

T. NAGAR

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



## THE DAILY COMMUTE TO MADRAS

With ten tram tickets in her handbag, Thirupurasundari Sevvil manages to go on a time travel at will **P4**



## WHEN THE STATION LIFT LETS YOU DOWN

The Hindu Downtown seeks to find answers to unanswered questions commuters might have about lifts and escalators at railway stations in Southern Railway's Chennai Division, particularly when these facilities are malfunctioning **P5**

# Is Pushpa Nagar Main Road a 'pushover'?

VELANKANNI RAJ B

**P**ushpa Nagar Main Road is the beast of burden, debris from works not connected with the road being offloaded on it – consistently. The role of a debris transit point seems to have been thrust upon this road. Debris sits on the road for weeks, and is then cleared to make way for fresh debris. Pushpa Nagar Main Road is significant in terms of local connectivity. It is an access route to Mahalingapuram Main Road, around which two government schools, a college and a church are located. Pushpa Nagar Main Road is also in the picture where the other half of Nungambakkam is concerned, the one including Tank Bund Road and Vallu-

var Kottam Main Road.

At a time when Greater Chennai Corporation has solidified norms pertaining to management and disposal of construction & demolition (C&D) waste by earmarking designated spots, those that would not inconvenience movement of general public, and slapping a hefty fine on entities violating C&D waste management rules (in effect from April 2025), the picture presented by Pushpa Nagar Main Road comes across as odd, even anomalous.

A busy road obviously cannot be a designated spot for dumping C&D waste.

Pushpa Nagar Main road in Nungambakkam on September 11, 2025. PHOTO : VELANKANNI RAJ B



'Remove those stepping stones at Anna Salai in Guindy'



A few weeks ago, concrete stones were placed on a stretch of Anna Salai in Guindy, to allow pedestrians to scale the medians and cross the stretch. The arrangement is unnecessary and fraught with risk, as this is a busy road with continuous vehicular traffic. The State Highways Department should remove the stones (towards Little Mount) and barricade the median so that pedestrians do not place stones again and cross the arterial stretch, says S. Ramya Sriram, a pedestrian.

TEXT AND PHOTO: T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

## A treacherous pit on Arcot Road in Porur



Arcot Road in Porur on September 11, 2025. PHOTO : VELANKANNI RAJ B

On Arcot Road, near Porur Junction, underground power cable work is on. The cable-laying work is protracted, adding to the inconvenience already caused by CMRL's Green Line (Corridor 2) work on this road. The slow-moving nature of the cable-laying work is graphically illustrated by a small dug-up patch that has stayed dug-up for a long time. With the lull in the actual work, this patch has gone about the business of accumulating rainwater and waste, particularly plastic waste. It can prove a treacherous pit for motorists and pedestrians: one cannot but recall the recent incident in which a woman fell into an open silt catch pit in Choolaimedu and had a tragic death. As this image shows, the pit is not sufficiently barricaded. Tangedco should barricade the pit properly or attend to the work and close the pit promptly.

Text: Velankanni Raj B

## You can be our volunteer-writer

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# Market clicks



PRINCE FREDERICK

**R**azack Market in Saidapet is 94 years old. If one revelled in platitudes and chose to assume a feel-good tone, they would say the market looks its age, and looks good. But that would be a blatant untruth. During a downpour, this market is at the mercy of the rain gods. On September 6, when a whirl of shutterbugs from Madras Photo Bloggers (as part of *The Hindu* Made of Chennai initiative to capture the city's rhythms) gathered at the market to tell stories of the market in pixels, there was a sneaking fear that the rain could play spoilsport. The rain stayed away, and the cameras went a-whirling. The market has around 220 shops, each of them sporting an "extension" not out of expansionist motives. Shopkeepers have fished tarpaulin covers to the edges of the Madras-tile roofing to keep sprinkles of rainwater from them, and more importantly from their customers.

This market is worn-out both in body and spirit. A majority of the shops stayed closed on that Saturday evening. A shopkeeper notes only one-fourth of the shops stay open during the week, business having ceased to be brisk long ago. Sunday is when the market bustles with movement and haggling, as more shops have their shutters up.

There are two categories of shopkeepers based on their hold on their



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Madras Photo Bloggers. The event is also done in partnership with Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, Greater Chennai Corporation, Greater Chennai Police, Greater Chennai Traffic Police and Namma Marina, Namma Pride.

