

MYLAPORE

Mandaveli » R A Puram » Royapettah » Chindatripet » Royapuram » Korukkupet » Ennore » Luz » Alwarpet » Triplicane » Central

Washermenpet » Tondiarpet » Manali » M.R.C.Nagar » Teynampet » Mount Road » Broadway » Kondithope » Tiruvotiyur



MYLAPORE SCHOOL TEAMS UP WITH NGOS FOR TWO INITIATIVES

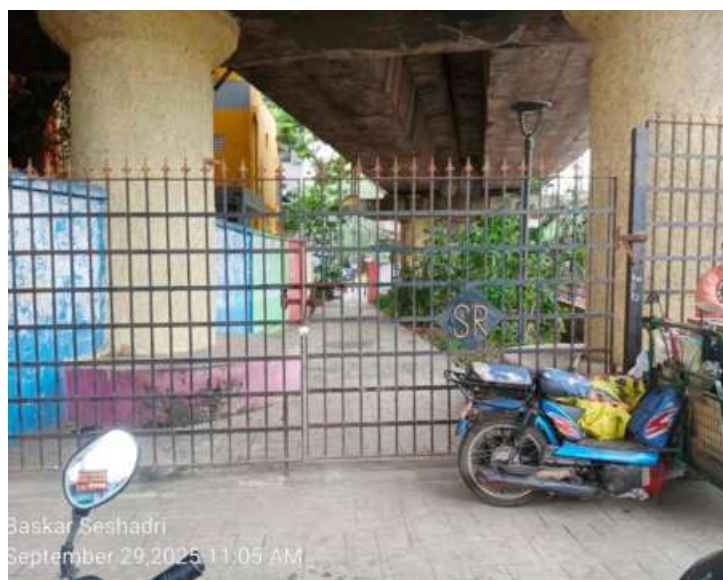
Two non-profits are taking free classes in chess, music and various subjects **P3**



PULLING AN ARTWORK OUT OF THE BIN

Amidst a crowd of attention-grabbing messages, how can the less popular but essential message of composting find an audience? **P6**

'CMRL must help *decongest* this section of Luz'



BASKAR SESHADRI

The issue of space management around the section of Luz near Penguin Xerox continues. There is literally no space to move around as Metro Rail has occupied a good portion of the corner.

Haphazard parking of two-wheelers adds to the logjam.

Near the Buckingham canal many autorickshaws are parked turning this corner into a veritable auto stand. Most of the customers at Picnic Plaza park their vehicles haphazardly.

The whole area is now choc-a-bloc with wheels at most hours of the day. There is a good amount of space close to the GCC's Ward 124 office. This ward office has been carved out of a space owned by Southern Railway. A small park has been accommodated in this space. If Metro Mail can ensure this space is temporarily made available for parking of two-wheelers, there can be some respite from the congestion.

Baskar Seshadri is a resident of Mylapore



Glimpses of the area in Luz.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Countdown for Deepavali



Visitors at the National Handloom Expo-2025 held at Kalaivanar Arangam. Weavers and artisans from various states are showcasing their best for the Deepavali festival. The exhibition is on till October 17.

PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

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Replace this lid

On September 26, I noticed this broken lid. Initiate steps to rectify this. The exact location: Mount Road, EPIC Toyota showroom, opp. Anna Statue and Saravana Bhavan)

C. R. Sainathan,
Tiruvallikeni



Reunion marks 56 years of friendship



Doctors belonging to the 1969 batch of Stanley Medical College had a get-together at Hotel Accord International in T. Nagar. The two-day event included a scintillating dance drama on freedom fighters by the students of Revoor Padmanabha Chetty Matriculation School, Karaoke singing and Carnatic songs by the family members of the doctors of 'Stanlumni 69'. In continuation, some of the doctors are planning to go on a cruise trip from Singapore with their families. These events mark 56 years of friendship.

