்கு அனுப்பவும்.
பங்குபெறும் அனைவருக்கும் நினைவு பரிசு. வெற்றி பெற்றவர்களுக்கு சிறப்பு பரிசு.
பதிவு செய்ய வேண்டிய நாள் : 30-06-2014 முதல் 30-07-2014 வரை.
பரிசளிப்பு விழா, 17-08-2014 ஞாயிறு, நேரம் : காலை 11.00மணி அன்று **Laico Hall, Aravind Eye Hospital Complex, Anna Nagar, Madurai - 20** என்ற முகவரியில் நடைபெறும்.
சிறப்பு பேச்சாளர் : திரு.R.வெங்கட்ராமன்,(Art Historian),& திரு.G.பாலாஜி.(Conservation Architect)

உங்கள் பாரம்பரிய இல்லம் குறித்த ஒரு சில பக்கங்கள் நிறைந்த கட்டுரை எழுத தேவையான வழிகாட்டல்கள் :

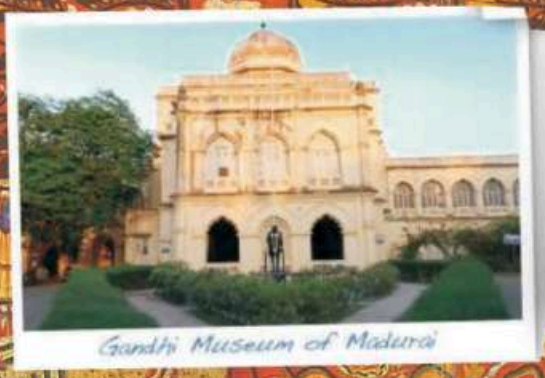
1. உங்கள் பாரம்பரிய இல்லம் எந்த வருடம் கட்டப்பட்டது? எத்தனை தலைமுறைகளை உங்கள் இல்லம் கண்டுள்ளது?
2. உங்கள் பாரம்பரிய இல்லத்தை உருவாக்கியவர் யார்? உங்கள் இல்லத்தை கட்ட உந்துதலாக இருந்த நபர் / நிகழ்ச்சி யார்? என்ன?
3. உங்கள் பாரம்பரிய இல்லத்தில் நடைபெற்ற முக்கிய நிகழ்வுகள் என்ன?
4. உங்கள் பாரம்பரிய இல்லத்தில் காணப்படும் தனித்துவம் மிக்க கட்டிடக்கலை / கட்டமைப்பு என்ன?
5. மேற்கூறிய இவை தவிர உங்கள் மனதில் நீங்காத இடம் பெற்ற நினைவுகள் இருப்பின் அவற்றை பதிவு செய்யுங்கள்.

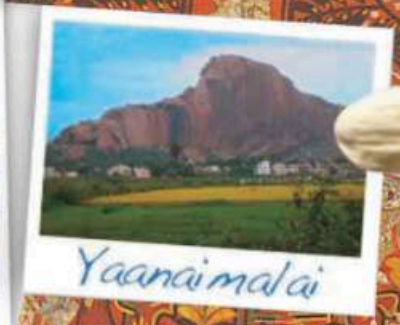
புகைப்படம் எடுக்கும் பொழுது உங்கள் குழந்தைகளை அல்லது குடும்பத்தினர் சிலரை இணைத்து புகைப்படம் எடுக்கலாம்.

மேலும் இவை குறித்த உதவி உங்களுக்கு தேவை என்றாலோ அல்லது உங்கள் பாரம்பரிய இல்லத்தை புகைப்படம் எடுக்க உதவி தேவைப்பட்டாலோ திட்ட ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் P.Rajesh kanna / Jayesh Metha Cell : 9443332292 9442103490 என்ற எண்களில் தொடர்பு கொள்ளவும்.