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Snapshots of the market. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

peice of real estate. Those who have temporary access to the space pay less for it, but also have less of a say if and when Greater Chennai Corporation seeks to "disturb" it and rearrange things. The word is that temporary space comes on the cheap, dirt-cheap in fact – according to one Suresh who runs a fancy store, 50 paise per day. On the other end of the spectrum are those assured of

a space even in the event of a shake-up. A member in this category, Basakar who runs a provision store, notes that he pays Rs. 8,200 as rent per month. As the photo bloggers explore the innards of the market, there is a variety of emotions to capture. Kulandaivelu whose shop screams order from a mile way, lemons and ginger placed in plates neatly. He exudes a disposition that

suggests an inner order: he is essentially twinning with his shop.

There is then the affable Poongothai who has a nameless cat staying loyally by her side. But the feline does not share her enthusiasm for the camera, meowing in protest when she gets it to strike a pose for it.

Suresh has a jaw set with confidence – that is odd, considering he is swimming against the tide. The market is essentially about trade in vegetables, vegetable sellers making up a massive majority. Suresh instead sells fancy items, tchotchkes and he knows he is at a disadvantage, but does not seem worried about it at all.

On the outer perimeter of the marker, particularly the side overlooking Bazaar Road (also known as Alandur Road), there is greater variety in terms of commerce. Textiles, tailoring, flower and even coffee bean selling shops heave into view. The market may be rundown. Business might have slumped. There is a peace (possibly, resignation to their lot) even occasional cheerfulness among the shopkeepers that makes the market click.



## Commuters braving the elements



The Iyyappanthangal bus stop on Mount Poonamallee High Road.; and a makeshift shelter inside Iyyappanthangal bus terminus. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

Commuters are exposed to the elements due to lack of a bus shelter at the Iyyappanthangal bus stop on Mount Poonamallee High Road. This stop (meant for buses towards Poonamallee) is located outside Iyyappanthangal bus terminus.

There was a brick-and-mortar shelter at this stop but it was demolished recently as the adjacent bus terminus is undergoing a redevelopment work, carried out by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority. With rainy season



round the corner, a make-shift bus shelter is badly needed.

"It is an immense relief to find a make-shift bus shelter set up inside

the terminus. Due to the work, all the shelters inside the terminus were removed. The work began this May but only recently the shelter was set up. That should not be the case with the bus stop outside the terminus. It should be set at the earliest. Because, bus stop is located on a highway and this stretch is narrow and congested and therefore commuters are at the risk of being hit by vehicles in the absence of a shelter," says P. Senthil Kumar, a resident of Iyyappanthangal.

Text : Velankanni Raj B

## 'SWD construction makes slow progress'

Stormwater drain construction is progressing at a slow pace in Rayala Nagar. The work which began two months ago is not yet complete. Greater Chennai Corporation is requested to expedite the work as north-east monsoon will set in another couple of months.

P. Kishore Kumar, president, Rayala Nagar Residents Welfare Association

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## 'Duraiswamy Road not friendly to pedestrians'

The footpath on Duraiswamy Road in Vadapalani is not friendly to pedestrians. It is an interior road and for the past couple of years it is handling diverted traffic (including MTC buses) due to metro rail construction in the vicinity.

Parking of vehicles and encroachments have made it difficult for pedestrians. The stretch of the footpath near the intersection of Arcot Road is worst because it is unhygienic. All kinds of waste are dumped here and the public misuse it to relieve themselves.

S.N. Rajaram, Saligramam



Duraisamy Road in Vadapalani. PHOTOS : VELANKANNI RAJ B

## 'Restore small bus service'

Metropolitan Transport Corporation withdrew its small bus service connecting Kodambakkam railway station and AG-DMS metro railway station in Teynampet on Anna Salai two years ago. The reasons are unknown. In case metro rail construction in the vicinity and traffic diversions are the reasons MTC should explore alternate ways and restore the service.

The service covered North Usman Road, Thirumalai Pillai Road, Valluvarkottam, Josier Street, Cathedral Garden Street, and Gemini flyover. It was quite useful to office goers. In the absence of the service, commuters are up against a handicap.

