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Sunday
August 24, 2025

THE HINDU

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The 'stones' come tumbling down

State Highways Department discontinues a parking regulation system on ECR that was ill-starred from the beginning



When the stones were being removed; and the screenshot of a post on X about this exercise.

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Those "stones" streaked in with the suddenness of meteoroids. And they came tumbling down just as meteoroids do. The exercise that ushered in those neatly-cut stones unravelled as rapidly as it had unfolded. Incredulous jaws dropped hit the ground on both occasions.

That is the impression left behind by the parking regulation exercise on East Coast Road that was

dropped barely after being adopted. What are usually used as curb stones were grouted into the road to form a straight line parallel to the pavement to prevent parking. But if prevention of unauthorised parking happened, it did so only in the head. It continued on the ground. According to road users, the exercise only succeeded in extended parking into the carriageway. Motorcycles were parked in the space between the stones-defined line and the pavement. Cars were parked along the line, taking

a bite out of the carriageway. At the most, it caused motorists some discomfort while parking.

Last week, the grouted stones were uprooted and they were lying fallen on their sides like soldiers brought low in a battle – a battle against unauthorised parking they hardly won while up and standing.

The parking regulation, experimental to the point of provocation, had been revoked. State highways sources reveal the exercise brought about opposition from the shop keepers and motorists: there were



Sam Ponraj
@ArchitectSam76

Follow

The State Highway Department began removing the Kerb stones laid on the ECR from Palavakkam to Kottivakkam on one side. I hope they remove those stones from the other side of the road as well. This kerb stone laying is the worst idea. They created more problems than the ones we already have. Total waste of Money.

@chennai_Highway @ChennaiTraffic
@evvelu



10:47 · 21 Aug 25 · 674 Views

complaints about accidents happening on account of the upstanding stones, motorists "stubbing" their wheels against them.

The decision to do away with these stones' service was widely hailed. To give an inkling of the sentiment, read an August 21-dated X post, whose screenshot has been shared with this article.

According to State highways

sources, any stones that are still standing on ECR will also be removed. It is curtains for a parking regulation exercise that probably spent more time on the drawing board than on the road.

The sources say now they will do with traditional white line, quietly enjoining motorists to park within the line. No parking boards are coming up on sections of ECR.

READERS WRITE

'Palavakkam AIR Colony playground in a sorry state'

Palavakkam All India Radio Colony playground, which is frequented by children and adults to play cricket and volleyball, is in a pathetic state. Dumping of garbage is detrimental to the health of the people using the playground. Haphazard parking is another issue.
S. Ashok Subramaniam



'Remove the encroachments along Velachery Main Road'

Vehicular traffic between Camp Road intersection and East Tambaram has increased manifold but the movement of vehicles remains sluggish.

Encroachments along the stretch are hindering the free flow of traffic between Selaiyur Police Station and Camp Road signal. Commercial establishments have encroached upon lanes towards East Tambaram and Mahalakshmi Nagar, hindering traffic movement

during rush hour. The electric posts along the carriageway should also be relocated.

The State Highways Department should maintain the carriageway since the road provides connectivity to Chennai's third railway terminal, GST Road, Mudichur Road, Medavakkam Main Road, and Classical Language Road.

Sudhakar G is a resident of Madambakkam

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READERS WRITE

Gated community in Kottivakkam seeks freedom from 'invading waters'

BASKAR E

A group of 50 residents from the Allied Elegant Enclave apartments located on Third Main Road and Fourth Main Road in Swaminathan Nagar at Kottivakkam, East Coast Road are facing a series of pressing issues related to our drainage system that have become a daily concern for our community, particularly for those on Fourth Main Road.

Here are the key issues we are currently experiencing:

Choking open drains

The open drain along Fourth Main Road is severely blocked, leading to frequent overflow of filthy sewage into the car parking areas of Blocks E, F, G, and H.

This has unfortunately become



a daily occurrence, creating an unsanitary environment.

Flooding from rain

Even a light rain fills the drains, causing both sewage and rainwater to overflow into our parking area, which damages vehicles and poses a health risk.

Blocked drainage

The stormwater drain at the end of

the road is blocked, preventing free flow of water. We urgently need the Greater Chennai Corporation authorities to address this issue and implement regular desilting.

Metro water pipe damage

During recent road work for new drain connections, the metro water pipeline near the E block car parking was broken, causing flooding in the area. Despite several complaints, there has been no action from officials.

Elevated road level

Over the years, the road level has been raised significantly, sloping towards our side.

