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'Test tracks' in Thoraipakkam



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

What is worse than an essential need not being met? That need being met in a manner one did not bargain for. Here is an illustration from Thoraipakkam.

Resident Balu .N is integral to a group of eight residents from Bala-

murugan Garden in Thoraipakkam that is reportedly tasked with turning the wheels of officialdom. For the past few months, this task has been more assiduous than ever before. And they are plugging away at this task with greater spirit than ever before, for two reasons. One, they can enjoy the full benefits of three basic services, long-awaited

and now in sight. And more importantly, they are doing the official wheel-turning more intensely to make sure a horrifying side effect resulting from processes to create infrastructure to deliver those services, is arrested.

The amenities in question are: drinking water supply and sewage drain network by CMWSSB; and



provision of a stormwater drain network by GCC.

Balu observes that CMWSSB started laying pipelines for drinking water in February 2025, and this project was joined by two others the next month, in March 2025, when GCC started constructing stormwater drains and CMWSSD, underground drainage system.

As a result, the roads in Balamurugan Garden and Customs Colony are among areas in Thoraipakkam that battle bad roads due to multiple civic works happening simultaneously. The images were taken on August 16, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

The other two projects being mired in challenges relating to the home stretch, the NOCs for them are nowhere in sight.

"We have learnt that on account of GCC's stormwater drain work, CMWSSB's sewage connections to some residences got damaged. Restoring them will take some doing," says Balu, adding that as for the stormwater drains themselves, the silt catch pits are yet to be constructed.

And so, bad road conditions are expected to continue.

And this worries not just residents, even occasional passers-by.

Anitha S, a resident of TVH Svasti located in a neighbourhood of Thoraipakkam that is untouched by this issue, was surprised at the state of these roads when she happened to pass through them en route to a destination elsewhere. And she brought the issue to *The Hindu Downtown's* attention.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Y. SAMEER (9yr old) student of Mount Litera Zee School, Navaloor Chennai, brought laurels to the state of Tamilnadu and India, by achieving an unique feat of becoming youngest winner of 1st Degree Black Belt at ITF Taekwondo Federation in the world.

He is trained by International Instructor and examiner **Sabum Dr.D.Mukesh Kumar** 4th Dan Black Belt at Flying feet taekwondo academy. Y. Sameer has won several medals across various tournaments from the young age of 5.

- Gold medal in ITF Taekwondo International Asian Championship
- Gold medal in National Championship
- Gold medal in Tamilnadu state championship

Wishes from Solai Agro Fresh

A soiree to remember for MRC residents



Samavesha 2025, the cultural highlight of the MRC Fest, concluded last week, drawing an audience of over 700 enthusiastic MRC'ians to the MRC Kalyana Mandapam, Ramaswamy Hall.

Carrying the theme "Where

Traditions Embrace Tomorrow", Samavesha showcased a vibrant blend of Indian classical elegance, folk traditions and contemporary creativity – creating a seamless bridge between the heritage of yesterday and the innovations of today, says a press release.

The evening began with the lighting of the kuthuvilakku by senior citizens, followed by a warm welcome from the MRC residents association president and an elegant entry of the office bearers. The programme included a choir



The Ponniyin Selvan crew; and (right) the women who "recreated" Ravi Varma paintings.

performance in multiple languages that set the tone for unity in diversity; a classical jugalbandhi by Neeraja and Nandhini, merging rhythmic grace with musical brilliance; Mom and I - a heartwarming mother-daughter twinning hairstyle contest; a Spanish folk performance bringing global culture to the stage; and Ponniyin Selvan Fashion Round, beginning with a soulful song by Kundavai

The programme included a choir performance in multiple languages that set the tone for unity in diversity; and a classical jugalbandhi

and Vanathi.

Staff nurses of Chennai Breast Centre, MRC danced to a contemporary Tamil fusion medley.

Among the highlights of the fest was a Ravi Varma-inspired sequence wherein his paintings were brought to life on stage by MRC residents.

