

TAMBARAM

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

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

‘Create a parking lot on western side of Chromepet station’

The old parking lot was removed to pave way for a double discharge platform at the terminal, forcing commuters to find parking space elsewhere

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Electric train commuters from Chromepet and surrounding areas have re-

quested that the Southern Railway create a parking lot in the western side of Chromepet side.

A parking yard existed along GST Road years ago, but once work to construct a double discharge platform at the terminal started the parking lot had to be removed.

The parking lot proved helpful to commuters from localities on the western side of Chromepet, Lakshmipuram, and Nagalkeni and Thiruneermalai region.

At present, there is no railway parking lot along GST Road, but there is a private parking one on



the eastern side.

However, access to this lot is not easy, and the available space is



not sufficient. At times, commuters must wait for a long time to cross Level Crossing 26 or nego-

tiate MIT flyover, Chitlapakkam Main Road and Station Border Road.

Commuters park vehicles outside the terminal along GST Road and on Radha Nagar Main Road and Station Border Road. P. Viswanathan, a social activist and a long-time resident of Chitlapakkam, says, “Railways must use the space along the double-discharge platform and the Radha Nagar subway to create a parking lot and commuters must park their vehicles in the lots.”

Commuters opined that a cycle stand could be facilitated, encouraging people to take up cycling.



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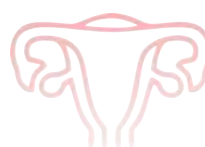
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‘Safe pedestrian crossing needed in Thiruvanchery’



Near Bharath Institute of Law on Agaramthen Road in Thiruvanchery. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shridhi Sai Nagar in Thiruvanchery is an educational hub. The neighbourhood is home to Bharath Arts and Science College, Shree Bharath Vidhyasharam, Bharath Institute of Law, Bharat Polytechnic College, Sri Chaitnya Techno School, and Mount Caramel Matriculation School. The crossing located near

Bharath Institute of Law is devoid of basic pedestrian infrastructure, and pedestrians struggle to cross Agaramthen Road.

Near the crossing, students jump the median or squeeze themselves between the median and the lamp post to get to the other end of the road. Traders and public decry

events of students narrowly being knocked down by motorists.

I appeal to the authorities in the State Highways Department to construct a footbridge or facilitate a pedestrian crossing with a traffic signal.

Beena Anil is a resident of Thiruvanchery

‘Unauthorised parking: permanent solution needed’

The problem of unauthorised parking of vehicles at Tambaram railway station premises was highlighted in these pages more than a month ago.

Following this, the Chennai Division of the Southern Railway installed iron poles, tied with ropes, on the lane leading to the ticket counter building and Velachery Main Road to prevent vehicular

parking.

Further, it has put up signboards about the availability of parking lots nearby.

Although this provides temporary relief, the expectation is that permanent arrangements must be made to combat unauthorised parking.

R. V. Baskaran is a resident of Selayur



‘Inspect pavements on Agaramthen Road’

Agaramthen Road running between Camp Road and Mappedu is 100-feet wide and has pavement stretching more than 10 feet wide.

In the absence of barricades and bollards, motorcyclists find it easy to park the vehicles in a haphazard manner. Besides, some can be spotted riding on the pave-

ments, endangering pedestrians.

An area of the pavement has been blocked, forcing pedestrians to walk down the carriageway.

I request the authorities in the State Highways Department to inspect the pavements.

A.V. Narayanan is a resident of Rajakilpakkam

‘Chitlapakkam streets need mending’

Abraham Lincoln Street and adjacent streets in Chitlapakkam are in a bad condition, marked by potholes.

Motorists and pedestrians find it challenging to navigate these roads.

There have been instances of two-wheeler users and walkers sustaining a fall. There are two educational institutions, and many children and parents use the stretch that facilitates connectivity to Camp Road and Velachery Main Road.

I request the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to carry out patchwork without any delay, followed by relaying.

P. Viswanathan is a resident of Chitlapakkam



‘Relay the level crossing road’



The Level Crossing (LC) 49 carriageway in Chettipuniyam is in a pitiable state. The road in the tracks and the slabs are broken, giving vehicle users a tough time. Iron rods can be seen jutting out of the broken slab stones.

All this affects traffic movement, tyres of vehicles get damaged and two-wheeler users lose their balance.

Additional speed breakers should be laid along the LC in Devanathapuram and Ganesh Nagar.

After an announcement that the gates are going to be closed, vehicle users drive rashly to avoid waiting, posing a risk to pedestrians.

C. Lakshmi Chandran is a resident of Chettipunniyam

‘Drainage line is clogged at Pasumpon Nagar in Pammal’

The main public drainage line on Karuppan Cross Street in Pasumpon Nagar, Pammal is completely clogged with mud, hard waste and debris. As a result, grey water from kitchens and bathrooms is flowing back into homes, causing unbearable stench and creating an unhygienic environment.

We have raised multiple complaints, taking the issue to the CM's Cell, the Tambaram Municipal Commissioner and local councillor. We are still waiting for a solution.

