

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

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Following the drowning of two school boys in Chitlapakkam Lake recently, residents have made an urgent plea to fence the water-holding area. This has been a demand residents have made in the past as well.

“When three boys drowned in the lake in April 2021, we requested the Water Resources Department (WRD) to fence the water-holding area along the bunds, but no action was taken,” says L. Sundararaman, president of Chitlapakkam Muthulakshmi Nagar Welfare Association.

They even suggested that there must be fencing on the walker's path facing the waterside. “The fence

Safety in focus at Chitlapakkam lake

Following the drowning of two school boys, residents have listed out a slew of measures that need to be taken including installing fences, patrolling the area and putting up sign boards

should be around eight to ten feet in height and should have locks (for the volunteers to clean the lake and fetch water),” says Sundararaman.

Currently, there is no CCTV cameras, security personnel or warning signs, say visitors to the lake.

On September 23, Chitlapakkam Police personnel educated youngsters not to approach the revetment walls. But residents say awareness messages without safety infrastruc-

ture in place will not serve their purpose.

While there are lights on the lake area along Chitlapakkam Second Main Road and Third Main Road, the stretch of the lake along Tambaram (East) and Periyar Street does not have any such facility.

M. Ravi, secretary of the Sri Sarvamangala Nagar Residents' Association in Chitlapakkam, suggests volunteers trained in swimming should be

present at the lake during weekend cleanups.

“Those coming to the lake to shoot reels and make videos should be monitored and a time period should be stipulated,” says Sundararaman.

Chetpet Lake, he says, is well-fenced and nobody can enter the water area.

P. Viswanathan, convenor of Chitlapakkam Residents' Associations' Coordination Committee, says WRD

should review the current incident and ensure gaps are plugged to prevent any such untoward incident in the future.

“The whole lake area should be lit up so people can see what is going on after sunset. “Unlike along Chitlapakkam Second Main Road and Third Main Road, there are no gates along Tambaram (East), Tambaram Sanatorium (East) and Selaiyur. People can easily enter the lake area,” says Viswanathan.

“The time regulation must be followed, and visitors should not be encouraged to stay past the prescribed time. Sometimes, the police patrol the lake area. Residents can also help the police. Awareness sessions can also be held in schools and colleges.”

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Incentives to adopt and feed community dogs and setting up dedicated feeding points are among suggestions made by Federation of Nanganallur Residents' Welfare Associations to GCC

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Federation of Nanganallur Residents' Welfare Associations launched a public awareness campaign on September 14 to resolve the stray dog-human conflict. Members submitted a memorandum to the elected representatives of Zone XII including Alandur Zonal Committee Chairman N. Chandran and councillors Durga Devi Natarajan and A. Solomon.

They presented a list of suggestions to Greater Chennai Corporation to manage street dogs effectively.

To reduce conflicts, residents

Residents offer solution to resolve stray dog conflicts



The campaign was held on Fourth Main Road in Nanganallur. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

suggested that public can be encouraged to adopt dogs, and the State Government can provide animal feed monthly as an incentive.

The government can also vaccinate the dogs at the doorsteps regularly.

Dog shelters should be constructed in every ward and main-

tained by the local body with the help of animal lovers, NGOs and Residents Welfare Associations, the memorandum stated.

A monitoring committee should be appointed to oversee the ABC programme at the State, district, Taluk and Village level.

This committee, comprising elected representatives and NGOs, will ensure transparency in the use of funds for the project.

The Apex court says feeding of dogs is prohibited in public places. Instead local bodies should identify dog feeding centres in the localities. V. V. Kumaravelu, general secretary of the Federation, requested the public to feed the dogs only in designated spots identified in their wards.

"There is an urgent need to strengthen the veterinary department with more doctors, assistants medicines and other resources to implement these measures."

V. Rama Rao, advisor of the Federation, said that incentives to those who adopt dogs, such as free monthly feed, could be introduced to reduce the stray population.

The memorandum talks about the powers vested on local bodies under the Wild Life Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act 1960 to manage stray dogs and cattle. Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules and Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 also find mention.

WHAT RESIDENTS WANT



'Fix low-lying EB wires at Krishna Nagar'

Residents of Krishna Nagar in Chromepet want the low-tension and low-lying electric wires on high-tension posts to be fixed. J. Moses, a social activist, says that despite several reminders, Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), has taken no action.

