

IT CORRIDOR

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Bus shelters sought



C. Namachivayam, a resident of Venkatarathnam Nagar in Adyar, has been running from one bus stop's pillar to another's post, to have a long-standing request of bus commuters met – shelters for these bus stops on Sardar Patel Road in Adyar.

Namachivayam locates these unsheltered bus stops

– "Two bus-stops near the bus terminus in Sardar Patel road (for buses going towards Madhya Kai-

lash) – one near Kalyan Jewelers and the other near the junction of Second Main road K.B. Nagar - lack shelters." The resident notes that the request for shelters in these bus stops is seven years old, and it has grabbed headlines in the local pages of newspapers from time to time. Namachivayam remarks that when this plea was taken to Velachery MLA J. M. H. Aasan Maulana last December, his response was extremely positive and he sent a representative to study the issue on



Two bus stops on Sardar Patel Road in Adyar operating without a shelter.

the ground. As it turned out, says Namachivayam, the Greater Chennai Corporation's Bus Route Roads Department being in charge of installing bus shelters, they have to make the decisive move, one that is proving to be long in coming.

He observes that when he got in touch with a BRR Department official around a couple of months ago, he was told it was a work in progress. And when he reconnected with the official on August 9, 2025, he was told they would apprise him about the status the following week.

Shifting of bus stop

On behalf of the commuters in Adyar, Namachivayam has another, related request:

"The bus-stop near TNSC Bank (opposite Adyar bakery) was recently shifted close to Bata showroom near the LB road-Sardar Patel Road signal and the bus shelter also was shifted. However, buses cannot stop at this new location, because buses towards LB road cannot stop near the signal and also make a turn to the right across the road as this section has heavy traffic. Therefore buses still continue to stop at the location of the previous bus near TNSC bank, where there is no shelter. Can this bus stop be shifted inside the Adyar Bus Terminus which now has huge unused space? The buses stopping at the bus-stop will also not obstruct the traffic on Sardar Patel Road."

MRC Fest today

MRC festival –Samavesha 2025 – will be held on August 10 (from 5 p.m. onwards) at MRC Kalyana Mandapam. The annual MRC festival brings residents of MRC Nagar together, and according to the residents in the forefront of this initiative, this edition is bigger than every other that has gone before it.

Samavesha promises to be a kaleidoscope of electrifying performances, traditional showcases, contemporary flair, and thought-provoking art, says a press release.

In a world where the past and present walk down separate paths, Samavesha is a celebration of harmony, a cultural confluence where tradition meets innovation, and generations unite through the spirit of inclusion, the release adds.

To illustrate the confluence of worldviews and artforms with an example, one can witness the elegance of Bharatanatyam share space with the dynamic pulse of modern performance art, echoing the true spirit of cultural coexistence.



At the event.

ing the use of cloth bags among their localities and communities around them by ordering over one lakh cloth bags through the Rotary's Environment Protection Team headed by Rtn. R. Balasubramanian.

The awareness walk started near the police booth on Elliots Beach and concluded near the TNPCB's Manjappai Kiosk.

Over 100 school students, 160 Rotary members, NGO & Tamilnadu Govt officials participated in this walk – an initiative to spread awareness and educate the school students and society on sustainable living and environment protection by avoid single-use plastic-bags urging citizens to adopt eco-friendly bags.

The awareness walk was flagged off and led by Rtn. D.Devendran, Rotary District Governor, R.I.District 3233 and several dignitaries participated. Rtn. R. Balasubramanian, Director - Environment Protection, R.I.District 3233 stated, "Supporting the environment is Rotary's seventh area of focus.

P. Muthusamy IRS (Retd), Former - Commissioner of Customs & GST participated in the 'Ithu Namma Bhumi' (as the awareness walk was called) and applauded the efforts of Rotary in promoting eco-friendly products such as Manjappai / Cloth bags, giving it free to people.

Rotary cloth bag launched

On August 9 at Elliots Beach, Rotary International District 3233 launched its cloth bag in the presence of 23 Rotary clubs in the city that were taking part in 'Plastic Bag Free Awareness Walk' at the beach.