Winners will be selected on the antiquility and history of the house. Presentation of interesting authentic information & pictures will decide. Decision of the judges will be final

INTACH
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Photography Contest

AN INVITE TO ALL MEMBERS

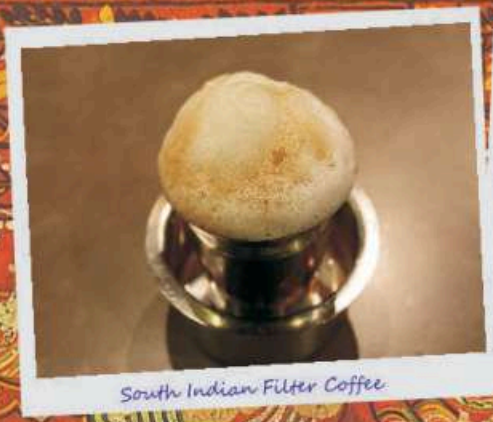


INTACH - Madurai Chapter invites you to participate in the photography contest to be held on August 15, 2014. For further details, please email to mintachmadu@gmail.com

TRADITIONAL RECIPES CONTRIBUTIONS



Members are invited to contribute traditional recipes, which will be included in the INTACH - Madurai Chapter's e-magazine and duly credited. If possible, a photo of the recipe, can also be included. Please email your recipes to mintachmadu@gmail.com


South Indian Filter Coffee


Kuli Panniyaram


Puttu

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TRADITIONAL RECIPES


Mrs. Chitra Ganapathy

KOLLU SOUP (Horse gram)

Ingredients:

Kollu - 200 gms for about 6 bowls of soup
Onion - 1 big
Tomato - 2
Garlic
Pepper
Cumin
Oil(gingely)
Green chilli
Curry leaves
Salt
Turmeric



Method:

Dry roast the kollu and powder coarsely , parboil for 10 minutes in 4 cups of water
Grind the garlic, green chili ,cumin ,pepper into a paste
Chop the onion, tomato
Heat a kadai , add small quantity of gingelly oil and saute the Paste
Add the tomato & onion and sauté , add turmeric powder.& salt as required
Add the parboiled kollu and boil for further 5 minutes
Strain and serve hot.

KOLLU SOUP IS GOOD FOR COLD AND SORE THROAT.



Madurai Jiggerthanda


Appam


Dosai

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VARAGU MILAGU SATHAM (Rice)



Ingredients:

Varagu
Pepper – ground coarsely
Dry chilli
Curry leaves
Channa dhal
Ghee
Salt(as needed)

Method:

Cook the varaguin 1:2 ratio in water in an open vessel and when 75% done, strain and add salt.
Add a little ghee in a kadai, add channa dhal (kadalaiparuppu), dry chilli, curry leave, pepper
Mix with cooked rice with & add the fry item.
Serve hot with sambar.

- Millets are rich in nutrients and are a good alternative to rice .
- High in fibre, they can be included in the daily diet in many forms.
- Ragi, Kambu, varagu, thinnai, samai are some of the more popular millets that formed a staple diet of our ancestors.
- Suitable for semi aridregions , millets were cultivated in "Mullai" – the forest regions of the Tamil country
- Today, there is a renewed interest and awareness about the benefits of consuming millets.
- Ironically the area of cultivation having come down drastically, millets that were once considered the poor man's food, is now more expensive than rice .



RELIGIOUS PLACES OF MADURAI

Meenakshi Amman Temple	**www.maduraimeenakshi.org**
Thirupparamkunram Murugan Temple	**en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thiruparankundram**
Koodal Alagar Temple	**www.koodalalagarthirukkoil.org**
Pazhamudhir Solai, Alagarkovil	**en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pazhamudircholai**
Mariamman Teppakulam	**en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandiyur_Mariamman_Teppakulam**
Kazimar Big Mosque	**en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazimar_Big_Mosque**
Goripalayam Mosque	**en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goripalayam_Mosque**
St. Mary's Cathedral	**www.archdioceseofmadurai.org/cathedral/**



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INTACH MADURAI - LOOKING BACK...

