

## MYLAPORE

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Washermenpet » Tondiarpet » Manali » M.R.C.Nagar » Teynampet » Mount Road » Broadway » Kondithope » Tiruvotiyur

## *Parts of Thiruvengadam Street in disarray*



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**H**ow Thiruvengadam Street is subjected to pipeline-laying work follows a pattern, one marked by incredible disarray. Even with patchwork being carried out following completion of pipeline-laying, the site would be uneven and scarred – recall the look worn not long ago by a section of Thiruvengadam Street close to where it forms a junction with Venkatakrishna Road.



A section of Thiruvengadam Street outside Ragamalika Apartments on September 5; and (top right) the section close to School View Road.  
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

Or it could resemble a ploughed field with the soil turned over – head to the section of Thiruvengadam Street right outside Ragamalika Apartments now, and such a picture would greet you. Half of the road has been rendered unmotorable, and during rush hour, the traffic is a deluge seeking to escape through a narrow nozzle. Habitues of this section note this patch is in this state for at least a couple of weeks. These images were taken on September 5, 2025.

Kalyani Muralidharan, a resi-

dent of Ragamalika Apartments underlines the sorry state of another section of Thiruvengadam Street, close to School View Road, where again the road has been dug up for civic infrastructure work.

She notes that it is not less than 15 days since this part of the street was opened up.

For her, the situation closer home (outside Ragamalika Apartments) is even more deplorable. For many days after the road was cut open, residents struggled to drive into gated community, and they took recourse to using the rear-side gate.

Kalyani adds: "Now, the road right in front of the main gate being closed, residents manage to drive in. Still, on this section, one vertical half of the road is unusable, causing traffic logjams during rush hour."

## A teacher and road safety campaigner rolled into one

On September 5, S. Mala, a teacher with Children's Garden Higher Secondary School in Mylapore, received Vidhya Seva Samman Award for her work in the classroom growing lives and on the road saving them

LIFFY THOMAS

**D**uring peak school hours, one can spot S. Mala with her students on Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai 7th Lane, the approach way to Children's Garden Higher Secondary School, sometimes instructing parents to wear a helmet or not to use the mobile phone while driving. During weekends, the scene shifts to busy junctions such as the one near Phoenix Mall in Velachery or Tidel Park, where Mala would be



regulating traffic.

For close to two decades, this teacher with Children's Garden Higher Secondary School in Mylapore has been a volunteer with the Tamil Nadu Police Traffic Warden Organisation that assists the police in regulating traffic, promoting road safety and spreading traffic etiquette. On September 5, she was among those who received the Vidhya Seva Samman Awards 2025 instituted by Lions Club of Meenambakkam and Mission Guru Devo Bhava.

"I was always fascinated about

working with the police department, so when I was asked if I could attend a training programme in 2006 to become a traffic warden I gladly accepted it. I was single then and wanted to do something good in the *kakhi* uniform. Later marriage and other responsibilities never came in my way to volunteer," says Mala, who teaches English and Social Studies to Class X students.

The school takes road safety lessons so seriously that ev-

ery week a period is marked in the timetable for it. Not only children take these lessons, but also parents, especially during Parent Teacher Association meetings.

Road Safety Patrol is accorded the same importance other club activities are, if not more. School sports day often features drama/skit on road safety.

"I must give it to the school principal and correspondent for encouraging me and giving me

S. Mala outside her school regulating traffic; and (below) as traffic warden. Photos: Special Arrangement

the freedom to have these lessons in the curriculum. We are encouraged to take children for outdoor awareness programmes as well. What we noticed is continuous engagement does bring about change in children and parents," says Mala, a resident of Velachery.

She says the school currently has 244 students from classes VI to XII enrolled in the Road Safety Patrol programme. Most school days, between 8 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. students take turns to regulate traffic during peak hours.

Mala has lead the Road Safety Patrol Girls contingent for Republic Day parade for five years.

Lakshmi Kantham, headmistress of Children's Garden Higher Secondary School, says it is commendable to see Mala managing her time well to fulfil her regular responsibilities in the school impressively and also function as a traffic warden.

Related story on Pg 7



## Street name *change proposal opposed*

More than 50 residents of Mandavelipakkam have written to the CM and the South Chennai MP opposing the proposal to rename 5th Trust Cross Street as S.V. Venkataraman Street

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**R**esidents of 5th Trust Cross Street in Mandavelipakkam have taken objection to a name change proposal for their street, and have made their disappointment known through a letter sent to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister as well as the South Chennai MP.

The petition signed by more than 50 residents argues that the proposal to change the street name



to "S.V. Venkataraman Street" would signal a break in a street numbering system and a partial erasure of neighbourhood history.

