

TAMBARAM

Chromepet » Pallavaram » Tambaram West » Rajakilpakkam » Mannivakkam » Guindy » Keelkattalai » Nanganallur » Guduvanchery » Hasthinapuram » Pammal » Tambaram East

Medavakkam » Srinivasa Nagar » Kathipara Junction » Kovilambakkam » Sadasivam Nagar » Potheri » Selaiyur » Sembakkam » St.Thomas Mount » Madipakkam » Urappakkam » Paranur

A new government hospital in Tambaram



Residents of Tambaram and neighbouring areas now have one more place where they could seek medical assistance. On August 9, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated a Government Hospital in Tambaram Sanatorium on GST Road. Built at a cost of more than ₹ 100 crore, the six-storey hospital has 400 beds, six operation theatres, units for emergency care, child welfare, neonatal care and diabetic treatment. A CT scan facility and medical storage areas have also been set up.

PHOTO: B. VELANKANNI RAJ



New escalator approved for Chromepet FOB

V. SANTHANAM

It is a relief to know that the State Government has approved the proposal by the State Highway Department to replace the non-functional escalator at the Chromepet footbridge with a new one.

The escalator has not been serving its purpose for the past six months, causing immense inconvenience to the public, particularly senior citizens and women.

I request the SHD to ensure that the new escalator is installed without any further delay.

V. Santhanam is a senior social activist and a resident of Chromepet

MORE READERS WRITE ON PAGE 6

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Scant regard
for 'No
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board

Vehicles parked in front of a mall on Medavakkam High Road make it difficult to negotiate this stretch during evenings, especially on weekends. A little further on this busy road are vehicles of restaurants that eat into the road space. This image taken on August 7 shows vehicles parked right in front of the 'No Parking Board'.

PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN.

Training session in gold appraisal

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is conducting a training programme on gold appraisal from August 18 to 22 at its premises in SIDCO Industrial Estate, EDII Office Road, Guindy.

According to a press release, the session focuses on essential concepts in metallurgy with the stronger thrust on gold and silver, difference between karat and carat, methods to assess gold purity, touchstone testing practices, and hallmarking procedures and standards. Participants will learn about the entrepreneurial opportunities in gem and jewellery sector and jobs in banks. Those above 18 years of age with a minimum qualification of Class 10 can apply for this programme. For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280

Kilambakkam police station gets a new building

The new facility is located diagonally opposite the long-distance bus terminal

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

The T1 Police Station functioning within Kalaignar Centenary Bus Terminus in Kilambakkam has got a spacious new building - it's located diagonally opposite the long-distance bus terminal. On August 5, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the building through video conference.

Since January 2024, the station has been functioning in a building on the premises of the terminus in a limited space.

Following representations from police officers, the Police Department decided to construct a new police station. The work on the construction of the new police station started in September 2024 by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), said an official.

Touted to be one of the largest and busiest bus ter-

public waiting hall facility, public police meeting room, and a spacious parking area for two-and-four wheelers.

The building houses the Law and Order, Crime, Traffic, Women's Police Station and Traffic Police investigation departments.

The station covers Kilambakkam region, Karanai, Puducherry, Iyyancherry, Oonamcherry and Vandalur regions, and comes under the Guduvancherry range of Tambaram Police Commissionerate.

For commuters, the new building would mean a greater sense of security. The contact number of the station is 8148561044.



Clogged SWD drains; Pammal residents upset

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Residents of Pammal have raised concerns over clogged stormwater drain network. They have requested Zone 1 (Pammal) officials of the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to visit the area and assess the situation.

On August 3, heavy rains lashed the region, resulting in waterlogging.

"If this is the situation for an hour of rain, imagine how it will be during the North East Monsoon rains," says A.J. Arockiyasamy, a social activist and a long-time resident of Pammal.

Residents of Annai Theresa Street, LIC Colony Extension want Corporation to desilt the stormwater drain network before the next rains.

"Due to encroachments along the street lane (the 30-foot street and the lane has become 10 feet), the stormwater drain structure (moves sideways) is not able to take in the water," says C. Raamesh, another resident.

Outside an apartment on the street, a vehicular ramp has been constructed on the network, preventing workers from taking up desilting exercise.

Residents want trash from the drains cleaned and silt removed immediately or it would go back to the drain making the exercise futile.

