

## ANNA NAGAR

Purasawalkam » Villivakkam » Kolathur » Nazarathpettai » Pattabiram » Maduravoyal » Koyambedu » Tiruverkadu » Puzhal » Kilpauk » Perambur » Mogappair  
Avadi » Ayyapakkam » Tiruninravur » Nerkundram » Moolakadai » Ayanavaram » Retteri » Padi » Ambattur » Tirumullaivoil » Aminjikarai » Vysarpadi » Red Hills



### 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 **P4**



### A 'GUIDING' LIGHT AT 92

Former school teacher 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 **P6**

## No easy roads for heavy vehicles to navigate

Tardy pipeline-laying work is taking its toll on road users in Gopalapuram, a neighbourhood in Pattabiram



APJ Abdul Kalam Street in West Gopalapuram; First Cross Street; and Third Cross Street in East Gopalapuram. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

#### C. SRIDHAR KUMAR

**P**ipelines pertaining to water supply and sewage clearance began to be laid two months ago at West Gopalapuram and East Gopalapuram in Pattabi-

ram in Avadi Corporation. But both the works are progressing at a tardy pace. We do not see the workers at the construction site most of the days. There is often no sign of work.

With these roads having been dug up, it is difficult to navigate

them on wheels or by foot. The recent rains have only aggravated the problem. In recent weeks, there have been instances of heavy vehicles getting stuck in the slushy earth resulting from the road digging. This includes a school van, a

water tanker, a lorry and a cement mixing truck. When the cement mixing truck got stuck, an electricity post fell on it resulting in power cut. Fortunately, nothing untoward happened. With north-east monsoon to hit the city in a couple of

months, both the works need to be completed and the roads restored at the earliest.

C. Sridhar Kumar is the secretary of Gopalapuram Residents Welfare Association, Pattabiram

## Spartan School lifts championship trophy at cancer awareness event

Close to 100 schools took part in an inter-school competition organised by CANSTOP



**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 measures 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, Immediate 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. Chandran, 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.

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Young entrepreneurs at the 'Kiosk'

## Beyond the classroom

Twelve students of Bhaktavatsalam Memorial College for Women in Korattur get a platform to showcase their entrepreneurial ideas

Students and faculty of Bhaktavatsalam Memorial College for Women in Korattur do not have to travel far to shop for toiletry items and fashion jewellery and to stitch their blouses. Every working day, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., the ground floor of the main building turns into a mini shopping area where staff and students get to shop for a range of items. The "shops" are run by 12 student-entrepreneurs of the college.

To nurture an entrepreneurial spirit in young women, the Entrepreneurial Development Cell of the college recently opened a student kiosk on the campus.

The kiosk serves as a platform for these budding entrepreneurs to

market their own handmade products. The initiative goes by the motto "Earn while you learn". The kiosk features handmade crafts, eco-friendly products, sari pleating, crochet and aari embroidery.

The Entrepreneurial Development Cell received close to 100 applications from students and 12 were shortlisted.

The interest and passion that each student brought to her startup were crucial in selecting the students, a majority being from second and third year of arts and

science courses.

S. Sindhuja, for instance, specialises in fashion designing and has started getting orders from the faculty for stitching clothes. S.S.Shadhakshini makes organic soaps and shampoos and sells them through e-commerce platforms.

IQAC coordinator R. Indira says the Entrepreneurial Development Cell has been functioning since 2012 and MSME members are brought to train students in various skills. "We have seen many of our students go on to become successful entrepreneurs. Alumnae Revathi Manikandan is into export business and is doing very well," says Indira.

The initiative is led by B. Manjula Devi, coordinator. The kiosk was inaugurated by N. Kamalakkannan, deputy director, EDII-MSME, Government of Tamil Nadu. Principal K.R. Dhanalakshmi; dean Madhumitha Kedhari; vice-principal S. Mangai and the IQAC coordinator R. Indira were among those who took part in the event.

## READERS WRITE

### 'Signboards needed to locate new Sub Registrar Office'



A month ago, the Sub Registrar Office – Avadi was shifted from a rented building in Aringar Anna Nagar in Sekkadu to its own premises at Indira Nagar in Paruthipattu on Avadi-Poonamallee High Road.

The new office is situated adjacent to the Regional Transport Office - Poonamallee.

However there is no notice board at the earlier address announcing the shifting, its new address and mention of landmarks.

Further, the signboard at the entrance of Dr. Ambedkar Main Road indicating the presence of the Sub Registrar Office which is wrong and misleading has to be removed.

Besides, there is no signboard at the old address guiding the public to the new address of the Sub Registrar Office.

**T. Sadagopan**, president, Tamil Nadu Progressive Consumer Centre, a citizens group based in Avadi

### '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

### 'Bus stop near Ambattur Industrial Estate unhygienic'

The area near the bus stop facing east at Ambattur Industrial Estate bus terminus is unhygienic as people relieve themselves in the open. The place is damp and stench-ridden. Greater Chennai Corporation should look into this issue without delay.

**N. Harikrishnan**, Guindy



### 'Manikandapuram Main Road in a sorry state'

Manikandapuram Main Road in Thirumullaivoyal is marked by potholes and prone to waterlogging. It should be noted the road was relaid only recently. This road is crucial as it links Cholambedu Road and CTH Road. The authorities are requested to attend to this issue at the earliest.

**D. Suresh**, Thirumullaivoyal



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# 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.