The evening also honoured three distinguished guests: Major General Indra Balan, a Kargil War Veteran, Commodore J. Suresh, reputed Indian author and activist Sivasankari, and whose presence added immense prestige to the celebration.

To have a taste of what unfolded at MRC Fest, go to <https://www.instagram.com/lifeatmrc>

Greater Chennai Corporation's Gender and Policy Lab, Kilikili, Disability Rights Alliance and other groups are fanning out to different localities to gather inputs that would drive design decisions pertaining to an exercise to make 10 public parks in Chennai friendly to children with disabilities

LIFFY THOMAS

I used to be overweight, and so I could not use the slide as a child. Though older and past the age of using slides, I am interested in slides, the design of slides. I do not want children on the heavier side missing out on the slide," says Arvind Kumar, a student of Gurukulam, a centre for children with special needs in Anna Nagar.

The youngster with autism typed out an explanation approximating to this when asked why he sought "wide slides" in parks. Arvind was responding to a team that has fanned out to various neighbourhoods in Chennai to understand the need for inclusive parks.

To make Chennai's parks more accessible for persons with disabilities, Mayor Priya R. as part of 2025

Making parks inclusive



Students of Gurukulam at Bougainvillea Park.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

budget announced making 10 important parks inclusive. Greater Chennai Corporation's Gender and Policy Lab, Kilikili, Disability Rights Alliance and other volunteering groups are facilitating consultations with different stakeholders to understand their needs.

On August 12, the team engaged with three institutions working in the inclusion space in Anna Nagar – MITHRA, Sankalp and Gurukulam – that brought their students to Bougainvillea Park which is among the green spaces that make up the ten. "A day earlier, we took six of our students to Bougainvillea Park so that they have an idea of the space. Five of them are on the spectrum and can only type their answers but they have valuable inputs to offer in terms of making public spaces welcoming of all," says Radha Nandakumar, founder-trustee, Gurukulam.

Three-pronged approach

The team is having a series of consultations, both in person as well as online, across the city for the next few weeks to take in as many inputs as can be from all stakeholders including children with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

"We are looking at institutions in and around the parks, and making sure to include people across disabilities," says Kavitha Krishnamoorthy, founder and managing trustee of Kilikili.

Those who may not be able to articulate their thoughts are shown photographs of different types of play equipment that are provided in parks including the ones associated with inclusive parks. And then they are asked to choose.

For those who cannot make it to the consultations, a Google form is also being made available to gather feedback.

The 10 identified parks will soon have posters with QR code where any user including those from the community around can give inputs on inclusive features they would like to see incorporated.

Building a community

"Besides integrating the inputs collected from various parks, we see this as a community building exercise where people visit and monitor it regularly," says Kavitha.

Infinity Park at Santhome, which was opened in 2018, was one of the best examples of an inclusive park that is community-driven, but since the pandemic the place has slipped into neglect.

Pre-COVID, an active community, mostly of residents from the neighbourhood, oversaw the park.

"They were given some orientation before being enrolled as volunteers and it served as a good example of community ownership. They followed a roster between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to help facilitate the park for special children. Their roles involved telling children not to use an equipment wrongly, alerting authorities of faulty equipment, and mediating for parents who hesitate in putting across a point to able-bodied children. Besides infrastructure, that is also needed to make a public space inclusive," says Kavitha.

While the team is working on collecting inputs for the 10 parks, they are also pushing to see Infinity Park restored.

The list

The 10 parks identified for the project: MMA 1st Main Road Park (Zone I; Division 19); KKR Park in Madhavaram (Zone III; Division 28); Vasuki Nagar (Zone IV, Division 36); Anna Park (Zone V, Division 52); Murasolimaran Park in Perambur (Zone VI, Division 71); Bouganveilla Park (Zone VIII, Division 102); Natesan Park (Zone X, Division 133); Thiruvalluvar Nagar Park (Zone XII, Division 156); Jayachandran 1st Street Park (Zone XIV, Division 191); and Sri Sai Nagar park in Thoraipakkam (Zone XV, Division 193).