As the stretch is a vital road that facilitates connectivity to a nearby school, parents are anxious. In the past, school students have skid and fallen.

As the road was not milled before laying, residents fear water would enter their homes.



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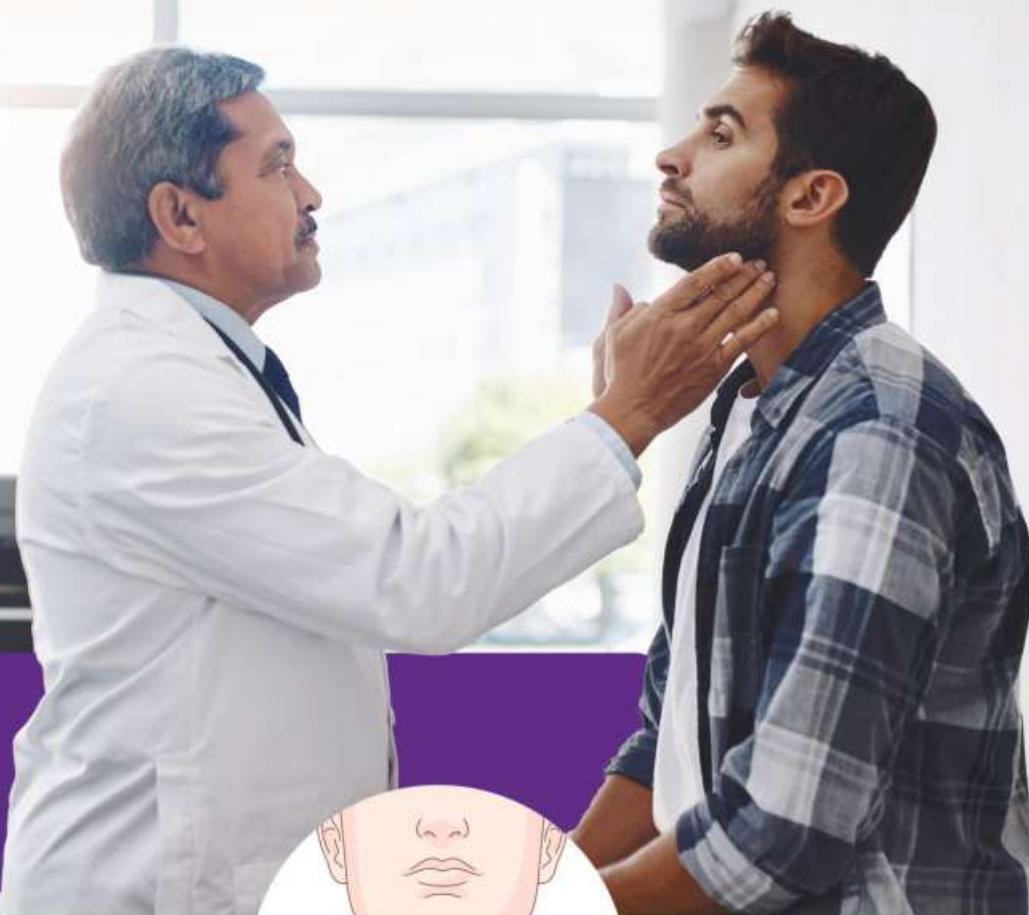


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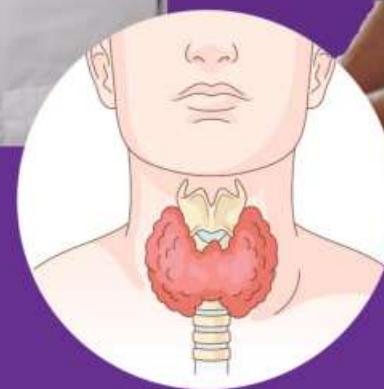
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There is a case for introducing *Terminalia arjuna* trees along waterways. Two trees from this species found at the MLAs Hostel in Chepauk show why this should be done

PRINCE FREDERICK

What the reader sees in these pictures is affected by perspective distortion, the inevitable result of scrunching a three-dimensional reality into a flat, two-dimensional visual representation.