In the plea, these residents have pointed out that a collection of streets in Mandavelipakkam have been named and numbered in the

order of 1st Trust Cross Street to 14th Trust Cross Street. This numbering system is a silent testimony to the role of the City Improvement Trust in developing Mandavelipakkam.

The proposal seeks to rename 5th Trust Cross Street after late S.V.

Venkataraman, a theatre artist and father of playwright and actor S.Ve. Shekher, who resides on the same street. In January 2025, *The Hindu* carried a report noting that during an event Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that following a request by S.Ve. Shekher a proposal would be made to Greater Chennai Corporation to name a street in Mylapore after his father.

The petition notes that most of the residents of 5th Trust Cross Street are unaware or were not informed or consulted about the proposal to change the name of their street. It says that the name change is "entirely the wish and choice of a single individual".

And, "street name changes cannot be on the basis of whims and fancies of an individual." Another argument put forth against renaming the street is the difficulty of changing the name in documents that would fall on senior citizens residing on the street. The petition notes a sizeable number of residents on this street are senior citizens.

## Calling all chess enthusiasts

Rotary International District 3234 is gearing up to organise 'Rotary Chess Tournament' (ROTA Chess) on September 14 at Queen Mary's College, Dr. Radha Krishnan Salai in Mylapore.

This event is expected to attract over 450 participants, aged 8 to 21 years, from schools and colleges across Chennai. There is no entry fee for registration, and all participants will receive a participation certificate.

The event will be conducted by 8x8 Chess Club - West Mambalam

Latest FIDE rules, separate pairing for boys and girls and 20 minutes per player game are some of criteria that will be followed, said a release.

Submit entries online at chessfee.com (Chessfee)/chessentry.in (Easy Pay Chess)

Last date for entry is September 10. For more details, call 98407 03544 / 9841590399

## READERS WRITE

### Depressions on road near Mundgakanni Amman temple



This stretch of the road near Mundgakanni Amman temple in Mylapore was dug up for cable-laying work. Although the work is completed, the road has not been patched up properly (see picture). I have raised complaints with the Greater Chennai Corporation but no action has been taken yet.

*Kasim Razvi, Mylapore*

### Lurking danger

Recently, when I visited Express Avenue I noticed this protruding rusted metal pipe on the pavement. Will the authorities take action and remove this and save senior citizens from tripping and having a fall? The exact location: opposite Royapettah tower clock on Whites Road, adjacent to the wall of Express Avenue.

*C. R. Sainathan, Tiruvallikeni*



### 'Stray dogs in high numbers at Herbal Park in Otteri'

Stray dogs are found in high numbers at Herbal Park on Pumping Station Road in Otteri. Visitors to the park are feeding the dogs.

It seems they are unaware of the latest Supreme Court ruling that stray dogs cannot be fed in public

spaces; and be fed only in designated spots.

Greater Chennai Corporation should look into this issue at the earliest.

*E. Elavarsu  
Kellys*



### Amma Unavagam moves to a new location



Amma Unavagam which was functioning in RA Puram, near Sangeetha Hotel had been closed and the whole building over there was demolished a month ago. Greater Chennai Corporation has plans to redevelop the place. Meanwhile, a makeshift place had been constructed on the same road near Billroth Hospital and Aavin parlour. All arrangements had been made to reopen the same. It is expected to be reopened on September 15 on the birth anniversary of leader Annadurai.

*Baskar Seshadri,  
Mylapore*



## AESTHETICS



# A glimpse of Ripon Building, Chennai Central in Mylapore

Each of the 15 zones within GCC limits can decide on the designs for the view cutters to be installed around power transformers, say officials

PRINCE FREDERICK

**A** masquerade competition is in full swing across the 15 zones of Greater Chennai Corporation. Road users are treated to "masquerade masks" distinguished by designs ranging from minimalist to complex.

Oddly, the masqueraders have no say in the design, being insentient power transformers that know and feel nothing. As these gizmos plug away at the

mundane business of electrifying neighbourhoods, a group of humans operate the creativity switches behind the scenes, getting these transformers to wear masks that make a statement about the zone's design sensibilities.

According to GCC sources, each zone has *carte blanche* in the choice of designs for the metal view cutters that would come around power transformer installations. The local zonal officer, the executive engineer, and sometimes even the

regional deputy commissioner would be among

those putting their heads together and deciding on the designs.

There are places where the designs seem to simulate novelty architecture. They are however essentially just deft use of the paint brush preceded by a tested metal cutting technique. According to the GCC sources, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining is at play – putting it in layman terms, the machine tools used in the metal cutting process are controlled and directed by a computer.

