www.intachmadurai.org





# INTACH
## MADURAI CHAPTER

*Madurai Chithirai Thiruvizha - April 2016*

*Issue: 6* *APRIL 2016* e-Newsletter of the INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE - MADURAI CHAPTER



*Chithirai Thiruvizha - 2016*



*Bronze Meenakshi Amman Statue with Parrot*

உ

# TAMIL NEW YEAR ISSUE
# APRIL 2016






மதுரை சித்திரை திருவிழாவின் முதலில் நிகழ்வான மீனாட்சி அம்மன், சொக்கநாதர் திருக்கல்யாணம் நேற்று நடந்தது. மங்கள நாண் பூட்டிய பின் மணமேடையில் வீற்றிருந்த அம்மன், பிரியாவிடையுடன் சுவாமி. இந்நிகழ்வை காண திருப்பரங்குன்றத்தில் இருந்து வந்திருந்த பலலட்சுமியும் பெருமாள் (இடது). தேவானையுடன் முருகன் (வலது).


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# INTACH - MADURAI CHAPTER

**www.intachmadurai.org**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMED ON FEBRUARY 2014

1. Mrs. UMA KANNAN
   Convener
2. Mr. P. RAJESH KANNA
   Co-Convener
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**




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# INTACH – MADURAI CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## 12th National Level Silambam Championship




Venue : Kings College of Engineering, Tanjore

Date : February 5 - 7 , 2016

Organizer : Mr. P. Rajesh Kanna, Co-convenor

INTACH Madurai Chapter previously organised Silambam Camps for students and helped them display their skills in the ancient marital art.

Recently a National level Silambam Competition was held in Tanjore for which students from Madurai participated. INTACH Madurai Chapter paid the registration fee for the students and encouraged many of the students who won gold, silver and bronze medals.

INTACH Madurai Chapter has always played a supportive role to encourage this ancient martial art.




















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# VISIT TO TAMIL SANGAM ART GALLERY



Jeyesh J. Mehta
Treasurer

Venue : Tamil Sangam Art Gallery, Near Gandhi Musuem, Madurai

Date : March 20, 2016

Resource Person : Dr. R. Venkatraman, Historian and Senior Advisor - INTACH Madurai Chapter

Organizer : Mr. P. Rajesh Kanna, Co-convenor
Mr. Jeyesh J. Mehta, Treasurer

INTACH Madurai Chapter members alongwith Gujarathi Seva Samaj organized a visit to the recently opened Art Gallery based on the Tamil Sangam Age in Madurai (Near Gandhi Musuem).



Continued...

## Photo Gallery

## VISIT TO TAMIL SANGAM ART GALLERY













http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/society/a-walk-through-the-sangam-age/article8389533.ece









# GUEST LECTURE
# ON
# MUSIC & ITS NUANCE FOR YOUNGSTERS



Venue : Tholkappiar Arangu, Thiagarajar College
Teppakulam, Madurai - 625 009

Date : March 24, 2016

Resource Person : Shri. Anil Srinivasan, Western Classical Pianist

His nimble fingers danced effortlessly on the keyboard and the audience clapped hard hearing the familiar Ilaiyaraja and G V Prakash songs. Then he played the famous nursery rhyme "Twinkle twinkle little star" and the universally popular "Happy Birthday to you" song. The audience nodded in acknowledgement but fell silent when he asked the name of the composers.

And he went on to share the story. The Happy Birthday song was penned by the Hill sisters 225 years ago. Both were maths teachers and apparently wrote the song on-the-spot to quieten and discipline a class of 30 boys. And 275 years ago in Austria, when a 12-year-old boy was blindfolded and made to sit in a room with a pen and paper, he composed "twinkle twinkle" and gave 32 variations of tune in less than 45 minutes. This extraordinary genius grew up to be Mozart.

"In every nook and corner, these songs are known. That is the power of music," he said as the audience cheered.

Continued...