The two trees are not being represented as they truly are, their trunks far more massive in reality than they appear in those frames. When they have grown to maturity and exploited their full potential, Neermaruthu trees (*Terminalia arjuna*) stand tall and robust, exuding a presence comparable to celluloid superstars known to fill a screen. With its imposing stature, massive, smooth white trunk and the bough making for a dense canopy and the subsidiary branches simulating a skyward-bound cracker returning to *terra firma* in a shower of colour and light, a Neermaruthu is sure to force a passerby to take notice of it.

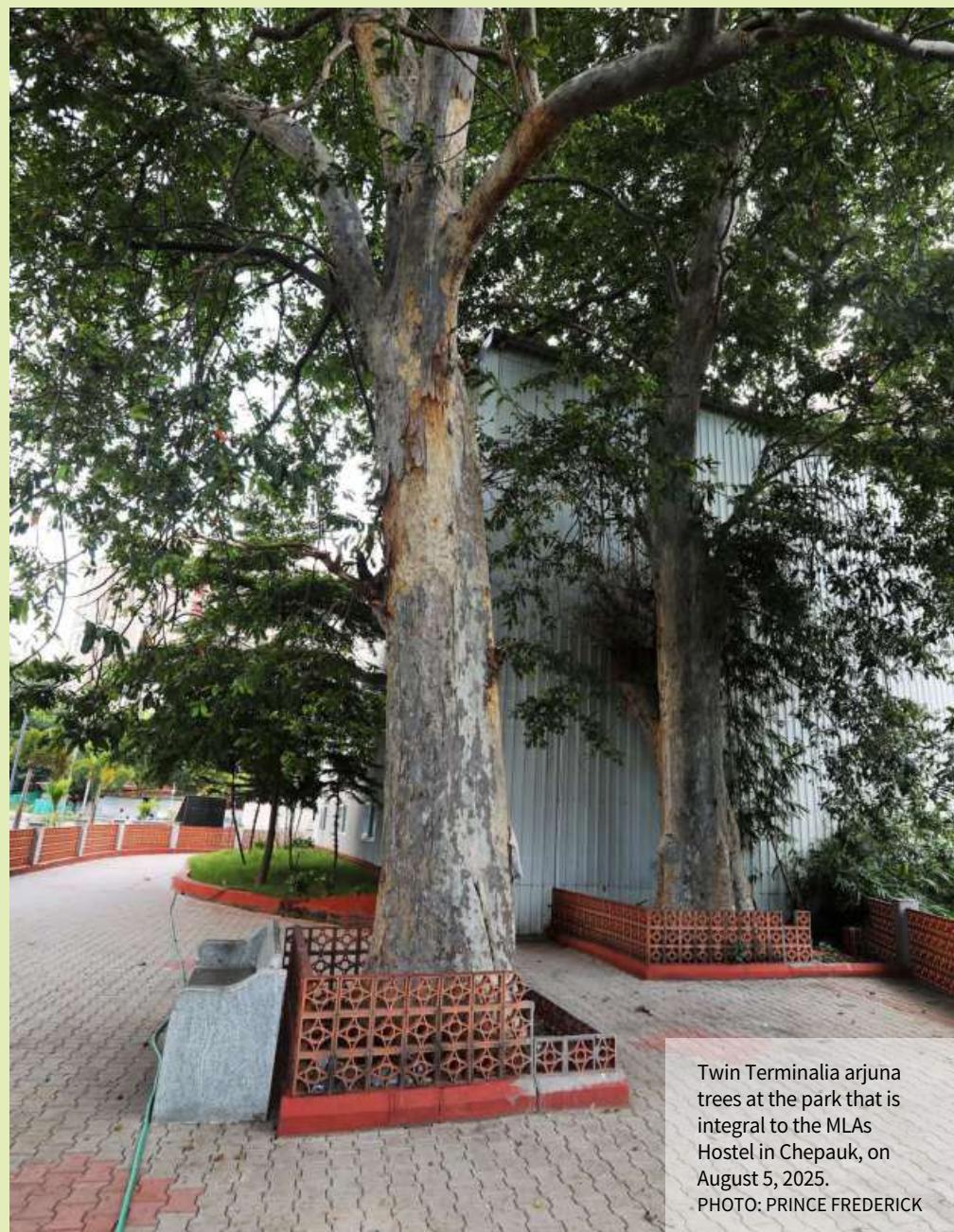
These two trees in the images achieve that effect, bringing out the paparazzi in most people. These Arjuna trees (another name for Neermaruthu trees) have the same door number as the MLAs Hostel in Chepauk, accessible via Sivamanda Salai as well as Wallajah Salai. They are domiciled in a park at the Hostel. If one chose to reach it via the former road, they would understand this species' essential character in a practical, unambiguous manner.

