

Chennai Journal 1-6-16

Vanakkam! Greetings! Thank you all for your notes! I really appreciate the encouragement to keep writing. Last time I focused on aural senses. I thought this time I would concentrate on the visual since vibrant color abounds in India.

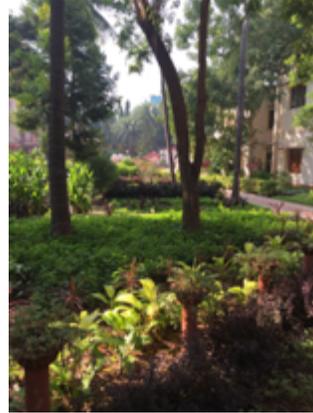
Going into a sari shop is a visual feast. The riot of colors, patterns, and fabrics is delicious. The other day Rama, Ravi and I went to a new shop that just opened nearby and looked at silk saris. I picked out this one and told Rama I would wear it to her son Niranjan's wedding whenever that happens. Isn't it gorgeous? So hard to decide when there is so much to choose from.



After, we went to Rama's tailor where I am having a couple of blouses stitched from material I bought at the sari shop (cotton, not silk!) Here is one of the workers in the shop sewing designs on a blouse border for a sari.



On Sunday, Ravi and I went for a walk around the neighborhood. Sunday's are great because the traffic is so much less that you can actually enjoy walking without fear of being run over. We went to the Ramakrishna Temple and strolled around the Kapali Temple and environs. It's amazing to find such pockets of tranquility in the midst of this bustling city.



The market surrounding the Kapali Temple offers a glorious visual array of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and people. Hard to capture in a few photos – multiply these and you'll get the picture.



It's hard to believe our time here is almost over. We leave for Shanghai this coming Saturday night. In between we have visits and dinners with family and final shopping to do for cooking spices and pickles to bring to China. We have to brace ourselves for the colder weather and the grey skies ahead. We keep checking the air quality reports and hope for a low index when we arrive.

Sending you love with the warmth and colors of Chennai. Lee



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