Post-production work, executed

From Kutchery Road and (below) Santhome High Road.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

after the metallic view cutter has been mounted around the transformer, involves the artistry of human hands. The metal that had been cut to reflect parts of a known object would become a canvas. That is how one gets a glimpse of Ripon Building on Santhome High Road, right outside Santhome Higher Secondary School; of the largely ogre-coloured stunner called the Chennai Central on the tail-end of Kutchery Road close to Santhome High Road, and of the stately Secretariat structure on Santhome High Road near CSI School for the Deaf.

Clearly, the local GCC authorities in these parts are upping the creativity quotient, as the afore-mentioned

examples illustrate.

GCC sources reveal that in Zone 3 (Madhavaram), a view cutter sports images of the peacock. In Zones 9 and 10, work around many transformers are still under way. By October 15, view cutter installation works across the zones should be completed. Altogether, across the 15 zones, over 3,000 view cutters are being installed around power transformers.

The best of designs would come to nothing and can in fact be an eyesore if features are not built into the view cutters to prevent posters from being glued to them. A new generation of metal view cutters, such as the one installed around a transformer on East Mada Street in Thiruvanmiyur sport short rods that jut out of the view cutters to prevent pasting of posters. These rods blend into the design. GCC sources observe that even the old view cutters will have these projecting rods welded into them, aesthetically.



# Where is the Blood Moon party tonight?

Besides a list of moon watches planned across Chennai today, shining a light on two stargazing groups in the city that organise star parties regularly

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

## Heading out of Chennai for an exclusive event

**O**n September 7, a klatch of stargazers from the Chennai Astronomy Club (CAC) who are on first-name terms with each other, would decamp telescopes in tow to a farm in Maduranthakam, a two-hour's drive from Chennai, for a Blood Moon watch. No portal of entry offered to outsiders; it is going to be an in-group gathering. "This time, we had to keep it small and exclusive to our members," says Sivasubramanyam A, one of the founders of CAC, citing police permission issues. In characteristic CAC style, the Blood Moon watch would be preceded by a talk, tomes of theory packed into it. Following the watch, members would rest at the farm and turn back towards Chennai late Monday morning.

To still hope one could horn in on this group's Blood Moon watch party would be to cry for the moon. This door is firmly shut on outsiders for now, but not always. One can catch up with CAC on its regular monthly star parties.

Founded in 2013 by two friends, Sivasubramanyam A (Siva in CAC circles) and Ram Priyadarshini, Chennai Astronomy Club (CAC) was initially a Facebook group. "Astronomy is not something to do alone," says Siva, a software engineer now and a stargazer since age four. "The real fun comes from sharing it with other people". Over the years, engagement levels have gone through the skies. There is not a quiet moment under the starry skies for CAC

members, the chapter in its 375-member WhatsApp group being incessant even when it is "total cloudout", a term denoting a situation where the sky that has nothing to offer a pair of stargazing eyes.

Around 50 of these members choose to be more than backyard stargazers: they step out for star parties, night camps and meetups. There is no membership fee. Visual astronomers, astrophotographers and DIY telescope tinkerers rub shoulders with curious first-timers. The club does not gatekeep – if one is eager, they are in. However, the size of a gathering is predicated upon the availability of experienced observers.

"If we have five experienced observers, we can handle around 30 participants" Siva explains.

The group heads to Jawadhu Hills, Tada, and places on the outer rim of South Chennai, where the night sky is darker. The Chennai's sky with its Bortle Scale rating of 8 or 9 is hardly stargazer-friendly due to greater light pollution. The lower the number on the Bortle Scale, the darker and more stargazer-friendly the night sky is.

Costs are modest but necessary – a typical overnight camp, including stay and food, might set the participant back by ₹1000, with an extra ₹200 for outreach activities. "We run at cost, sometimes even dipping into personal funds to cover last-minute changes," Siva admits.

Workshops for beginners roll out every April and May, followed

by astrophotography sessions six months later. Monthly star parties keep the conversation going. There are also plans for sidewalk astronomy on Chennai's beaches – the plans are subject to fording bureaucratic hurdles. Their tools range from sophisticated automated telescopes to simpler ma-

An image of the Blood Moon on January 31, 2018 taken by CAC.

nual ones, and newcomers are always urged to try the club's equipment first before investing. To join CAC as well as be a part of its WhatsApp group, head to <https://forum.chennaiastronomyclub.org>

## A watch in Choolaimedu that is open to outsiders

**S**ky Secrets is hosting a Blood Moon Night at Choolaimedu from 10:30 pm (September 7) to 2:30 am (September 8). Six telescopes have already been assigned Blood Moon watch duties. The cupboard would be disturbed and more telescopes pulled out if registrations shoot up.

"We want to ensure that everyone who signs up for the watch party gets to see the Blood Moon clearly," says Sendil Madhavan, founder of Sky Secrets.