In times when landscapes were left to themselves, Neermaruthu trees thrived along waterways and riverine systems, coastal and inland. They are identified with coastal wetlands.

Sivamanda Salai is a jogging partner for the Cooum river in Chepauk; they run alongside each other. The Cooum as known to us now might be icky, but there is a recorded past when it did flow more swiftly with clearer waters.

"These twin Neermaruthu trees, as also one on the opposite side, at the MLAs Hostel premises occurred naturally, and were not planted. And

Standing tall and robust



Twin *Terminalia arjuna* trees at the park that is integral to the MLAs Hostel in Chepauk, on August 5, 2025.
PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

they serve as an indicator species, decoding the arboreal past of the landscape," says T.D. Babu, member of Chennai District Green Committee and a key member of tree conservation organisation Nizhal. "Their presence along waterways is the result of the flowing waters dispersing the seeds. The seed is dispersed through water as the fruit is woody and float and get accumulated along the banks and starts germinating."

Neermaruthu trees have as much utilitarian value as aesthetic value. Babu notes that the oval-shaped leaves of the Neermaruthu is staple diet of the South Indian small tussore (*Antherea phapia*), a moth providing tussar silk.

Babu calls the two trees at the MLAs Hostel twin trees. And, they sure come across as identical twins, if you ignore the fact that one has a lop-sided look, its branches on one side restrained by the presence of an artificial structure.

Babu says before this structure (which in fact is a wall made of metal sheet that is part

of a badminton stadium) came up, this tree also had free-flowing branches, and together they twinned to the hilt.

Ahead of Madras Day, *The Hindu Downtown* will be presenting stories about "residents" of this city that have been around for decades, are rare and stubbornly ignored. Some of them find their numbers dwindling at a rapid rate and their human neighbours are oblivious to that fact

of Neermaruthu barks in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicine for heart health."

Looking at the twin trees at the MLAs Hostel, one notices exfoliation, the barks that are peeling off seemingly inviting one to make use of them. Says Babu, "Vagbatta emphasised the role of Neermaruthu trees in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicine for heart health."

Exotic trees have become naturalised in their adopted

landscapes and are readily identified. The Roughbark lignum-vitae has not achieved that level of familiarity in Chennai; there is just a scattering of them in the city. And this clutch needs to be zealously guarded as this tree is faced with dwindling numbers everywhere. It is rare not just in Chennai, but even in lands where it is considered native. According to IUCN, the tree is endangered, exploitation of the tree for its wood having reached the tipping point.

T.D. Babu, member of Chennai District Green Committee and a Nizhal asso-

ciate, underlines its special feature – "this tree has the densest wood in the world". When these facts are lined up, one would expect more care to be given to the clutch of Roughbark lignum-vitae trees found in Chennai.

One of them has the Queen Mary's College Campus for an address. Babu notes that the base of the tree has suffered damage, not natural but human-inflicted in the past. It also displays "wounds" further up its gnarled frame – an amputated branch. Babu wants the state of the tree's precincts to reflect its preciousness. Currently, the earth it stands in is overrun with weeds. This is the status report about this tree at Queen Mary's College campus as on August 8, 2025. Besides, on that day, this Roughbark lignum-vitae was wearing a nameboard not meant for it; one erroneously identifying it as a *Ficus benghalensis* (banyan tree).

Babu observes that besides the campus of Queen Mary's College, the Rostrevor Garden, a residential locality with railway housing in Teynampet, Kalakshetra

campus in Thiruvanmiyur and Lady Willingdon Institute of Advanced Study in Education on Kamarajar Salai in Chepauk has a Roughbark lignum-vitae each.

The CMWSSB advisory has asked consumers to not pay the pending taxes through these methods, and that if any calls come in, they should be cautious and not respond to them. Consumers should make payments through



A Roughbark lignum-vitae at Queen Mary's College. Photos: Prince Frederick

A peek into the city's natural history

An endangered tree staying at a college campus

Roughbark lignum-vitae which finds itself close to the brink has a representative at Queen Mary's College

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The surest way to lose something valuable is to persist in ignorance about its value. Viewed from an ecological viewpoint, Roughbark lignum-vitae (*Guaiacum officinale*) might not belong to these parts. But if one accorded natural history the place it deserves but is often denied, sometimes wilfully, this Roughbark lignum-vitae needs to be made welcome, felt at home in the handful of earth in Chennai it has claimed as its own.

