

## MYLAPORE

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

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



### TWO TREES FIND SPECIAL HONOUR AND CARE

When the Office of the TNAE Department began to noticeably decked up, the authorities had the wisdom to lay a hedge of protection around a handsome Ficus microcarpa and Terminalia arjuna **P2**



### 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, particularly when these facilities are malfunctioning **P6**

## Where *rats* have a field day

EK Guru Street in Periamet battles a host of issues ever since it was dug up; and one of the issues screeches above all others

R. RAVINDRAN

**G**oing by the number of rats lolling around at EK Guru Street in Periamet, one would want the Chief Mouser from 10 Downing out here. People of this residential area located near the Periamet mosque and Madras Veterinary Hospital are plagued by a number of issues, all of them inter-related.

It all started around a year ago when the cement road was dug up for an infrastructure work, which resulted in damage to some of the pipelines. The drainage line and stormwater drain network having suffered damage most houses get water mixed with sewage.

The road has not been relaid, and the gaps in the manhole cover



are an invitation to a colony of rats. The rodents move freely on the road through the day, the situation



worsening at night.

M. Shoukat Ali, a resident of the area for over two decades, says his family does not draw water from the borewell fearing contamination and are dependent on tanker lorries. "So high is the rat infestation that we cannot open our door; if we do, they just sneak in. My air

conditioner and washing machine wires were damaged by these rodents," says Shoukat.

He says there are more than 30 families living in the area and they have made many complaints to both the agencies responsible for fixing the issue - Greater Chennai Corporation and CMWSSB.



An improperly placed manhole lid; section of the road that needs to be relaid; and rats feeding on garbage.  
PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN

"Officials have visited the area but we have not got a permanent solution," says Shoukat. He says the blocks in the drainage line must be cleared more scientifically. The road also needs to be relaid.

EK Guru Street comes under Ward 58 of Zone V of GCC.

## PLAN YOUR WEEK

### Dialogue on participative democracy today at Marina

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 .

### Chess tournament at Queen Mary's College

A mega chess tournament by Rotary District 3234 will be conducted on September 14 from 9 a.m. onwards at the auditorium of Queen Mary's College, Dr. Radha Krishnan Salai, Mylapore.

Over 450 enthusiastic participants, aged 8 to 21 years, from schools and colleges across Chennai are participating in the contest. Prize distribution would be held around 4.30 p.m.