For those who prefer not to jostle for telescopes, Sky Secrets has a backup – its digital telescope will live-stream the eclipse onto a projector. The evening begins with a short briefing on the science of the Blood Moon before eyes turn skyward. Registration is ₹499 per head. The registration form will be open till 10 p.m. on September 7. Walk-ins are welcome, but prior registration is recommended. "It helps us plan better, especially in terms of equipment and safety," explains

## Locations in Chennai where a watch is being organised

Chennai Astro Club and Tamil Nadu Astronomy & Science Society (TASS) with IMSc Chennai and IIA Bengaluru are organising a Blood Moon watch in different parts of Chennai.

According to a press release, with police permission, arrangements are being made for watching the full lunar eclipse from 10.30 p.m. on September 7 to 12.30 a.m. on September 8 at Thiruvanmiyur beach, Ennore beach, Navalur on Old Mahabalipuram Road, Kovilancherry (near Medavakkam), East Tambaram and Subbalakshmi Nagar in Korattur. Awareness sessions will also be part of the programme, the press release adds.

Sendil. Sendil holds a day job as mechanical engineer, and his spare time is focussed skyward. It was only a matter of time before he founded an entity such as Sky Secrets. The idea of Sky Secrets began to glow bright following a stargazing trip Sendhil went on, along with his friend Subhash, a photography enthusiast. "We started with just one telescope," Sendhil recalls. Sky Secrets runs weekend workshops from Choolaimedu, priced at ₹300 per head, offering guided explorations of the moon, planets and nebulas. Lunar gazing during the first quarter or full moon each month; solar gazing sessions are held every weekend, focusing on sunspots. Sky Secrets organises sessions offering a primer on astrophotography. Events are announced a few days in advance, depending on weather, with registrations being carried out through Google Forms. The Planetary Parade of February, May 2025 became a defining moment, when nearly 500 visitors, frustrated by endless queues at Chennai's planetarium, chose a rooftop session in Kolathur instead. Since then, Sky Secrets has expanded its focus, collaborating with colleges such as Women's Christian College and DG Vaishnav College and schools such as Vidya Mandir in Mylapore for solar gazing sessions.

Their workshops aim at teaching enthusiasts how to assemble a telescope from scratch, clean lenses using collimators, understand different mounts and calibrate instruments. It offers students a structured three-month internship, complete with certification. To join Sky Secrets' WhatsApp group, call 79045 35808 or send a message on Instagram at @skysecrets.sendil



## Science centre to host night sky watch

In view of the lunar eclipse, Tamil Nadu Science & Technology Centre is organising a "special night sky observation programme" for the general public on September 7 from 8 p.m. to the midnight ushering in September 8. According to a press release from the centre, partial eclipse begins at 9.57 p.m. on September 7 and ends at 1.26 a.m. on September 8. And, full eclipse begins from 11 p.m. on September 7 and ends at 12.22 a.m. on September 8.

The centre is at Gandhi Mandapam Road in Kottapuram. For details, call 044-2441 0025.

# A 'Guiding' light at 92

Former school teacher and Adyar resident K. Alamelu is in no mood to leave the classroom. A valued resource person with Bharat Scouts and Guides, she teaches the essentials of the movement to a diversity of audiences. This Teacher's Day, she had an august group of "students" in front of her



LIFFY THOMAS

**O**n September 8, K. Alamelu would lean over a cake crowded with 92 candles, their gentle flames swaying in the air. Her 92nd birthday celebration would arrive in the midst of a programme in Coonoor. She could not have asked for a better setting for the bash. It would be a programme related to scouts and guides, a movement that has become an inseparable part of her.

The "grand old lady" of Bharat

Scouts and Guides, a national scouting and guiding association, is attending a five-day programme in Coonoor from September 5 onwards, as resource person, taking classes for a huge group, one including 80 commissioners (each of them an administrator heading a district) from Tamil Nadu.

Alamelu *paati*, as she is known, does not let concerns over advanced age keep her from travelling to cities hosting events related to scouts and guides. Alamelu shows no signs of her age while talking to this reporter. Her only complaint is that one of her knees



K. Alamelu; (above) with other trainers; and (below) during an event at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT by the State Government to help build the scouts and guides movement in Tamil Nadu.

State Commissioner for Guides and executive member trainer are among notable positions in the scouts and guides system in Tamil Nadu she has served.

Currently, as State Commissioner (adult resources) Bharat Scouts and Guides for Tamil Nadu, she is helping build an army of adults who in turn become unit leaders.

Another achievement during her tenure was inducting more Rangers (senior girls) into the movement.

"Rangers comprise girls between 15 and 25 years. We had to run various initiatives to draw them into the movement. Now we have unit and unit leaders and trainers, and we have opened Rangers institutions," says Alamelu who won the Silver Star Award in 1986 and Silver Elephant Award in 1999.

