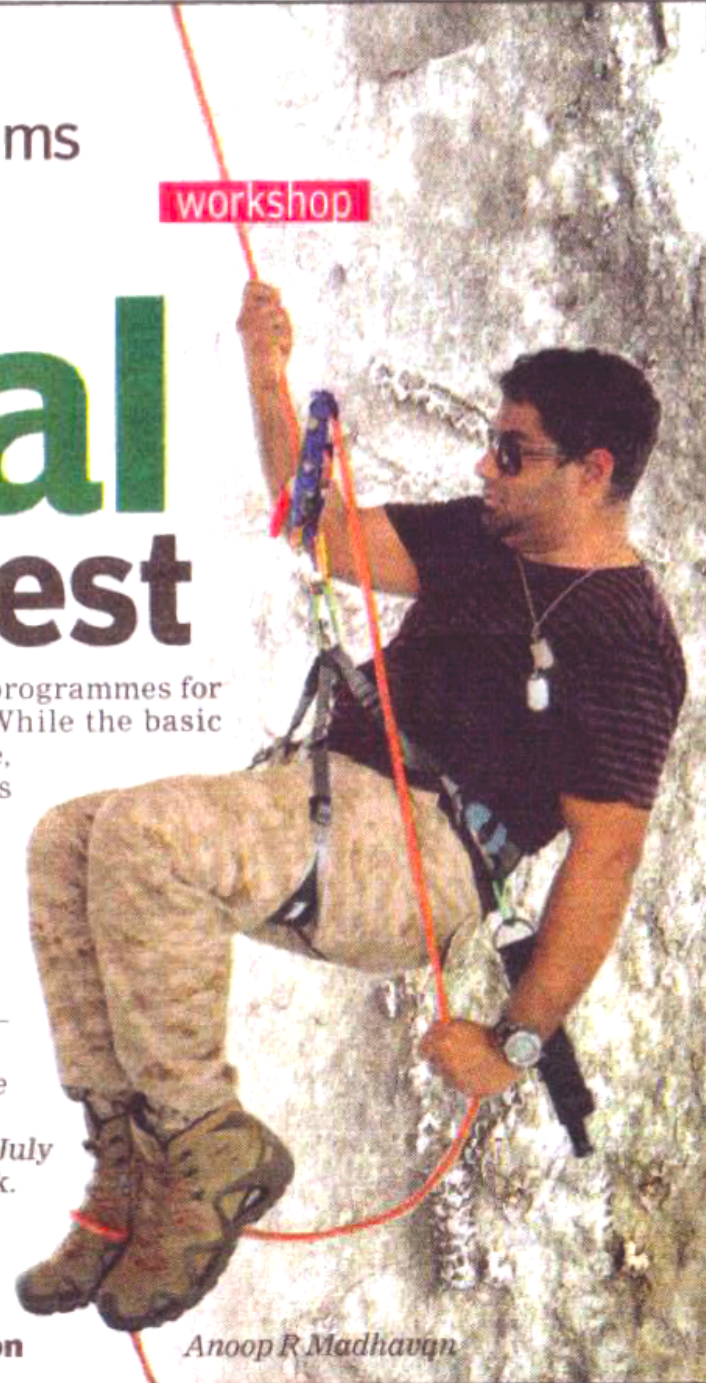


Be it fire or a tsunami, an NGO aims to teach 'emergency' skills to brave tough situations

workshop

Survival of the smartest



BASED on an online poll by Survival Instincts, an NGO started in May, 96 per cent of Chennaites have faced at least one survival situation, but only two per cent were equipped to overcome the same. Read on to find out how the NGO plan to change this alarming situation.

Mission Chennai

Anoop R Madhavan, the founder of Survival Instincts, is certified by the American Red Cross as an Emergency Medical Responder, with real time disaster rescue experiences in the US. Madhavan, an IT professional, reminisces, "After coming to India, I noticed that during the recent earthquake that struck Chennai in April, the employees in my own IT company reacted incorrectly. I also found out (through statistics) that most of the casualties during the tsunami were due to the lack of awareness of what to do in the face of any kind of dangers and not due to the danger per se." The first session, a boot camp in Andhra Pradesh, got a positive response. The outfit now offers workshops in colleges and companies. He says, "We hold urban survival skill training programmes focusing on self defence, first aid, disaster response and psychological



The boot camp in Andhra Pradesh

skills to face natural and man-made disasters."

The next step

Speaking about the road ahead, Madhavan says, "We have workshops to create awareness with the next development being posters and campaigns. Finally, there will be

detailed training programmes for specific skills." While the basic workshops are free, the advanced classes will be charged according to the response and level of training required.

The first Survival Instincts—Level 1 training (free) will take place at Asan Memorial School, Egmore on July 21. Details: facebook.com/SurvivalInstincts, 9176693005

— Catherine Gilon

Anoop R Madhavan