How can one be part of this initiative? The form <https://forms.gle/CffyU3yYWtkGZybNA> seeks to understand what children with disabilities, their families and caregivers and persons with disabilities would like to have in public play spaces and parks.

Maintenance of public parks is another key concern. At Infinity Park, for instance, a developer took care of the maintenance for the first two years.

"Maintenance is a big issue anywhere and we have to think of a new kind of arrangement and not just blame GCC. Can there be a maintenance fund for parks? What is the civic responsibility? Can the monitoring be done by a special school or RWA? These are among the questions we are grappling with," adds Kavitha.

EVENTS

A line-up of events at CPB office in Kottivakkam today



At an exhibition organised by Chennai Photo Biennale early this year.

As part of World Photography Day celebrations at CPB Light-house in Kottivakkam, a raft of events have been lined up for August 17, 2025. While a majority of events are free and open to all, some call for prior registration.

The programme schedule is as follows:

1. Compose & Capture for Kids (by registration). From 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.
2. World Photography Day Sale (drop in; in-store & online). From 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Shopping info is available at chennaiphotobiennale.com
3. Cyanotype Experience (free entry). From 11:00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
4. Open Air Projection, 16mm Film Screenings (free entry). From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registrations open for Made of Chennai Run



From the 2024 edition of MOC Run.

Registrations have opened for *The Hindu* Made of Chennai Run (5K and 10K).

Co-hosted by Chennai Runners, this year's run will be held on September 7. The start and end point of the run will be published soon and updated on *The Hindu* Made of Chennai Instagram page. Participants can register for the run at ₹499 inclusive of bib, t-shirt and medal (on finishing).

The Hindu Made of Chennai is presented by Casagrand and powered by SRM. In association with Union Bank of India. Associate

Partners: Tata Tea Chakra Gold, Tata Coffee, Hell Energy. Tourism sponsor: UP Tourism. Hydration partner: Parry Foods.

The event is also being done in partnership with Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, Greater Chennai Corporation, Greater Chennai Police, Greater Chennai Traffic Police and Namma Marina, Namma Pride. Radio Partners: Big FM, Fever FM and Radio On. Activewear partner: Technospot.

Chennai Runners is an active running club that organises several

running events throughout the year and has been instrumental in popularising running as a route to wellness.

To register, visit the link or scan the QR code <https://newsth.live/MOC2025RPA>



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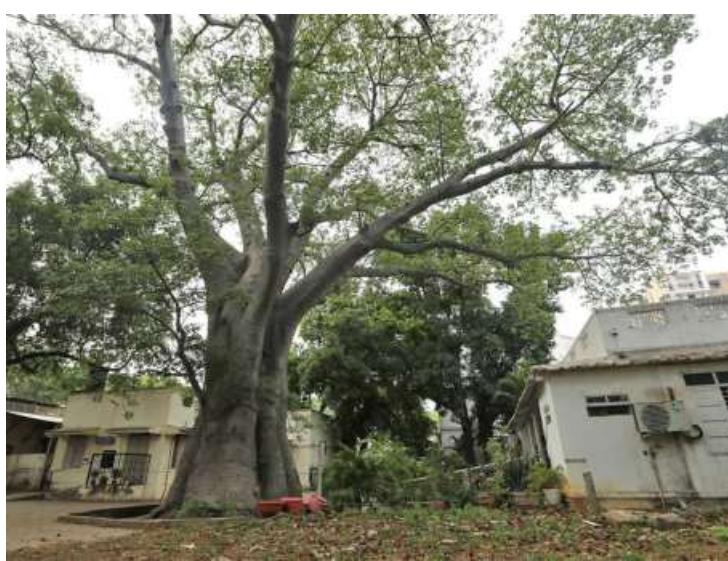
Well and truly **Brobdingnagian**

Around 20 pairs of hands are needed to form a human chain encircling this Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha; the tree is 250 years old

PRINCE FREDERICK

If one set their mind to understanding this Age in earnest, they would arrive at the following conclusion without wandering in a philosophical wilderness. It is an Age where epithets are taken in vain, being used mindlessly. What should be reserved for the sublime is misdirected into eulogising the quotidian. And when the sublime shows up, no apt epithet is to be found, all the suitable ones having been frittered away on everyday things. Recently, while in the presence of a tree at Andhra Mahila Sabha in Adyar, this writer was acutely made aware he had squandered away a valise of epithets denoting size in all the writing he had done before. Guilty of overworking "Brobdingnagian" to a frazzle, he was tongue-tied when the truly Brobdingnagian stared at him, a massive branch wedged in its cheek in amused derision.