N. Ravikkumar, Nungambakkam



## 'SWD at Oil Mill Road is narrow'

The stormwater drain at Oil Mill Road in Iyyappanthangal needs to be widened. The existing one is narrow and inadequate. The stretch witnesses waterlogging in case of heavy rains. The 800 metre road links Mount Poonamallee Road and Poonamallee High Road and witnesses heavy traffic.

P. Senthil Kumar, Iyyappanthangal



With ten tram tickets in her handbag, Thirupurasundari Sevel manages to go on a time travel at will

# The daily commute to Madras

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL



A travel ticket can take its keeper places even decades after it had lost its validity – that is, if you happen to be one Thirupurasundari Sevel, who is constantly on the lookout for “tickets” that enable a time travel to the past.

Her name rings a bell in many history circles, and a resounding bell in groups that relish the pursuit of decoding Madras. Multidimensional, Thirupurasundari is an architect and urban planner and a relentless tracker of history. And Madras is her passion project, one without a deadline, meant to last a lifetime. She has taken multiple “routes” to Madras through documentation of historical records and engaging storytelling filtered out of oral histories. Her efforts to map out the historical and cultural landscape of Anna Nagar – she is a resident of Shenoy Nagar, which is part of Anna Nagar – through a collection of stories have been inspirational for heritage and history enthusiasts.

One particular route she has been travelling on since 2010-11, with a fascicle of tickets, has been hugely gratifying. When she was working on a thesis for her bachelor’s degree – “Revival and Revitalisation of a Historic Urban Precinct:

Case of Triplicane” – her father handed her a newspaper clipping about S.A. Govindaraju, a heritage enthusiast, who was largely known for accumulating rare books. Meeting him, “I began to see the value of everyday objects in telling the story of a city,” observes Thirupurasundari. By March 2011, she had become richer by a trickle of tram tickets. She had sourced a few of them from Govindaraju, a few others from Chettinad Vintage Collection, a Facebook page dedicated to memorabilia. Today, she has ten delicate tram tickets, printed in Tamil, English and even Spanish, dating as far back as the 1910s.

Among Thirupurasundari’s most treasured finds are the original Madras Electric Tramways tickets, dating from the early to mid-20th century. The fragile slips printed on thin card paper bear routes, fares and rules – tiny documents that once powered an entire city’s commute.

One of the tickets, priced at 1 anna, lists a route that includes Parry’s, Egmore, Pachaiyappa’s College, Luz,

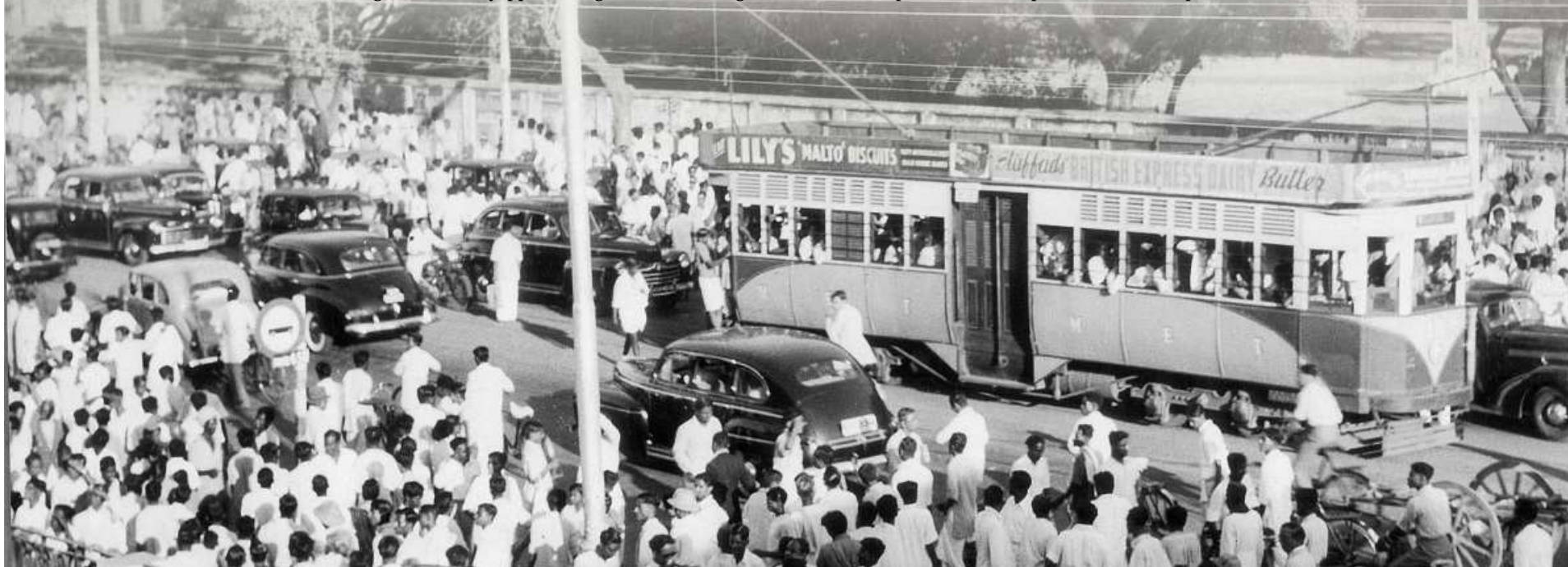
Triplicane and Harbour – names that have outlasted time and the trams. The tickets, the rare ones, are bilingual at times, being printed in Tamil and English.