S. Devaji Rao is consultant surgeon, Chennai Meenakshi Multispecialist Hospital in Mylapore and member of Stanlumni 69

'Install CCTV cameras along the tunnel in Guindy'

Greater Chennai Traffic Police should install closed-circuit television cameras along the tunnel (a vehicular passageway from Race Course Road to Anna Salai) to catch erring motorists.

On Anna Salai, the lane leading to Little Mount, to go to Race Course Road, motorists should take a U-turn along Sardar Patel Road and Anna Salai. However, to avoid going the extra mile, motorists often drive through the tunnel, catching other motorists unawares, which increases the possibility of accidents.

Ravi Ramanathan is a resident of Adambakkam



'My father was a name to reckon with in the field of theatre'

Responding to the report "Silent protest at Fifth Trust Cross Street" in the Mylapore edition dated September 28, 2025, film and theatre personality and politician S.V. Shekher underlined why his father S.V. Venkataraman was chosen for the honour of having a street named after him. Recently, Fifth Trust Cross Street in Mandavelipakkam was renamed S.V. Venkataraman Salai by the state government through a fiat executed by Greater Chennai Corporation.

Shekher observed that his father, who was a trained film lab technician and had a notable association

with the film and theatre industry, was involved in social activities, the most notable among them being "ensuring the collection of 86,000 units of blood and carrying out the burial of 100 unclaimed bodies at his own cost, irrespective of caste, creed and other factors. He was associated with the Lions movement in Chennai for 45 years, which included serving it as blood donation chairman as well as juvenile diabetes and eye donation awareness chairman. And he produced a 20-minute awareness television skit in Doordarshan for blood donation, eye donation and juvenile diabetes.



During the renaming of the street; and (below) S.V. Venkataraman

He also donated his eyes. When Stalin was the Mayor of Chennai, my father spoke to him regarding wrapping of Gada cloth for the unclaimed bodies, which is done before burial in honour of the deceased.

He wanted the government to do

it. And immediately, through a government order, Stalin ensured it was being done."

Shekher remarked that his father was a name to reckon with in the field of theatre: "he has directed Cho, Jaishankar, T. S. Balaiah and many other members of the film fraternity in theatre, including Sachu. He was the president of our drama troupe." Shekher also noted that his father's association with the film industry was deep, and it encompassed an engagement with the film employees federation around it genesis.

Shekher adds that "on the stage of the 7000th show in 50th year of our drama troupe and the birth centenary year of my father (that is, 2025), while Stalin presided over the function as Chief Minister, I placed the request that the street be named after my father. The request was granted and our family is grateful to the CM for that."

Purattasi Thiruvizha at T. Nagar temple

The 74th year Purattasi Thiruvizha of Arulmigu Sree Karmugil Vannan Alayam, T. Nagar, will be held from October 8 to 18.

On October 8, 'Sree Maha Sudharsanam' and 'Sree Dhanvanthri Homam' will be held from 6.30 to 8.30 a.m., followed by the distribution of prasadam. On October 9, at 7 a.m., Sree Devi Poo Devi Samedha Srinivasa Perumal Thirumanjanam will be held. At 6 p.m., Sree Kariyasiddhi Anjaneyar Vennai Kaapu Alankaram and Vadai Maalai Satruthal.

On October 10, at 7.30 p.m., Sree Haripandha Sevai, Sree Harinama Sankareethana Anandha Neertha Bajanai will take place.

On October 11, Thirupaliezhi starts at 6 a.m. At six in the evening, Sree Rukmani Sathyabama Samedha Sree Karmugil Vannan Thiruveedhi Oorvillam will take place.

On October 18, 6 p.m., Vidaiyatri Urchavam will take place. The temple is located on Mambalam High Road, Lala Thottam (Opposite to Kodambakkam railway station), T. Nagar.

For details, call Sri Ramesh Bhattachariyar at 90031 67276, V. Mohan, the temple's president at 98410 51822 and M. Narasimhan, honorary president, at 99418 19899.