Activities of the INTACH Madurai Chapter from September 2007 to February 2014.

1. Heritage Walks: In Collaboration with Dhan, Jain group and other schools INTACH madurai chapter has had more than 60 heritage walks. (Information is there with Mr. Barathi of Dhan, Jeyesh of Jain groups, Sharmila / Rajesh for schools)

2. Heritage Club in Schools: Started in 2009 by.Sharmila,Rajesh,Uma, Mridula and Vani with 11 schools. It was taken forward by others such as Karthik Manimozhian, Priya Ganesh, Zafar Salim, Gnanaguhan , Veeramani, Swaminathan , Jeyesh, Arvind Shanker etc. There are more than 32 clubs in schools now.

3. Explore and express programs: Children were taken to a monument and after visiting it they gathered in a nearby school and there was an interactive session on what are the facilities required to improve the heritage site.

4. Workshops:
Uma kannan has conducted four madurai Malli workshops
Mrs Illangovan has had more than two Malli workshops.
Kolam workshops
Baratha Natyam workshop
Painting workshop

5. Mural Restoration:
Meenakshi temple
Natham kovilpatti(proposal ready with Mrs.Lakshmi Vadyanathan of Kalakshetra)
Alagarkoil (INTACH ICICI Lucknow)

6. Music Festival: More than 40 different programs during the "Madurageetham " music festival

7. Dance festival: Natya parampara dance festival

8. Seminars:
Awareness program Along with JNNURM
South zone conference

9. Lectures

10. History classes: Two history classes

11. Quiz programs:
Two music quiz programs
Know your capital quiz program by Dr. Suresh

12. Treasure Hunts:
Two Treasure Hunts in the temple
One Heritage Home Hunt in Virudhunagar

13. Saving attempts: Police station, Anaimalai.

14. Project Kadamba: Thousand saplings of Madurai's native tree (sthalavriksha) were raised and planted by the nursery " Madurai green"
It was sponsored by Haresh Ramachandran.

15. MEENDUM: A fete where all the heritage clubs in schools got together.

16. Awareness programs: Mahatma and Madurai

17 Publications:
1)Madurai Malli – Madurai and its Jasmine – A Celebration
2)Heritage treasure hunt
3)Thousand pillars of Madurai
4)Azhagarkoil

18. Talks:

1.Lakshmi Viswanathan	2.Vijay shiva	3.Anil srinivasan	4.Pradeep Chakravarthy
5.Gopalkrishnan	6.Babaji raja bonsle	7.Rajesh govindarajulu	8.Kausalya Shivakumar
9.Mrs.Devika	10.Mr.Kalki Rajendran	11.Su .Venkatesan	12.Sivananda Vijayalakshmi
13.Mr.Manivannan	14.Mr.Suresh	15.Mr.P.T.Krishnan	

19. Road to recycle program: How to use waste plastic along with bitumen and make roads.

20. Sungadi : Sungadi, the tie and dye tradition of Madurai, designed into contemporary wear by Mrs. Sujatha Srinivasan

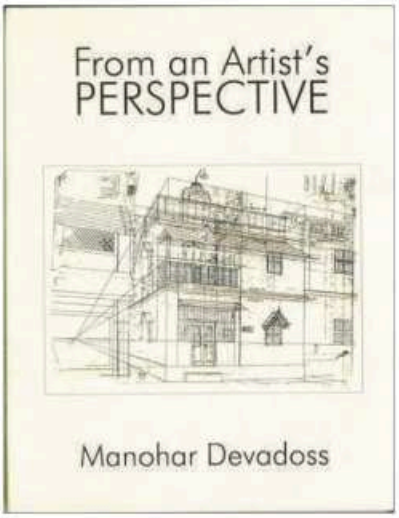
EC Member List: 2007 (Inception)