The walk which took place between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. was being organised by the Environment Protection Team of Rotary International District 3233.

Over 3000 bags were distributed through the clubs and further the clubs would be driv-



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Residents of houses on Indira Nagar Second Avenue Service Lane are skeptical about a flood-mitigation measure undertaken by CMRL and GCC. The line agencies have allayed their fears, but that has had no effect on their skepticism



New plan to drain stormwater in a section of Indira Nagar decried

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Residents of houses on Indira Nagar Second Avenue Service Lane have decried a move by the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) and the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) to construct an underground pipe network for stormwater management.

The underground pipes are meant to connect the stormwater drain network on the northern side with the one on the southern side.

CMRL's worksite covers a part of the stormwater drain on the northern side.

Residents have misgivings about

the effectiveness of this measure, their skepticism arising from their view that the stormwater drain network on the northern side is lower than the one on southern side. "The water cannot flow in the direction it should: it will flow in reverse and flood Lattice Bridge Road and Mahatma Gandhi Road," say residents.

Residents remark that during heavy flow of stormwater, CMRL and GCC should use a motor pump and hoses to drain in the SWD network on the northern side to the one on the southern side. By temporarily opening a manhole on each side, this job can be achieved.

In January 2024, CMRL barricaded

an area of Second Avenue, also blanketing the stormwater drain network on the service road's northern side after a certain point. The CMRL worksite has come on the stormwater drain network.

According to the residents, "CMRL and the GCC officials have sought to allay our fears, noting that they ensure the right gradient by how the pipes are placed." Residents are not certain this would work.

It may be recalled that during the rains in December 2024 and April this year, the service lane and houses were flooded. Motor pumps were used to drain the water into the network on the southern side using huge hose pipes.

Three NIEPMD beneficiaries clear TNPSC exam

R. Deebikanilaa, K. Leelavathy and S. Gokul Srinivas availed the free coaching programme offered by the government institution that seeks to create employment opportunities for those with disabilities

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Three students who availed the free coaching programme at National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD) have cleared the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission Group II-A examination.

The three – R. Deebikanilaa, K. Leelavathy and S. Gokul Srinivas – enrolled under the 'PM Daksh - DIAL Free Coaching Scheme' and were selected for appointment under the four per cent reservation category for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Group II-A is a non-interview post.

The free coaching centre prepares Persons with Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Mental Illness, Specific Learning Disability and Multiple Disabilities for a Governmental placement. Candidates are trained in numerical ability, reasoning, current affairs, English and general knowledge. Special educators are roped in to

coach candidates as specialised skills are required to train candidates.

Getting a government posting is a big step in empowering persons with disability to be financially independent.

Twenty-six-year-old Leelavathy, for instance, has challenges in hearing and has low vision and enrolled under multiple disability category. She has been associated with NIEPMD for close to three years, where she first started her stint as a Data Entry operator after completing a bachelor's degree in computer education. "My daughter can grasp subjects of a technical nature really fast. She has completed a course in camera techniques and a Montessori teacher training course as well," says T. Kannabiran, Leelavathy's father, adding that she has got a posting in the Revenue Administration and Disaster Management in Cuddalore and is awaiting the order.

For details about the next batch, call Dakshnamoorthy at 8124862799, and Balabaskar at 9282934157.

A fitness festival born in OMR grows bigger

A host of activities for children and families are among the highlights of this event organised by Fionis, in association with Sathyabama University, Rotary Club and FOMRRA

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In 2018, OMR-based startup Fionis organised a fitness festival that brought gated communities in the region together in a spirit of friendly competition. The festival featured a host of sports and allied activities. The following year, they organised 'Happy Feet Run'.

Both events sought to strengthen bonds among gated communities to build a fitness culture. Saravanan Kandan and S. Anu, co-founders of Fionis and residents of two gated communities on OMR,

are back with their next big fitness event, this time covering a wider canvas spread across Chennai and for a cross-section of people.

