

## TAMBARAM

Chromepet » Pallavaram » Tambaram West » Rajakilpakkam » Mannivakkam » Guindy » Keelkattalai » Nanganallur » Guduvanchery » Hasthinapuram » Pammal » Tambaram East

Medavakkam » Srinivasa Nagar » Kathipara Junction » Kovilambakkam » Sadasivam Nagar » Potheri » Selaiyur » Sembakkam » St.Thomas Mount » Madipakkam » Urappakkam » Paranur

## High Court seeks an update on Radha Nagar subway

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

The Madras High Court has issued a directive to the State Government and the Southern Railway to report the progress of the construction of a walkway connecting Radha Nagar subway and Chromepet railway station platforms 1 and 2.

The Court was hearing a writ pe-

tition filed by C. Murugaiyan, secretary of the Federation of Civic and Welfare Associations of Zone 2 and 3 of Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, to construct walkway to help commuters reach the platforms.

The walkway is part of the subway project.

C. Murugaiyan says that the Federation relied on the replies re-

ceived through RTI to submit before the Court that the footpath is a part of the subway construction work.

But no steps have been taken to construct the same, despite several requests made in person and in writing to the railway authorities concerned.

"Tirusulam and Meenambakkam railway stations have similar



Radha Nagar subway in Chromepet. Photo: Special Arrangement

footsteps to reach the platforms from the subway," says Murugaiyan.

Without a walkway, commuters

would continue to cross the tracks from Radha Nagar Main Road and GST Road to reach the platforms that could result in casualties.

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## ‘Southern Railway should construct culverts’



V. SANTHANAM

It has been years since State Highways Department got into an agreement with Southern Railway to construct culverts under the railway tracks in Chromepet and Pallavaram regions to prevent flooding on GST Road.

The regions are flood-prone. The floodwater from the western

lane flows under the road to the waterbodies in the region's east through networks and culverts along and below the railway tracks.

The network and the culvert are clogged with trash and become narrow due to encroaching structures.

The culverts are many years old. Since reconstruction near active railway lines requires stringent sa-



Sewage is discharged into this culvert in Chromepet; and a network along GST Road dumped with trash  
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

fety protocols for train operations, only Southern Railway can proceed with the work.

Moreover, the culverts are not wide enough to drain the water. Southern Railway should do the needful at the earliest.

V. Santhanam is a senior social activist and a resident of Chromepet

## ‘Allow parking in the old area’

SUDHAKAR G.

For decades, at the Tambaram railway station, commuters on the Tambaram-to-Beach line were using the parking area along the railway residential quarters.

Ever since parking was shifted

to a location that is relatively far from the station, many commuters have been parking their vehicles in the no-parking area.

There is plenty of space available in the old area. A parking lot can be facilitated in the old area.

G Sudhakar is a resident of Madambakkam

## ‘Extend the routes of S1 and S74’

Metropolitan Transport Corporation currently operates two small buses, S1 and S74 (from Tirusoolam and Keezhkattalai to Pallavaram railway station), covering a distance of eight kilometres.

It would be beneficial if MTC extended the bus routes from the railway station to Chennai International Airport's metro station through Pallavaram.

From the Airport station, commuters can travel to the northern, southern and western regions in the city.

K. Sankaranarayanan



## ‘Resume construction of SWD at Yeshwanth Nagar’



JEEVTHAN J

The Zone 5-Tambaram (East) of the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation should resume construction of the incomplete storm-

water drain network at Yeshwanth Nagar in Madambakkam.

The work was left mid-way in April 2025 after covering a small section in the locality.

As a result, after the rains, waterlogging occurs, posing health concerns. The Zone should prioritise the work and ensure completion before heavy rains set in.

Jeevthan J is a resident of Madambakkam



The poorly-lit Madambakkam Main Road in Rajakilapakkam. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## ‘Replace non-functional bulbs on Madambakkam Main Road’

R. V. BASKARAN

A section of Madambakkam Main Road between Rajakilapakkam bus stop and Kendriya Vidyalaya is poorly-lit.

On the lane towards Velachery Main Road, the Rajakilapakkam lake bund is overrun unruly vegetation and trees that need trimming. Driving on this stretch is a nightmare. The darkness increases when the commercial establishments close their doors. The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation must replace the nonfunctional and low-power LED lights and install additional LED lights in the poles for safety of motorists.