Mr. ARAVIND KUMAR SANKAR – Former Convenor
Mr. M.D.VEL – Co Convenor
Mr. P. RAJESH KANNA – Treasurer
Mr. Bobby – Secretary
Mr. R. HARESH
Dr. ARAVIND SRINIVASAN
Dr. VENKATRAMAN
Mrs. VALLI ANNAMALAI
Mr. G. VASUDEVAN
Mrs. CHITRA GANAPATHY
Mrs. UMA KANNAN
Mr. BANGERA
Mr. VASIMALAI

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BOOK REVIEW:
MANOHAR DEVODOSS'S LATEST BOOK AND AUTHOR INTERVIEW.





http://m.newindianexpress.com/chennai/273064

From An Artist's Perspective. The book talks about the learning curve as well as the techniques the 75-year-old author has used in earlier books — right from the buildings in his first book about Madurai, Green Well Years, that he has drawn to mathematical precision, to his fascination with trains. "The trains helped me immensely when it came to understanding perspective," said Devadoss, demonstrating how perspective actually works, with a presentation of some of his most intricate drawings.

"I started each chapter in the book with a story of my early boyhood, with a touch of nostalgia — a sapling notion of perspective that grew into trees," he said, going on to outline several ideas of perspective that he had learnt on his own during his formative years.

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YOUNGSTERS' CORNER:

QUIZ, TRIVIA, PUZZLES , KNOW YOUR MADURAI.




young INTACH

MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS

e-Newsletter of YOUNG INTACH

http://www.intach.org/pdf/Young-Intach-apr-june2014.pdf

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TRADITIONAL WISDOM

ஒழுக்கம் விழுப்பம் தரலான் ஒழுக்கம்
உயிரினும் ஓம்பப் படும்



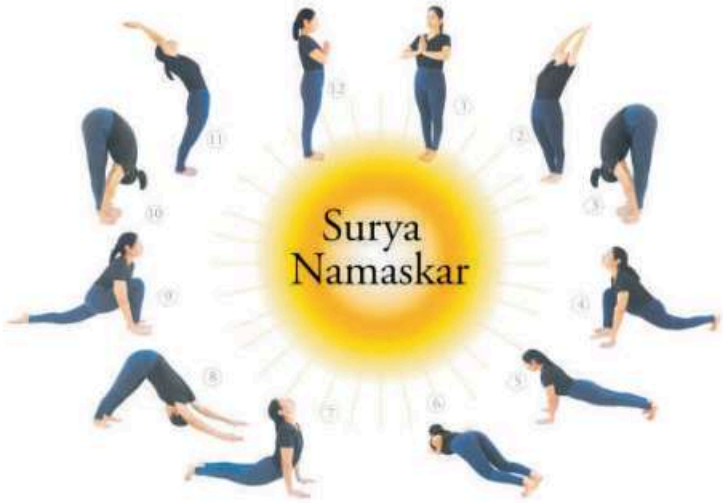
ஒழுக்கமுடைமை சீர்மையைத் தருதலானே, அவ்வொழுக்கத்தைத் தனது உயிரைக் காட்டினும் மிகக் காக்க வேண்டும். இஃது ஒழுக்கம் மேற்கூறிய நன்மையெல்லாந் தருமாதலின், அதனைத் தப்பாமற் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று வலியுறுத்திற்று.

Propriety of conduct leads to eminence, it should therefore be preserved more carefully than life.