Having amassed a personal archive of enviable proportions, Thirupurasundari felt compelled to train herself in archival conservation, essentially learning how to protect fragile paper from agents of decay – that explains why the tram tickets are in good shape still. Beyond those tickets, she plodded towards a collection of material about trams, which would go on to take shape as a booklet on the history of Madras trams. She explains the motivation to create this resource to decipher the past: “When I was in France pursuing a master’s degree, there was a proposal in the city where I was studying to revive trams. I witnessed the tracks being laid: and that inspired me to

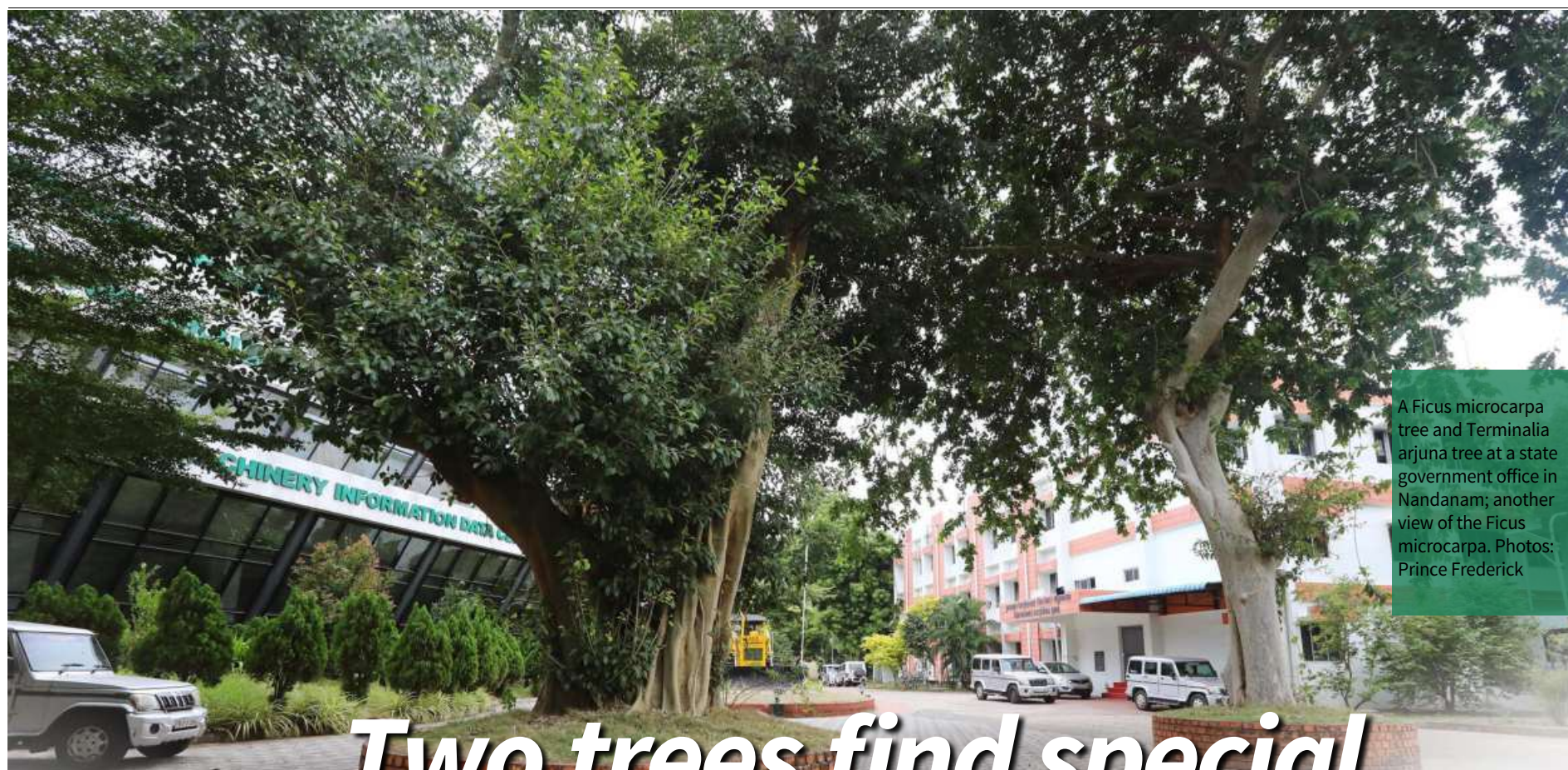
put everything together.”