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Book CMRL tickets now on Uber App

Chennai Metro Rail Limited has collaborated with Uber via Uber app to enable Uber app users to plan their metro journeys, purchase QR-based tickets and access real-time transit information.

This functionality has been enabled through Open Network for Digital Commerce's (ONDC) interoperable network, connecting Uber with public transport infrastructure, said a press release issued by the CMRL. As a promotional offer, Uber is offering a 50 percent discount for tickets purchased through the app to attract more commuters to their platform.

The offer is valid this month and does not apply to any other CMRL ticketing platforms or services.

Entries invited for MTC's Madras Day contests



Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) is inviting entries for a short-film contest titled Madras Reel that is based on the theme 'Oru Perundhin Kadhai'.

Participants should tell a story about Chennai and its lifeline, MTC, and the vital role it plays, says a press release from MTC.

The film could be about daily life, memories, emotions, dreams or the city's unique culture seen in the context of a bus journey, the press release adds.

The film can be fictional; or a documentary or experimental and should run for a maximum

of three minutes.

There is also a photography contest (as part of Madras Day) on the theme 'En Payanam, En Kadhai', where participants should capture candid, artistic or everyday moments involving MTC buses, commuters, or cityscapes featuring public transport.

In addition, a poetry contest titled 'Namma Chennai Bus' is also on. The last date for submission of entries is August 15.

For details, visit <https://x.com/MtcChennai> to scan the code to send the entries.

CMWSSB's advisory to consumers

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has issued an advisory urging its consumers to pay 'Water and Sewerage Taxes' through its authorised payment methods. The advisory comes amidst complaints by consumers that people posing as CMWSSB staff call and ask them to pay pending taxes to numbers linked to bank accounts with UPI facility via Gpay, PhonePe, and Paytm or any other UPI app. They note that in the event of failure to pay the taxes, water and sewerage connections will be disconnected.

The CMWSSB advisory has asked consumers to not pay the pending taxes through these methods, and that if any calls come in, they should be cautious and not respond to them. Consumers should make payments through

the CMWSSB website (cmwssb.tn.gov.in) or the direct billing portal <https://bnc.chennaimetrowater.in/#/public/cus-login>.

The payments can be made through UPI apps under the utilities category under Bill payments option, by selecting CMWSSB, entering the bill number and phone number. Consumers can pay taxes through a cheque, demand draft, credit and debit cards at the tax counters in the 15 zonal offices and at the head office. They can make payments by scanning the BBPS QR at the tax collection centre and through the iPOS machines with the depot managers, the release adds. Further, the Board will not be liable for any financial loss suffered due to a fraudulent transaction.

For queries, consumers are requested to call 044 - 4567 4567.



'Lay a proper road at Ford LC'

Recently, Southern Railway relaid the second and third tracks at Level Crossing 40 in Maraimalai Nagar. They should next lay the first track area and the road between the second and third tracks.

The stones on the first track area are broken and motorists have a tough time negotiating a stony path.

Recently, a woman rider almost lost her balance; fortunately, she did not fall.

M. Bhavani is a resident of Maraimalai Nagar

'Improve amenities at Tambaram railway station'

Tambaram railway station is the third terminal in the city, but that seems to be only a namesake.

The Southern Railway has to do more to make the station passenger-friendly. The escalators have been facilitated only for electric train commuters. Senior citizens

find it extremely difficult to take the stairs with luggage. There are no porters either. Passengers coming from Tambaram (West) cross the tracks to reach the long-distance trains platforms.

G. Sudhakar is a resident of Madambakkam.



'Expedite wall construction in Potheri'

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Commuters from Potheri region have requested Southern Railway to expedite the construction of a wall along the station tracks.

The Railway is constructing walls along the GST Road to prevent commuters from trespassing onto the tracks. The work, which started a few weeks ago, is progressing slowly, say commuters.

R. Chandra Rajendran, a commuter, says, "Commuters from the region should take the footbridge at Potheri junction. To avoid taking a detour, commuters cross GST Road and enter the area along the tracks through an under-construction wall."