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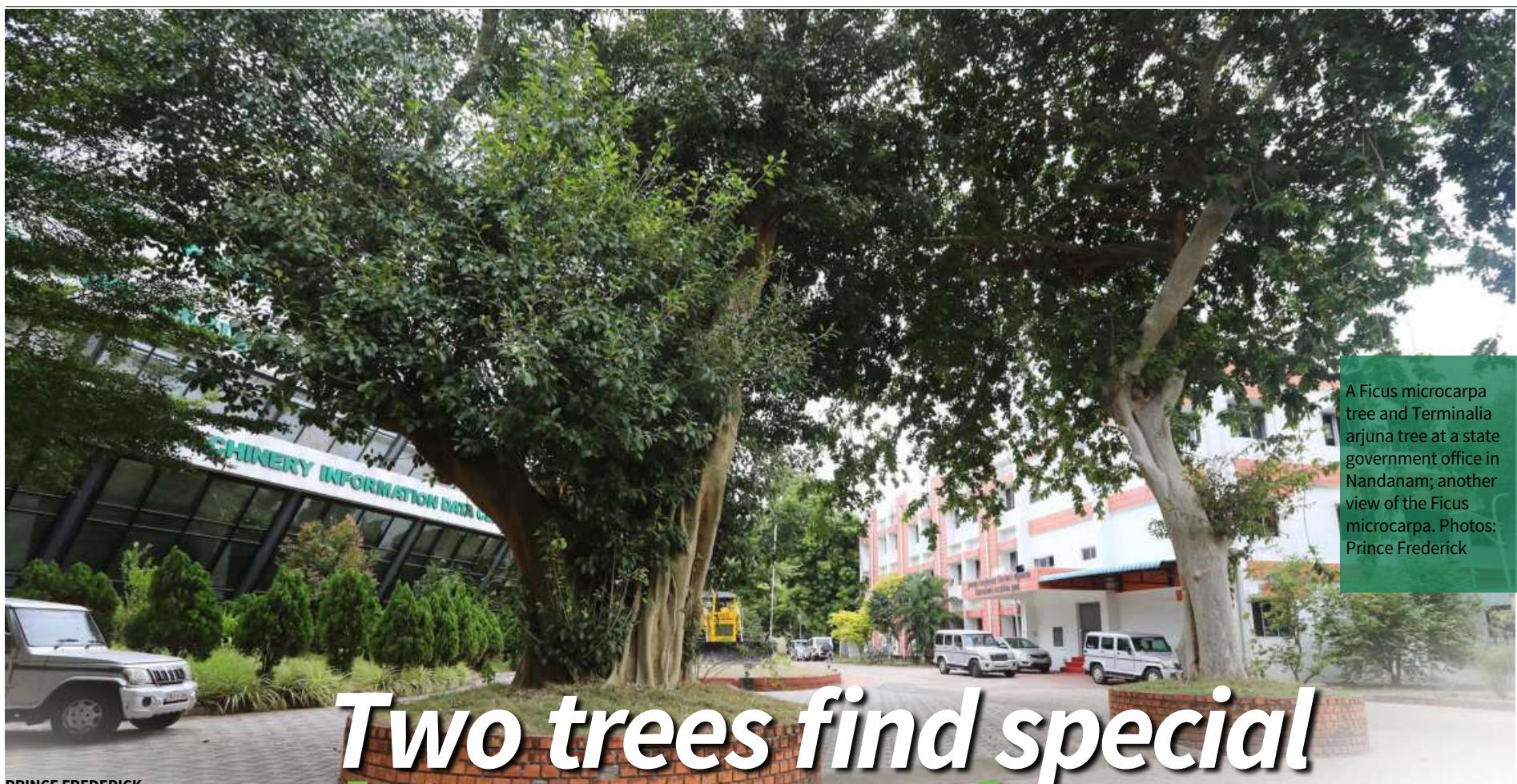
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A Ficus microcarpa tree and Terminalia arjuna tree at a state government office in Nandanam; another view of the Ficus microcarpa. Photos: Prince Frederick

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 centuries-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.

## READERS WRITE

# The ordeal at Thirumayilai MRTS station

**C**ommuters at Thirumayilai MRTS station, one of the busiest stations on the Chennai Beach - Velachery line, have valid concerns.

After passengers buy tickets, they have to climb 50 steps to reach the respective platforms since there is no lift or escalator at the entrance. Two escalators are provided at the farther end of the station building, which is 150 meters from ticket booking office. Obviously, passengers would not want to trudge all the way to the farthest end to use those lifts. Two lifts were provided near the booking office originally but later removed since the miscreants started misusing them.

Space is available for installing two escalators adjoining the



booking office (see picture). An escalator on each side of the booking office can be installed. Each escalator will ensure access to a

platform.

The platform level is too low when compared with EMU coach floor ( EMUs do not have steps at

doorways like conventional coaches). The platforms here as well as at other MRTS stations are 18 inches lower than the EMU coach floor level and passengers literally jump down from the train while destraining. Women and elderly persons find it difficult to entrain and detrain. To enter a coach, the passenger has to hold the middle vertical bar at the entrance to the coach, because of the height of the coach. This is one of the reasons senior citizens avoid using MRTS services. As CMRL is planning to take over the MRTS, it should ensure suitable alterations/ provisions as it takes charge of the transport system.