And as anyone who has known Thirupurasundari for any amount of time would agree: she needs no reason to discuss Madras; having a reason, sometimes, helps others make sense of why she values the city’s past as much as its present.

Tram tickets collected by Thirupurasundari Sevel (in picture); and an image of a tram in Madras







A *Ficus microcarpa* tree and *Terminalia arjuna* tree at a state government office in Nandanam; another view of the *Ficus microcarpa*. Photos: Prince Frederick

PRINCE FREDERICK

In cinematography, forced perspective is a proven ruse to make the protagonist, usually a mass hero, look larger than everything else in the frame. The camera is placed just a hairbreadth's distance away from the lead actor making everything else, animate and inanimate, secondary to their presence. A low angle would only add to the dramatic effect – it is a go-to shot to introduce the mass hero to the accompaniment of piercing whistles from the audience. We are talking Kollywood-Bollywood here. At the sprawling premises of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Engineering Department's office in Nandanam, right on Anna Salai, two trees benefit from an equivalent of forced perspective. The "on-screen" importance is divided between two "arboreal heroes" along the lines of *Sholay*. The two trees stand close to each other at a central spot facing the main gates, their feet planted on hallowed circular platforms with decorative terracotta tiles adorning their entire circumferential area. The surface of the platforms suggest an attempt at landscaping.

These two trees are twins not by nature: they are separated by time and species. One is a *Ficus microcarpa* – its common name in Tamil is Kalalamaram, a cousin to the Alamaram (*Ficus benghalensis*). Its English names include Indian laurel and Malayan banyan. The other tree is a *Terminalia arjuna* – its common name in Tamil is Neermaruthu. It is Arjuna tree across India.

These trees are twins by nurture. No other trees on the premises of this government office in Nandanam are given dedicated platforms – except for a peepal tree, which however is placed on a

## Two trees find special honour and care

Decades ago, when the Office of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Engineering Department in Nandanam began to be noticeably decked up in "concrete clothes", the authorities had the wisdom to lay a hedge of protection around a handsome *Ficus microcarpa* and an elegant *Terminalia arjuna*



platform that is unadorned and looks weathered. Those whose familiarity with the landscape dates back by around 40 years ago, reveal that both trees were found even then. It was around the time the office premises began to put on more

elaborate "concrete clothes". One of the two major buildings was thrown open in 1990. The other significant building with swanky design is relatively young.

There was dense greenery, much of it unruly and unwanted,

and it had to be cleared to make way for the constructions. The *Ficus Microcarpa* and *Terminalia arjuna* were also naturally occurring, both finding themselves "on the rolls of" this government office through two different forms of dispersal (to be elaborated in a while). In the wisdom accessible to them, those on the frontline of the planning and construction decided to retain these trees. T.D. Babu, tree conservationist and a key member of Nizhal, says the trees would be much older: he puts the *Ficus microcarpa* at around 80 years, and the *Terminalia arjuna*, 20 years younger.

Babu makes an interesting observation. "The *Ficus microcarpa* is not rare, but less common" is how he puts it. Tautological at first hearing, that line is structured around sound logic. In these parts, one does not have to travel far from one's moorings to see this tree. But the tree is not as common as a *Ficus benghalensis*.