Divya Dharshini is a resident of Pasumpon Nagar, Pammal



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Pallavaram teacher bags award

Computer science teacher with Government Higher Secondary School is among the recipients of Dr. Radhakrishnan State Best Teacher Award

T. Padmanabhan, a Computer Science teacher at Maraimalai Adigal Government Higher Secondary School in Pallavaram, was honoured with the Dr. Radhakrishnan State Best Teacher Award on September 5.

The educator received the award from Udhayanidhi Stalin, Deputy Chief Minister, in the presence of Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, State Education Minister, at a function held at Anna Centenary Library in Kotturpuram.

▼
T. Padmanabhan receives the award from Udhayanidhi Stalin, Deputy Chief Minister.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The tutor teaches students of classes XI and XII computer science, covering topics such as C++ and Python (as per the syllabus) using LCD projectors and smartboards.

“The school computer lab is well-stocked with adequate computers. Apart from the syllabus, I update my students about new technologies in the Information Technology sector, apps (general), and ask them to utilise the Tamil Nadu School Education Department’s ‘Manarken’ app for their betterment,” says the teacher.

The app features videos in both English and Tamil, covering concepts from the Tamil Nadu State Board syllabus across all classes, created by the State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT).

The tutor said it gave him immense happiness to serve as a teacher in the very school where he once studied and to be now honoured with the ‘State Best Teacher Award’.

“I am proud that my father, a renowned archaeologist and historian, Late B. Thirugnanasambandam, too studied in the school,” he says.

Honour for Pallikaranai resident

L. Sridevi, a research scholar at the Department of Telugu, University of Madras, has been appointed as the chief coordinator for cultural, general, and freelance activities in Tamil Nadu, Telugu Book of Records (TBR).

The TBR founder, Chintapatla Venkata Chary, announced her appointment to the Records.

The scholar is a resident of Pallikaranai and will hold the post for a tenure of two years, which started on August 29, said a release.

L. Sridevi can be contacted at 94453 60139.



Changes in train services

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

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

The trains will be cancelled on September 9, 13, 20, and 27.

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 by MTC.

Plea to upgrade Perumbakkam Panchayat to a municipality



An open stormwater drain in Perumbakkam.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Demanding better civic amenities, residents of Perumbakkam have requested that the State Government upgrade the Perumbakkam First Grade Village Panchayat into a municipality.

If not, it should be merged with either the Greater Chennai Corporation or Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, the request adds.

Nearly two lakh people reside in the region, which has a significant number of institutions and a number of hospitals.

A growing residential region, with a majority of residents working in the IT sector, the region lacks proper roads, potable water supply, an effective stormwater drain network and an under-

ground drainage network, residents point out.

N. K. Raja, a long-time resident and President of Nesamani Nagar Residents Welfare Association, says, “The staff at the Panchayat are not able to meet the demands of residents. Due to insufficient funds, infrastructure projects are delayed. Last year, we raised the issue with the Chief Minister’s Office.

This year, Sriperumbudur, Mammalapuram, and Thiruvaiyaru Town Panchayats were upgraded as municipalities. Following this, in February and May, we made a representation to the CMO that Perumbakkam Panchayat be upgraded to a Municipality.”

Text: T.S. Atul Swaminathan

‘Ply more buses to Poonamallee’



Some commuters go to Guindy and board buses there to reach Poonamallee.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Residents of Nanganallur and Pazhavanthangal regions have sought an increase in services of 154B, which plies between Nanganallur and Poonamallee. R. Sridharan, a social activist, says that years ago, the buses were operated once every 75 to 90 minutes.

“Though at times, the buses turned in late, commuters could rely on the services. Today, the services are very scarce,” says R. Theyagarajan, a commuter from

St. Thomas Mount.

Z. Zulfigar Zeenath, a commuter from Pazhavanthangal, says it is better to go to Race Course bus stop in Guindy and board bus route numbers 49F and 54.

The other option is to walk from Alandur Ashar Ghana bus stop to Saint Thomas Mount Shrine bus stop on Butt Road, adds Sridharan.

Commuters will find it helpful to go to Kattupakkam, Mangadu, and Thiruverkadu from Kummamanchavadi. Even Chennai Metro Rail Limited can ply buses till Po-

rur or Iyyapathangal from Nanganallur metro station on the lines of S27 and S84, plying till Porur from Guindy Race Course bus stop and Alandur metro station, adds Theyagarajan.

“The buses from Nanganallur terminus can either be express or deluxe services. If the services are regular, commuters will optimise the services in large numbers. Commuters will be spared the trouble of switching between public transport systems and walking from Alandur to Saint Thomas Mount.”

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

On 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 chatter 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 tinkers 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 Rs.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-

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 Kotturpuram. For details, call 044 - 2441 0025.