**S.Gopalan retired as AGM.**  
Southern Railway and is a resident of C.P.Ramasamy Street,  
Abhiramapuram



## Obstruction on pavement

The metal cover on this pavement is at least two inches higher than the ground level, which could topple pedestrians. Immediate action is needed. The exact location is: V. M. Street bus stop on R. K. Salai (Yellow Pages, opp. Girija, the house of R.K. Radhakrishnan and Children's Garden Higher Secondary School)

**C. R. Sainathan is a resident of Tiruvallikeni**



## Unauthorised advertisement boards



Cinema posters/ banners in the guise of social messaging are making their way to CIT Colony 1st Main Road and various other streets in the neighbourhood. Leading real estate promoters use the street lamps to display their advertisement boards. I tried unsuccessfully many a time to complain on the GCC App.

Why cannot the GCC engineers be proactive instead of waiting for citizens to complain formally for every single issue?

**Ramdas Naik is secretary CIT Colony RWA in Mylapore**

## Saunders's tern sighted at Adyar Estuary



This sighting of the species is said to be the first for Chennai

Saunders's tern at Adyar Estuary on September 12, 2025. Photo: Kumaresan Chandrabose

### PRINCE FREDERICK

**B**roke(n) people can be a source of healing. Broken things can provide a wholesome experience. One does not have examples ready at hand to illustrate the first statement. Not so with the second one. The Broken Bridge (found in the liminal zone between Besant Nagar) springs wholesome surprises for birders from time to time. For birders, the Broken Bridge signifies a section of Adyar Estuary, a section that has served as an illustration of the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect. At the time of this article going to print (which is on September 13), this patch was crowded with binoculars-toting humans. The reason: the previous day, environmentalist and birder Kumaresan Chandrabose had posted a sighting of the Saunders's tern – also known as the Black-shafted tern – on birding platforms including eBird. And that had opened the floodgates on September 13. Kumaresan observed that the Saunders's tern did not disappoint the hopeful birders.

A day can change a life: from a rank outsider, the Saunders's tern found itself hogging the city's attention – that is obviously a hyperbole, but the reader should get the point. Kumaresan, who has sighted the bird along with another birder M. Saravanan Manian, points out that this is the first record of a Saunders's tern in Chennai. The bird is associated with north-western patches washed by the Indian Ocean; and it was previously never known to have Chennai included its winter-vacation plans plans.

Seeking to make sense of the appearance of the Saunders's tern in Chennai, Kumaresan turns to a finding by a group of researchers (H. Byju, H. Maitreyi, N. Raveendran, D.A. Marshal and S. Ravichandran) that the Saunders's tern breeds on the sandbars of Adam's bridge. They had come upon breeding tern colonies (the Saunders's tern included); their paper has been published at threatenedtaxa.org.

Adam's bridge (located between India's Pamban Island and Sri Lanka's Mannar Island) is a chain of natural limestone shoals.

With ten tram tickets in her handbag, Thirupurasundari Sevvel 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 Sevvel, 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.