Organised in association with Sathyabama University, Rotary Club and Federation of OMR Resident Associations, Fitness Fest 2025 is a community-wide mission to make fitness accessible, enjoyable and inclusive for all, says a press release.

More than 50 gated communities and 25 schools in Chennai will be taking part in a series of events scheduled for September.

"We have already started small



events at gated communities and schools to build momentum for the big events happening in September," says Anu.

A line-up of events

Children can participate in 'Happy Feet Run', a 5K family-friendly run inside a secure, traffic-free campus; and 'Obstacle Run', an adven-

ture-themed physical challenge tailored for different age groups. Inflatable run, rock climbing, Parkour, calisthenics, gymnastics, karate, judo and Olympic-style weightlifting demonstrations are among the highlights. A 'Special Kids Run' is dedicated for children with special needs.

A social cause

A key component of this year's edition pertains to building awareness about health and preventive care. A 'Free CPR training for more than 100 volunteers to raise emergency response awareness' will be conducted. 'Support for Olympic Aspirants' is another social gesture where children from humble backgrounds, training for international competitions, will be given exposure and support.

In the press note, the organisers pointed out Fitness Fest is a movement to inspire families to make fitness part of their lifestyle by making it fun and engaging for children and families.

The finale on September 21 will have music, food, community stalls and competitions.

For details, visit fitnessfestindia.com or call 8807651175



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A peek into the city's natural history

Ahead of Madras Day, *The Hindu Downtown* will be presenting stories about "residents" of this city that have been around for decades, are rare and stubbornly ignored. Some of them find their numbers dwindling at a rapid rate and their human neighbours are oblivious to that fact

PRINCE FREDERICK

What the reader sees in these pictures is affected by perspective distortion, the inevitable result of scrunching a three-dimensional reality into a flat, two-dimensional visual representation.

The two trees are not being represented as they truly are, their

manner. In times when landscapes were left to themselves, Neermaruthu trees thrived along waterways and riverine systems, coastal and inland. They are identified with coastal wetlands.

Sivananda Salai is a jogging partner for the Cooum river in Chepauk; they run alongside each other. The Cooum as known to us now might be icky, but there is a record past when it did flow more swift-



Standing tall and robust

There is a case for introducing *Terminalia arjuna* trees along waterways. Two trees from this species found at the MLAs Hostel in Chepauk show why this should be done

trunks far more massive in reality than they appear in those frames. When they have grown to maturity and exploited their full potential, Neermaruthu trees (*Terminalia arjuna*) stand tall and robust, exuding a presence comparable to celluloid superstars known to fill a screen. With its imposing stature, massive, smooth white trunk and the bough making for a dense canopy and the subsidiary branches simulating a skyward-bound cracker returning to *terra firma* in a shower of colour and light, a Neermaruthu is sure to force a passerby to take notice of it.

These two trees in the images achieve that effect, bringing out the paparazzi in most people. These Arjuna trees (another name for Neermaruthu trees) have the same door number as the MLAs Hostel in Chepauk, accessible via Sivananda Salai as well as Wallajah Salai. They are domiciled in a park at the Hostel. If one chose to reach it via the former road, they would understand this species' essential character in a practical, unambiguous

ly with clearer waters.

"These twin Neermaruthu trees, as also one on the opposite side, at the MLAs Hostel premises occurred naturally, and were not planted. And they serve as an indicator species, decoding the arboreal past of the landscape," says T.D. Babu, member of Chennai District Green Committee and a key member of tree conservation organisation Nizhal. "Their presence along waterways is the result of the flowing waters dispersing the seeds. The seed is dispersed through water as the fruit is woody and float and get accumulated along the banks and starts germinating."

Further illustrating the connection between Neermaruthu trees and riverine systems, he calls up the name of a town found on the banks of a Cauvery tributary in Thanjavur.

"Thiruvidaimarudur, a town in Thanjavur district is named after Neermaruthu as it has this tree in good numbers," says Babu, adding that this town's location on the

banks of Virasolanar, a tributary of Cauvery, contributes in no small measure to the species' proliferation.

