

ANNA NAGAR

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## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

## Go easy on the sea

Listen to Kilpauk resident Krisha Toshniwal before you start shopping for Ganesha idols this time

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

It is a busy week for 16-year-old Krisha Toshniwal. Ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, she is putting up posters at temples in Kilpauk (where she resides) announcing sale of eco-friendly Ganeshas. On social media, she posts about environment-conscious celebration of the festival. Orders have started coming in, between studies this Class XI student of KC High keeps track of the orders on an Excel sheet.

This initiative by Krisha is en-



tering its fifth year, having been started in 2020. Ganesha idols are sourced from an artisan group in Salem who make it with natural clay, organic compost and implant it with a choice of seeds. The Ganesha idol is placed in a recyclable grow bag that can be used for immersion and also to grow a plant.

Krisha's annual project meets two objectives: promoting local artisans and pushing for sustainable alternatives to non-biodegradable materials used during this festival.

On what led her to start the initiative, Krisha says: "I was

concerned about the way we were polluting the seas during immersion."

In the first year, friends and family supported her idea by buying clay Ganeshas from her. "I sold 25-30 during the first year. This year, I am hoping to sell more than 70," says Krisha, adding that the idols are stored in the garage at her house and she personally dispatches them to different places. Last year, they were even shipped to Dubai.

Does she make a profit selling these eco-friendly idols? Last year, she gave all the profit to Mohan Foundation, a non-profit working for organ donation. "This year too it will be for a cause," she says.

Krisha says more than the sales, accounts by customers about how the seed has grown into a bean plant or pictures about the idol being immersed in the grow bag itself are heart-warming.

The idols come in multiple sizes and are priced from ₹800 onwards. For details, WhatsApp Krisha at 9840082844



Krisha Toshniwal has sourced Ganesha idols in two different sizes

## READERS WRITE

## 'Street in Kellys in a bad shape for more than a year'



The entire stretch of First Street of A.K. Samy Nagar near Secretariat Colony in Kellys is in a bad condition for more than a year now. The stretch is uneven and marked with potholes. Following rains in recent weeks, it has gone from bad to worse making it difficult for pedestrians and motorists.

E. Elavarasu  
Kellys

## 'Road relaid without linking SWDs'

Tiruverkadu Municipality relaid Pillayar Madathangal Salai, a main road in Noombal (bordering EVP Park Avenue in Iyyappanthangal) recently. However, the stormwater drain on this road is not connected to the one on the interior street. The linking of the drains would entail cutting the newly-laid road again which is an unnecessary expenditure of taxpayers' money.

P. Senthil Kumar,  
Iyyappanthangal



## Chaos at key junction in Periyar Nagar



It is a week since MTC buses began to be parked at Kandasamy Salai and Karthikeyan Salai in Periyar Nagar. This causes chaos at the junction of Karthikeyan Salai and Kandasamy Salai. According to MTC crew, this is a temporary

arrangement which aims to facilitate stormwater drain work at Venkatraman Salai. It should be noted parking of buses on Venkatraman Salai itself is a temporary arrangement as the Periyar Nagar bus terminus at nearby SRP Colo-

ny is undergoing redevelopment work, which is being carried out by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority.

Commuters are also put to inconvenience as they have to walk the remaining distance.

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## READERS WRITE

### ‘Key roads in Perambur will be under water’



Vadivelu Main Road in Perambur on August 22, 2025. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RAGHUKUMAR CHOODAMANI

In spite of several complaints to the Greater Chennai Corporation, the dilapidated stormwater drain at Patel Road in Perambur is yet to be restored. The SWD continues to be filled with sewage and during heavy rains, it would likely not deliver on the goods.

Instances of sewage invading are frequent. Due to persistent sewage outflows, the road is battered despite having been relaid only before Lok Sabha Elections in 2024. The officials themselves have admitted the state of the road is the result of stagnant sewage eating away at the asphalt.

Greater Chennai Corporation hires two tractors with motor pumps for this road every monsoon to clear it of inundation. It is a recurrent expenditure. That money could have been saved by taking proper remedial measures aimed at providing a lasting solution.

The same goes for many other interior roads in Perambur: Anan-

davelu Street, Gurumurthy Garden Street and School Road, to name a few. The stormwater drains in these roads will not serve the purpose as they have sewage stagnating in them.

There are many other roads in Perambur that are prone to water stagnation for various reasons. But GCC should prioritise the above-mentioned roads before the onset of north-east monsoon as water from the nearby Madhavaram High Road flows through the stormwater drains on these roads.