R. V. Baskaran is a resident of Selaiyur

## ‘Poor waste collection system in Kolapakkam’

A. PONNAMBALAM.

The waste management system is not up to the mark in Kolapakkam.

We are close to 1,000 people residing in TVS Green Acres, Kolapakkam since 2018, and for days, the conservancy staff of the Nedungundram First Grade Panchayat have not turned up to collect garbage.

However, the trash is collected regularly in the adjoining localities. The

Residents Welfare Association has taken steps to collect and dispose of the trash through a private conservancy agency.

I request the authorities concerned in the Kancheepuram District Collectorate and the Panchayat to look into this issue and take necessary action as soon as possible.

A. Ponnambalam is a resident of TVS Green Acres, Kolapakkam.

## ‘Introduce trains to Bengaluru from Tambaram’

A. V. NARAYANAN.

From Tambaram railway station, the Southern Railway runs trains to Hyderabad and North India. But there is no train to Bengaluru. Many people from Tambaram and adjoining regions travel regularly to the IT City.

Passengers have to go to Chennai Central railway station to board the trains. They have to commute by electric trains or cover more than 35 kilometres by road.

I request the Railway to operate day and night trains to Bengaluru from Tambaram.

A. V. Narayanan is a resident of Rajakilapakkam

## You can be our volunteer-writer

Dear readers, you can be our volunteer-writer by writing to us about issues and events in your neighbourhood. You should send the write-ups to downtownfeedback @the-hindu.co.in. Letters must carry the contact number.



## Varadharajapuram residents dread the monsoon

They want water hyacinth to be cleared from the Adyar river

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Every year, during the rains, Varadharajapuram located along the Outer Ring Road experiences flooding, affecting everyday life. The growth of water hyacinths on the Adyar River (which is caused by sewage discharge and affects the flow of water) only adds to the challenge.

P. Inbasekaran, a resident of Selva Nagar, says there has been a tremendous growth of invasive hyacinth in the river.

The waterway to the Adyar River along Outer Ring Road (on the lane towards Mudichur) flows with sewage.

The dense growth has resulted in breeding of mosquitoes, not to mention unbearable stench.

"It has become tough to live in these parts. It is challenging with children at home," said B. Ambika, another resident.

The South West Monsoon has gained intensity but the Water Resources Department (WRD) has not taken steps to weed out the water hyacinth, say residents.

The lake is also engulfed with unwanted vegetation, 'Seemai Karuvellam', and trash.

WRD should weed out the hyacinth before the rains; otherwise, the river cannot store rainwater, nor can the water in the river flow, which can lead to flooding in the region.

A WRD official (Lower Palar Basin Division) says that starting from the river's point of origin in Adhanur to the Thiruneermalai region, water hyacinth will be weeded out before the rains. Even the river canals in Adhanur, Mannivakkam, Orathur, Somangalam, and Manimangalam will be cleared of hyacinth.

Adyar River along Outer Ring Road in Varadharajapuram.  
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



## In the service of TB patients

A view of Tambaram Sanatorium hospital with the clearly seen backdrop of a hill and precincts that look more pristine that they do now. This hospital was established for the care of Tuberculosis patients. This image is dated April 22, 1939. Archival images from *The Hindu* pertaining to Madras and surrounding areas are on display in an ongoing exhibition at *The Hindu* on Anna Salai. The exhibition is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Saturday

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## Sing songs of Krishna at event in Pallikaranai today

As part of Krishna Janmashtami celebrations, Seethalakshmi Ramanathan Trust in Pallikaranai is conducting a singing event, 'Vango Padalaam' on August 17.

Public can participate and sing 'Krishna Kritis' along with Preethi Sethuraman and Shruthi S Bhat.

The event is being held at Eurokids, Fifth Street, Kamakoti Nagar, Pallikaranai, from 6 to 8 p.m.

For details, call 78452 46885.