"Tangedco should ensure the wires are fixed before heavy rains start in the region. The wires pose a serious threat to pedestrians and people who park their vehicles below them," adds Moses.

Frequent wire cuts between poles further increase the risk of accidents for residents and road users.

'Ensure Nemilichery Lake water reaches Nanmangalam Lake'

The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation should ensure that excess water from the Nemilichery lake flows into the Nanmangalam Lake outlet channel.

This was one of the issues discussed at a meeting convened recently by the Federation of Welfare Associations of Zone 2 and Zone 3 (Pallavaram and Sembakkam Zones) of the civic body. C. Murugaiyan, the federation secretary, says that due to structures eating into the waterway course, the water veers off its path and stagnates on Vembuli Amman Kovil Street, Nemilichery.

The excess water from the lake should flow through the weir and on the outlet channel along Nemilichery Main Road. "As it has been reduced, it flows into vacant plots and then into the residential streets.

During last year's rain, the lake water flooded AGS Colony, Postal Nagar, Gangai Amman Kovil Street, Vembuli Amman Kovil Street, Thirukural Street and Thiruvalluvar Street to a depth of two feet."

The canal should be free of encroachments and



it should be expanded.

Desilting the rainwater channels in residential areas and interconnecting them between the lakes to prevent flooding and relaying of Bharathipuram Road (which connects with the farmers' market) were a few other concerns raised.

'Construct elevated passageway, widen Thiruneermalai Main Road'

Four years ago, the State government allocated funds to widen Thiruneermalai Main Road. However, only the width of the carriageway was measured and marked. Two years ago, the State Highways Minister E. V. Velu said an elevated bridge would be built from Ponds Flyover to the Maduravoyal Bypass Road Bridge. However, the project has not yet started.

The delay in expanding the road and building the bridge is causing congestion. B. Saravanan, a resident of Thiruneermalai, says a number of vehicles take the stretch to go to Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO) in Thirumudivakkam, Kundrathur, Thiruneermalai, and the 400-Foot By-Pass Road in Pazhanthandalam.

With Thirumudivakkam becoming a developing residential area, traffic congestion is common during peak hours at Lakshmipuram Main Road, Chromepet and Thiruneermalai Main Road.

Motorists have requested the traffic wing of the Tambaram City Police to either regulate or install traffic signals at the intersection during rush hour.

From Ranga Nagar, Subburayan Nagar and Saraswathipuram to Chromepet, it takes more than half an hour to cover a distance of two kilometres, says Saravanan. Thiruneermalai Road should be widened, and an elevated passageway should be constructed and traffic signals installed at the junction, adds Saravanan.

'Create a space for pedestrians to walk safely'

Pedestrians frequenting First Main Road in Nanganallur have requested the Greater Chennai Traffic Police and the Greater Chennai Corporation to ensure they have a safe place to walk.

On a section of the road, the area has been excavated to build an underground drainage system.

L. Amudha Lokesh, a pedestrian, says that on the lane leading to Vanuvampet, pedestrians are forced to walk on the road because the pavements are uneven and are occupied by vendors selling dolls in view of the Navarathri festival. The same situation exists on the lane leading to Fourth Main Road, where even vehicles are parked on the pavement.

R. Ramanujam, a social activist and resident of Nanganallur, says, "It would be good if the Corporation and the Police maintain the pavements, keep them free from vehicular parking, and allow vendors to use one side of the pavement. The road experiences a high volume of traffic as it connects various parts of the region, including the regional market and Vanuvampet and Pazhavanthangal regions.

Citizen groups rally for a **name change**

They want a library and a knowledge resource centre named to honour freedom fighter and Chromepet resident Paralli Su Nellaiappar

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Members of Senior Citizens' Forum, People's Awareness Association members and Bharathipuram Residents' Welfare Association in Chromepet have requested that the State Government name a library and a knowledge resource centre after Paralli Su Nellaiappar.

The library is located on Nellaiappar Second Street, Bharathipuram.