Mylapore school teams up with NGOs for *two initiatives*

Two non-profits are taking free classes in chess, music and various subjects

In its centenary year now, Sree Karpagavalli Vidyalaya Middle School in Mylapore launched two new initiatives on Vijayadasami to benefit students and adults in the neighbourhood.

As part of this exercise, Chandra Ammal Educational and Charitable Trust, which runs this institution, signed a memorandum of understanding with two voluntary organisations, Seva Bharati Tamil Nadu and Saksham from them to run free tuitions for school students from Classes I to X and free coach-



ing in chess, music and vocational skills.

Seva Bharati Tamil Nadu's free tuitions will be held from 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m., says a press release. For details, call 73396 87479.

Saksham will be offering chess classes under the aegis of Kanishree, Asian gold medalist and international representative in specially-abled athletics; Prabha, who has been training specially-abled chil-



dren to give public performances will conduct the music classes. Contact: 98848 00162.

Well-known among old timers as "Dhadi Vadyar School", its functioning was taken over by a new team of trustees early this year. This team has been running a series of campaigns with the support of alumni and the community

around to increase the enrolment rate in this Tamil medium government-aided school.

"Education is the only thing which increases as you give" is the philosophy with which the school was started by Sri Dharmaraja Iyer in 1926. This philosophy drives the school to continue serving the community, adds the release.

RAPRA marks Vijayadasami by gifting laptops to 13 students



Private Limited, distributed these laptops.

RAPRA has been providing support to students of Chennai schools and government-aided schools by way of financial assistance and free coaching.

Every year, for the last 10 years, RAPRA has been extending financial assistance worth ₹1.6 lakh to 40 underprivileged students to meet their educational expenses, the release adds.

Every Sunday, free coaching classes are conducted for school students in the commerce stream, covering subjects such as commerce, accountancy, business maths and economics. The students who cannot afford private coaching are immensely benefited by these classes, it adds. These classes are conducted by Qualified Chartered Accountants. Besides, to boost their language skills spoken English classes are also conducted.

This year, four teachers who have been handling the coaching classes – Krishnapriya Raghuram, Arun Achuthan, Uma Maheswari and – T. N. Srinivas were honoured.

This Vijayadasami Day, Raja Annamalaipuram Residents Association (RAPRA) organised a function to empower 13 students with the advantage of technology.

The students were given free laptops loaded with essential software for their educational purposes. The distribution function was held in the presence of RAPRA members and staff from Fenice Energy, says a press release. R. Gopalan, an octagenarian and co-chairman, Fenice Energy Solution

Formal learning begins



Children being initiated into the world of letters at the Vidyarambham ceremony at Akshara play school in Mylapore and (below) at Presidency Girls Higher Secondary School in Egmore; in the latter, 10 students were enrolled into the school as part of the Vijayadashmi admission. PHOTOS: SRINATH M AND R. RAGU



DESIGN NOTES



‘Feed’ those ‘lions’ some paint

Take a look at these elements in the compound wall of the University of Madras campus

PRINCE FREDERICK

At best, it was meant to be an *amuse-bouche*, savoured before one had a taste of the intricate, heritage architectural design found on the other side of the compound wall. Calling it an *amuse-bouche* would in fact be an overly generous, even misleading description, if one knew the architectural repast inexplicably grander that is spread out inside.

This is an earthen design of four lion-faced creatures, open-

mouthed and looking in four directions, built into a masonry pier.

Two masonry piers with this design are in the compound wall marking off the southern boundary of the University of Madras campus. The lion-faced creatures (yalis could be apt term) look too “rundown” to successfully hunt for attention. It does not take much to rejuvenate them, and along with them the entire masonry piers: a

In this column, the reader will come across minor elements of design in the city that are ignored but can enhance the landscape

lick of painting. The paint having worn off, the features of the

creatures are not sufficiently decipherable now. Before the painting, they need some hairdressing. One set of them is sporting a collective, unlikely hairdo – a plantlet.