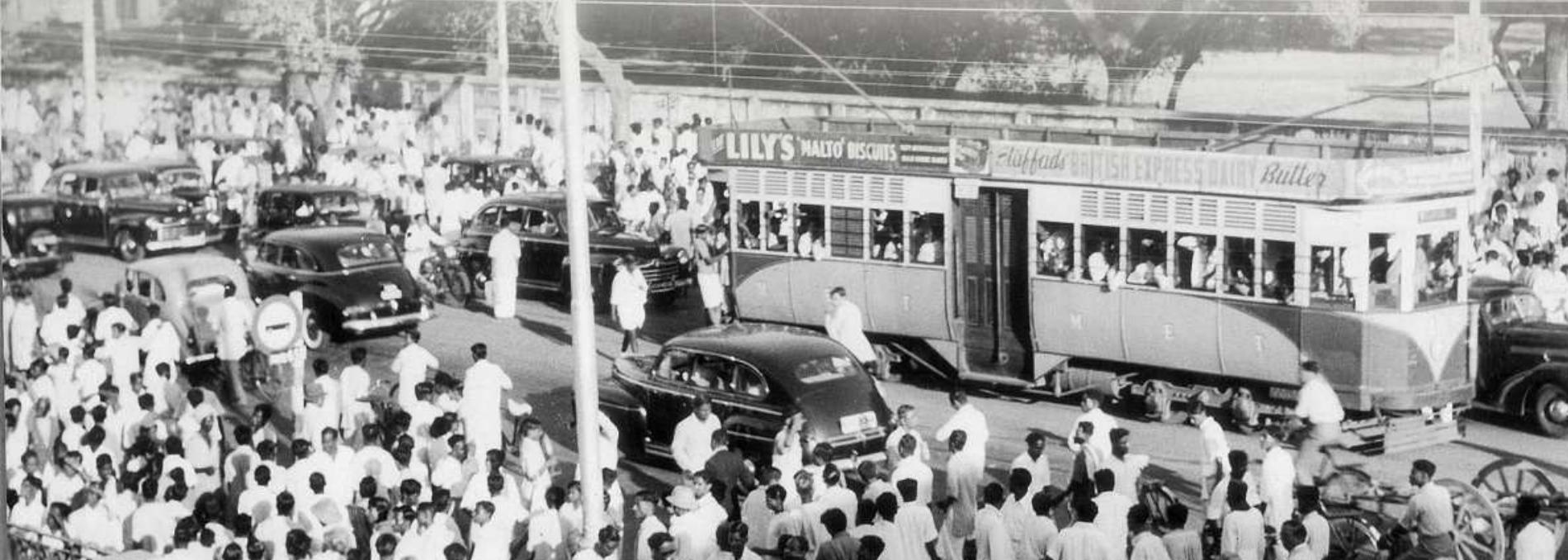
One of the tickets, priced at 1 anna, lists a route that includes Parry's, Egmore, Pachaiyappa's College, Luz,



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 Sevvel (in picture); and an image of a tram in Madras





# Market clicks

PRINCE FREDERICK

Razack 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 whir 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-whirring. The market has around 220 shops, each of them sporting an "extension" not out of expansionist motives. Shopkeepers have fitted 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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**Curation partner:**

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.

**Radio Partners:** Big FM, Fever FM and Radio One.



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

piece 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 paisa 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, Baskar 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, tchotchkies and he knows he is at a disadvantage, but does not seem worried about it at all.

On the outer perimeter of the market, 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.

*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

**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 Kanchipuram, Sriperumbudur, Tiruvallur, Arakkonam, 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.

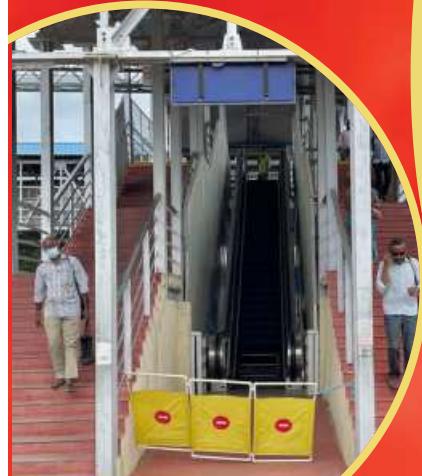
**What is the average lifespan of a lift/escalator?**

**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.



# When the station lift lets you down

LIFFY THOMAS

#### 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



#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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



Say no to drugs



Police officials and school students took out an anti-drug awareness rally covering streets in Triplicane on September 9. PHOTO: RAGU R

## 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 recipient 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, Bazzullah 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 'Sindu.'

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

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

# An extra special Teacher's Day

Former principals of P.S. Senior Secondary School and teachers gather to felicitate Revathy Parameswaran for her National Award

P.S. Senior Secondary School in Mylapore hosted a memorable Teachers' Day celebration on September 8, marking a historic milestone – the school's Golden Jubilee along with the felicitation of its principal Revathy Parameswaran, who recently received the National Award for Teachers.

More than 50 of the school's former teachers were invited for the celebration and honoured with a memento as a token of respect.

Adding grandeur to the evening was a soul-stirring concert by Praveen Pandit, alumnus of the school.