## AESTHETICS



# Ripon Building, Chennai Central find 'new addresses'

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

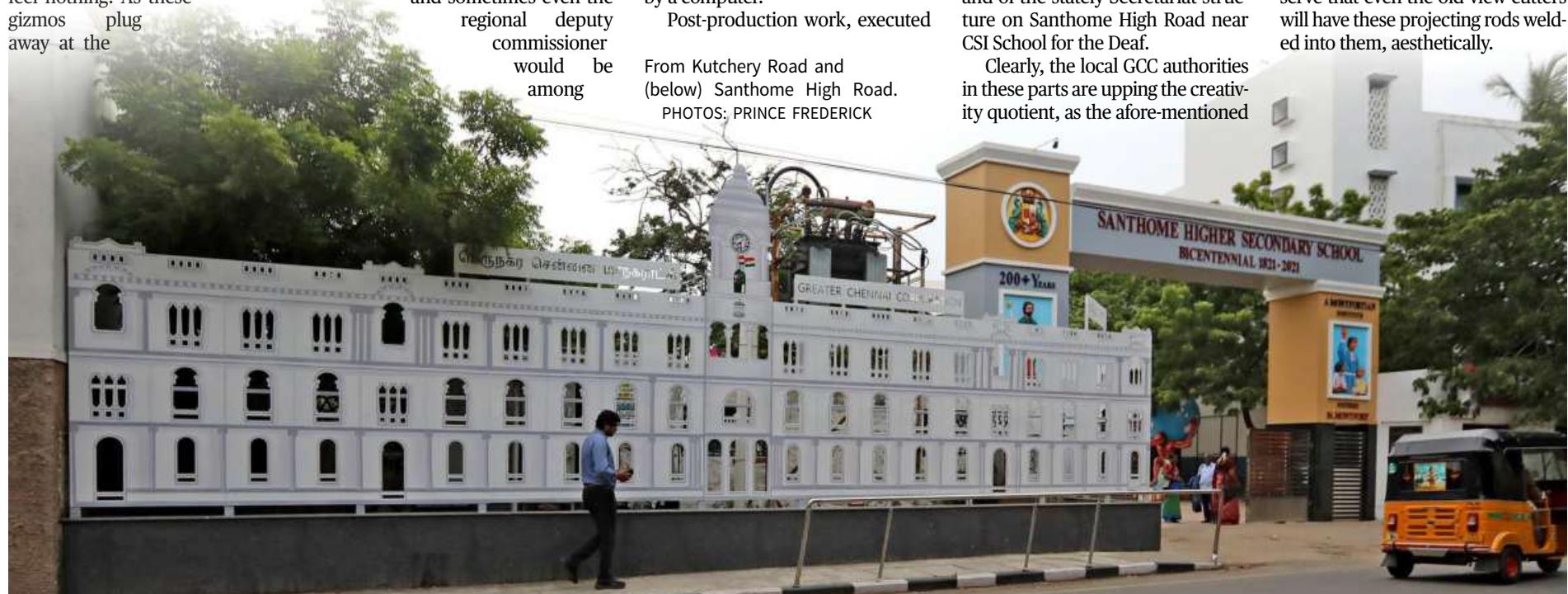
after the metallic view cutter has been mounted around the transformer, involves the artistry of human hands. The metal that had been cut to reflect parts of a known object would become a canvas. That is how one gets a glimpse of Ripon Building on Santhome High Road, right outside Santhome Higher Secondary 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.



# 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

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

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.

## '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 Kaaleeshwarar 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.

## 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 organising 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 tour-

nament 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.

## Students of swimming academy in Mogappair bag national medals

Students of SDAT-Dolphin Swimming Academy in Mogappair clinched 12 medals across the sub-junior and junior national championships held in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad respectively.

A.P. Arya Sathar won five medals in the sub-junior nationals (gold in the 100m Backstroke and 4x50m freestyle relay; bronze in the 200m individual medley, 4x50 medley relay and 100m



(Left to right) V. Srihari, S. Oviya A.P. Arya Sathar, K.B. Saikumar and S. Gokulan.

freestyle).

S. Oviya won three medals (silver in 200m backstroke, bronze in 4x100m Medley relay and 4x100m Freestyle relay) in the junior nationals.

Meanwhile, S. Gokulan (ju-

nior) won two bronze medals (4x100m Medley relay and 4x100 Freestyle relay). V. Srihari (4x100 Freestyle Silver) and K.B. Saikumar (4x100 Freestyle Silver) were the other winners in the junior category.



## Sports day at school

Colour, creativity and sporting spirit were seen at the sports day function of SV High School, Arumbakkam. I. Eswaran, Superintendent of Police, Railways, was the chief guest at 'Sports Spectra 2025-26'.

Students presented captivating cultural and drill displays, including butterfly, bamboo stick and sunflower drills, says a press release issued by the institution.

Athletic events, sprint races, relays and obstacle courses brought the ground alive with cheers and excitement.

The sports event not only showcased talent but also resilience and unity. B. Ramachandran, chairman, and K. Atchaya, executive director, of the institution, were present.

## Classes in Tanjore paintings

A workshop on Tanjore paintings and other traditional Indian art forms, including Madhubani, Warli, Gond, Patachitra, Nirmal, Zulu and Kerala Mural, will be conducted for women and children from September 8 onwards at SAF Games Village, Koyambedu.

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## Facilitating school-to-work transition

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

The 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 top-

ics shaping the future of talent, skills and education.

The topics at the session included 'Giving Wings – Preparing 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.



## '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 questions 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 Swami DhyanaGamyana, 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 compassion," 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 neighbour-

hoods." 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.

## 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.

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 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 Annadana 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.

## 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



The 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 volun-

tary 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.

Shaikh Sadaqathullah has donated blood over 50 times, thereby saving many lives. He is the trustee of the Kayalpatnam Medical Trust Hospital; an active member of the Lions Club; contributor to the Lions Foundation for the Blind; licensed HAM Radio operator, offering services during emergencies. Shaikh Sadaqathullah has been recognised and honoured by Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M. K. Stalin

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.

## 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.

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