The compound wall on the eastern side of the campus, which constitutes its facade, is more presentable. This compound wall is an al-



On the compound wall at the University campus. The images were taken on October 3, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



liance between robust carved granite stones and sturdy metal grilles. The same design sits atop two stone pillars, each found on one side of the campus’ main en-

trance. Being painted, they manage some attention. The lion-faced beings on the two masonry piers need to be “fed” some paint too.

Yein Udaan celebrates Daan Ustav with a wide roster of events designed to connect individuals, corporates and communities through meaningful engagement. According to a press release from Yein Udaan, a voluntary organisation engaging with underprivileged section of Chetpet through education, has a week-long lineup of activities in Chetpet, offering participants an opportunity to experience the joy of giving through immersive, purposeful and memorable events.

On October 5, in the after-

Daan Ustav events in Chetpet this week

noon, there is a Thrift & Cloth Sale. Upcycled and pre-loved clothes and items would be available at a festive community sale. Employees of corporate houses can contribute items or volunteer at stalls. Proceeds support women’s skilling programmes, says the release.

Other programmes on October 5: in the evening, there will be a Chetpet Community Walk. It will be a guided heritage walk showcasing Chetpet’s rich history

and everyday life. | CSR teams and participants can discover the community firsthand. Ticket proceeds support children’s programmes.

Men’s Community Evening (also on October 5) will feature a recreational evening of games and relaxation for community fathers. Corporates can co-host activities to promote positive male role models in families.

On October 6, in the morning, there will be a Treasure Hunt in

the Community. It will be a gamified exploration of Chetpet with “kindness checkpoints”, says the release, adding that donors can sponsor prizes; employee teams can participate for fun, teamwork, and immersion.

On October 7, Art & Craft Workshops including sessions on embroidery, water painting, and wire art will be conducted. Employees of corporate houses can collaborate with community artisans, supporting women’s livelihood initiatives.

On October 7 & 8, there will be

“YU at Your Office” Engagement Drive: Yein Udaan team visits corporate offices with student stories, handmade products, and awareness stalls.

Both October 11 and 12 | Sat/Sun will feature a Musical Evening & Sing-Along. On the cards is a lively evening of music featuring local artistes and community children. | Corporate teams can sponsor the stage, sound or refreshments. It will mark a celebratory close to Daan Ustav at Yein Udaan, says the press release.

Roll out into the streets

As GCC is preparing a road between two MRTS stations for road-skating sessions at certain hours of the day, here is why more such arrangements have to be made without delay

LIFY THOMAS

Recently Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner J. Kumaragurubaran in a post on X shared a video of children practising skating on the MRTS road between Perungudi station and Velachery station.

GCC, in coordination with Greater Chennai Traffic Police, will make the road impervious to motorised vehicular traffic for a few hours every day for skating and cycling, he announced in the post. Currently, “heavy vehicle arresters” have been fixed and a few leftover works are to be completed on this stretch.

While this should come as good news for academies scouting for ideal locations to train children in

skating, seeing it implemented is far from easy. This road has been used by young learners even before the pandemic for the minimum hindrance it presents.

Complaints by motorists when an entire carriageway of the road elsewhere is made out of bounds for them have meant that skaters have to scout for new location all over again. Manpower challenges in the police department to regulate such stretches mean this sport takes a backseat.

Three popular stretches sought by skating enthusiasts and training academies for road skating are: service lane on Marina Beach, near Light House; carriageway of Swami Sivananda Salai near MLAs Hostel; and Elliot’s Beach Road in Besant Nagar.

R. Pratap Kumar, president of Tamil Nadu Roller Skating Association, says despite many requests by the association none of these roads is officially given for practice ses-

sions.

“Before major competitions, we manage to get permission but that is not enough. Sports needs regular practice and a dedicated place that is accessible and affordable to all,” says Pratap.

Skating academies only seek 1.5 to 2 hours in the morning hours to practise this sport. “The stretch has to be barricaded and police officials should patrol the stretch; volunteers will take care of the rest,” says Pratap, who was former Tamil Nadu State Information Commis-

sioner. Of the 11 disciplines in skating, ‘road’ is one of them which is why a city needs to provide the infrastructure. A tar surface is preferred over a cemented one.