Back to the twin trees

Babu calls the two trees at the MLAs Hostel twin trees. And, they sure come across as identical twins, if you ignore the fact that one has a lop-sided look, its branches on one side restrained by

the presence of an artificial structure.

Babu says before this structure (which in fact is a wall made of metal sheet that is part of a badminton stadium) came up, this tree also had free-flowing branches, and together they twinned to the hilt.

Neermaruthu trees have as much utilitarian value as aesthetic value. Babu notes that the oval-shaped leaves of the Neermaruthu is staple

diet of the South Indian small tussock (Antheraea phapia), a moth providing tussar silk.

Looking at the twin trees at the MLAs Hostel, one notices exfoliation, the barks that are peeling off seemingly inviting one to make use of them.

Says Babu, "Vagbatta emphasised the role of Neermaruthu barks in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicine for heart health."

Twin *Terminalia arjuna* trees at the park that is integral to the MLAs Hostel in Chepauk, on August 5, 2025.
PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

Doctors feel the pulse of their alma mater

When they meet for their golden jubilee reunion on August 10, the 1975 batch of Madras Medical College would be Janus-faced, looking back in time at how the institution formed them and also looking ahead to see how they can form it

A rare 'diagnosis' of excellence

LIFFY THOMAS

Madras Medical College of the 1960s and 70s encouraged extracurricular activities from the get-go. Interviews pertaining to admission into courses accorded weightage to accomplishments in sports and music as well as communication skills. Once onboarded, students found themselves being urged to participate in inter-collegiate festivals.

Dr. N. Karthikeyan, an active member of MMC's basketball and volleyball teams when he was a student at the college, recalls: "In July and August, an inter-medical colleges sports festival would take place for a week. I remember going to CMC - Vellore where basketball, volleyball, hockey and athletics tournaments were conducted," says Dr. N. Karthikeyan, retired director of medical services (ESI).

MMC had a decent sports facility which was busy during weekends and busier ahead of inter-medical colleges sports events.

"MMC's biggest rival was Stanley Medical College as they too had a good basketball team," says Karthikeyan.

Sports enthusiasts from the 1975 batch recall a visit to Thanjavur Medical College where they were provided with bicycles, the campus being vast in expanse and could not be covered on foot.

"Once we went to Osmania Medical College, where all arrangements and expenses were met by our college so that we could participate in the events," says Dr. Karthikeyan.

Skits and drama events were a big draw at college fests. V. K. Ramadesikan, who was professor of Biochemis-

try at MMC, remembers being part of "Operation Garage" where he played the role of a patient. The skit was staged at the fest organised by All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi and won the team the best skit award.

"It was a humorous mime about surgery happening in a motor service garage," says Dr. Ramadesikan, adding that it was later telecast on Doordarshan.

The 1975 batch has a doctor's satchel of memories to relive during the reunion on August 10. During the third year of college, more than 50 of them went on an overseas trip to Ceylon. The college also hosted a medical exhibition - a first of its kind - that widened the students' horizons of knowledge in terms of advancements in the field of medicine.

Notable members of the 1975 batch include Dr. S. Natarajan, a Padma Shri and BC Roy awardee; Dr C.V Harinayanan, an endocrinologist; and Dr T. Rajkumar, a cancer researcher.

There are also batchmates who excelled outside the field of medicine.

"Next to my roll number was Rajasekhar's, who completed house surgery and decided to enrol with the film institute and is today a popular actor in Telugu film industry," says Ramadesikan.



The 1975 batch during a reunion in 2015.

In 2015, students from the 1975-1981 batch of Madras Medical College started "MMC Batch of 1975 Trust" to free economically disadvantaged students of financial worries as they pursue their medical education.

The trust, which has Dr. N.V. Arulmozhivarman as managing trustee, has so far provided 15 students with financial assistance from the first to the final year of their medical course. Doctors V. K. Ramadesikan, Shantha Ravisankar, G. Kumaramanickavel and Vasantha Jayaram are the member trustees.

"A card given to students when they joined college would mention their parents' occupation. We would identify the most deserving students and fund all their expenses during their medical programme including tuition fee," says Dr. V. K. Ramadesikan, who retired from the Department of Biochemistry, MMC in 2016.