The nonagenarian is next working on bringing out a booklet to commemorate diamond jubilee of Bharat Scouts and Guides that would feature the role played by various personalities in this movement.

act up. That has been the case since she fell while visiting a temple in Singapore. She complains of no other ailments and does not take allopathic medicines. Energetic, lively with razor-sharp memory, this teacher-turned-trainer from Indira Nagar in Adyar seems to be enjoying life with zest.

#### Early years

The mathematics and English teacher started her career with Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls School, also her alma mater, to move to Rani Meyyammai Girls School where she spent close to two decades.

Headmistress Saraswathi Srinivasan deputed her for a training in scouts and guides, a practice in the mid-60s where every teacher was given an extra-curricular activity to pursue. That set the ball rolling for a number of interesting stints, exposures and accolades.

Three of her guides from the school got awards from the Presidents of India. "The first students received the Rashtrapati Scout and Guide Award in 1974," says the teacher showing no signs of fading memory.

From a district joint secretary to a unit leader, Alamelu graduated to become a trainer. Knowing English, Tamil and Hindi turned out to be a huge advantage. "When there was little encouragement to learn Hindi in the state, I cleared the exam and that became a huge plus point for me to get a post as deputy director (projects) for Bharat Scouts and Guides at its headquarters in New Delhi," says the teacher who also served as sub-editor to in-house magazine of Bharat Scouts and Guides.

#### Building the movement

Post-retirement, she was roped in

## 'The movement trains children to be prepared'

Through self-discipline, social service and community development, the scouts and guide movement has been building character and humanity in children and young adults.

K. Alamelu says the content has evolved to keep with the changing times. Protecting nature, gender equality and technology overuse are among subjects that are in focus.

Crowd management at Kalpeshwarar Temple in Mylapore, roping in children to create awareness about leprosy and helping out during natural cat-

lamities such as floods and earthquake are among activities taken up by members of the movement.

"Scouts and guides used to serve water at railway stations during summer, and during the 1975 Emergency children worked long hours answering queries from the public. You are training children to be prepared and face various situations in life, such as the values the movement promotes in children," she says.

Unlike NCC which had the support of the Government from the beginning, the scouts and

guides had to run on its own steam in its early years. "That has changed now. The education department in various states are promoting it in a big way," she says.

Many institutions have been upgraded into a "district" to organise their members and activities locally.

"The Maharishi Vidya Mandir group of schools and Don Bosco institutions are a few examples. Likewise, in Erode, we have a school where children across classes are inducted into the movement," she adds.

## Talk recalls the contribution of Gujaratis to Madras

Hindustan Chamber of Commerce hosts Karthik Bhatt in an event celebrating the city

**H**istorian Karthik Bhatt, a chartered accountant by profession, took the audience a back in time by a few centuries with his talk on the Gujaratis of South India. The event was organised by the Hindustan Chamber of Commerce (HCC) as part of Madras Week celebration on September 1 at the chamber auditorium.

um.

Karthik gave a background of the HCC founders C.M. Kothari and Himchand Shah. Started in 1945 to primarily have a voice with the State and the Central Government for the North Indian community so they coined the word 'Hindustan'.

Gujarati Mandal Madras, which is in its centenary year now, was



## Inter-school event creates awareness about cancer

Close to 100 schools took in the 14th edition of ABC – All a'Bout Cancer



**C**ANSTOP (Cancer Support Therapy to Overcome Pain), a community-based, voluntary organisation, recently concluded the 14th edition of its flagship annual event, ABC - All a'Bout Cancer, an inter-school competition designed to raise cancer awareness among students and the general public.

Being organised since 2001, ABC brings together students from various schools to present creative exhibits that inform attendees about different types of cancer, their symptoms, preventive mea-

sures and treatment options.

The 2025 edition of ABC was held on September 3 at Madras Christian College Higher Secondary School in Chetpet, in collaboration with Rotary International District 3234.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 1,200 students representing 100 schools in and around Chennai, reflecting the growing commitment of young people to cancer awareness and advocacy, says a press release. The inauguration ceremony was graced by N.S. Saravanan, Imme-

diate Past District Governor; AKS DGN Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, founder of CANSTOP and trustee and director of Sundaram Medical Foundation; G.J. Manohar, correspondent; and G. Jebadoss Thinakaran, headmaster of MCC School, Chetpet.

The valedictory session featured Vinod Saraogi, district governor; Suresh Jain, district governor elect; and Dr. Y. S. Chandan, neurosurgeon. Special invitees Hrithik (Super Singer Junior) and Harshini (SaReGaMaPa Little Champs) also joined the celebration.

Through ABC, CANSTOP continues to empower young minds as ambassadors of health awareness and remains steadfast in its mission to fight cancer through education, early detection, and community support.