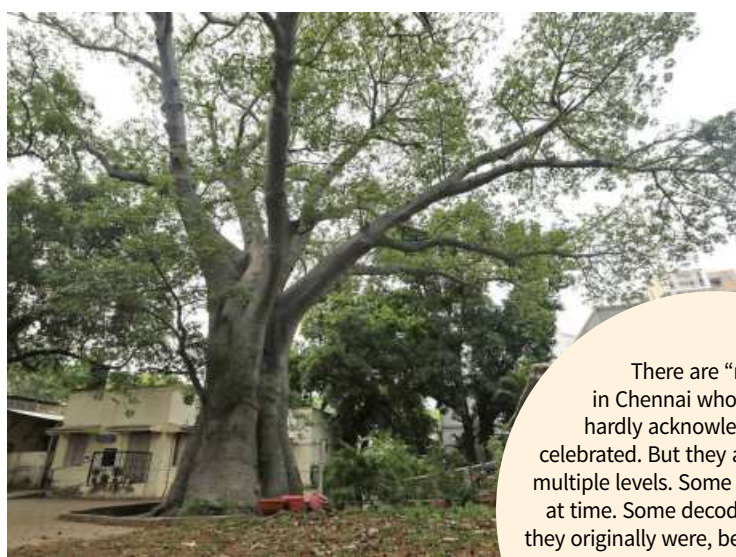
## Well and truly *Brobdignagian*

Around 20 pairs of hands are needed to form a human chain encircling this Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha; the tree is 250 years old

PRINCE FREDERICK

If one set their mind to understanding this Age in earnest, they would arrive at the following conclusion without wandering in a philosophical wilderness. It is an Age where epithets are taken in vain, being used mindlessly. What should be reserved for the sublime is misdirected into eulogising the quotidian. And when the sublime shows up, no apt epithet is to be found, all the suitable ones having been frittered away on everyday things. Recently, while in the presence of a tree at Andhra Mahila Sabha in Adyar, this writer was acutely made aware he had squandered away a valise of epithets denoting size in all the writing he had done before. Guilty of overworking “Brobdignagian” to a frazzle, he was tongue-tied when the truly Brobdignagian stared at him, a massive branch wedged in its cheek in amused derision.

It is a Baobab whose trunk takes multiple pairs of hands to be held in a comfortable embrace. T.D. Babu, associated with tree conservation organisation Nizhal, has had a ringside view of this tree being encircled in a human chain; and the



exercise took nearly two dozen pairs of hands. This Baobab is *Adansonia digitata* or African Baobab.

He explains: “In 2023, as a Madras Day exercise, Nizhal together with the Forest Department organised a tree walk with multiple stops.

At Andhra Mahila Sabha, the participants did a succession of human chains fully encircling the tree, and every time, it took around

20 pairs of hands to do so.”

Baobabs are engineered by nature to be big hulking beings; but nurture determines the extent to which they follow that script. Babu notes the Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha has found a helpful environment and that has enabled it to reach its potential.

He points out the tree’s age

There are “residents” in Chennai whose presence is hardly acknowledged, let alone celebrated. But they are celebrities on multiple levels. Some thumb their nose at time. Some decode landscapes as they originally were, before development obliterated their essential character. Some are not native, but have come to belong to these parts. Meet the heritage trees of Chennai.

would be anywhere between 250 to 300 years. It is still in the flush of youth: a Baobab’s life expectancy is 1000 years. One need not be surprised to find Baobabs departing from planet earth prematurely. The lack of a conducive physical space can send them packing early. A Baobab at Egmore Museum left, whole centuries un-lived.

The Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha predates the organisation, and Babu remarks that the tree has been revered by the local populace through the centuries as sacred, a factor that would have aided it before it had the protection of a vast compound wall around it.

It is the fruiting season, and the

tree was sporting a few fruits during the recent visit. The fruits, as well as the leaves, have uses for the dining table. Babu notes that even when the Baobab is reduced to its “bare bones”, it would wear quite a look. During summer, being a deciduous tree, it sheds all its leaves. At that time, it would look like it has been turned on its head, standing upside down – the branches would look like roots that have been suspended in air. Babu adds that during such times, the Baobab evokes the shape of a bandicoot. The shape of the trunk gives the impression of a horde of elephant legs being spliced together – one of the Tamil names for the Baobab tree is Annapuli.

This tree is among those in Chennai that Nizhal and the forest department want to be honoured with plaques that commentate upon their significance and announce their heritage status.

▼ The Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



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(Clockwise from top left) Thambi Parthasarathy during a scene in Karaiyai Thodatha Alaigal; with Rajinikanth during a Star Cricket tournament; as Alwarkadiyar in a drama version of Ponniyin Selvan; and Thambi at present. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

**O**n the topic of Tamil theatre in Chennai, K. Thambi Parthasarathy is a voice to be reckoned with. He has been on its front line from the late 1960s, as performer and observer of trends. Seventy five years old, he has taken the foot off the pedal in recent years, but only slightly. The outings to the centre stage have dwindled. But he regularly faces the centre stage, being a presence in the audience at plays staged at the Sabhas of South Chennai, particularly those in Mylapore and Mandaveli, the latter his home turf.