It is a Baobab whose trunk takes multiple pairs of hands to be held in a comfortable embrace. T.D. Babu, associated with tree conservation organisation Nizhal, has had a ringside view of this tree being encircled in a human chain; and the



exercise took nearly two dozen pairs of hands. This Baobab is *Adansonia digitata* or African Baobab.

He explains: "In 2023, as a Madras Day exercise, Nizhal together with the Forest Department organised a tree walk with multiple stops.

At Andhra Mahila Sabha, the participants did a succession of human chains fully encircling the tree, and every time, it took around

20 pairs of hands to do so."

Baobabs are engineered by nature to be big hulking beings; but nurture determines the extent to which they follow that script. Babu notes the Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha has found a helpful environment and that has enabled it to reach its potential.

He points out the tree's age would be anywhere between 250 to 300 years. It is still in the flush of youth: a Baobab's life expectancy is

The Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

1000 years. One need not be surprised to find Baobabs departing from planet earth prematurely. The lack of a conducive physical space can send them packing early. A Baobab at Egmore Museum left, whole centuries un-lived.

The Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha predates the organisation, and Babu remarks that the tree has been revered by the local populace through the centuries as sacred, a factor that would have aided it before it had the protection of a vast compound wall around it.

It is the fruiting season, and the tree was sporting a few fruits during the recent visit. The fruits, as well as the leaves, have uses for the dining table. Babu notes that even when the Baobab is reduced to its

"bare bones", it would wear quite a look. During summer, being a deciduous tree, it sheds all its leaves. At that time, it would look like it has been turned on its head, standing upside down – the branches would look like roots that have been suspended in air. Babu adds that during such times, the Baobab evokes the shape of a bandicoot. The shape of the trunk gives the impression of a horde of elephant legs being spliced together – one of the Tamil names for the Baobab tree is Annapuli.

This tree is among those in Chennai that Nizhal and the forest department want to be honoured with plaques that commentate upon their significance and announce their heritage status.

Applications invited for M-UTS Sahayaks at Central station

The Southern Railway, Chennai Division, has invited applications from candidates to serve as Mobile Unreserved Ticketing System (M-UTS) Sahayaks at Chennai Central railway station.

To improve passenger convenience and streamline the ticketing process, the Railway Board had announced the M-UTS Sahayak scheme.

Under this scheme, unreserved tickets will be facilitat-

ed by sahayaks round the clock at railway stations. The deployment of sahayaks at Central is aimed at reducing queue times and easing congestion at ticket counters.

The applications can be downloaded at <https://sr.indianrailways.gov.in/sr/notice/1752908028980>.

Application%20for%20M-UTS%20Sahayaks.pdf, said a release from the railway.

READERS WRITE

Water stagnation in front of school



Water stagnation in front of Euro Kids School in Ottiyambakkam, located on Karanai Main Road, has become a recurrent problem for motorists.

During rains, stagnant water blocks access to the school, creating huge inconvenience for students, teachers and parents. Children are forced to wade through puddles of water to reach the

gates. During peak school hours, the problem worsens, causing traffic jams and unnecessary delays for everyone travelling on this road.

The school management has already filed complaints with the government departments, requesting immediate drainage and repair work. However, the problem has not been resolved yet.

Sachin Robert

Readers Write announcement

Dear readers, you can be our volunteer-writer by writing to us about issues and events in your neighbourhood. You should send the write-ups to downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in.

Letters must carry the contact number.

Sing songs of Krishna at event in Pallikaranai today

As part of Krishna Janmashtami celebrations, Seethalakshmi Ramanathan Trust in Pallikaranai is conducting a singing event, 'Vango Padalam' on August 17.