“In December, Chennai will be hosting the 63rd National Roller Skating Championship but we have only taken six disciplines. As we do not have the infrastructure for ‘road’ and ‘rink’ category, these events will be held in Bengaluru,” he says.

Screenshot of the post on X by GCC Commissioner; children warm up before a practice session on the road near Perungudi MRTS station; and file photo of an event at Swami Sivananda Salai.



Other cities

Chandigarh, he says, is one of the best when it comes to road infrastructure for skating. “Many medal-winning skating aspirants go to cities such as Chandigarh and Bengaluru to practise before a meet as they have dedicated stretches,” he says. R.M. Anbunathan, a skating coach for more than two decades, agrees that finding an ideal location is a challenge and many a time

they practise in neighbourhoods till residents raise an objection.

Currently, Anbunathan has managed to get permission from a senior police official to occupy 700 metres of the road at Swami Sivananda Salai in the morning between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.

“Before we could do a full circuit of Swami Sivananda Salai covering 3.7 km. Now, 700 metres is what is permitted,” says Anbunathan who runs the Marina Academy of Speed Skating.

Skating coaches say Tamil Nadu is currently one of the top states in skating. Chennai District Unit is one of the biggest in roller skating in Tamil Nadu, and Chennai district holds many National and International medallists. There are more than 20 registered clubs, so to ensure this momentum is maintained the State government must accord importance to the sport.

“There are at least eight events in the road category including 100 mt, marathon, lap race, so we need affordable and safe space,” says the senior coach.

Arrangements should be made to support road skating wherever sports infrastructure is coming up in the city.

Two skating facilities promoted by private players in Medavakkam and Gerugambakkam are being accessed by many skating enthusiasts. While they are maintained well with good infrastructure, distance and the cost of availing the facility discourages many from adopting them.





Compost artworks, including the one titled 'Malar', from @onelittlepalette; Saraswathi Shanmugasundaram; and a sustainability diary. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing it is neither smelly nor dirty – simply soil in formation.

A starting point

Nilayaan, a community-focused environmental initiative that works to promote sustainable waste management, and composting practices takes compost art to boardrooms and classrooms, since 2022. Deepesh Bhaskar, founder of Nilayaan, believes compost art can be a powerful starting point in environment and climate education for children.

“The whole idea is to make children aware of composting in a unified and nature-centric way,” says Deepesh.

The adventure starts with a nature walk, where kids from Play-KG to 8th standard collect fallen leaves and twigs. “We do not let them pluck anything,” says Deepesh, “but they do get a handful of compost to work their magic.” Then, divided into groups and given themes inspired by the elements – air, water, fire, earth and space – they create art that literally grows from the ground up.

And here is the twist: most kids do not even realise they’re working with compost. “Towards the end, we reveal that the materials came from kitchen waste, and suddenly they are touching, smelling, and learning all about it,” Deepesh explains. It’s not just about making art; it’s about making the invisible world of microorganisms visible and fun.

In corporate wellness programmes, Nilayaan offers lessons in composting neatly wrapped in compost art. The overall theme of these sessions is “Composting Against Climate”.

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Green souls have to acknowledge reality. #compost will remain gently clicked. Composting advocates are voices in the wilderness, their messages often echoing back to themselves unheard. So, in a crowded digital space where more exciting hashtags, some of meretricious character, are being peddled, how can their message get noticed? Saraswathi Shanmugasundaram, a resident of an apartment at Luz in Mylapore and a composting advocate, offers an answer, actually demonstrates it. On her Instagram page @onelittlepalette, the hashtag #compostart is as profusely distributed as colourful ixora in a rain-drenched garden.

Saraswathi, also wearing the work badges of an IT professional and yoga instructor, has experienced the misadventures pre-destined from every greenhorn compost enthusiast. Despite failing in the first few attempts at composting – one bin even got swept into a burglar’s heist bag – she stayed resiliently at the composting post and in time, became a composting evangelist. And just like that, she discovered compost could be a canvas; and that #compostart can bring the missing visibility to the green practice.