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TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

YOGA ASANA - "SURYA NAMASKAR- "A SALUTE TO THE SUN"



Instructions for Practice

1. Om Mitrāya Namaḥ (Salutations to the friend) Pranamasana: Exhale, stand upright, with your hands in prayer position. Steady your body, fix your eyes and look forward and breathe evenly.
2. Om Rāvaye Namaḥ (Salutations to the ever shining) Hasta Uttanasana: Inhale, raise your hands up, gently bend backwards. Look upwards and breathe.
3. Om Sūryāya Namaḥ (Salutations to the cosmic light) Pada Hastasana: Exhale, bend forward, press your palms on the sides of your feet. Look downwardsand breathe.
4. Om Bhānave Namaḥ (Salutations to the illuminator) Anjaneya Asana: Inhale, stretch your right leg far behind. With support of your hands, arch your spine. Look upwards and breathe.
5. Om Khagāya Namaḥ (Salutations to the performer) Adho Mukha Svanasana: Exhale, take your left leg far behind, adjust and stretch. Look downwards and breathe.
6. Om Puṣṇe Namaḥ (Salutations to the nourisher) Ashta Anga Namaskara: Inhale, bring toes under, knees down, hips up. Exhale, chest and chin down. Look downwards and breathe.
7. Om Hiraṇya Garbhāya Namaḥ (Salutations to the golden womb of universe) Urdhva Mukha Svanasana: Inhale, raise your head and chest, lift your thighs and pelvis off the floor.Stretch and look upwards and breathe.
8. Om Marīcāye Namaḥ (Salutations to the power that heals) Adho Mukha Svanasana: Exhale, press your palms and feet, raise your hips and stretch your legs andhands. Lower your head. Look downwards and breathe.
9. Om Adityāya Namaḥ (Salutations to the son of Aditi) Anjaneya Asana: Inhale, bring your right foot forward between your palms. Stretch your back leg. Arch your spine. Look upwards and breathe.
10. Om Sāvitre Namaḥ (Salutations to the stimulator) Pada Hastasana: Exhale, bring your left foot forward, bend forward, stretch your legs and hands. Lower your head and look downwards and breathe.
11. Om Arkāya Namaḥ (Salutations to the essence of life) Hasta Uttanasana: Inhale, roll up, bend backward. Look upwards and breathe.
12. Om Bhāskarāya Namaḥ (Salutations to the enlightener) Pranamasana: Exhale, stand upright, with your hands in prayer position. Look inwards and breathe

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ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS

Madurai is one of Asia's most historic and beautiful cities. Its antiquity goes back to the dim Pre-historic times (4000 B.C.). According to archaeologists, Madurai was the birthplace of Tamil culture and civilization. Some of the oldest specimens of writing in the Tamil language are seen within the caves in the mountains near Madurai. Around the time of Christ, Madurai was a thriving commercial centre, frequented by Roman merchants who came here to buy our textiles. The city was a royal capital for over two thousand years, till the eighteenth century. The city and its environs are studded with temples, palaces and other historic structures. The city is also known for its jasmines, textile traditions and various other arts and crafts. I am delighted to know that INTACH's Madurai Chapter is relentlessly working to preserve and promote the natural and cultural heritage of the city. Soulful good wishes to the Chapter and its unique E-Newsletter.



Dr. S. Suresh
Convener, Tamilnadu State Chapter - INTACH

Very much delighted to see this creative and informative venture of the Madurai Chapter.

We, the Citizens of Madurai tend to take our 2500+ past for granted. I am sure this and other initiatives of Madurai chapter under the able guidance of Dr. Uma Kannan would make us all highly aware of our rich heritage and also realize the importance of protecting and preserving it for posterity.

Best wishes for this endeavour.



Sharmila
Co-convener, Tamilnadu State Chapter - INTACH

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ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS

Cultural confluence



As we all know Madurai being one of the oldest (the oldest according to Mr.Manohar devadas) continuously existing cities in the world has come to cultural crossroads time and again and it has been able to overcome the issues because it is mainly practiced the co existence policy of "live and let live".

For example the Meenakshi Thirukalyanam portrayal of Mahavishnu giving away Sakthi (Meenakshi) in marriage to Shiva that is one of the most popular depictions in almost every wedding invitation today is a classic example.

During that era the Nayaks were vaishnavites who passionately patronized the temples of Sundereshwara and Meenakshi (they were separate temples till Thirumalai naiks period) arrived at this portrayal and popularized it to bring total harmony between the Devi upasakars who practiced Shaktham , Veerasaivas who practiced Saivism and the Vaishnavaities by explaining to them that all three came from the same family.