Over the decades, Thambi has seen acting heavyweights up close, their histrionic skills being shaped and crystallised by the stage and exported to the silver screen and the tellie. A typical example is that of Raja Venkatraman becoming actor Srikanth. Thambi himself has had dalliances with these electronic mediums, but never let them supplant his love for the stage.

During much of his active theatre career, Thambi held a government job, being on the pay rolls of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD). The stage is easier on the practitioner in terms of time. Convenient late-evening hours can be scooped out of the week for rehearsals. The weekend can be arm-twisted without any resistance into accommodating performances. In case that gives the impression that Thambi viewed theatre as something to be pursued on the sidelines, take this. He took home the Best Actor award by the Mylapore Academy in 1991. Long-time Tamil theatre aficionados would remember his stand-out performance in Komal Swaminathan's Thanneer Thanneer; as also the one as Azhvarkadiyar in Ponniyin Selvan, directed for the stage by Prakash Kutty.

Not a surprise when you consider

## A touch of drama to Madras

Thambi Parthasarathy has a sharp sense of the evolution of Tamil theatre in the city, having been part of nearly half a dozen troupes since the 1960s and also being a keen observer of trends in the field of drama in these parts

that his passion for theatre was born early and home-brewed. Thambi's father S. Kannan (a chartered accountant who had been engaged in the freedom struggle) co-founded Entertainers Group with his friends, director Chellappa and Bala Subramaniam. A young Thambi started wearing greasepaint for the stage, encouraged by director Chellappa, who helmed seven of Entertainers Group's stage productions. Thambi would emulate his father in as much he would keep his day job and passion for theatre in tightly-sealed compartments, ensuring justice is done to both.

Rehearsals were almost always held at Thambi's Mandaveli home. For every play, the cast committed themselves to

a minimum of 30 days' practice before facing the audience. The 1,500 sq.ft house had a thatched-roof first floor, a space that became their cocoon of creativity and growth.

Among memories not blurred by time is that of K. R. Vijaya's diligent commitment to rehearsals – yes, she was part of Entertainers Group before attaining celluloid fame. "She would come for rehearsals every single day," recalls Thambi. "Though practice would start at six in the evening, she would arrive much earlier for some social banter with my mother and grandmother."

Rehearsals were never hurried run-throughs. The director and writer would take meaningful pauses and fine-tune scenes, recreating the play right till the time the stage is just a ner-

vous step away. Sessions ran from 6-6:30 p.m. to 9-9:30 p.m., getting extended as the premiere loomed large. Since all members had day jobs, evenings were their only window for practice.

Entertainers Group seemed to have consciously applied filters that narrowed down the focus to comedy. A signature production was Love in Madurai, written by K.K. Raman, a comedy-spinner par excellence with an expansive sphere of influence, one that touched stalwarts such as Crazy Mohan. Thambi takes a well-considered and balanced view of comedy. While acknowledging its place, he was clear about enforcing its limits. He points out: "Comedy should come along with the story," he says. "Nowadays the aim is only at comedy. People say they come here only for relaxation." He champions serious theatre, as borne out by his admiration for Fathima Babu's Un Kannil Neer Vazhindhal, which delivered a punch without punchlines.

When Parthasarathy later worked with other drama troupes, rehearsals shifted to new spaces. V. S. Raghavan's plays were practised at his Raja Annamalai home; the Prasanna troupe met at director Prasanna's Royapettah residence or at Venkateshwara School in Abhiramapuram; and Komal Swaminathan's plays were often kneaded together at a Kalyana mandapam in T. Nagar.