Improving sewage infrastructure is one of the key objectives of “Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam,” a scheme of the Tamil Nadu Government that aims to develop north Chennai. However, illegal discharge of sewage continues to be widely prevalent in Perambur.

Greater Chennai Corporation should carry out desilting work without much delay.

**Raghukumar Choodamani,**  
convenor, Perambur  
Neighbourhood Development  
Forum, a citizens group.



Somasundaram Second Street, Ayanavaram on August 22, 2025. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



## ‘Waterlogging on road due to poor relaying work’

The stormwater drain on this road in Ayanavaram is ‘buried’

VINOD KUMAR K.R.

**S**omasundaram Second Street in Ayanavaram was relaid last month. But the bitumen topping is uneven, which can lead to waterlogging. This is especially true of the stretch near the intersection of Somasundaram Sixth Street.

When the road was last relaid, sometime in 2019, the stormwater drain got covered and that has been

causing waterlogging over these years. The SWD has not been recovered despite the road milling work carried out this June. And now, the uneven surface is an added cause for waterlogging.

Greater Chennai Corporation should attend to the issue at the earliest. This road comes under Ward 98 in Zone 8 - Anna Nagar.

**Vinod Kumar K.R.**  
Ayanavaram

### ‘Traffic signal near SAF Games Village does more harm than good’

S. SANKARANARAYANAN

Greater Chennai Traffic Police should revisit the signal programming of the traffic signal near SAF Games Village, a housing society, on 100 Feet Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road in Koyambedu. Due to faulty design, its signals raise the risk of accidents. As per the signals, motorists coming from Anna Nagar are allowed to take a right turn to proceed towards the housing society. At the same time, motorists coming from the housing complex are also allowed to take a right turn to proceed towards Vadapalani. This is quite dangerous and the signalling system should be reprogrammed. Further, wrong side driving is rampant at this spot. Hence, deployment of traffic police is also required.

**S. Sankaranarayanan,** Anna Nagar



The junction near SAF Games Village on 100 Feet Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road in Koyambedu. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

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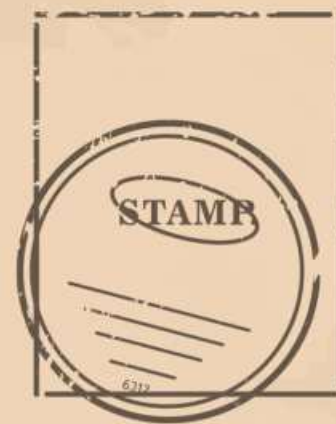
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# Registered Post: recalling its heydays

From September 1, Registered Post will be discontinued and merged with Speed Post services. There are however rich memories around this postal service that will live on



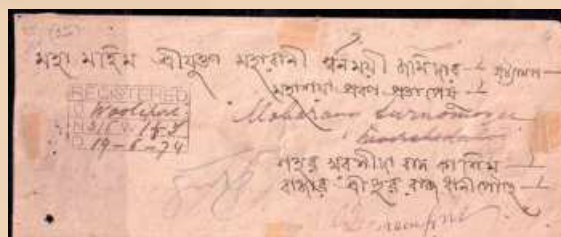
## From Trichinopoly to Madras

Rolands Nelson J. clarifies that registered post is not five or six decades old as many news reports say it is. He backs this statement with a small collection of registered posts, a majority of them dated prior to 1900. "From my records I can say registered post existed even during 1870s, and I have one sent in April 1871 from Trichinopoly (old name of Trichy during the British times) and received in Madras," says 79-year-old Rolands.

Stamps with two half anna (pale blue) and two anna (yellow) with the photo of Queen Victoria on them are seen. A few others in his collection include a registered post sent from Trichinopoly in 1884 and another in the 1900s. Being an avid collector, Rolands sourced them from dealers.

While nothing much can be inferred from the post, Rolands says the Tamil writings 200 years ago was different and would be difficult to read.

Rolands, who is president of South India Philately Association, says he has taken a keen interest in getting a collection of the postal history of Madras, starting from pre-stamp days. "I have a collection of letters, close to 40 album sheets, sent and received in Madras," says the Thiruvanniyur resident.



## A memory from East India Post

Collector Mahesh Parekh has a rare envelope showing a registered cover used during the East India Company. Dated June 19, 1874, the rubber stamps marked on it indicate that it was used during East India

Post booked at Woolipore (now in Bangladesh) to Bhigpore and redirected to Berhampore.

An avid collector, Mahesh got this in his collection more than 50 years ago from the open market. He preserves it with utmost care.