She recalls the discovery: “People usually sieve compost after the cycle finishes to remove small plastics like apple stickers or threads from puja flowers and to catch chunky particles for the next cycle. When I sieved compost, I would spread newspaper and sieve it out. It spread like a flat bed and looked like a black slate where you could write or place something, like scribbling on mud or sand. Touching and feeling the compost led me to think of drawing and creating art from it.”

The first sketches were simple smileys, but they gradually grew elaborate, festival motifs and seasonal designs entering the picture.

Pulling an artwork out of the bin

Amidst a crowd of attention-grabbing messages, how can the less popular but essential message of composting find an audience? Two climate-action advocates in Chennai have the answer

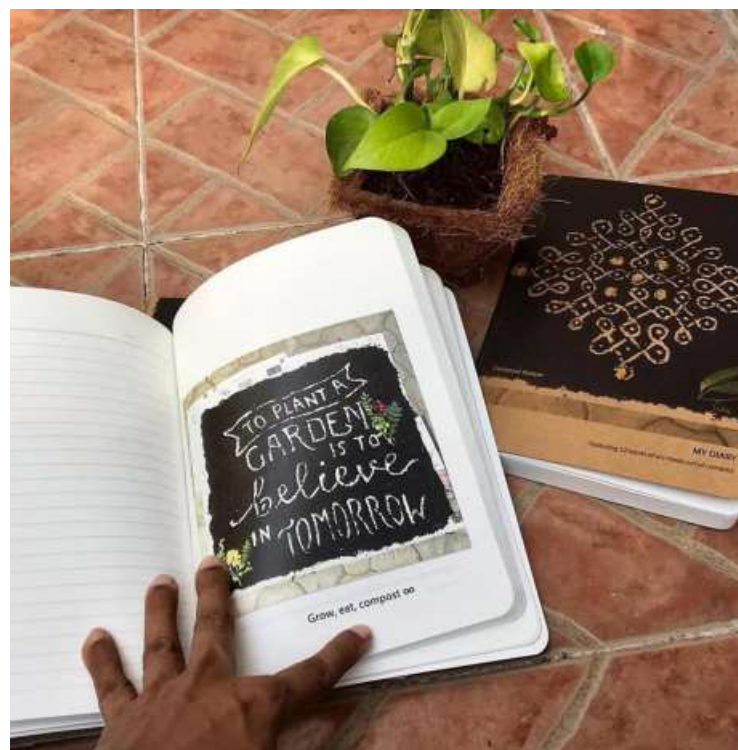


“To add colours, I use natural materials like fallen leaves, vegetable peels, flowers from the garden, sometimes fresh fruits or vegetable colours, everything that is compostable. Once the art is done, the compost goes to the plants and the materials used for colour go back into the compost bin or are washed if needed.”

During one Vinayaka Chaturthi, she experimented with moist compost. “I added water to the compost, but it crumbled and though that is how compost texture should be – crumbly but moist – it was not good enough to hold as an object. So I spread the sieved compost on a newspaper / old calendar sheets, and drew a picture of Ganesha.”

Saraswathi regularly posts videos of her #compostart on her YouTube channel (also “onelittlepalette”) and in Instagram reels. Her documented artworks and #compostart track record include Nature Cake made from compost for Forest & Bird, a New Zealand-based organisation, for its 100th year celebration, compost art stalls at Solitude Farm where people create their own designs and colourful installations at Rosary Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mylapore, for its 75th-year celebrations. Her personal favourites include Malar, crafted entirely from composted puja flowers, and the simple Sunflower.

Her practice has also evolved into compost-art diaries, which she suggests make ideal gifts for anyone eco-conscious, artistically inclined, or curious about climate action. Each diary combines artwork with tips, snippets, and solutions about composting. Even in informal workshops, she encourages participants to “play” with compost, feeling its texture and realis-



Mint Street library gets bigger and better

CMDA has set up Mudhalvar Padaippagam at the government library



L. KANTHIMATHI

The State Government-run library at Mint Street (also known as Thanga Salai) at George Town was reopened a week ago after months of redevelopment.

