



Dr Nanditha Krishna

For sharing her smarts with Chennai

Whether it's through her school for special kids, her libraries or her books, Nanditha, 58, makes sure that anyone who comes in contact with her, walks away a little smarter. It started when Nanditha joined the CP Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, dedicated to her great grandfather, the renowned statesman, Sir CP Ramaswami Aiyar. Later, she set up the CP Arts Centre. Since then, Nanditha has been working with tribal and folk artists, helping them to produce for a larger market and keeping their art alive. She turned educationist when she started the Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children (SKLC), a school for children with learning disabilities. "There was a girl with special needs who came to me in search of a job, complaining that there was no scope of employment for people like her. This was way back in the mid-'80s, when we didn't know what learning disabilities were! So I did some research and decided to set up a school." The school's premises in Chennai house three free libraries with over 25,000 books. Anyone can go and read the books in this library. Nanditha has also set up the CPR Environmental Education Centre, to increase knowledge, awareness and interest in the environment. With so much on her plate, Nanditha still finds time to write on the subjects closest to her heart—history, culture and the environment. She's currently working on two books, *Sacred Plants Of India*, and *Sita's Story*, the Ramayana from Sita's point of view. ►