Registered post was patronised in a big way by various government departments including the police, the revenue department and the legal fraternity, before it began to be used by business people and civilians.

"In the court of law, a registered post with the postal seal was one of the most important documents to be presented before any case," says Mahesh, secretary of South India Philately Association. The sender would also get an acknowledgement which was treated as a valid proof. He says once commercial transactions began in 1900, one started seeing more of registered posts.

## History in envelopes

In Winston A. Henry's wide collection of relics from the past, there are many registered posts. One of them evokes a flood of postal memories.

The registered cover in question is from Manipal to Madras dated June 14, 1965. A resident of Sait Colony in Egmore was the receiver of this cover, stamped with two 25 paisa and two 15 paisa.

Winston is in the habit of hanging out with dealers. From them, he received a bunch of envelopes at ₹20 years ago.

Sometimes he visits the homes of stamp collectors and buys covers in bulk. The Anna Nagar resident, who ran a second hand bookstore for many years, has other rare registered covers including the first flight cover that was issued every time a plane was flown between two cities.

"A special postal cancellation was made for the occasion, and this cover was flown from Karachi to Madras and Colombo and returned to Karachi on the same route," says Winston.

The envelope was carried by the



pilot for the post office and since it was the first flight it became extra special for me in my collection, he says.



## The city through the car windows

Super Chennai, a citizen-powered urban movement, hosted the city's largest car treasure hunt – Wit on Wheels – on August 18 in commemoration of Madras Week. With the objective of celebrating the spirit of Chennai and helping citizens discover the modern, vibrant landscape of Super Chennai, the car treasure hunt had 320 participants in 80 cars hunting for clues and treasures across heritage spots, offbeat alleys, and quirky touchpoints, revealing Chennai's charm

in unexpected ways.

The car rally was flagged off by Navin Kumar and Suman Voora, board members of Super Chennai.

The excitement culminated at VGP Universal Kingdom, where camaraderie and celebration filled the air. Prizes worth over ₹1 lakh were presented to the winners by Asif Ali, Nawab of Arcot.

Shwetha and Geetha emerged as the winners of the car treasure hunt.

Commenting on the occasion, Ranjeeth Rathod,

managing director, Super Chennai said: "The Super Chennai initiative was envisioned to position our city among the top 100 most liveable cities globally. The car rally is a symbolic journey through Chennai's heritage, innovation, and community spirit, reflecting the very qualities that make our city unique and future-ready."

Asif Ali, Nawab of Arcot said: "The car rally beautifully captures this essence by taking participants on a journey that connects our heritage with our aspirations for the future."

Super Chennai is a not-for-profit initiative launched by CREDAI Chennai, aimed at redefining Chennai as a vibrant, future-ready global city.

## Chennai Bus Treasure Hunt

Metropolitan Transport Corporation is conducting a 'Chennai Bus Treasure Hunt' on August 30 at 10 a.m. at MTC headquarters, Pallavan House on Pallavan Salai.

The public can participate as teams; each group must consist of two to three people. To ensure team coordination and primary point of contact, a team member must be designated as a 'team leader'. The hunt is open to participants aged 16 and above, according to a release from the MTC.

No registration fee is required to participate in the hunt; the team members should carry ₹100, which may be used to complete specific challenges, said a

release.

The team members should use the Singara Chennai National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) to purchase bus tickets during the event. In case of any unexpected issues, the participants may use cash as an alternative.

People who have Singara Chennai NCMC can continue using their cards, and those who don't have one can obtain the card at the MTC headquarters before the event begins. Apart balance top-up facilities are also available.

The hunt will go on for three hours. The teams should be ready to travel around the city to solve and crack clues sequentially. The

team members should only travel by MTC buses, and the use of personal transport is strictly prohibited.

The teams will be required to perform specific tasks as part of the event, which may include problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork.

Mobile phone use during the event is strictly prohibited. The teams may be tracked using a designated WhatsApp group. However, the team leader's phone should be active and reachable for the MTC to contact.

To participate, scan the register code, which one can scan by logging into <https://x.com/MtcChennai>



The Department of History at Women's Christian College digs deep into the past to make Madras Day memorable for students

**C**oins bearing the image of King George VI that were minted just before India got freedom; an antique oil lamp; a 1901 telescope; bronze utensils; VCR cassettes, dog-eared, rare books and palaeolithic handaxes. These were part of the roll of honour.

The past was ushered into the campus of Women's Christian College at College Road on August 20 by its Department of History. The Department organised a series of events to mark Madras Day, and the above-mentioned relics of the past featured in what was titled "Nostalgic Madras". This artefact exhibition traced the history of Madras with exploration of prehistoric period as well as colonial and postcolonial eras.