Public can participate and sing 'Krishna Kritis' along

with Preethi Sethuraman and Shruthi S Bhat.

The event is being held at Eurokids, Fifth Street, Kamakoti Nagar, Pallikaranai, from 6 to 8 p.m.

For details, call 78452 46885.

Culinary workshop on August 21

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University & Information Training Centre is conducting a workshop on making jams on August 21 at its premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. According to press release, the session will focus on making jams from beetroots, carrots, mangoes and grapes. Prior registration is required. For details, call 044 - 29530048.

Make your own eco-friendly Ganesha

Fabulous Fundigais team is conducting a natural clay ganesha making workshop for children and parents on August 23 and 24 at two venues in the city – Utopia World, Abhiramapuram and Soul Garden Bistro, Kilpauk. This is the 7th year of the workshop. The event also includes storytelling, reciting slokas and games. Register on tiny.cc/ganesha25uw

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(Clockwise from top left) Thambi Parthasarathy during a scene in Karaiyai Thodatha Alaigal; with Rajinikanth during a Star Cricket tournament; as Alwarkadiyar in a drama version of Ponniyin Selvan; and Thambi at present.

PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

On the topic of Tamil theatre in Chennai, K. Thambi Parthasarathy is a voice to be reckoned with. He has been on its front line from the late 1960s, as performer and observer of trends. Seventy five years old, he has taken the foot off the pedal in recent years, but only slightly. The outings to the centre stage have dwindled. But he regularly faces the centre stage, being a presence in the audience at plays staged at the Sabhas of South Chennai, particularly those in Mylapore and Mandaveli, the latter his home turf.

Over the decades, Thambi has seen acting heavyweights up close, their histrionic skills being shaped and crystallised by the stage and exported to the silver screen and the tellie. A typical example is that of Raja Venkatraman becoming actor Srikant. Thambi himself has had dalliances with these electronic mediums, but never let them supplant his love for the stage.

During much of his active theatre career, Thambi held a government job, being on the pay rolls of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD). The stage is easier on the practitioner in terms of time. Convenient late-evening hours can be scooped out of the week for rehearsals. The weekend can be arm-twisted without any resistance into accommodating performances. In case that gives the impression that Thambi viewed theatre as something to be pursued on the sidelines, take this. He took home the Best Actor award by the Mylapore Academy in 1991. Long-time Tamil theatre aficionados would remember his standout performance in Komal Swaminathan's Thanneer Thanneer; as also the one as Azhvarkadiyar in Ponniyin Selvan, directed for the stage by Prakash Kutty.

Not a surprise when you consider

A touch of drama to Madras

Mandaveli resident Thambi Parthasarathy has a sharp sense of the evolution of Tamil theatre in the city, having been part of nearly half a dozen troupes since the 1960s and also being a keen observer of trends in the field of drama in these parts

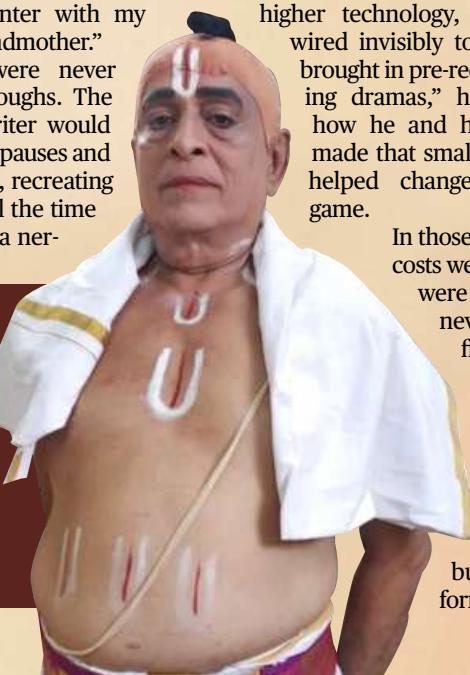
that his passion for theatre was born early and home-brewed. Thambi's father S. Kannan (a chartered accountant who had been engaged in the freedom struggle) co-founded Entertainers Group with his friends, director Chellappa and Bala Subramaniam. A young Thambi started wearing greasepaint for the stage, encouraged by director Chellappa, who helmed seven of Entertainers Group's stage productions. Thambi would emulate his father in as much he would keep his day job and passion for theatre in tightly-sealed compartments, ensuring justice is done to both.