This means that during rains, water flows directly into our parking area as the drains become blocked. We kindly request the civic authorities to ensure proper drainage of rainwater to mitigate



The broken open stormwater drains on the road; and water entering the gated community. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

this issue.

Improper rainwater discharge

The drain pipes from the terraces of Blocks E, F, G, and H, as well as from other blocks, are discharging rainwater towards our side due to the slope from the Third Main Road.

We suggest implementing a system with the right gradient to redirect this water, which could significantly reduce flooding in our area

by around 75%.

We believe these solutions will greatly improve our living conditions and seek GCC and CMWSSB's support in resolving these matters. We appreciate any immediate steps that could be taken to address these pressing issues as well as those to find long-term solutions.

(Baskar E is a resident of Allied Elegant Enclave at Third Main Road in Swaminathan Nagar, Kottivakkam)

ADVERTISEMENT

Minerva Fashion & Retail Introduces the First "Born Babies" Franchise

Celsia Margaret, a 22-year-old textile designer and emerging entrepreneur from Chennai, has carved her path with a strong passion for design and innovation. After completing her schooling at St. John's, Besant Nagar in 2020, she pursued higher education in the fashion industry, earning a dual qualification: a Bachelor's degree in Textile Design from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Chennai in 2024 and a Bachelor's degree in Apparel and Fashion Design in 2023. Currently, she is enhancing her business acumen through a Master of Business Administration (MBA), seamlessly integrating her creative expertise with strategic leadership to make her mark in the fashion and retail sector.

A Milestone Achievement for Families in Chennai

The opening of Minerva Fashion & Retail's Born Babies store marks a significant milestone, both for Celsia and the burgeoning baby retail sector. This exclusive venture is driven by the vision of providing trusted, high-quality baby products to families in Chennai, a mission that resonates deeply with Celsia's values as a caring entrepreneur. Born Babies, a brand celebrated for its over 25 years of expertise in India, has garnered the loyalty of more than 70 lakh happy moms across the country.

As the pioneer franchisee of Born Babies in India, Minerva Fashion & Retail is proud to bring this trusted brand to the local community, ensuring that every family has access to thoughtfully designed, safe, and affordable products for their little ones.

Explore an Extensive Range of Baby and Maternity Essentials

At the elegantly designed Born Babies where shoppers will discover an extensive range of baby and mater-

nity essentials. From stylish clothing and innovative feeding accessories to premium bath and skincare products, toys, and much more, every item is carefully curated to meet the needs of modern Indian families who value both functionality and style.

Celsia understands that parenting is a journey filled with challenges and joys, and that is why each product in the store embodies quality and care. She believes that shopping for baby essentials should be an enjoyable experience, and that's why the store is meticulously designed to provide a serene atmosphere for parents and their little ones.

A Kid-Friendly Shopping Experience

Recognising the importance of a welcoming environment, Celsia has ensured that the Born Babies store features a peaceful, kid-friendly space complete with a dedicated play area. This thoughtful addition creates a relaxed shopping atmosphere where parents can browse and shop with ease, while their

children enjoy a fun and safe space to play.

More than just a retail outlet, the Born Babies store serves as a parenting partner, offering support and guidance for families at every stage of their pregnancy journey. Celsia's team is dedicated to providing personalised service, ensuring that every visit is not just a transaction, but a memorable and fulfilling experience.

Supporting Modern Families with Care and Quality

As Minerva Fashion & Retail continues to evolve, Celsia remains committed to her vision of becoming a leader in the fashion and retail sector while making a positive impact on her community. The launch of the Born Babies franchise represents a fusion of her passions for fashion, entrepreneurship, and community service, all while catering to the specific needs of today's parents.

Celsia invites families in Chennai to come and explore the tranquil atmosphere of the Born Babies store, where shopping is transformed into a delightful experience. With an exceptional range of products and a focus on quality, Minerva Fashion & Retail is not just about selling baby items; it's about enhancing the parenting journey for families.

Visit Us Today

Discover the difference at Minerva Fashion & Retail's Born Babies store, where you will find a perfect blend of style, functionality, and care for your little ones. Shop with us, and experience firsthand what it means to have a supportive partner in your parenting journey.



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Road construction machinery cooling their tyres on this milled road in Gandhi Nagar on August 21, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

On the 'bench' at Crescent Park Avenue Road

With intense showers occurring with regularity, the delay in relaying this milled road will only grow longer

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

At Crescent Park Avenue Road in Gandhi Nagar, a massive paver finisher is sitting on its haunches – on its fat screed, if one prefers literal description to figurative language. Within range, other team members stand gawking cluelessly at passers by. Here is a roll call. A road sweeper machine on wheels, its brush bristling with frustration. Right behind is a tractor that will get this machine moving. A bitumen carrier



stands idly by. A little distance away, behind the paver finisher, is

parked a road roller.

