

T. NAGAR

Saidapet » West Mambalam » Vadapalani » Porur » Kattupakkam » Irungattukottai » Nungambakkam » Manapakkam » Ashok Nagar » Valasaravakkam
Gerugambakkam » Mangadu » Choolaimedu » Egmore » K K Nagar » Kodambakkam » Virugambakkam » Somangalam » Poonamalee » Chetpet



TIME TRAVEL ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS

The Department of History at Women's Christian College digs deep into the past to make Madras Day memorable for students **P3**



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 **P4**

No change in traffic situation on Arunachalam Street



When Greater Chennai Corporation opened a modern fish market on West Cooum River Road in Chintadripet in May 2025, residents and passers-by were expecting freedom from the traffic logjams on the section where the old fish market has been functioning for decades. The situation however remains the same as these images, taken around 9 a.m. on August 21, show. The new fish market, which is less than 200 metres from the old one, is hardly occupied by vendors who prefer to conduct business from their favourite old spots. Arunachalam Street in Chintadripet witnesses maximum traffic between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. until the major sale of fish runs its course. Vehicles used to ferry goods are parked haphazardly on the road, blocking movement of vehicles. Adding to it, vendors plonk themselves on the road with their 'freezer boxes'. A resident of the area says the waste is either left on the road or dumped on the stormwater drain. "The new market is spacious. If at least vehicles are parked in this area then there would be some relief for those taking the road," says a resident of the neighbourhood. He says GCC should speak to the fish vendors and see what can be done to make them operate from the new premises.

PHOTOS & TEXT: R. RAGU



READERS WRITE

'Wetland park in Porur poorly maintained'



Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) opened the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Wetland Eco Park on Chettiar Agaram Road in Porur this March.

But the waterbody in the 16-acre park is poorly maintained. More than half of the waterbo-

dy is covered with water hyacinth resulting in oxygen depletion, which can lead to death of fish.

Further, the number of birds visiting the waterbody has reduced considerably.



R. Murugesan
Porur

'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





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



Time travel on a college campus

Coins 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-dipping wooden pens, old metal piggy banks, unique and historically sig-

nificant 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 enthusiasts 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



At the exhibition.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



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.

Periamet travelogue on August 29

To celebrate Madras Week, Storycorner at Bookmine is organising 'Periamet Travelogue' on August 29 at Hotel Palmgrove on Kodambakkam High Road at 6 p.m.

The event will feature octogenarian N.V.S. Manian, a leather industry veteran operating out of Periamet, and an illustrated talk on the 'Landmarks of Periamet' by writer and storyteller Sudha Umashanker.

Prior registration is needed to attend this event. For details, call 9840247624

Sai Jayalakshmi on how to make one's tennis count

K. KEERTHIVASAN

Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) introduced an off-court motivational and mental training session for all participants – a first for an ITF J60 event – during the Unifi ITF Junior Tennis Cup at the SDAT-Nungambakkam Stadium recently.

The session was led by former National champion Sai Jayalakshmi, who spoke candidly to the young athletes about her journey and the mindset needed to thrive in modern tennis.

"When I was playing at this level, things were not very professional," she recalled.

"We were the first batch of girls travelling abroad and



competing. We just took it step-by-step: State-level, then Nationals, and then abroad. Nothing was planned, but because of that, we did not feel overwhelmed by the results.

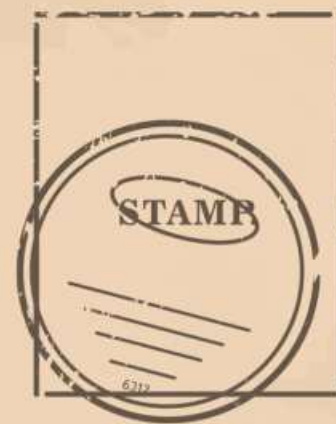
"Today, things are a lot more professional. Players start out aiming to be No. 1, but in that process, they sometimes lose out on enjoying the journey," she said.