Rehearsals were almost always held at Thambi's Mandaveli home. For every play, the cast committed themselves to

a minimum of 30 days' practice before facing the audience. The 1,500 sq.ft house had a thatched-roof first floor, a space that became their cocoon of creativity and growth.

Among memories not blurred by time is that of K. R. Vijaya's diligent commitment to rehearsals – yes, she was part of Entertainers Group before attaining celluloid fame. "She would come for rehearsals every single day," recalls Thambi. "Though practice would start at six in the evening, she would arrive much earlier for some social banter with my mother and grandmother."

Rehearsals were never hurried run-throughs. The director and writer would take meaningful pauses and fine-tune scenes, recreating the play right till the time the stage is just a ner-



The highlights

Plays by Entertainers Group include Aravanudhan Aasai; Kavilum Thaalamum; Love in Madurai; Top Secret; Dhi-deer Manaivi; Suya Dhariasanam; and Karaiyai Thodatha Alaigal

Thambi Parthasarathy has acted in over 60 television serials. Notable serials include Kasalavu Nesam (directed by K. Balachander); Raghu Vamsam; Premi and Veetukku Veedu Looti.

vous step away. Sessions ran from 6-6:30 p.m. to 9-9:30 p.m., getting extended as the premiere loomed large. Since all members had day jobs, evenings were their only window for practice.

Entertainers Group seemed to have consciously applied filters that narrowed down the focus to comedy. A signature production was Love in Madurai, written by K.K. Raman, a comedy-spinner par excellence with an expansive sphere of influence, one that touched stalwarts such as Crazy Mohan. Thambi takes a well-considered and balanced view of comedy. While acknowledging its place, he was clear about enforcing its limits. He points out: "Comedy should come along with the story," he says. "Nowadays the aim is only at comedy. People say they come here only for relaxation." He champions serious theatre, as borne out by his admiration for Fathima Babu's Un Kannil Neer Vazhindhal, which delivered a punch without punchlines.

When Parthasarathy later worked with other drama troupes, rehearsals shifted to new spaces. V. S. Raghavan's plays were practised at his Raja Annamalai home; the Prasanna troupe met at director Prasanna's Royapettah residence or at Venkateshwara School in Abhiramapuram; and Komal Swaminathan's plays were often kneaded together at a Kalyana mandapam in T. Nagar.

Having a theatre career spanning decades and nearly half-a-dozen troupes and a wide variety of plays (including R.S. Manohar's historical plays), one is bound to be at the coalface of changes overtaking the medium. He has seen the stage change in how it looked and sounded. He has heard plays move from live music to gramophone and then to pre-recorded tape and now to higher technology, where much is

wired invisibly to the cloud. "We brought in pre-recorded songs during dramas," he says, recalling how he and his friend Suresh made that small tweak, one that helped change the backstage game.

In those days, production costs were modest, but so were the returns. "We never earned a profit," Parthasarathy admitted. "We even funded the plays ourselves. It was never about the money; it was about contributing to the art form."

Grocery kits distributed to 79 cancer patients



On the 79th Independence Day, Sankalp Beautiful World distributed grocery kits to cancer patients at the Cancer Institute in Adyar.

A total of 79 cancer patients benefitted from this initiative, with each kit designed to meet essential grocery needs for an entire month, said a press release. The event was graced by N.L. Rajah, chairman, Cancer

Institute; Goutham Chander, founder and CEO, Sankalp Beautiful World; Sheela, Director, Sankalp Beautiful World; along with members and volunteers of the organisation.

Sankalp Beautiful World continues to work towards improving the quality of life for cancer patients through awareness programmes, patient support and fundraising efforts.