The well known Western classical pianist Anil Srinivasan had his listeners spellbound in spite of a serious sounding lecture topic – "Music and its nuance for youngsters". To a packed auditorium of college students brought together by the INTACH Madurai Chapter inside the Thiagarajar College on Friday evening, he gave a crisp and powerfully engaging talk to make them understand that music is not just a form of art to entertain people and relax their minds.

"It is a science," he emphasied, "with the power of inter-connecting subjects, creating ideas and innovating things." How?

Anil Srinivasan made the evening melodious and musically simpler by drawing parallels between different tunes and combining different musical notes on the key board.

"Music has humungous repertoire but with absolute concepts, he said, adding that "it has the power to convert relative to absolute and vice-versa", and played the Vandemataram song as an example of absolutism in patriotism. And then he mixed different musical notes to drive home the point that how easy it was to combine ideas through music.

The audience not only enjoyed good music but also learnt how themes and variations as a concept are vital to music also because music is essentially an "intelligence construct". "It is not just important how you perform," said Anil, "but important to understand music as a constructive concept and how it can be inter-linked with different disciplines." Much to the delight of his audience he interspersed his talk combining variations of popular Tamil songs with the birthday and twinkle twinkle song, to underline that the idea of inter-connecting various things happens easily and only through music. He shared stories of Einstein, Bach, Abdul Kalam and even housewives drawing kolams to explain that there is architecture, science, mathematics and more in music and how students can learn different subjects through the language of music.

In fact, in Melbourne University in Australia, music has been introduced as a compulsory subject in the School of Science and not Arts, he informed.

For Anil, as a musician he feels it is his responsibility to take the listener to a state of enlightenment which music is capable of creating. In his opinion, it is achieved through the three creative templates – additive, reductive and replacement -- that music offers. He explained how Indian classical music had lent itself to different compositions across the world. The best example he gave by playing My heart will go on from the movie Titanic and smoothly switched to the Mankatha theme song displaying the striking similarities and calling it Mankatha Titanic!

The audience was participative as Anil was rightly able to convince how music is a true experience of multiple things and can be an effective classroom teaching tool as well.

http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/society/learning-with-music/article8396647.ece




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# TAMILNADU CHAPTERS CONVENERS WORKSHOP

Venue : Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore

Date : March 23, 2016



Continued...

# TAMILNADU CHAPTERS CONVENERS WORKSHOP









MADURAI
Saturday, April 9, 2016
THE HINDU
South India's No.1 English daily
variety

# Art that stems from nature

**Once a popular handicraft patronised by the kings of Thanjavur, Netti has now slipped into oblivion. INTACH Madurai Chapter is trying to revive and conserve the vanishing craft.**

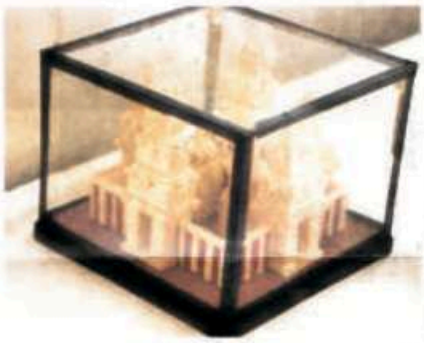


M. Govindaraj pulls out what looks like a long thick stem of a plant, peels off the brown skin of the stick revealing a cream-white inner sheath and deftly shapes it into a smooth cylindrical rod and then slices it into thin sheets. Soon, the long stem is reduced to a small heap of translucent paper-like pieces.

He picks a thin slice, dips it in water and skilfully moulds it between his fingers and an amazingly beautiful malli-poo is made. It's not magic. It's an ancient handicraft called 'Netti'. Once a famous craft patronised by the Maratha Kings of Tanjavur, today Netti is unfortunately a dying art form. Govindaraj and his family are the lone practitioners of Netti in Madurai and probably in the entire region.