Commuters also want an additional footbridge at the terminal's end. S. Malarvizhi says, "When there is a change in trains arriving at platforms 1 and 3 (towards Chengalpattu and Thirumalpur), commuters run and cross the tracks and they can get hit by trains. The existing FOB is at a good walking distance for commuters, and lacks escalators and lifts."



Craft bazaar at Chromepet

Gujarat Artisans and Weavers Association is conducting an art and crafts bazaar till August 15 at Chromepet.

Check out fancy sarees, kurties, cotton and silk sarees, shawls, Rajasthan bedspreads, skirts, export curtains, wooden and marble toys, shirts, door mats, furniture and crockery.

The expo is being held at Selvam Mahal, Radha Nagar Main Road, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For details, contact 790 482 7466, 962 937 4196.

HCL Foundation's annual sports meet held

HCL Foundation organised its seventh edition of Sports for Change Competition for underprivileged youngsters recently. According to a press release, 758 were shortlisted from 12,256 participants. Youngsters from across India took part.

The various sports included football, volleyball, kabaddi, basketball, cricket, touch rugby, handball, hockey, javelin, relay races, badminton, table tennis, archery, and chess, adds the release.

HCL Foundation is a unit of HCL Tech in India.

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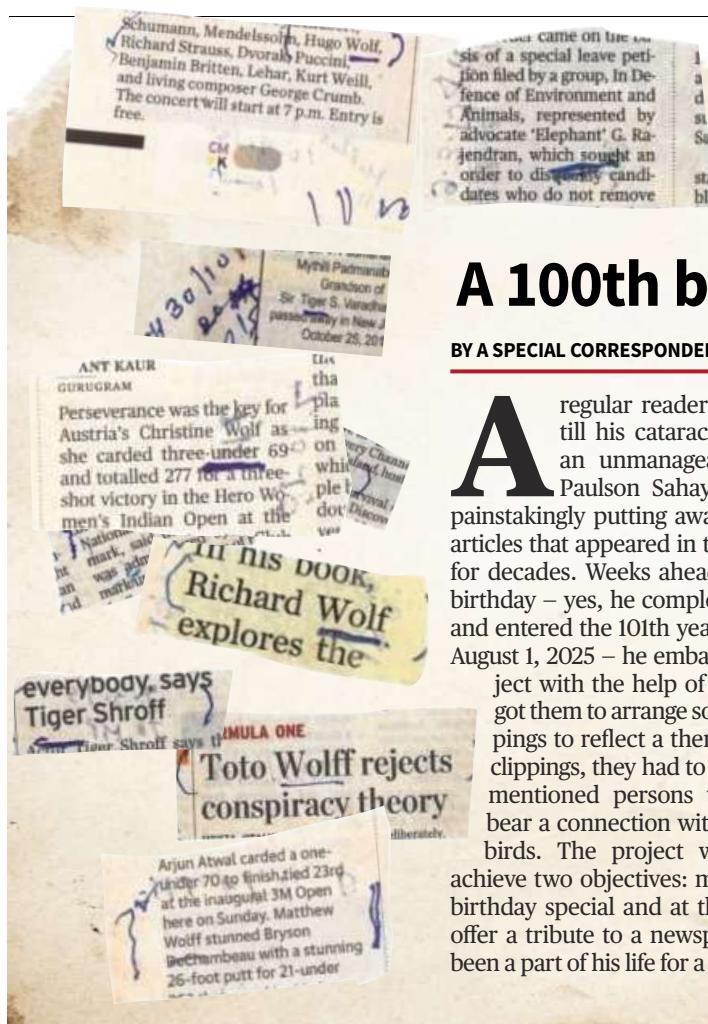
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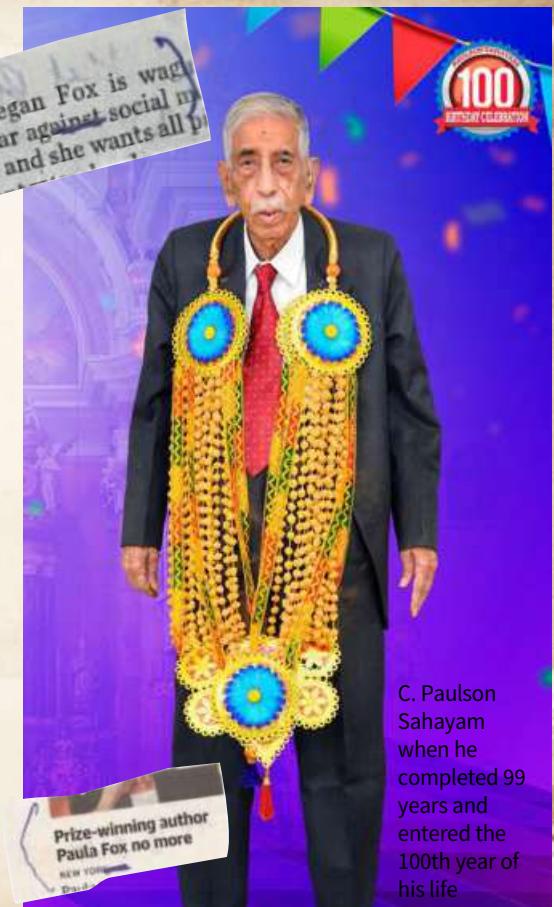
BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A regular reader of *The Hindu* till his cataract advanced to an unmanageable state, C. Paulson Sahayam has been painstakingly putting away clippings of articles that appeared in the newspaper for decades. Weeks ahead of his 100th birthday – yes, he completed 100 years and entered the 10th year of his life on August 1, 2025 – he embarked on a project with the help of his family. He got them to arrange some of the clippings to reflect a theme. Out of the clippings, they had to cull those that mentioned persons whose names bear a connection with animals and birds. The project was meant to achieve two objectives: make his 100th birthday special and at the same time, offer a tribute to a newspaper that has been a part of his life for a long time. The