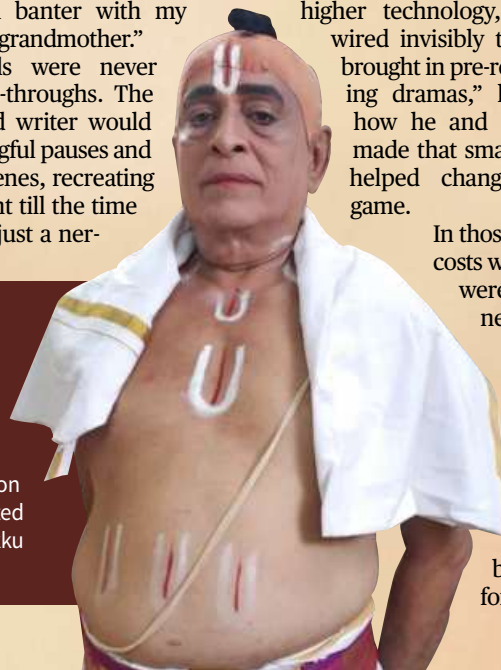
Having a theatre career spanning decades and nearly half-a-dozen troupes and a wide variety of plays (including R.S. Manohar's historical plays), one is bound to be at the coalface of changes overtaking the medium. He has seen the stage change in how it looked and sounded. He has heard plays move from live music to gramophone and then to pre-recorded tape and now to higher technology, where much is wired invisibly to the cloud. "We brought in pre-recorded songs during dramas," he says, recalling how he and his friend Suresh made that small tweak, one that helped change the backstage game.

In those days, production costs were modest, but so were the returns. "We never earned a profit," Parthasarathy admitted. "We even funded the plays ourselves. It was never about the money; it was about contributing to the art form."

### The highlights

Plays by Entertainers Group include Aravanudhan Aasai; Kavilum Thaalamum; Love in Madurai; Top Secret; Dhideer Manaivi; Suya Dharisanam; and Karaiyai Thodatha Alaigal

Thambi Parthasarathy has acted in over 60 television serials. Notable serials include Kasalavu Nesam (directed by K. Balachander); Raghu Vamsam; Premi and Veetukku Veedu Looti.





## Volunteer group plants saplings, fifth year in a row



Nanai, a group of volunteers from IT and banking sectors, planted more than 25 native saplings along with tree guards at Arul Murugan Nandhavanam Nagar and Saraswathipuram Extension in the Nan-mangalam and Thiruneermalai regions.

Pallavaram Tanners Industrial Effluent Treatment Company Limited, Nagalkeni sponsored the saplings. Residents have promised to take care of the saplings. Every year, on Independence Day, since 2020, the volunteering group has planted saplings in Thiruneermalai and adjoining regions.

**Celebration by RWAs**

Colonel Balraj, a Kargil war warrior, hoisted the National flag at the Independence Day celebration at Nanganallur Central Welfare Association. In his speech, he recounted his past experiences in the war. Sai Krishnan, a gold medallist in photography and shooting in the Paralympics, was the special invitee.

The Association honoured conservancy staff (*in pic*) of the Greater Chennai Corporation for their services. Senior citizens, V. Bhupathy and S. Padmasini, were honoured at the Independence Day celebration of Chitlapakkam Muthulakshmi Nagar Welfare Association.

## Watch your steps on these footpaths



Guindy, Alandur and St. Thomas Mount regions along GST Road are busy areas with footpaths that are well-scuffed. On these footpaths, pedestrians' safety is compromised on account of broken SWD manhole covers, particularly during low-light conditions. The images show broken manhole covers in footpaths st Saint Thomas Mount.

PHOTOS & TEXT:  
T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

## Iswarya Hospital launches breast health centre



Iswarya Hospital has launched a state-of-the-art breast centre, focusing on breast health screening and diagnosis.

The centre is equipped with advanced 3D Digital Mammography, along with Tomosynthesis, a next-generation imaging technology to deliver detailed breast scans and accurate detection of abnormalities.

The centre offers routine breast check-ups, diagnostic consultations, and evaluations based on family history, stated a release from the Hospital. Playback singer Chinmayi Sripada inaugurated the centre. She said, "Early screening is vital. The stigma around breast health must end. More women should feel empowered, walk into

the centre and take charge of their health without hesitation."

Dr. S. Rajasundaram, director of Oncology and chief executive officer of Iswarya Hospital, said, "Breast cancer continues to be the most common cancer among Indian women, accounting for nearly 1 in 4 cancer cases. Unfortunately, more than 50 percent of these cases are detected in late stages due to a lack of awareness and delayed screening.

Our goal is to shift the focus to early detection. Early detection of breast cancer dramatically increases survival rates. Women, those above 40, should undergo timely screening.

## Applications invited for M-UTS Sahayaks at Central station

The Southern Railway, Chennai Division, has invited applications from candidates to serve as Mobile Unreserved Ticketing System (M-UTS) Sahayaks at Chennai Central railway station.

To improve passenger convenience and streamline the ticketing process, the Railway Board had announced the M-UTS Sahayak scheme.