Netti is a water reed that grows in the marshy wetlands, the stem of which is light, flexible yet solid, perfect for making models, jewellery and decorative art pieces. In Tamil, the plant is called 'Valarmathi', usually found in the kanmois and tanks. Elsewhere in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, where it's widely practised, Netti is referred to as Sholapith. "Netti is a beautiful art form that comes from nature," says Govindaraj, who learnt it from his father since childhood. "We are a family of traditional Netti makers. Our forefathers who came from the Batlagundu region learnt it from the Thanjavur craftsmen."

Traditionally used in making the dindaram (models of jasmine strands worn by flowers which are used to beautify the Karagam in Karagattam and various other art pieces. Netti needs lots of patience and expertise. "It's a laborious process, as it involves a series of methods. First, the stems are dried and shaved into thin sheets, which are later moulded, shaped, cut or pasted to make different forms," says Govindaraj.



"Even the model of the Meenakshi Temple we see at the Temple Museum is made of Netti. But most people think it is lotus stem."

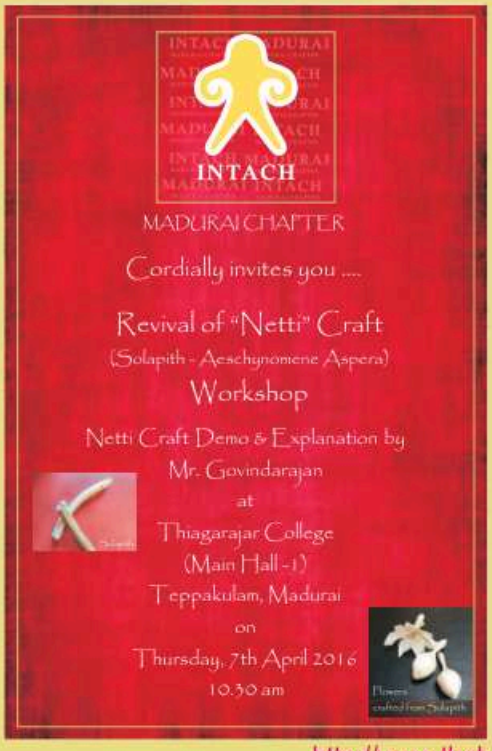
Vanishing water bodies, lack of patronage and awareness for the craft and difficulty in getting the raw material has lead to the slow death of Netti. "Earlier, we used to harvest the stem from the kanmois around Madurai. Now I buy it occasionally from sellers at Sholavandan, but most of my stock comes from Andhra Pradesh. A bunch of Netti stems costs Rs.1000. Many craftsmen have moved to other professions and there are hardly 10 families left in the entire state." "The dindarams is the most sought-after Netti product. They get parcelled to North India, Kerala and places where the real Malli poo is difficult to find. In a month, I make around 400 to 500 pieces and sell a piece for about Rs.70. Other than that, order. But since most people are unaware of the craft, orders have plummeted over the years."

Recognising Govindaraj with a certificate from INTACH Madurai Chapter, its Convener Dr. Uma Kannan, says, "Since Netti is made from an entirely natural and eco-friendly material, it can be popularised among students and children who often use thermocol, plastic, paper and cardboards for making models. We plan to introduce Netti to the students of architecture at Thiagarajar College of Engineering, as they make 3D models as part of the curriculum." Mrs. Valli Annamalai, an Executive Committee Member of INTACH says, "If revived, Netti can be a wonderful opportunity for entrepreneurs. One major reason, we are losing our traditional art forms is the lack of proper marketing." M.D.Vel, another Executive Committee Member, says, "The Netti craft can open up a number of creative possibilities. For instance, we can design and develop Netti-made souvenirs which will find customers in travellers and foreign tourists." Rajesh Kanna, Co-Convener of INTACH Madurai, says, "It's important to save ancient craft forms from extinction. They are very much a part of our heritage."