Iswarya Hospital launches breast health centre

Iswarya Hospital has launched a state-of-the-art breast centre, focusing on breast health screening and diagnosis.

The centre is equipped with advanced 3D Digital Mammography, along with Tomosynthesis, a next-generation imaging technology to deliver detailed breast scans and accurate detection of abnormalities.

The centre offers routine breast check-ups, diagnostic consultations, and evaluations based on family history, stated a release from the Hospital.

Playback singer Chinmayi Sripatha inaugurated the centre. She said, "Early screening is vital. The stigma around breast health must end. More women should feel empowered, walk into the centre and take charge of their health without hesitation."

Dr. S. Rajasundaram, director of Oncology and chief executive offic-



er of Iswarya Hospital, said, "Breast cancer continues to be the most common cancer among Indian women, accounting for nearly 1 in 4 cancer cases. Unfortunately, more than 50 percent of these cases are detected in late stages due to

a lack of awareness and delayed screening. Our goal is to shift the focus to early detection. Early detection of breast cancer dramatically increases survival rates. Women, those above 40, should undergo timely screening."

Junior tennis tourney at Nungambakkam stadium; entry free

The Tamil Nadu Tennis Association is hosting the UNIFI ITF Junior Tennis Cup tournament from August 18 to 24, 2025 at the SDAT Nungambakkam Tennis Stadium. Entry is free; open to all.

The ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors gives players aged 18 and under the opportunity to travel the world and develop their talent. TNTA has been hosting this ITF junior event for the past 20

years, and many players have benefited from this event and gone on to represent India at the world stage. One such recent beneficiary of this tournament and the TNTA developmental system is Rethin Pranav, who won this tournament two years ago and recently reached as high as 31 in the world juniors—securing his place in the Australian Open, French Open, and Wimbledon Junior event, says a press releases.



TNTA has partnered with Unifi Capital in Tamil Nadu, the press release adds. This is the 20th edition of an ITF Junior event and the third edition of the upgraded J60 event to be held in Chennai.

Apart from top Indian players, this tournament features players from countries such as the United States, Australia, Korea and Great Britain, says the release.

From a previous edition of Tamil Nadu Tennis Association's junior tennis tournament at Nungambakkam SDAT stadium.
Photo: Special Arrangement

The events to be held are: boys singles U18; girls singles U18; boys doubles U18; and girls doubles U18.

The qualifying rounds will be held on August 16 and 17; and the main draw is from August 18 to 23.

The finals for doubles will be held on August 22; and for the singles on August 23.



I-Day celebrations focus on creative contests

The Institute of Printing Technology in Taramani celebrated the 79th Independence Day by organising various competitions, including drawing, logo-design, kolam, essay writing, elocution, singing and kabbadi.

IPT principal P. Kurinchi and chief guest K.G. Gurumurthy, Senior General Manager, PrePress, The Hindu Group, presided over the event.

In their speeches, both emphasised the importance of unity and integrity. The chief guest gave away certificates to the Independence day competition winners.

Students presented cultural performances.

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The march past and campus walk took the alumni down memory lane. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Fatimites' homecoming

Some came with flowers, some with walking sticks, and some simply with hearts overflowing. After decades apart – for some, as long as 40 years – the corridors of Fatima Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kodambakkam, once again echoed with the laughter, tears and warm embraces of its past pupils. The first-ever large-scale alumni reunion, Voyage of Hope, held recently, was more than an event – it was a homecoming. Founded in 1958 beside Fatima Parish Church with just eight students, the school now educates over 2,500 annually and has produced achievers in every walk of life – from judges, doctors, bankers, engineers, and lawyers, to scientists, professors, lecturers and inspiring teachers. Its legacy also sparkles with gifted dancers, actors, dubbing artists and playback singers, says a press release.