rest of the clippings have been compiled into various categories, say, accidents, freak accidents, sports and so on. C. Paulson Sahayam is a resident of Gandhi Street in Keelkattalai and he had retired as a teacher from St. Paul's Higher Secondary school, Vepery.

His youngest son, P. Paul Robson, says he was reading the paper assiduously till his cataract worsened, which was around three years ago. The son said his father had refused to go in for a cataract operation out of fear. He would use a magnifying glass to read the paper. In those days when he was reading the paper, he would sit with it well into the wee hours of the day, filing away clippings.

The son also remarks that his father was mobile till a little while after his 99th birthday. Now, he is confined to his chair and bed.



C. Paulson Sahayam when he completed 99 years and entered the 100th year of his life

Velammal Nexus honours Everest conqueror Ashish



Velammal Nexus felicitated Master Ashish, the youngster who scaled Mount Everest, in a grand function held at Velammal Hall.

The event was graced by Grandmaster Gukesh, Velammal's very own chess prodigy and the nation's pride, says a press release.

The highlight of the event was the generous ₹40 lakh cash award presented to Ashish by the Deputy Correspondent of Velammal Nexus, Sriram Velmohan, and Gukesh, recognising Ashish's extraordinary feat.

The function witnessed a warm and vibrant welcome as both Ashish and Gukesh

made a grand entry amidst applause and admiration, the release adds.

Adding a creative twist, Velammal Nexus hosted fun and engaging games between Ashish and Gukesh, showcasing their skills, wit, and sportsmanship, leaving the audience entertained and inspired.

A deeply emotional moment unfolded when an AI-generated video of Ashish's late father was broadcasted, virtually blessing and congratulating his son. The heartfelt tribute moved many in the audience, making the event even more special, the release says.

Women's troupe to stage its latest play on August 27



Sarvam Nataka Priyas, an all-women amateur drama troupe, will be staging its latest play titled *Konnadhu Neethana?* on August 27 at Sarvam, a gated community on 200 Feet

Radial Road in Pallikaranai.

According to a press release, it is its ninth play and it is set in the genre of thrillers. The play is written by Kesavan Raghavan and music has been

Troupe members rehearsing for their new play. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

scored by Dakshin.

"Our earlier scripts were humour-based and we are attempting a whodunnit for the first time," says B. Vijayalakshmi, founder of Sarvam Nataka Priyas.

The play is held as part of Vinayaka Chaturthi celebration, says a press release.

For details write to sarvamnatakapiyas@gmail.com

College celebrates Handloom Day

Quiz, sari draping competition, screening of a documentary on Indian handlooms, fashion show, music, and dance marked the National Handloom Day celebration at KCG College of Technology.