Every year, five students were identified and helped to complete their studies. "We spent an average of ₹55,000 on a student for a year," he says, adding that Dr. Sudha Seshayyan, who was his colleague, also helped get names of deserving students.

The initiative ran for three batches, and lost the initial momentum as the team struggled to find students.

"During this reunion, we will discuss how this initiative could be restarted," says Dr. Ramadesikan, adding that 70 batchmates from various geographies across India and abroad are expected to participate in the two-day meet being held in Chennai on August 10. The meetup will be followed by a trip to Yercaud. The meetup promises to be a union of doctors who have made significant contributions in fields of medicine, medical education, research and healthcare over the last five decades. The 1975 batch has 161 students and 19 of them passed away.



Preserving a timeless legacy

Thiruvanmiyur resident spearheads effort to revive Srimad Acharya Sapthashatee

The Tamil edition of Srimad Acharya Sapthashatee, a revered Sanskrit poetic biography of Swami Nigamantha Desikan, was unveiled at an event held at Kasturba Nagar Residents Association Hall in Adyar on August 2. The work celebrates the legacy of Srivaishnava Sampradayam and brings a 120-year-old literary gem to contemporary readers.

Originally authored in 1906 by U.Ve. Mannargudi Gopalacharya Swamy, Srimad Acharya Sapthashatee comprises 717 slokas in Sanskrit, all in Arya Meters chronicling the life and contributions of Swami Nigamantha Desikan, a pivotal figure



At the event.

in Srivaishnava philosophy. First published in print by the author's family in 1936, copies of the original became scarce over time.

Meera Ramanan, the granddaughter of U. Ve. Mannargudi Gopalacharya Swamy and a resident of Thiruvanmiyur, spearheaded the effort to revive this masterpiece, said a press release. After locating an incomplete e-book version, she col-

laborated with family members to recover the full text, publishing an English edition with meanings for all 717 slokas in 2024, the release said.

The Tamil edition now offers transliterations and meanings in Tamil, making this work accessible to a wider audience.

Kidambi Srikanth Swamy presided over the book launch. Jaganaath-

an Swamy formally released the book. Both of whom had translated the Sanskrit slokas into Tamil.

Sudha Seshayyan, an eminent Tamil scholar, received the first copy and lauded the family's dedication to preserving this literary treasure. She highlighted the poetic brilliance of select couplets, drawing insightful comparisons with Tamil classics, enriching the audience's appreciation of the text's depth and beauty.

In a release, Sudha Seshiyan said, "The Tamil translation captures the essence of the original Sanskrit, making it a bridge between tradition and modernity."

L. Bharath of Emberumanaar Darshanam, the organisation marketing the book, delivered the vote of thanks. The book's design and printing were handled by J.V. Srinivasan of US Graphics.

Meera Ramana, daughter of late K. SundarRajan, sports editor of *The Hindu*, can be reached at 9445400622.

Book CMRL tickets now on Uber App

Chennai Metro Rail Limited has collaborated with Uber via Uber app to enable Uber app users to plan their metro journeys, purchase QR-based tickets and access real-time transit information.

This functionality has been enabled through Open Network for Digital Commerce's (ONDC) interoperable network, connecting Uber with public transport infrastructure, said a press release issued by the CMRL. As a promotional offer, Uber is offering a 50 percent discount for tickets purchased through the app to attract more commuters to their platform.

The offer is valid this month and does not apply to any other CMRL ticketing platforms or services.

Velammal Nexus honours Everest conqueror Ashish



Velammal Nexus felicitated Master Ashish, the youngster who scaled Mount Everest, in a grand function held at Velammal Hall.

The event was graced by Grandmaster Gukesh, Velammal's very own chess prodigy and the nation's pride, says a press release.

The highlight of the event was the generous ₹40 lakh cash award presented to Ashish by the Deputy Correspondent of Velammal Nexus, Sriram Velman, and Gukesh, recognising Ashish's extraordinary feat.