A section was dedicated to the display of antique items from senior collectors in the city.

Kerosene lamps used in bicycles, old metals toys, alarm clocks made in occupied Japan, ink-dip-



## Time travel on a college campus



At the exhibition.  
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ping wooden pens, old metal piggy banks, unique and historically significant postcards and letters from the 1880s, World War II binoculars, metal pencil sharpeners, 1900 lens cameras and colonial-period sickles were among the raft of antiques. The stunning exhibit was a 1942 model BSA Airborne foldable bicycle used in WWII.

The exhibits were curated with the support of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology (University of Madras), history en-

thusiasts and private collectors such as John Moses, V. Prabhakar and Rolands Nelson and most importantly the students of the History Department. The antiquity of Madras was brought to light through the palaeolithic handaxes (retrieved from Attirampakkam) and Neolithic celts. The pottery fragments such as black ware, black painted ware, and black-and-red ware reflected the socio-cultural conditions of the early historic period, said a press release.

Students and non-teaching staff also played traditional games such as pallankuzhi, pandi, poo kattudhal and lemon and spoon. A sale of traditional food items was another highlight.

One of the department teachers who curated the exhibition says one big takeaway from the Madras Day exhibition at the college is that students have understood the value of holding on to things of the past, how much ever small they might be. Some have taken great pride in bringing small items that have been passed on from one generation to another. Many others have promised to take greater care of artefacts hidden away in their homes.

This event was an attempt to keep the spirit of the city, pass it to the younger generation and rekindle the passion for history.

## Route to happiness mapped out on canvas

Tarika Ram will present her artworks at a week-long exhibition opening on August 30 at Kalpa Druma on Cathedral Road

**E**ighteen-year-old Tarika Ram will showcase 30 of her artworks based on the concept of 'Happiness' at a week-long exhibition at Kalpa Druma in Cathedral Road. The inaugural function will take place at 4.30 p.m. on August 30.

Tarika is the daughter of Srivats Ram, managing director, Wheels India Ltd, and has previously showcased her artworks based on the Tirukural at three solo exhibitions in Chennai. She has also participated in a number of group exhibitions in Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Mumbai and New York. Her art installations during Navarathri revolved around themes such as

ocean, Amazon rainforest, Japan, the human brain, money and climate change, according to a press release.

In this exhibition, the teenager will be portraying her understanding of Happiness – a universal, yet elusive, emotion through tapestries and sculpture, among other art forms, the release adds.

In the release, Tarika says, "I chose happiness because everyone wants to be happy and it is a universal emotion. Yet, some people struggle to achieve an optimal state of well-being. Further, this is a topic that can be conveyed through abstract art."

Tarika's art mentor Diana Shatish says the two of them decoded this complex topic



Tarika Ram and one of her works that will be on display

through positive psychology and decolonial lenses using tapestries. "Tarika has weaved, painted, coloured, sewed, used collage and dyed one's own cloth using natural dyes, fostering emotional depth in tapestries," says Diana Shatish.

The exhibition will run till September 5 and can be viewed between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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Former DGP - Vigilance & Anti Corruption  
Former Director - TN Fire and Rescue Services.  
Dr. Rajan Ravichandran  
MD, MNAMS, FACP (USA), FRCP (EDIN).  
Date: 06 September 2025 (Saturday) ; Time: 8am to 2pm, Venue: The Teach Auditorium,  
Spastic Society of Tamilnadu, Taramani, Ch - 113. Contact: 7305368552

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# ‘Support’ to GCC’s efforts to beautify electricity transformers

At Seethammal Colony and (below) Thoraipakkam. Photos: Prince Frederick

PRINCE FREDERICK

The metallic view-cutters installed around transformers across Chennai are being turned into notice boards

If civic facilities in an area were a family, the power transformer would be the ugly duckling that is hurriedly swept out of view to avoid embarrassment in front of visitors.

With metal view cutters, Greater Chennai Corporation is keeping these transformers from the public gaze. You do not recognise a road-side power installation by the transformer anymore. You know there is one, when you see a metallic, aesthetically designed view cutter.

The designs on the view-cutting enclosures are hardly uniform, new patterns emerging with every new installation. The recent batches particularly display a diversity of designs like a bowler offering six

variations in six deliveries.

As if the creative juices flowing from GCC’s drawing board were not enough, this metal enclosures are “enhanced” by a beautification add-on from another quarter. Those with a message to deliver and with an inclination to deliver that message through posters are bringing a new layer to these structures. They treat the transformer view cutters as a notice board, pasting away to glory.