Revathy Parameswaran was honoured by the school's former principals Vijayalakshmi Srivatsan and Lakshmi Srinivasan, who were the recipients of National Award in 2002 and 2013 respectively. K.V.S. Gopalakrishnan, president of the P.S. Educational Society; correspondent P.S. Prabhakar, and several former teachers joined in felicitating the principal.

Abhinav Kota, Akash Elango, Pavithra and Saicharan, students of Class 12, presented a documentary on the chronicles of the school, tracing its five-decade journey of excellence.

### Annual day

The Golden Jubilee Annual Day of the



During the event



school was celebrated on August 22 and 23 at Narada Gana Sabha. Chief guest on the first day was R. Seetharaman, former CEO, Doha Bank. Chairman of the school P. C. Ramakrishna said that students must fly high, yet always remember their roots.

On August 23, president of PS Education Society K.V.S. Gopalakrishnan addressed the audience and spoke on the

importance of our culture and tradition. The chief guest was R. D. Nazeem, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh, and an alumnus of the school. He recalled with fondness the role the school had played in his formative years. The school newsletter *Mystique* was released. The students presented a cultural entertainment on the theme 'Incredible India'.

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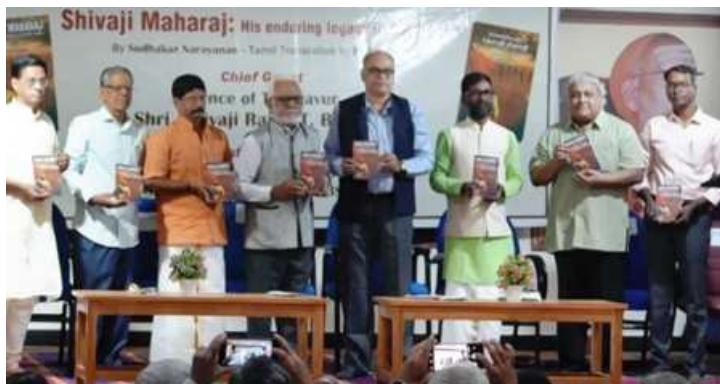
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## Book on Chhatrapati Shivaji launched at Sanskrit College



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 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.

er, 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 Raaga 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.

## 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 prapthi*. 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 recited 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.

## A mini-exhibition at RAPRA's AGM

On the occasion, forty students from Government-aided schools in the neighbourhood received financial assistance

The 10th AGM of RAPRA was held on September 7 at Rajah Muthiah School, Srinivasa Avenue. Every year RAPRA uses this occasion for a grand general event preceding the AGM. This year was no different. There were 17 stalls exhibiting their wares and services for visitors to benefit. Horticulture, textiles and fashion jewellery were a big draw. Hyundai displayed their latest model car.

P. Dhanasekhar, Chief Loco Inspector, South Western Railway, Bengaluru was the chief guest. He was pleasantly surprised at the level of activities and involvement of members, and remarked that he had seen such celebrations only in a gated community and not in a colony. He explained how Vande Bharat trains were developed and how they have become very popular among the masses.

Financial assistance worth ₹1.6 lakh was distributed to 40 stu-



dents from Government-aided Schools in the neighbourhood.

Bank of Baroda, R A Puram Branch Manager, Ramesh Raju Va-

depalle, made a power point presentation on various schemes of his Bank.

Ganga Sridhar and Sumithra Srikanth of Ekoconnectors Trust demonstrated simple ways of manure making out of kitchen waste, without any smell or any kind of unpleasantness.

The main attraction of the AGM was the power point presentation of the president Dr R. Chandrasekaran pictorially detailing the activities of the year went by. In the open house members raised their issues.

## Suicide prevention helpline launched

Mastermind 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 helplines 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>

## 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.

**SIP NFO SWP**  
**S.Ramalingam**  
NISM, LUTC Fellow  
MFD NJ Partner, RVCC Coach  
**98401 47301**  
<https://p.njw.bz/54597>