Babu observes that while the *Ficus microcarpa* is here as the likely result of seed dispersal by birds, the *Terminalia arjuna* is here as the likely result of seed dispersal by moving water.

The Adyar river does not flow far from this site, and the *Terminalia arjuna* seed would have got dispersed during a time of overflowing and flooding, movement of water

certainly less checked in those times by concrete structures. In the natural order, *Terminalia arjuna* occurs naturally around waterways and riverine systems.

Babu's estimation of this *Ficus microcarpa*'s age is based on its trunk's size – "this tree grows slowly, and it has aerial roots, but they would not be as prominent as in a *Ficus benghalensis*. The ends of *Ficus microcarpa*'s leaves are pointed, not rounded."

### Shades of rarity

A tree can be found in striking numbers in a geography and still manage to tick the rarity box. The celebrated Adyar alamaram (*Ficus benghalensis*) is like every other banyan; at the same time, it is unlike every other banyan in a manner that cannot be ignored. Its size and age scream attention to it with the immediacy of a strobe light shifting colours in an otherwise pitch-dark room.

The context makes this century-old banyan rare. Like the coloured glass pieces in a kaleidoscope, contexts vary showing up in a variety of patterns. This kal-alamaram (*Ficus Microcarpa*) at this state government office in Nandanam derives its rarity largely from treatment it has received from the humans in its life. The thought to protect it, hallow it and accord it a platform makes this tree stand out.



*The Hindu Downtown seeks to find answers to unanswered questions commuters might have about lifts and escalators at railway stations in Southern Railway's Chennai Division, particularly when these facilities are malfunctioning*

# When the station lift lets you down

LIFFY THOMAS



## Who services the lifts and escalators?

Eighteen maintenance depots are tasked with the job of attending to various complaints at stations in the Chennai Division of the Southern Railway, which covers Kancheepuram, Sriperumbudur, Tiruvallur, Arakonam, Vellore and Villupuram — and two districts in Andhra Pradesh, namely Chittoor and Tirupathi. This is besides periodical maintenance by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM). All lifts/escalators are covered under annual maintenance contract (AMC), but they are not covered if the cause of fault is a slipper slipping in or any other comparable reason.

## What is the average lifespan of a lift/escalator?

**20**  
years

## Choosing the best option

Both the lift and the escalators have their advantages and disadvantages. The former has become a basic necessity in every station as part of Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

While the average cost of a lift is around ₹50 lakh, an escalator costs over a crore. The need for a lift/escalator is decided based on the number of footfalls a station receives. For a station with a patronage of 5,000 people, a lift should be provided. If the footfall is more than 25,000 then escalators must also be made available. Space is a big constraint in certain stations in setting up such a facility, so sometimes priority is given to escalator that goes upward (the logic being it's easier to climb down). Based on recommendation by the commercial department, engineering feasibility such as width and other parameters are studied. Civil along with electrical works take an average of four months for a lift to get running.

## Top reasons for malfunctioning

When the **emergency button is pressed unnecessarily**: this means the technical staff has to come with keys to release the button to get it running again

**Vandalism**, especially inserting slippers and other hard objects into the escalator can cause it to get jammed

When there is **power supply-related issues** and door is distributed

### Overload

**Insufficient maintenance** and faults in mechanical and electrical systems



## How should a complaint be raised?

RailMadad offers three options (Web, App, SMS) to register a complaint. Passenger helpline (139), the helpline number pasted on the lift/escalator, informing the station master and writing in the complaint book kept at every station are among the options.

## What is the standard response time to a complaint?

The normal response time is within 24 hours. But if the complaint warrants calling the OEM to look into it, the timeline could be stretched. Fixing an escalator-related complaint takes more time than one pertaining to a lift.

## Evolution of lifts in terms of technology

CCTV cameras are increasingly being attached to lifts, six MRTS stations including Thirumayilai are currently getting new lifts with this safety feature. Real time monitoring of working of these system is coming up soon.