The images going with this report are from Seethammal Colony in Teynampet (taken on August 15, 2025); Thoraipakkam in OMR (August 16, 2025), where the add-ons, as of now, seem to follow a minimalist approach, just one advertisement board for every view-cutter.



## The solution

*How can view-cutters retain their good looks, not being marred by posters?*

The answer is illustrated on a view-cutter at East Mada Street in Thiruvanniyur, one that was receiving the final touches in the installation process on August 20, 2025. Spikes ending in a small flower had been wrought into the metal design to prevent pasting of posters. Posters cannot be pasted on to this view-cutter without suffering a tear.

To prevent disfigurement of other view cutters, retro-fitting of such features need to be undertaken.





## RCPL Group: celebrating 35 years of trust

RCPL Group, a real estate firm, marks its 35th year of operation.

Founded by Antony Rathinam, the company has constructed houses and vibrant neighbourhoods with noticeably impressive amenities, says a press release issued by the firm.

The firm is known for its customer-first values.

As of date, with 3.5 million square feet of constructed space, 109 completed projects, and over 3,600 homeowners, says the release.

The firm is stepping into the healthcare sector to serve society, the release adds.

For more updates, visit [www.rcproperty.in](http://www.rcproperty.in) or call 93607 76077.



## Special buses for Church festival

As part of the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health Church festival at Velankanni in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Limited will operate more than 1000 buses for the festival.

The buses will be operated from August 27 to September 10.

The State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) will operate the buses from Chennai, Bengaluru, Tuticorin, Kanya-

kumari, and Nagercoil.

For SETC buses, passengers can book tickets through [www.tnsc.in](http://www.tnsc.in) and on the TNSTC's official app.

Besides, chartered trips will be arranged for people who want to participate in the festival as a group.

The annual festival of Our Lady of Good Health will be held from August 29 to September 8.

## Kamakshi Hospitals launches 'Pink Promise' initiative

Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals has launched an initiative, 'Pink Promise', a campaign for early detection and awareness of breast cancer.

As part of the campaign, the hospital is offering free consultations and discounts on mammograms and ultrasounds, using its state-of-the-art Hologic 3D Mammography system.

This advanced technology enables painless screening with accuracy in detecting early-stage abnormalities, says a release issued by the hospital. The 100-day initiative aligns with 'Breast Cancer Awareness Month' in October and aims to encourage women to prioritise preventive healthcare. Women over 30 are encouraged to undergo annual breast ultrasounds, while those over 40 should opt for yearly mammograms, the release added.

Awareness camps in schools, colleges, community centres, and at the hospitals in Pallikaranai and Siruseri regions will be held under the campaign.

To schedule appointments, call 98401 88564 / 78248 63117.



## Free counselling support for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers

Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation offers free online and offline counselling sessions for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers.

The sessions create a safe space to cope with the diagnosis, understand care responsibilities, and practice self-care to prevent caregiver burnout. By addressing both the physical and emotional needs of families, the foundation hopes to make life with Parkinson's more manageable, said a release.

All sessions are available by appointment only. Contact 96000 52531 for details.

## Health camp in Anna Nagar

Anna Nagar Sri Ayyappa Charitable Trust will conduct a health check-up at concessional rate on August 31 from 7.30 a.m to noon at Adi Sankara Auditorium adjacent to Annanagar Ayyappa Temple. Blood screening test will include fasting blood sugar, post prandial, HbA1c, Lipid Profile, Kidney function, liver function, Thyroid(TSH), Urine(Routine), Blood grouping, blood pressure and free doctor consultation.

All the above tests can be done at a concessional rate of ₹699. Those requiring diabetes test only consisting of fasting sugar, post prandial, HbA1c and doctor consultation can avail the offer at ₹199. Pathologist's report. For registration, call 7200469351/ 9360386453/9361186633.



## Khadim outlet in Mogappair

Khadim, a footwear and accessories store, has opened an outlet in Mogappair.

The store has products of British Walker, Soft Touch, Cleo, Pedro, V-Turk, and Waves. The store has new winter collections for the whole family, says a press release.

The store is located at 27A/82, Vellalar Street, Nollambur, Mogappair West, adjacent to Canara Bank, Mogappair second branch. Phone: 044-4614 8696.

## Workshop on home care products

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME -Tamil Nadu is conducting a training programme on making home-care products and industrial chemical products from August 28 to 30 at the institute's premises at EDII Office Road, Ekkattuthangal. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, call 93602 21280 / 044 - 22252085.



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