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority redeveloped the library at a cost of ₹ 47 lakh.

Besides, a co-working facility has been established at this library under Mudhalvar Padaippagam, one of the flagship projects of the State Government.

According to library officials, the area of the library has been increased by annexing a portion from the adjoining school run by Greater Chennai Corporation. Further, ergonomically designed chairs have been provided.

The library has a collection of



The library at Mint Street.

17,740 books and its membership count stands at 676.

The decades-old library earlier lost in the bustle marking Mint Street now stands distinct with its new look and one cannot miss it. Still, the existence of such an useful facility should be highlighted by installing signboards at the entrance of Mint Street.

Mint Street stretches from NSC Bose Road to Memorial Hall Road. And this library is located near the junction of Mint Street and Memorial Hall Road.

The nearest public transport stations to access the library are:

Chennai Central metro railway station (E2 entrance), Central suburban railway station, Park Town railway station, and Broadway bus terminus.

Prominent landmarks to locate the place where the library is located include Office of the Divisional Railway Manager – Chennai Division on South Mint Street and Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital on Poonamallee High Road.

The library functions from 8 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. It is closed on Fridays, second Saturdays and on government holidays.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

Storytelling session in Adyar

Healing Through Stories, a unique storytelling evening, will take place on October 6 at Odyssey Bookstore, Adyar from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

This session, curated by Sheettal Rayathatha along with the Chennai Storytellers team, is designed for children and adults – for anyone who at times may feel overwhelmed, unable to concentrate, or hesitant to express themselves. Each story has been carefully chosen to address these real-life challenges, helping listeners build confidence, find focus, and feel lighter in spirit, said a release.

Inter-school oratorical and debate competition

Union Christian Matriculation Higher Secondary School is conducting ORATORIA'25, an inter-school oratorical and debate competition for students of classes IX to XII. The event will be held on October 31 and the winner of the contest will receive a return ticket to Singapore, said a release. Other exciting prizes worth ₹90,000 will be given. Registrations close on October 10. Scan the QR code to register.



Events to mark wildlife week

As part of Wildlife Week 2025, the Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) in Vandalur has lined up a series of events on the theme 'Human Animal Coexistence'.

On October 5, a 'Bird and Tree Identification Walk' will take place between 8 and 11 a.m. Those aged 15 and above can participate.

On October 7, a national symposium on

'Human-Wildlife Conflict - Challenges and Solutions' for college students will be held (Topic: Voices For Wildlife) between 11.30 a.m. and 1 p.m..

On October 8, drawing and poster making events will be conducted for school students in three categories.

Animal keeper talk series, an awareness programme on 'Wildlife and Us, Learning to Co-exist' and a poster making contest are among other events.

To participate, register <https://aazp.in/wildlifeweek2025/>

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Introducing an old resident of **West Mambalam**

A houseowner has made this baobab feel welcome by giving it breathing space; but it has to be protected from passersby

PRINCE FREDERICK

Some arrive at the right knowledge of the things around them without the handrails of instruction. Others, their intellectual feet slowed down by an ataxic gait, would need the steady hand of an awareness drive to reach a space where they can engage with the environment around them in a manner that cherishes and protects it.

To see this idea crystallised into a tangible reality, let us visit an interior street in West Mambalam. A publicity-shy baobab hiding in Thiruvengadam Street in Gokulam Colony, West Mambalam has benefitted from a farsighted action volunteered by a household, one that stands by this tree in both literal and figurative terms. Their compound wall inlaid with decorative grey stone blocks “steps back” and allows breathing space for the baobab. A planter bed caressing the wall is discontinued to allow the tree freedom to express itself.

Where the wall takes a break, a perforated metal screen has been installed



“deep in the crease”.