The overall championship and rolling trophy were bagged by Spartan Matriculation Higher Secondary School, while the overall cash prize was awarded to Government High School, Kumizhi. Both schools received ₹30,000 each, the release adds.

## Badminton tournament raises funds for child cancer care



The Rotary Club of Chennai Radiance (RCCR) recently launched season 2 of the Rotary Premier League (RPL) badminton tournament.

Rotarians Sangeetha, president, and S. Purushothaman, secretary, have played a pivotal role in orga-

nising the tournament aimed to aid child cancer care, says a press release issued by RCCR.

RCCR will be donating ₹4 lakh for the purchase of critical equipment. At the launch ceremony, the dignitaries applauded the initiative, stating that this kind of tourna-

ment not only promotes fitness, but also hope and support to children, the release added.

Dr. S. Rajan, chairman and Head of the Department of Cardiac Surgery, The Madras Medical Mission, and Joseph Samuel, MLA, Ambattur constituency, were present.

the sole representative body of the Gujaratis in Madras and also played an active role in the freedom movement. They wrote a letter to Nawab of Junagadh in 1947 protesting against annexation of the princely state to Pakistan and appealing to them to join the Indian Union, said a press release.

The philanthropy of Lodd Govindoss and his father Lodd Krishnadoss Balamukundoss, their residence at Patters Gardens on General Patters Road, Royapettah was also discussed in the talk. Krishnadoss Balamukundoss gave away one of his residences Umda Bagh on Mount

Road at a fraction of the market value when he came to know that it was for the purpose of a Madrasa. Another notable contribution was the funding of a permanent home for the Chennapuri Anna-dana Samajam on Nainiappa Naicken Street. Lodd Ramgopal, grandson of Lodd Govindoss also addressed the gathering. He is president of AB Parekh Gujarati school; he and Suresh Parekh are active committee members of the Gujarati Mandal.

Lakhubhai Raithatha, past president of the Lohana Mitra Mandal, spoke about his experiences and connections with Junagadh.

## Two-day waste collection drive

The 11th collection drive, organised by Residents of Kasturbanagar Association's (ROKA), will be held at 10 public venues. Waste collection is structured around 10 categories. Multiple apartment communities have made common cause with the initiative. People can drop off their dry waste at the locations mentioned, on September 13 and 14.

### September 13 and 14

1. KRMM College, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar
2. Apex Club of Velacherry - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
3. RMSM Association: Public gym, Sivagamipuram - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
4. Wasted, T Nagar - 9 am to 8 pm
5. Spreco, Tambaram - 10 am to 5 pm
6. Kazhani farm, Kottivakkam - 10 am to 4 pm
7. Euphoria World, Anna Nagar - 10 am to 4 pm
8. Utopia, Abhiramapuram - 10 am to 4 pm
9. Kalaiselvi Karunalaya, Mogappair - 10 am to 4 pm

10. New Prince Bhavani senior secondary school, Adambakkam

### Repair workshops

On September 14 (from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), visitors can be part of some interesting repair workshops such as watch and clock repair service, clothes repair (sleeve attachment, minor tears and cloth bag conversion on both days at KRMM College, Adyar).

### Categories of waste

1. Hard & soft plastics, including toys without batteries;
  2. Old/torn clothes (all clothes should be washed and dried, kitchen rags, inner garments, socks, towels to be packed separately);
  3. Books and newspapers;
  4. Usable pillows and cushions;
  5. Stationery;
  6. X rays;
  7. Empty tablet strips;
  8. Foot wear (without dirt);
  9. Unbroken glass bottles;
  10. e-waste.
- The items will be accepted only if they are clean and dry.

Contact: 8667499135/ 9751755522

## Workshop on organic farming on September 12

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on ready-to-cook food items on September 11. According to a press release, the session will focus on millets. This includes: *adai*, *puttu*, and *idli*. Another workshop on organic

farming of vegetable crops will be held on September 12.

Both the sessions will be held at its premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 29530048 / 29530049.

## Krishna Jayanthi fete at temple

The 30th Sree Krishna Jayanthi celebrations of Arulmigu Sree Karumugil Vanna Perumal Aalayam, T. Nagar, will be held on September 13.

The celebrations will begin at 6:30 a.m. on September 13 with

the 'Thirupalliezhichi' ceremony followed by the 'Thirumanjanam' at 7:30 a.m.

The temple is located on Mambalam High Road, Lala Thottam (Opposite Kodambakkam Railway Station), T. Nagar.



## Free eye camp for Urbaser workers, auto drivers



Ramana Eye Centre at R.A. Puram Third Main Road, in association with Rotary Club IT City and Raja Annamalaipuram Residents' Association (RAPRA) conducted a free eye camp for Urbaser workers and auto drivers on August 31, 2025.