Referring to men's world no. 2 Carlos Alcaraz, she added, "When you see Alcaraz play, he looks like he is having the best time on court. He hits a great drop shot and enjoys it even more than we do watching him. He works hard, yes, but he never loses sight of the fun. That is the kind of balance every player should aspire to."

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

LIFFY THOMAS



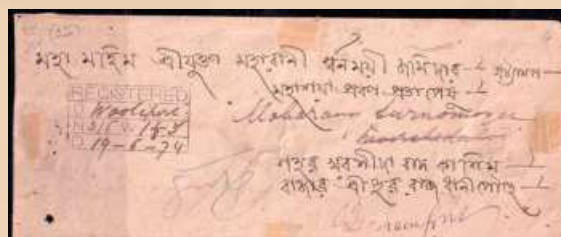
From Trichinopoly to Madras

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 Thiruvannamiyur 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>

From Madras to South East Asia



On August 22, 2025, commemorating Madras Day, Cycling Yogis released a booklet on “Madras to South East Asia via Coromandel Coast” at a gathering in Higginbothams on Mount Road. The book was born organically out of various cycling tours organised at locations in South East Asia by Cycling Yogis. In addition to tracking the links between Tamil Nadu and South East Asia, the book dwells on echoes of Madras in those parts with engaging snippets. Known for her comparative study of temple iconography in Tamil Nadu and Cambodia, Sherin Someetharan, additional commissioner, customs & GST, spoke on the occasion, as did Kombai S. Anwar, writer, historian and documentary film-maker. Others who weighed in with their comments included Meenakshi Devaraj, historian and Kolam artist, Thirupurasundari Sevel, architect planner, historian, founder -- Nam Veedu Nam Oor Nam Kathai, Saravana Kumar Kumaravasagam, consul general of Malaysia to Chennai (South India) and Ennarasu Karunesan, senior maritime, ports and logistics expert and regional director, International Association of Ports and Harbors, Tokyo. Ramanujar Moulana, founder of Cycling Yogis, gave a brief overview of the book. P. Suresh, co-founder of Pro-Bikers and a longtime associate of Cycling Yogis, took part in the book launch event. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

A ‘natural’ traffic circle

At a four-road intersection near Nageswara Rao Park in Mylapore, one tree takes on the workload of a roundabout, admirably



PRINCE FREDERICK

Traffic roundabouts soak up resources. They take time taking shape even as an idea. Various heads are put together, those of engineers specialising in civil works as well as transportation planning and execution. The site is studied,

the swirl of traffic patterns around it observed. Models are worked out based on the findings. By the time the design rises off the paper (that is obsolete; in this day and age, screen it is) and lands on the site, the baton would have been passed on to the landscape architect. When the greenery has been worked into the picture, it is over

to the maintenance supervisor and the humble gardener.

And everyday concerns will then move the narrative. Those would include motorists griping (often justifiably) about greenery growing too high for their safety, blocking their view of vehicles ploughing in from another road. Corporation’s parks department



The tree on August 22, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

personnel would head to the spot with secateurs. In rare cases where a tree has shot up towards the skies, a forklift machine would trundle in to take tree-trimming personnel all the way up to the tree’s crown.

Now, contrast all the resource- and energy-sapping series of processes with how a roundabout near Nageswara Rao Park in Luz Avenue took shape. The roundabout just grew.

It is a one-tree roundabout. The tree (a peepal) was there waiting to become a roundabout, unchallenged in its space. It grew unaware

of its calling, and finally found it. The roundabout is as simple as it can get. A tree, a heap of earth at its base and a white circle painted around it. And this one-tree roundabout efficiently divides and distributes the traffic flowing in from four roads –Luz Avenue Road, Ramachandra Road, Luz Avenue First Street and Luz Avenue Second Street. Credit is due to Greater Chennai Corporation and traffic planning team of the Chennai City Traffic Police for countenancing the possibility of one tree functioning as a whole roundabout, and in the process saving the tree.