According to a press release, the event was held in collaboration with the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, and the Weavers' Service Centre, Chennai.

The Weavers' Service Centre had set up an exhibition showcasing various fabrics, weaving styles, and printing techniques. It also conducted demonstrations of some of the styles of the weaving craft. The college honoured members of the centre on the occasion. The School of Fashion Technology of the college organised the event.

Oncology department gets new chief



Prof. Dr. S Rajasundaram has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Director, Oncology, and Head of Department of Surgical Oncology at Iswarya Hospital, Old Mahabalipuram Road.

According to a press release from the hospital, he is a globally renowned surgical oncologist with over 30 years of experience. He has performed over 25,000 major surgeries includ-

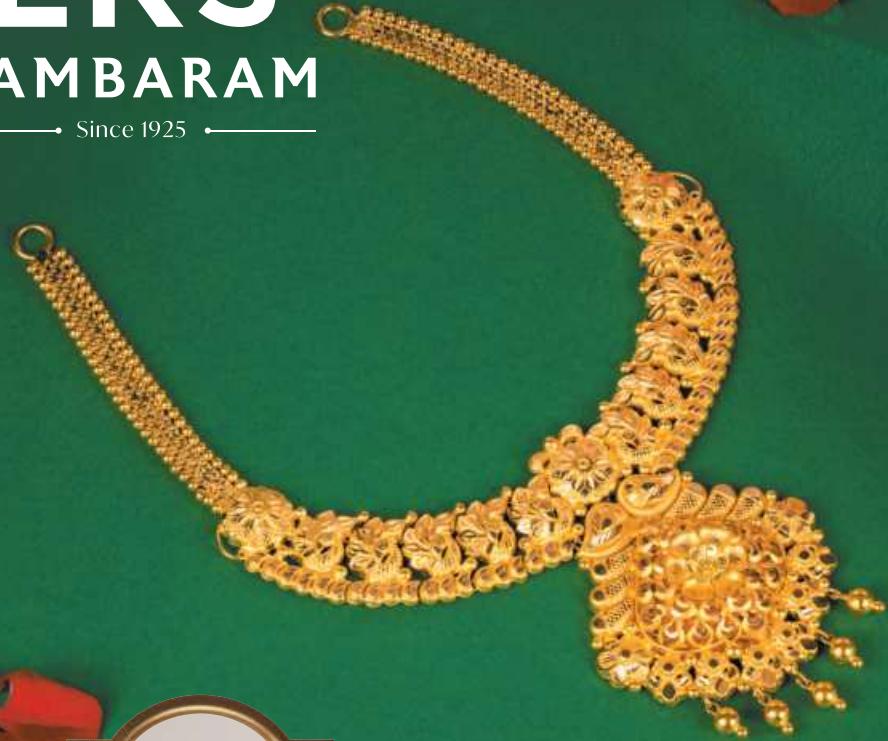
ing those for complex head and neck ailments. He has been instrumental in introducing courses such as DNB surgical oncology, medical oncology, and radiation oncology at various institutions across India. Dr. Arun Muthavel, managing director, Iswarya Hospital welcomed the doctor and the latter also expressed his happiness in joining the hospital, adds the release.

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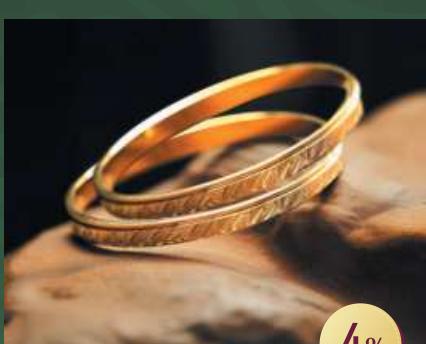
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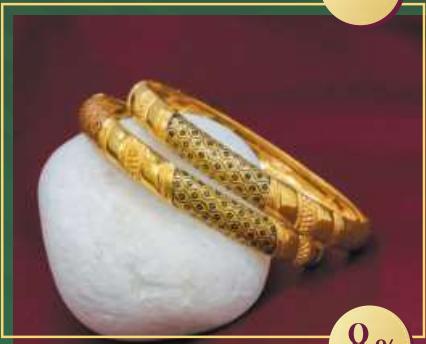
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