The camp was inaugurated by Mylapore MLA Dha. Velu in the

presence of Dr. C. Senthilnathan, promoter of Ramana Eye Centre and Rotarians. Dha Velu applauded the sponsors for organising a camp benefitting the underprivileged, says a press release.

All of those who attended this camp were first screened for their blood pressure and blood sugar levels. The response to the camp was good with nearly 70 workers at-

tending it in their work uniform and in the midst of their day's work. Dr. C. Senthilnathan, ophthalmologist at Ramana Eye Centre, said that fortunately no major eye problem was detected. Some had refractive errors for which glasses were given. Some had early stages of cataract and few advanced stages of cataract. Those with cataract issues were asked to report to the clinic again for further examination and remedial action. Dr. Senthilnathan also said that 50 glasses were distributed free of cost by the camp organisers, the release adds.

Local maid servants and watchmen of the neighbourhoods too dropped in to have their eyes checked.

According to Dr Senthilnathan, eight persons have been diagnosed for immediate free cataract surgery. Those attending the camp were served coffee and tea.

## RA Puram residents group to hold AGM today

The Raja Annamalaipuram (West) Residents Society, in association with RAPRA Trust, will be holding its 10th Annual General Body Meeting on September 7, 2025 (from 9:30 a.m. onwards) at Rajah Muthiah Higher Secondary School in Srinivasa Avenue, R.A. Puram. P. Dhanasekar, Chief Loco Inspector, South Western Railway, Bengaluru, will preside over the meeting as chief guest, says a press release.

The day's proceedings will begin with registration and a visit to the stalls showcasing a variety of products and services. Highlights include an introductory address by Dr. R. Chandrasekaran, patron of RAPRA Trust, the distribution of scholarships to 40 students from various schools, a presentation by Bank of Baroda, and a demonstration on

eco-friendly compost making by Ganga Sridhar and Sumithra Srikanth, the release adds.

The formal RAPRA Annual General Meeting will follow, featuring the president's PowerPoint presentation on RAPRA's activities, reports by the secretary and treasurer, including audited accounts; and resolutions and open interaction with members.

The event will feature a variety of stalls including those showcasing EcoKonnector Trust (which promotes sustainable alternative to plastic products), Ekadantha-Tanjore Paintings, Fashion Jewellery, the Horticulture Department, Hyundai Motors, R.G. Solutions, Axis Max Life Insurance and Magic Masala Mix. Residents are requested to come at 9:30 a.m. and enjoy shopping, the release adds.

## Teachers from Mylapore schools honoured with Vidhya Seva Samman Awards

Twenty teachers who have made a lasting impression on children and in the education system were honoured at the event organised on September 5 by Lions Club of Meenambakkam and Mission Guru Devo Bhava at D.A.V. Girls Senior Secondary School in Gopalapuram. The awardees are: A. Vidhya Dharani from The Children's Garden Higher Secondary School; PMS Saravanan and V. Chitra from Savithri Ammal Oriental Higher Secondary School; A. Chitra and T. Theivakan from Ganapathy Iyer Girls High School; R. Sarathy and S. Augustin Irudayaraj from P.S. Higher Secondary School; M. Rani Sowmiya and B. Sowmia from Rani Meyyammai Girls Higher Secondary School; Karlin Saral and Rita Juliet from CSI Monahan Girls Higher Secondary

School; M. Anitha Devi and Suganth Kumar from Kesari Higher Secondary School; S. Jayanthi and S. Biruntha from Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls Higher Secondary School; R. Susanna Mary and S. Juliet Samuel from CSI St. Ebba's Girls Higher Secondary School; Dr. Elias I. and E. Arokia Mary Jonita from Santhome Higher Secondary School.

The awardees were selected by school correspondents and headmasters, and each awardee received a citation and a cash prize of ₹21,000, said a release. Irai Anbu, former chief secretary of Tamil Nadu, presented the awards.

CA Anil Khicha, co-founder, Mission Guru Devo Bhava, said the initiative was launched in 2012 and it aims to "enhance pride in teaching and honour of teachers".



The awardees with the dignitaries

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## 'For Your Eyes Only' quiz held



**C**lose to 200 students from schools across Chennai participated in 'For Your Eyes Only 2025' quiz competition, organised as part of the 'National Eye Donation Fortnight' hosted by Rajan Eye Care Hospital and Rotary Rajan Eye Bank. The top 30 students were shortlisted for further rounds curated by Arvind Rajeev and Mahesh Ramgopal of X Quiz It, held on the hospital premises on September 3.

The finale saw four rounds, for which six students were selected out of 30. They answered ques-

tions on myths around eye donation, eye health, corneal transplantation and general anatomy, including acrostic-based answers. Finalists also pointed out viral, fungal and bacterial diseases and tackled advanced-level questions. Chief Guest Swamy Dhyanagamyananda, secretary of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda praised the hosts for spreading awareness on eye health and donation through the consecutive quizzes.