Over 500 alumni, teachers and sisters from across the globe returned for the celebration. The day began with a Holy Mass, followed by a spirited March Past, where alumni from as early as the Class of 1971 walked alongside younger batches in coordinated colours. Mother Provincial officially declared the reunion open, marking a historic moment for the institution. Highlights included the launch of a special e-magazine, multiple whole-group photographs taken across different ve-

nues, and a nostalgic campus walk that unlocked a flood of memories. Even alumni with health challenges – some in wheelchairs or on oxygen support – made the journey back to their *alma mater*, says the press release.

Months of planning by the Past Pupil Association culminated in an evening of music, dance and a buffet lunch, leaving everyone with memories, laughter and more than a few happy tears to last a lifetime, the release adds.

Workshop on hospital administration on September 6 in Taramani

A workshop on hospital administration will be held on September 6 at TEACH Auditorium, The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu, Taramani. Time: From 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Called "Hospital Compliance Conclave 2025," the programme will be handled by Hariharan Ramanathan, founder and CEO, SHA's Hospital Management Consultancy Services, says a press release.

The following concepts will be covered during the session: statutory compliance, rules and their purpose, and challenges of a hospital administrator.

Government officials retired from various departments will be present to answer queries.

The departments include: Directorate of Medical & Rural Health Services, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers, National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Tamil Nadu Fire & Rescue Service, and Tamil Nadu Police.

On the occasion, a software exclusive for hospital licensing and compliance reporting will be launched, adds the release.

No fee will be charged for two representatives per hospital, adds the press release.

For details, call 99529 68552 / 73053 68552.

Born Babies outlet on ECR



Minerva Fashion & Retail which holds the franchisee of Born Babies in India has opened an outlet on East Coast Road. According to a press release, the store offers a range of baby and maternity essentials – from clothing and feeding accessories to bath and skincare products, toys and more. Besides, a play area has been set up at the store.



Registrations open for Maya Kannan contest

The Hindu Downtown is conducting 'Maya Kannan - Janmashtami Contest 2025', an event that enhances the festive spirit in the neighbourhoods of Chennai by enabling residents to take Janmashtami celebrations to the higher place: by having their children dressed up as Lord Krishna.

This contest is for children in the 3 to 8 age group, who must dress up as little Krishna or Radha and present a dance, song or sloka-recital performance in the praise of Lord Krishna.

The title partner for the event is Gopuram Turmeric Powder & Kumkum, the food partner is Madras Coffee House, the venue partner is Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women, Anna Nagar, Chennai, the Water Partner is Repute Water and the Tech Partner is Hilaptop.com. Gift

Sponsors are DIFA, Lalwani, Medimix, My Resale Plot.com, Naga, P S Tamarind, RAS Chekku Oil and Vivekanandha Sarees.

To register and participate, scan the QR code given herewith or visit <https://newsth.live/MK2025CH>. Upload a 1-2-minute video and picture of your kid's performance as Krishna/ Radha to our microsite. Registrations close on August 18, 2025. For further queries, you may call 8148748183 / 9003077030



		Save the date	Kathak Darpan	SMRITI 2025	Supported by
				AUGUST 15, 16, 17 2025	pinelabs
				Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra, Chennai	TATA.ev
				Tickets available on www.tikkl.com	
DAY 1			5.00 pm: Inauguration		
AUGUST 15 (FRIDAY)			Performance by Kathak Darpan Repertory, Chennai		
			Conferring of Padma Vibhushan Pt Birju Maharaj Smriti Award on Late Ustad Zakir Hussain (posthumously) & The Dhananjayans		
			Conferring of Pt Birju Maharaj Yuva Puraskar Award on Shanky Singh		
DAY 2			6.00 pm: Rhythm Divine: A performance by Taufiq Qureshi featuring a Djembe solo & Jugalbandi with Neha Banerjee		
AUGUST 16 (SATURDAY)			7.00 pm: Kathak performance by Padmashri Shovana Narayan		
DAY 3			5.30 pm: Kathak performance by Saswati Sen, SNA Awardee		
AUGUST 17 (SUNDAY)			6.30 pm: Group performance by Padma Bhushan Guru Dr Vempati Chinna Satyam's Kuchipudi Art Academy		
			7.15 pm: Mohiniattam performance by Gopika Varma, SNA Awardee		