The INTACH Workshop was attended by students and teachers of Thiagarjar College, Teppakulam and housewives from surrounding areas. For contacting Govindaraj, call 9943787991



A RICH TRADITION *Display and demo session at the 'Revival of Netti' workshop*
PHOTOS: A. SHRIKUMAR




http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/society/art-that-stems-from-nature/article8451641.ece





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# Revival of "Netti" Craft Workshop

## (Solapith – Aeschynomene Aspera)

Venue : Thiagarajar College (Main Hall -1) Teppakulam, Madurai

Date : Thursday, April 7, 2016

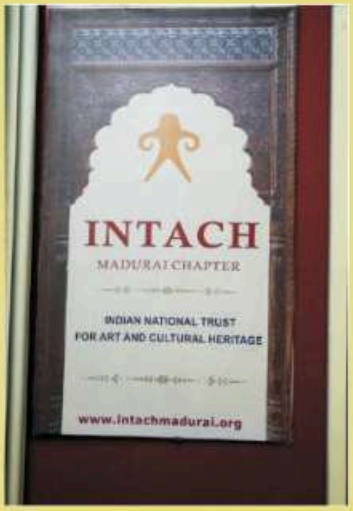
Resource Persons : Shri. M. Govindarajan

M. Govindaraj pulls out what looks like a long thick stem of a plant, peels off the brown skin of the stick revealing a cream-white inner sheath and deftly shapes it into a smooth cylindrical rod and then slices it into thin sheets. Soon, the long stem is reduced to a small heap of translucent paper-like pieces. He picks a thin slice, dips it in water and skilfully moulds it between his fingers and an amazingly beautiful malli-poo is made. It's not magic. It's an ancient handicraft called 'Netti'. Once, a famous craft patronised by the Maratha Kings of Thanjavur, today Netti is unfortunately a dying art form. Govindaraj and his family are the lone practitioners of Netti in Madurai and probably in the entire region.

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Continued...

# Photo Gallery - Revival of "Netti" Craft Workshop





















*Continued...*

# Photo Gallery - Revival of "Netti" Craft Workshop

















*Continued...*

# Photo Gallery - Revival of "Netti" Craft Workshop























# Visit to Thiruvappudaiyar Temple Theertham

Venue : Thiruvappudaiyar Temple Theertham, Madurai

Date : April 10, 2016

## திருவாப்புடையார் கோவில் குளம் (இடப தீரத்தம்)
## புணரமைப்பு சம்பந்தமாக ஓர் அறிக்கை.

தேவாரப்பாடல் பெற்ற பாண்டிய நாட்டுத் தலங்களில் இந்த கோவில் 2வது தலம். இங்கே சிவன் சுயம்பு மூர்த்தியாக அருள் பாலிக்கிறார்;. ஆயிரம் இரண்டாயிரம் ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன் கட்டப்பட்ட இந்த கோவில் பழம் பெரும் புகழ்மிக்கதாகும். இங்குள்ள மூலவரை ஆப்புடையார் என்றும் இடபுரேசர் (ரிஷபரேசர்) என்றும் அழைக்கின்றனர். மதுரையில் உள்ள பஞ்ச தலங்களில் இது நீர்த்தலமாகும்.

மதுரை மீனாட்சி சுந்தரேசுவரர் - ஆகாயத்தலம்

முக்தீஸ்வரர் - வாயுத்தலம்

திருவாப்புடையார் - நீர்த்தலம்

இம்மையில் நன்மை தருவார் - பூமித்தலம்

தென்திருவாலவாய் சுவாமி - அக்னித்தலம்

(தெற்கு மாசி வீதி)

பதிகம் - முற்றுஞ்சடை -1-88 - திருஞானசம்பந்தர்

Continued...

மதுரையில் உள்ள வைகையாற்றின் வடபுறத்தில் அமைந்துள்ளது திருவாப்புடையார் கோவில். திருஞானசம்பந்தரின் தேவாரப்பாடல் பெற்ற தலம்

கோவில் மூலவராக சுயம்பு மூர்த்தியான ஆப்பனூர் நாதரும், சுகந்த குந்தளாம்பிகையும் அருள்பாலிக்கின்றார்கள்.