The function witnessed a warm and vibrant welcome as both Ashish and Gukesh made a grand entry amidst applause and admiration, the release adds.

Adding a creative twist, Velammal Nexus hosted fun and engaging games between Ashish and Gukesh, showcasing their skills, wit, and sportsmanship, leaving the audience entertained and inspired.

A deeply emotional moment unfolded when an AI-generated video of Ashish's late father was broadcasted, virtually blessing and congratulating his son. The heartfelt tribute moved many in the audience, making the event even more special, the release says.

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Women's troupe to stage its latest play on August 27



Troupe members rehearsing for their new play. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sarvam Nataka Priyas, an all-women amateur drama troupe, will be staging its latest play titled *Kon nadhu Neethana?* on August 27 at Sarvam, a gated community on 200 Feet Radial Road in Pallikaranai.

According to a press release, it is its ninth play and it is set in the genre of thrillers. The play is written by Kesavan Raghavan and mus-

ic has been scored by Dakshin.

"Our earlier scripts were humour-based and we are attempting a whodunnit for the first time," says B. Vijayalakshmi, founder of Sarvam Nataka Priyas.

The play is held as part of Vinayaka Chaturthi celebration, says a press release.

For details write to sarvamnatakapriyas@gmail.com

New restaurant in Thiruvanmiyur

Millet Maagic Meal has opened its restaurant in Thiruvanmiyur recently. According to a press release, the enterprise calls it a "quick service" outlet offering homely food under 10 minutes.

Siddha physician Dr. G Sivaraman inaugurated the restaurant.



Oncology department gets new chief

Prof. Dr. S Rajasundaram has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Director, Oncology, and Head of Department of Surgical Oncology at Iswarya Hospital, Old Mahabalipuram Road.

According to a press release from the hospital, he is a globally renowned surgical oncologist with over 30 years of expe-



rience. He has performed over 25,000 major surgeries including those for complex head and neck ailments. He has been instrumental in introducing courses such as DNB surgical oncology, medical oncology, and radiation oncology at various institutions across India. Dr. Arun Muthuvel, managing director, Iswarya Hospital welcomed the doctor and the latter also expressed his happiness in joining the hospital, adds the release.

Aadi sale at Cotton House

As part of the 'Aadi' month celebrations, Cotton House at Thiruvanmiyur, has stocked chiffon, georgette, linen, cotton, and party and day-to-day wear saris for women.

For men and children, the store offers printed shirts, cartoon embossed collections, and tissue dhotis and shirts.

Traditional pattu pavadi sets start from ₹ 500.

The shop also has home needs products, accessories and sandals.

The store is located on Lattice Bridge Road, along the Thiruvanmiyur signal.

Phone: 044-24454442, 9176444440.

Chettinad Vidyashram clinches the title at two MUN conferences

Chettinad Vidyashram secured the "Best Overall School" title at two distinguished external Model United Nations (MUN) conferences

- NPSMUN 2024, hosted by National Public School, Gopalapuram, and CHSVMUN 2024 by Chettinad Harishree Vidyalayam.

According to a press release, NPSMUN 2024 revolved around the theme "Fortune Favours the Bold."

The school bagged three "Best Delegate" awards and the "Best Reporter" award, ultimately earning the "Best Delegation Award."

In CHSVMUN 2024, Chettinad Vidyashram secured five "Best Delegate" awards and also won the title of Best Overall School, adds the release.



Training session in gold appraisal

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is conducting a training programme on gold appraisal from August 18 to 22 at its premises in SIDCO Industrial Estate, EDII Office Road, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session focuses on essential concepts in metallurgy with the stronger thrust on gold and silver, difference between karat and carat, methods to assess gold purity, jewel loan assessment procedures, touchstone testing practices, and hallmarking procedures and standards.

Besides, hands-on training in jewellery-making techniques such as casting methods, filigree work and stone setting (both open and closed styles) are part of the programme.

Participants will learn about the



entrepreneurial opportunities in gem and jewellery sector and jobs in banks.

Those above 18 years of age with a minimum qualification of Class 10 can apply for this programme. Prior registration is required.

For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280

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