Under this scheme, unreserved tickets

will be facilitated by sahayaks round the clock at railway stations. The deployment of sahayaks at Central is aimed at reducing queue times and easing congestion at ticket counters.

The applications can be downloaded at [https://sr.indianrailways.gov.in/sr/notice/1752908028980\\_Application%20for%20M-UTS%20Sahayaks.pdf](https://sr.indianrailways.gov.in/sr/notice/1752908028980_Application%20for%20M-UTS%20Sahayaks.pdf), said a release from the railway.

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## Registrations open for Made of Chennai Run



From the 2024 edition of MOC Run.

**R**egistrations have opened for *The Hindu* Made of Chennai Run (5K and 10K).

Co-hosted by Chennai Runners, this year's run will be held on September 7.

The start and end point of the run will be published soon and updated on *The Hindu* Made of Chennai Instagram page. Participants can register for the run at ₹499 inclusive of bib, t-shirt and medal (on finishing).

*The Hindu* Made of Chennai is presented by Casagrand and po-

wered by SRM. In association with Union Bank of India. Associate Partners: Tata Tea Chakra Gold, Tata Coffee, Hell Energy. Tourism sponsor: UP Tourism. Hydration partner: Parry Foods.

The event is also being 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 On. Active-wear partner: Technosport.



Chennai Runners is an active running club that organises several running events throughout the year and has been instrumental in popularising running as a route to wellness.

To register, visit the link or scan the QR code <https://newsth.live/MOC2025RPA>



## Junior tennis tournament at Nungambakkam stadium; entry free



From a previous edition of the event The Tamil Nadu Tennis Association is hosting the UNIFI ITF Junior Tennis Cup tournament from August 18 to 24, 2025 at the SDAT Nungambakkam Tennis Stadium. Entry is free; open to all.

The ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors gives players aged 18 and under the opportunity to travel the world and develop their talent. TNTA has been hosting this ITF junior event for the past 20 years, and many players

have benefited from this event and gone on to represent India at the world stage. One such recent beneficiary of this tournament and the TNTA developmental system is Rethin Pranav, who won this tournament two years ago and recently reached as high as 31 in the world juniors—securing his place in the Australian Open, French Open, and Wimbledon Junior event, says a press releases.

TNTA has partnered with Unifi Capital in Tamil Nadu, the press release adds. This is the 20th edition of an ITF Junior event and the third edition of the upgraded J60 event to be held in Chennai.

Apart from top Indian players, this tournament features players from countries such as the United States, Australia, Korea and Great Britain, says the release.

The events to be held are: boys singles U18; girls singles U18; boys doubles U18; and girls doubles U18.

The qualifying rounds will be held on August 16 and 17; and the main draw is from August 18 to 23.

The finals for doubles will be held on August 22; and for the singles on August 23.

## Workshop on hospital administration on September 6

A workshop on hospital administration will be held on September 6 at TEACH Auditorium, The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu, Taramani. Time: From 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Called "Hospital Compliance Conclave 2025," the programme will be handled by Hariharan Ramanathan, founder and CEO, SHA's Hospital Management Consultancy Services, says a press release. The following concepts will be covered during the session: statutory compliance, rules and their purpose, and challenges of a hospital administrator.

Government officials retired from various departments will be present to answer queries. The departments in-

clude: Directorate of Medical & Rural Health Services, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers, National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Tamil Nadu Fire & Rescue Service, and Tamil Nadu Police.

On the occasion, a software exclusive for hospital licensing and compliance reporting will be launched, adds the release.

No fee will be charged for two representatives per hospital, adds the release.

For details, call 99529 68552 / 73053 68552.

## Culinary workshop on August 21

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University & Information Training Centre is conducting a workshop on making jams on August 21 at its premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. According to press release, the session will focus on making jams from beetroots, carrots, mangoes and grapes. Prior registration is required.

For details, call 044 - 29530048.

## Photography Day: events for shutterbugs today

As part of World Photography Day celebrations at CPB Lighthouse in Kottivakkam, a raft of events have been lined up for August 17, 2025. While a majority of events are free and open to all, some call for prior registration.

The programme schedule is as follows:

1. Compose & Capture for Kids (by registration). From 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.
2. World Photography Day Sale (drop in; in-store & online). From 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Shopping info is available at [chennaiphotobiennale.com](http://chennaiphotobiennale.com)
3. Cyanotype Experience (free entry). From 11:00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
4. Open Air Projection, 16mm Film Screenings (free entry). From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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