## Numbers

Total number of railway stations in Chennai Division:

**160**

Stations with lifts:

**89**

Stations with escalators:

**69**

Sanctioned lifts:

**64**

Work in progress (lifts):

**16**

Sanctioned escalators:

**17**

Work in progress (escalators):

**12**

*Questions were answered by Electrical General Department, Southern Railway*





## Book on Chhatrapati Shivaji launched at Sanskrit College



In an event organised by Centre for South Indian Studies at Sanskrit College in Mylapore recently, the book *Shivaji Maharaj- His enduring legacy in South India* was launched.

Authored by Sudhakar Narayanan in English and translated into Tamil by K. Murugan, the book celebrates the profound historical impact of Chhatrapati Shivaji particularly his influence in the south of India, says a press release.

Shivaji Rajah T. Bhosale, the direct descendant of the Maratha legacy, was the chief guest.

The guests included K.P.S. Chinnaiya Sivakumar, eighth-generation representative of the Thanjai Nalvar musical lineage; Dr. S. Devaji Rao, noted surgeon, prolific medical author, and writer of the book's foreword; Nandakumar, IRS, Commissioner, Income Tax Department; and Ramkumar Ganesan, renowned

film producer, actor, and son of the legendary Sivaji Ganesan.

The evening commenced with a soulful musical performance by students from Sri Sayee Vivekananda Vidyalaya School and Raa-ga Swaram Music School.

Ramkumar Ganesan, acclaimed actor, producer, and son of the legendary Sivaji Ganesan. He spoke about how his father got the name Sivaji and his experience during school days being in the sets of iconic Karnan movie admiring the acting skills of his father.

On the occasion, K.P.S. Chinnaiya Sivakumar was conferred with the prestigious Raaga Deepam Lifetime Achievement Award by Thanjavur Prince Shivaji Rajah T. Bhosale in recognition of his contributions to South Indian classical music. Contributors and organisers of the book and event were also acknowledged for their tireless efforts.

## Display your AI art skills

Super Chennai has called for nominations from upcoming artists for Reimagine Chennai, an AI Art contest. This initiative aims to bring together art and AI to envision the future of Chennai, from its ever-evolving skyline to its vibrant culture, all expressed through the power of generative AI tools. The last date to submit entries is September 30. The top 25 artworks, handpicked by a distinguished panel, will be featured in "The AI Art Show", said a release.

The contest serves as a canvas for participants to blend creativity and cutting-edge technology, presenting new possibilities for the city's identity, design, and cultural spirit.

Entries can be sent to [hello@superchennai.com](mailto:hello@superchennai.com). For details, visit <https://www.superchennai.com/>

## TSB Award of Excellence conferred on Sudha Seshayyan



The family of the Harikatha legend T. S. Balakrishna Sastrigal has been celebrating his jayanthi from 2004, the year after he attained *swarga praapthi*. This time, his 106th jayanthi was celebrated on August 24 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan auditorium in Mylapore.

Writer, director and actor Mouli (TSB's eldest son) welcomed the audience and his youngest son and creative director S. B. Khanthan recollected the glorious happenings over

the last 22 annual jayanthi functions.

Niyanthri Vijay, grand daughter of Sankari Ramanarayanan and daughter of TSB sang the invocation.

Yashaswi Bharath, granddaughter of S.B. Khanthan, sang the dhyana slokas which TSB sang in his Harikatha.

The TSB Award of Excellence was bestowed on Dr. Sudha Seshayyan, scholar and former Vice Chancellor, TN Dr. MGR Medical University.

## Fire safety drill conducted in mall

Phoenix Marketcity, a mall in Velachery, with the support of Tamil Nadu Fire & Rescue Services conducted a fire safety drill. According to a press release, advanced firefighting vehicles and equipment were deployed and firemen tested the mall's preparedness in handling an emergency.



## Abacus and vedic maths competition

Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Teacher Association (AMATA), an ISO 9001:2018 certified body, will be conducting the 'International Open Abacus and Vedic Maths Competition 2025' in an offline format on September 20 and 21, at Seethalakshmi Hall, Poonamallee High Road, Maduravoyal.

The competition is open to all Abacus students from any centre. Model question papers will be provided in advance, and participants may select their level of entry based on the syllabus.

For further details, visit <http://www.abacus-competition.com>

or contact the organisers via WhatsApp at 8144443777/9841023115

## Dialogue on participative democracy today

Voice of People invites residents for a public dialogue on participative democracy on September 14 (from 4 p.m. onwards) at Namma Chennai selfie spot, Marina Beach. For details, call 9841148865/ 9840886648.