‘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.





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 benefit of devotees.

The buses will be oper-

ated from August 27 to September 10.

The State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) will operate the buses from Chennai, Bengaluru, Tuticorin, Kanyakumari, and Nagercoil. For SETC buses, passengers can book tickets through

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.



▼
The park at Peeran Street in Saligramam.

Redevelopment work in a park

Redevelopment work is on at the Greater Chennai Corporation's park in Peeran Street in Saligramam. It is learnt that a badminton court is being set up. While residents welcome this facility, they want GCC to take appropriate measures to ensure the OSR park of an apartment located in the same street is kept open for the general public. Most of the days, the OSR park which also belongs to GCC is locked.

Arjun Bhaskar,
Saligramam

Job fair on August 30

Inner Wheel Club - Thiruvannamiyur is conducting a job fair on August 30 at Nehru Boys Higher Secondary School, Nanganallur. Time: From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. According to a press release, around 40 companies including LIC of India, SBI Life, and HDFC Bank will be taking part. For details, call 9962996052.

Free English classes

The GIFT School, an initiative of Biz Gospels in association with YMCA Kottivakkam, is offering English language classes for underprivileged children and youngsters. According to a press release, no fee will be charged. Classes will be conducted every Friday at the YMCA Hall, Kottivakkam.

For details, call 9677 465 772 / 824 832 5234

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.



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.

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Listen to Vintage Classics today



Aaroahi Charitable Trust will present Vintage Classics - Edition VI on August 24, 2025 at Muthamizh Peravai, T.N. Rajarathinam Kalai Arangam in Adyar.

The flagship concert will feature timeless Bollywood and South Indian melodies from the 1950s to early 2000s, rendered by Aaroahi's accomplished ensemble of singers, accompanied by a professional live orchestra conducted by Rafi, says a press release.

Aaroahi's orchestra comprises leading cine musicians of Chennai, whose credentials include performing at live concerts for eminent music directors such as Ilaiyaraaja, Deva and others, ensuring an authentic and superior musical experience, the release adds.

Over the years, Aaroahi has combined musical excellence with purposeful giving. The Trust gratefully acknowledges the long-standing patronage of JK Fenner

and Ivaira, whose support has strengthened its charitable initiatives, says the release.

Proceeds from this edition will benefit a charitable clinic for women and children in T. Nagar.

Aaroahi's singers - V. Balasubramaniam, Harishankar Mani, Priya Sabu, Renu Akileswaran, Surendran Menon and Vidhya Srinivasan - have been performing together for over 11 years. Friends and working professionals, they share a passion for retro music and take pride in curating popular yet rarely performed-on-stage songs.

With R. Srinivasan as Master of Ceremonies and events curated by Shanti Menon of Trived Events, Aaroahi has presented more than 40 shows over the last decade, without repeating a single song.

In the process, the group has raised over ₹1 crore for charitable causes, reinforcing its mission of blending music with meaningful impact, says the release.

Saligramam RWA honours students



Kaveri Rangan Nagar Residents Welfare Association at Kaveri Rangan Nagar in Saligramam honoured rank holders of Kaveri School in Class 10 examination on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations. According to a press release, the students were honoured with cash prizes.

Magic show for special children



Arvind Foundation, a centre for children with special needs, organised a magic show for its students recently. According to a press release, the event was sponsored by Prodapt Foundation. There was also, a dance session. The foundation can be reached at 9884270697 / 9841615333.

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.

Workshop on organic farming

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a culinary workshop on salads and juices on August 28. Another workshop on organic farming will be held on August 29. The session will focus on chemical-free methods of pest management and soil nourishment. Both the sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. Prior registration is required. For details, call 044 - 29530048.

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

Eighteen-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 Tirukkural 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 Navaratri 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 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 Director General of Police - TN **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