"When young minds appreciate the gift of sight, they become lifelong champions of compas-

sion," he said. Pravin Tellakula, president of Rotary Club of Madras T. Nagar and guest of honour, also commended the initiative that has been running for over six years.

Dr. Sujatha Mohan, executive medical director, said, "Quizzes like these ignite curiosity and empathy. Our hope is that these students carry the message of donation into their families and neighbourhoods." Nirvighna Peetha from Sivananda Rajaram Senior Secondary School received the first prize; Anirudh Prem from PSBB Millennium School Gerugambakkam secured the second prize, while Sreenithihasan K of Velammal Bodhi Campus, Kolapakkam finished third.

All finalists received participation mementos. Communities wishing to pledge the eye or learn more can contact the Rotary Rajan Eye Bank hotline at 98401 77177.

## Facilitating school-to-work transition

A national summit was hosted by B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology

**T**he third national summit on 'Facilitating School to Work Transition' held in the city was a wellspring of innovative ideas and inspiration.

Sanjay Kumar, secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India, was the chief guest.

Hosted by B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Vandalur, in coordination with the Central Board of Secondary Education and Chennai Sahodaya School Complex, the summit featured seven sessions in which distinguished chairs and moderators addressed critical topics shaping the future of talent, skills and education.

The topics at the session included 'Giving Wings – Prepar-

ing India's Youth for the Aerospace Age', 'Skill Local, Work Global – Unlocking Global Opportunities', 'Decoding Employability – Bridging Skills and Industry Needs', and 'Skill Development at Scale – Challenges and Opportunities', according to a release issued by the varsity.

The sessions created a roadmap for the future of education and work, shedding light on how educational institutions and industries must collaborate to prepare a future-ready workforce, the release added.

Close to 400 students from CBSE schools across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka participated in the summit.

Students and teachers also displayed their projects at the event.



## MTC invites applications

Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has invited applications from Industrial Training Institute (ITI) students (Mechanic Motor Vehicle, Mechanic Diesel, Electrician, Auto Electrician, Fitter and Welder) for a one-year professional acquaintance in ITI, with a stipend of ₹14,000 per month.

On September 10, MTC will conduct a special camp from 10 a.m. at the Industrial Training Institute, Chromepet, where students can apply for the one-year training programme, according to a press release issued by the Transport department.

## Changes in the pattern of train services

The Chennai Division of Southern Railway will partially cancel the services of two Mainline Express Multiple Unit trains on four days.

The service cancellation is due to ongoing engineering work and the line and power block at the Villupuram sub-station, which ensures the safety of passengers and train operations, according to a press release issued by the Railways.

Train Number: 66045, Tambaram -Villupuram Passenger at 09.45 a.m., is partially cancelled between Mundiyampakkam and Villupuram, and 66046, Villupuram - Chennai Beach Passenger at 13.40 p.m., is partially cancelled between Villupuram and Mundiyampakkam.

The trains will be cancelled on September 9, 13, 20, and 27th, the release added.

## Father, son honoured for commitment to blood donation

Broadway resident Shaikh Sadaqathullah and his son Shaikh Shamsudeen possess the rare AB Negative blood group; as frequent donors, they have received a letter of appreciation from the Consulate General of Malaysia in South India



**T**he Consulate General of Malaysia in South India, Chennai has given a Certificate of Appreciation to Broadway resident Shaikh Sadaqathullah and his son Shaikh Shamsudeen for exceptional humanitarian rendered by both as voluntary blood donors. K. Saravana Kumar, consul general of Malaysia in South India, Chennai, gave the letter of appreciation to them.

They both possess the rare AB Negative blood group and have shown unwavering commitment to saving lives through consistent and selfless blood donations, says a press release.

## Hospital founder is 'Icon of the Month'

Super Chennai, a citizens-driven city-branding movement, has named Dr. S. Chandrasekaran, founder and executive chairman, Kauvery Group of Hospitals, as its 'Icon of the Month' for August 2025. The recognition celebrates his pioneering role in transforming healthcare, says a press release.

A medical entrepreneur, institution-builder, and thought leader, Dr. Chandrasekaran has shaped the de-

livery of modern healthcare in India, the release adds. The 'Icon of the Month' initiative by Super Chennai spotlights entrepreneurs, innovators, and changemakers who are building Chennai's new identity as a city that is dynamic, inclusive and globally competitive. Earlier this year, the movement honoured C.K. Kumaravel, co-founder of Naturals Salon, for his contribution to women's entrepreneurship.

Shaikh Shamsudeen continues the legacy of his father by serving as a regular blood donor, says the release adding he has made a significant impact in extending life-saving services.

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