September 15 is International Day of Democracy, and one of the four days in the year when area sabha meetings are supposed to be conducted in the city.

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## Suicide prevention helpline launched

**M**astermind Foundation, in collaboration with The Mind Care and CSR support from Husky Injection Molding Systems, has launched a 24/7 suicide prevention helpline number to observe World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10).

“Jeevanline”, as it is called, has been created to ensure that no cry for help goes unheard. Built on an AI-enabled, digital three-layer platform, the helpline offers immediate, professional, and confidential counselling to individuals in emotional crisis.

The service went live on September 10, extending a hand of hope to people across Tamil Nadu. With trained psychologists available around the clock, Jeevanline is accessible in Tamil, English, and Hindi, said a release.

Dr. Lakshmi T.K., founder-president of Mastermind Foundation, said “Jeevanline is not just a helpline; it is a promise that no one will have to fight their darkest battles alone.”

**Other numbers include Sneha (044 2464 0060) and State health helpline 104**

### How Jeevanline works

- **24/7 Access:** Available via the toll-free number 1800 202 8760, the SOS button on The Mind Care app, and the Jeevanline website.
  - **Confidential and safe:** Caller privacy is fully protected, while essential details (time, date, location) are logged to ensure effective response.
  - **Expert intervention:** Calls are handled by trained psychologists, with AI-enabled triage.
- For more details, visit: <https://mastermindfoundation.com/jeevan-line>



### Alumni association holds annual meet



The Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Schools' Alumni Association hosted its Grand Alumni Day recently. Eleven retired teachers were honoured on the occasion. Also, the association conferred Distinguished Alumni Award to three alumni in recognition of their outstanding professional accomplishment and exemplary contribution to society. They include T.A. Sekar, former Indian cricketer; P.S. Rajagopal, a decorated veteran of the Indian Air Force; Seshadri Sukumaran, acclaimed photographer and a re-

ipient of Kalaimamani Award.

Industrialist Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetti, patron of the association, took part in the event. In his address, he underscored the role played by the institution in imparting knowledge and discipline.

The Annual General Meeting was also held where members discussed on the association's future plans.

The event was held at Infosys Hall, Ramakrishna Mission Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Bazullah Road, T. Nagar.

### Free computer education in Mylapore and T. Nagar



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Gandhi Institute of Computer Education and Information Technology Centre at Mylapore and T.Nagar imparts free computer education to the educated unemployed youth belonging to the economically backward section of the society.

Bhavan is offering this selfless service to deserving students in various job oriented computer courses like MS-Office with Tally, DTP. These courses have helped many students to secure employment at various levels, said a release. Senior citizens can enrol to learn Microsoft Word, Excel and Internet courses. Last date for collection and submission of filled application forms is September 27. For more details, contact in person.

The centres are located at East Mada Street, Mylapore. Contact: 24611312, 24643420 and Old No:35, New No:12, Thanikachalam Road, T. Nagar.

### 50th annual day celebrated

The golden jubilee annual day of Seth P. D. Hinduja Sindhi Model Senior Secondary School was recently held at Kamarajar Arangam.

Justice V. Ramasubramanian, former Supreme Court judge, was the chief guest and launched the school magazine 'Sindhu.'

D. Victoria, school principal, presented a digital record highlighting the school's remarkable 50-year history, along with the annual report.



A prize distribution ceremony was held to honour school toppers, valued teachers, and vendors, said a release from the insti-

tution.

Over 650 students captivated the audience with a vibrant cultural programme.

### Workshop on organic farming

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on ready-to-cook food items on September 18. According to a press release, the session will focus on preparation of *puttu*, *adai*, *idli* and sweets and savouries.

Another workshop on organic farming in vegetable crops on



September 19. The session will focus on chemical-free methods of nourishing soil, pest management and preparation of manure.

Both the sessions will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy.

For details, call 044 - 2953 0048 / 044 - 2953 0049.

### Medical camp for industrial workers



The Rotary Club of Chennai Port City and the Rotary Club of Chennai Mambalam in association with SIMS Multispeciality Hospital conducted a free two-day medical camp for industrial workers at the SIPCOT Industrial Estate in Sriperumbudur.

According to a press release, various tests were conducted and 700 workers attended the camp. Also, medicines were given free of cost. The aim of the camp was early detection of ailments, adds the release.

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