Another amazing fact is distribution of Vibhuthi as Prasad in the Talakkulam mosque even today. At an era when communalism is causing violence all over the world we must talk about such fantastic practices of Madurai to our next generation that were thought out to bring harmony and uphold brotherhood among fellow human beings.



Arvind Kumar Sankar
Former Convener - INTACH Madurai Chapter

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Towering wonders

Mention Madurai, the first visualization of the city will be that of the towering gopurams of Meenakshi Amman temple filled with intricate figures and engravings. These sky scrapers hold the key to the legacy of various dynastic rules.

The earliest mention of the 'gopura' is found in the Thevaram of Sambandar (Alavai Pathigam). In earlier days, temples were simple structures with sanctum sanctorum, artha mandap, frontage with one corridor. The gopuram at the entrance was usually shorter than the vimanas. However, the style of construction changed during the reign of Raja Raja Cholan-I, who constructed two gopurams in the same direction (eastern side) at Thanjavur. Later, rulers of Chola dynasty constructed one gopura each on four sides.

The Meenakshi Sundareswar Temple in Madurai in all has 12 gopurams in three corridors. The four main outer gopurams in four directions have a grace of their own and stand as a monumental testimony to the artistic genius of hands that worked on them. All the outer gopurams are nine storeyed structures measuring 150 feet each and all of them have their curved and concave sloping sides.

The East Gopuram: The base of the gopuram is a stone structure consisting of two storeys - a ground floor and an upper storey. This was built by Maravarman Sundarapandiyan I in the 13th Century A.D. and was named after him as Sundara Pandiyan Thirugopuram. In the second storey of the gopura there are four inscriptions. These pillars with earlier inscriptions probably indicate that the gopuram construction might have begun under earlier Pandya ruler and completed during the reign of Jatavarman Sundara Pandiyan.

The West Gopuram: Built by Parakrama Pandya in the 14th Century A.D. has many relics of older structure mainly on the ground floor covered with stucco figures of legendary and iconographic nature. Notable figures are that of the churning of the ocean.

The South Gopuram: Built by Sirapalli Sevvandi Mudaliar during the 15th Century A.D. It is the most beautiful gopuram with two tiers of high stone base with proportionate space and recesses. All the wall pilasters of the south gopuram have the Vijayanagar type of squatting lions at their base.

The North Gopuram: Built by Veerappa Naicker, grandson of Viswanatha Naicker in 1600 A.D. Till recent years it was without a roof and therefore it was called mottai gopuram. During the end of the last century, Nattukottai Chettis provided the mottai gopuram with a roof..Besides these four outer gopurams, there are eight inner gopurams in which only the Chitra gopuram has a seven-stroryed structure while the remaining gopurams have five-storeys or less.The other gopurams are Nadukattu, Kadaka, Palaka, Cinna Mottai and two sannidhi gopurams.

Besides these ancient and artistic gopurams, the unfinished Raya gopuram has its own magnificent tale to narrate similar to its stupendous structure.

It lies to the east of Pudu mandapam. Measuring 200 by 120 feet, it is nearly twice the size of the base of the East gopuram. The monolithic pillars of Raya Gopuram are over 50 feet high and mark the high degree of proficiency of the Dravidian stonemasons. Its pavilion pillars, lion-based pilasters and the carvings on the jambs display a keen sense of ornamentation. There are many reliefs (pudaippu sirpam) of Thirmalai Naicker and his queens and a figure of Meenakshi's coronation on the wall of the structure. The structure owes its origin to Thirumalai Naicker.

If it had been completed, it would have been one of the biggest and most artistic gopurams in South India.

S.S. KAVITHA
Assistant Professor of English
***Thiagarajar College**, Madurai*
(Institutional Member - INTACH Madurai Chapter)