இவ்வளவு பழமை வாய்ந்த இக் கோயிலின் தென் பகுதியில் அமைந்துள்ள ரிஷப தீர்த்தமானது பராமரிப்பு இல்லாததால் நிறைய மரங்களாலும் செடிகளாலும் அடர்ந்து மூடி உள்ளன.

வரலாற்றுச் சிறப்பு மிக்க இந்த தீர்த்தமானது காலப்போக்கில் பராமரிப்பு இல்லாமல் நீர்த்தலம் என்று பெயர் பெற்ற இக்கோயில் தீர்த்தத்தில் நீரே இல்லாமல் வறண்டு கேட்பாரற்று கிடக்கின்றது.

ரிஷப தீர்த்தம் என்று சொல்லும் இந்த தீர்த்தத்தை இந்த பகுதி வாழ்மக்கள் லட்சுமி தீர்த்தம் என்றும் கூறி வருகின்றார்கள்.

ஆனி 30ம் நாள் 14 ஜூலை 2013 ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமையில் கோயில் கும்பாபிஷேகம் நடந்தும் இந்த தீர்த்தம் ஏனோ புனரமைக்கப்படவில்லை.

இவ்வளவு சிறப்பு வாய்ந்த இத்திருத்தலத்தின் தீர்த்தம் புணரமைப்பு பணிக்காக INTACH Madurai Chapter அமைப்பினர் (Convenor - Uma Kannan, Co Convenor Mr. Rajesh Kanna, EC Members Mr. M.D. Vel., and Mrs. Valli Annamalai) 10.04.2016ம் அன்று, சென்று பார்த்து முதற்கட்ட பணியாக கோயில் தீர்த்தத்தை சுத்தம் செய்வது என்று முடிவெடுத்தனர்.

சுத்தம் செய்வதற்கு முன் அந்த தீர்த்தத்திற்குள் வளர்ந்துள்ள மரங்கள் ஏதேனும் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க அரிய வகை மரங்களாக இருந்தால் அதையும் பாதுகாக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டும் என்று முடிவெடுத்தனர்.

அதன்பின் கோயில் அருகே வாழும் பொது மக்களிடம் தீர்த்தம் பற்றி வினவிய போது அனைவரும் தீர்த்தம் சுத்தம் செய்வதில் ஆர்வம் காட்டினர்.

நம்முடைய நாகரிகத்தை பிரதிபலிப்பதோடு மட்டுமல்லாமல் நீர் வளத்தையும் அதிகரிக்கக்கூடிய இந்த மாதிரியான தீர்த்தத்தை சுத்தம் செய்து அதில் மீண்டும் நீரை நிரப்புவதிலும் முயற்சி செய்யவேண்டும் என்றும் INTACH Madurai Chapter அமைப்பினர் ஆர்வம் தெரிவிக்கின்றார்கள்.

நீர்த்தலமான இக்கோயில் தீர்த்தம் நீரோடு இருக்க வேண்டும் என்ற முயற்சி பலன் கொடுக்கும் என்பதில் நம்பிக்கை கொண்டுள்ளனர் INTACH Madurai Chapter.

Continued...

# Visit to Thiruvappudaiyar Temple Theertham







Photos Credit: Mr. M.D. Vel,
EC Member, INTACH Madurai Chapter






Issue: 6 APRIL 2016 e-Newsletter of the INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE - MADURAI CHAPTER

# UPCOMING EVENT

INTACH

Cordially invites you to a Guest Lecture

on

"Sangam Age Supply Chain Network & Business Intelligence of Ancient Tamil Mechant Guides"

by

Thiru. Orissa. S. Balasubramani (B+ve)

Intergrated Ocean Researcher, Chennai

at

Thiagarajar College

(Main Hall -1)

Teppakulam, Madurai

on

Saturday, 23th April 2016

4 pm to 5.30 pm

In association with Supply Chain Professionals Research Forum, Madurai

# Photo Gallery of Madurai Chithirai Thiruvizha - April 2016



