According to a residents of the

area, Gandhi Nagar Crescent Park Avenue Road was milled sometime ago, and the new, smooth road surface is being kept tantalisingly close.

The delay in road relaying has become noticeable, points out one resident (who does not want to be named), adding that this sentiment has been communicated to the GCC officials concerned.

The resident observes that a milled road is unsafe for motorcyclists.

According to the resident, these road-laying machinery have been parked on the road, but the orders to get them moving do not

seem to be forthcoming. At one point, the machinery left the road, probably because they were needed elsewhere, and then returned to the road, rather to the "bench" on Gandhi Nagar Crescent Park Avenue Road, to borrow a term from sports. The images were taken on the evening of August 21, 2025, and the following day dawned with heavy showers. With showers lashing the city from time to time, sometimes with great intensity, any intention to get road-relaying work started soon on this road could be thwarted. And the delay would only lengthen like evening shadows.

Go easy on the sea

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

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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

This initiative by Krisha is entering its fifth year, having been started in 2020. Ganesha idols are sourced from an artisan group in Salem who make it with natural clay, organic

compost and implant it with a choice of seeds. The Ganesha idol is placed in a recyclable grow bag that can be used for immersion and also to grow a plant.

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

On what led her to start the initiative, Krisha says: "I was concerned about the way we were polluting the seas during immersion."

In the first year, friends and family supported her idea by

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

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

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

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



Krisha Toshniwal in her workshop



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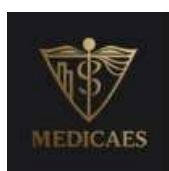
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Listen to Vintage Classics today at Adyar



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 longstanding patronage of JK Fenner and Ivairra,

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.

About Aaroahi

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.

Shakespeare club organises free medical camp in Besant Nagar

The 280th meeting of the Shakespeare Millennium Club in collaboration with Srushti Hospitals, had a gala event of social and medical importance for over 400 women ranging in age from 80 plus to girl children less than 10 years on August 23, 2025 in Besant Nagar.

A free medical camp was inaugurated by Usha Selvam. The participants were checked for heart rate, blood pressure, sugar and hemoglobin count, says a press release.

Those needing further expert medical advice were checked by Dr. Samundi Sankari, Dr. Divya and Dr. Saraswati, the release adds.

All participants have also been given 20% discount on all tests and treatments at Srushti Hoapitals at Ramapuram, Kotturpuram and Porur.

There were also 10 lucky prizes of 50% discount coupons.

Jamuna Kalyani Sridharan expressed her gratefulness to the police, Greater Chennai Corporation, the doctors, non medical technicians and volunteers for their enthusiastic cooperation, the release adds.

Special buses for Church festival

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

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

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

luru, Tuticorin, Kanyakumari, and Nagercoil.

For SETC buses, passengers can book tickets through www.tnsrc.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.

Date extended for 'Travel as you please' passes

Metropolitan Transport Corporation has extended the date for purchasing the 'Travel As You Please' bus passes at ₹1,000 and ₹2,000 till August 25, says a release issued by the Corporation.

The bus passes are issued for the time period from August 16 to September 15. Every month, the passes are issued from 07 to 22.

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 press 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 adds.

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.



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. For details, call 93602 21280.



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Winter visitor

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Migratory Blue-tailed bee eaters on a dry thorny plant near Buckingham Canal in Sholingnallur off ECR Link Road on August 22, 2025. There are sections of India, along riverine tracts where this bird breeds. In sections of Peninsular India, including Tamil Nadu, the Blue-tailed bee eater is a winter migrant. These birds could even be migrating to these parts from South East Asia.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Chennai 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.

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.

Workshop for caregivers of persons with dementia

The Dementia Care Foundation is organising a free workshop for caregivers of persons with dementia on August 30 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at their new clinic at 14/16, 1st Cross Street, CIT Colony, Mylapore. The session will be facilitated by K. V. Sundararajan, senior advocate at the Madras High Court, a distinguished expert in elder law and caregiving rights. This workshop will provide caregivers with essential insights into the legal rights, responsibilities, and protections in dementia care, while also addressing issues of guardianship, consent, decision-making, and safeguarding elder rights, said a release.

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

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Free counselling

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

The sessions create a safe space to cope with the diagnosis, understand care responsibilities, and practice self-care to prevent caregiver burnout.

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

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

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