These measures suggest a keen understanding of a baobab’s potential for gaining girth. Baobabs being the Methusaleh of the avian world, known to live for a millennium if not more, the tree has all the time in the universe to grow up and big. Let us assume the trunk of

this baobab has achieved its maximum girth – trees are not automatons, and those within a species display individual features shaped by environmental factors. A baobab at the Andhra Mahila Sabha campus in Adyar requires nearly two dozen pairs of hands to give it a bear hug. And a baobab on



A baobab tree at Thiruvengadam Street in Gokulam Colony, West Mambalam on October 1, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Pallavan Salai sports a trunk barely one-tenth the size of the one at Andhra Mahila Sabha. Even if the trunk has completed its growth plan, the setback provided will help the tree stretch its arms freely, pushing its branches into the air unhindered.

While this household has acted responsibly out of the

knowledge they had about this tree, another entity has acted out of ignorance about the tree’s intrinsic value. They have turned the broad trunk of the baobab into a billboard. The word “puncture” with a mobile number accompanying it has been scrawled on the trunk.

T.D. Babu, tree conserva-

tionist, a member of Chennai District Green Committee and a Nizhal associate, brought this baobab’s existence to *The Hindu Downtown’s* notice. While commending this household’s initiative to help this Baobab, and by extension, the cause of tree conservation, he repeated his oft-expressed hope that the Forest Department expedites its project to place plaques next to heritage trees underlining their significance. One can lead themselves to believe that had a plaque been placed, the owner of this tyre repair shop would have refrained from daubing paint on the tree’s trunk. When this writer quizzed a couple of habitués of the street about the tree, it was obvious they were not on first name terms with it. They did not know its name, let alone its history and its rarity on local soil. The plaques being prepared by the Forest Department do not stop at elucidating upon a tree’s heritage value, but also issues a warning to anyone who acts in a manner that violates the rights of the tree to exist unhindered in the space it occupies.

A safety measure



The median at Rajaji Salai has got steel fencing to prevent pedestrians from crossing the road at unauthorised points. PHOTO: RAGU R

Anti-drug programme by students of MSSW

The Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), Egmore, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Chennai Zonal Unit, organised an anti-drug awareness programme at Anna Nagar Tower Park recently.

The programme was an extension of a study conducted by MSSW post-graduate students on drug use among undergraduate students in Chennai. The research revealed key concerns including peer pressure, easy accessibility of drugs, and social stigma, which continues to discourage students from seeking de-addiction support despite awareness of counselling services, said a release.

As part of the awareness drive, students performed a street play to spread messages about the dangers of substance abuse and the availability of support systems for prevention and rehabilitation. Deepak Kaushik, Superintendent, NCB Chennai Zone; Jubin Sam, Sub-Inspector, NCB Chennai Zone, and Vaibhav Srivastava, Assistant Director, Southern Region, NCB Chennai, were the special guests.

Rang Mahal brings Bengal to the city



As in previous years, Rang Mahal, which represents the conglomeration of West Bengal weavers from Nadia district, is in the city for a mega sale. This is the 27th year since they have been visiting the city with their collection of handloom and handicrafts, said a release.

The exhibition-cum-sale starts on October 7 and will end on October 17 at C.P. Arts Centre in Alwarpet. One can shop for a range of saris and dress materials at “weavers price”.

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!!!
1ST ASIAN OPEN INTERNATIONAL TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP-2025
 DATE: 13TH & 14TH SEPTEMBER 2025 VENUE: GACHIBOWLI INDOOR STADIUM, HYDERABAD, INDIA

NAME	KYORUGI / POOMSAE
1. AADHIYANTH UDHAYASHANKAR	- PEEWEE UNDER 38KG (SILVER / GOLD)
2. AMALIA REDDY	- CADET UNDER 41KG (SILVER / GOLD)
3. ATCHYUT UDHAYASHANKAR	- CADET UNDER 37KG (BRONZE / SILVER)
4. ALBERT PRAVIN ROY	- SR. UNDER 74KG (GOLD / SILVER)
5. BAGATH G.A	- SR. UNDER 63KG (SILVER / GOLD)

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