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

Sky 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 Thiruvannamiyur 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 Sendil went on, along with his friend Subhash, a photography enthusiast. "We started with just one telescope," Sendil recalls. Sky Secrets runs weekend workshops from Choolaimedu, priced at ₹300 per head, offering guided explorations of the moon, planets and nebulae. 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



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

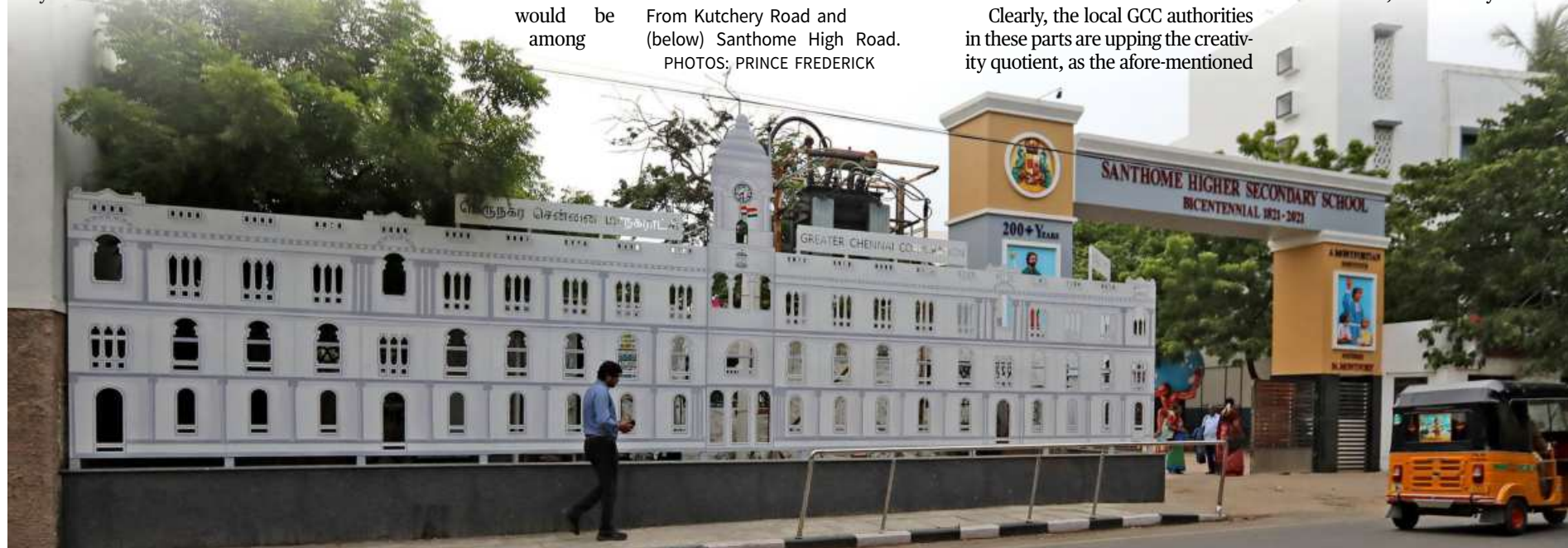
after the metallic view cutter has been mounted around the transformer, involves the artistry of human hands. The metal that had been cut to reflect parts of a known object would become a canvas. That is how one gets a glimpse of Ripon Building on Santhome High Road, right outside Santhome Higher Secondary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

On 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 Kapleshwarar Temple in Mylapore, roping in children to create awareness about leprosy and helping out during natural ca-

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.

Mahabali visits Vels Institute



Onam celebrations at Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies in Pallavaram was a colourful event. The day began with a grand welcoming of King Mahabali. Students donned traditional Kerala saris and dhotis, adding authenticity to the occasion. The celebrations featured a series of competitions, including drawing, tug of war, fashion walk, *athapookkalam* and *thiruvathira kali*. A traditional chendamelam performance enthralled the audience with its rhythmic beats. Preethaa Ganesh, vice-president of Vels Group of Institutions honoured the winners with cash prizes.

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 topics 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.



Jain College celebrates Founder's Day



Agurchand Manmull Jain College in Mee-nambakkam recently held an event to commemorate the 123rd birth anniversary of its founder, Mohanmull Chordia.

The event was held at the Bhagwan Mahaveer Gyan Bhavan and was attended by faculty, students, and alumni.

On the occasion, Sah Agurchand Man-

mull family donated ₹21 lakh for the creation of a state-of-the-art computer laboratory, which would provide students with access to modern technological tools, said a release. Udhay Kumar Chordia, secretary of the College, said the new computer lab reflects the institution's dedication to innovation and progress.

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

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

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Sports day celebrated at school in Uthiramerur

On the occasion of National Sports Day (August 29), Meenakshi Ammal Global School in Uthiramerur conducted its sports meet. D. Maniazhagu, professor, Department of Physical Education and Health Science, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, was the chief guest. He encouraged students to participate with true sportsmanship.

The event began with a march past by all the houses, followed

by a torch lighting ceremony and an oath-taking ceremony by the sports captain, said a release.

A good number of field events, including 200 metres, 400 metres relay, pyramid formation and silambam demonstration were held. 'Thetha' house emerged as the overall champion. G. Ra. Gokul, chairman, and Aruna Appasamy, director, of the Meenakshi Group of Schools, attended the event.



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

Talk recalls the contribution of Gujaratis to Madras

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

Historian Karthik Bhatt, a chartered accountant by profession, took the audience 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.

'For Your Eyes Only' quiz held



Close 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 Swamy Dhyanyagamyana, 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 life-long 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 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.

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