V. Santhanam, founder of People's Awareness Association, says,



"Parali Su. Nellaiappar was a freedom fighter, writer, and disciple of poet Subramania Bharathi." The freedom fighter is credited with publishing Bharathiar's liter-

ary works.

Paralli Su Nellaiappar was a resident of Chromepet from 1950 to 1971. A parcel of land was gifted to Nellaiappar by the Tamil Nadu Government in 1954, which he donated to the Pallavapuram Municipality for educating poor children.

The Parali Su. Nellaiappar Municipality Primary School shut down due to decline in student enrolment.

"After years of requests to establish a library, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation established the centre and the library. When roads and buildings are



named after political leaders, why not dedicate the library and knowledge resources centre to the freedom fighter?" ask residents.

The three groups have discussed the issue with the Com-

missioner of Tambaram City Municipal Corporation.

The Commissioner advised the members to consult the State Government.

The members have also submitted a petition to the CM's Cell.

READERS WRITE

'Close the U-turn near Chromepet railway station'



On GST Road in Chromepet, near the railway station, a U-turn taken by motorists from Radha Nagar and Shanthi Nagar to go to CLC Works Road and Thiruneermalai Road, which results in congestion at this junction. To avoid chaos, motorists can be encouraged to use the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) Flyover instead of taking a U-turn.

The closure of a U-turn on the stretch near Chambers Colony Main Road helped ease the congestion.

A. Ponnambalam is a resident of Kolapakkam



'Replace the broken pavement on RP Road'

The State Highways Department (SHD) should relay the pavement on Rajendra Prasad Road along Chitlapakkam Main Road. The tiles are missing and uneven, and the area is being used as a stopover.

As a result, commuters and pedestrians walk on the carriageway and have been knocked down by motorists while turning left from Chitlapakkam Main Road.

When I raised the issue with the SHD officials, they replied that the work cannot be taken up now as cement will get washed away in the rains.

The SHD should install speed breakers along the haltover for commuters and pedestrians safety.

V. Santhanam is a resident of Chromepet

The pavement along Rajendra Prasad Road, Chromepet.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Relocate the haltover'

There have been complaints from commuters that Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses leaving the Kalaingar Centenary Bus Terminus in Kilambakkam do not stop at Urapakkam (lane towards Vandalur).

Recently, when I took up the issue with the Traffic Police at the Urapakkam junction on GST Road, I understood that the police have instructed MTC authorities not to halt the buses at the

stop due to anticipated traffic jams, which could disrupt the traffic flow from Chengalpattu.

While this may seem reasonable, MTC commuters from Urapakkam should not be penalised for this reason.

I suggest that the Urapakkam school bus stop be relocated a few meters farther down with bays to avoid the predicted traffic jam.

I request that the MTC and the Police review this suggestion. Commuters should not be forced to walk to the terminus to board their buses.

Ranganathan Sivakumar is a resident of Urapakkam

Clean-up drive on October 2 at Chromepet station

As part of the 'Swachh Bharat Campaign', Chromepet Rail Users Forum is organising a clean-up drive at Chromepet railway station on October 2.

The cleanup drive, held in coordination with the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, will take place from 9 a.m. onwards.

The members will raise awareness among the public

about not throwing trash on the station premises and tracks.

Last year, the forum received a certificate of appreciation from the Chennai Division of the Southern Railway for cleaning the station for 10 years.

Volunteers interested in participating in the drive can contact V. Santhanam at 94442 54850.



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Retired kolu dolls make a comeback



An artist, Renu Sabanayagam does not buy kolu dolls in mint condition, but gets those broken in body and restores their look and purpose

PRINCE FREDERICK



Renu Sabanayagam calls erst-while kolu dolls out of retirement, rehabilitates them and puts them back on the Navaratri beat.

Each doll in her kolu collection now can share an account of how wholesomeness was restored to it. When Renu picked them up, these dolls were lying in dingy cubby-holes and dusty antique stores, broken in body. Missing body parts had to be reconstructed and glued on to their frames, which were usually hugely lacklustre, requiring deft dabs of an enamel paint-carrying brush. Renu has made them whole again in an ongoing do-it-yourself project (est. 2018). In her own words, this project (entirely a hobby to her) has so far notched up a tally somewhere between 200 and 300 dolls, each of them restored variously.

The artist in Renu encourages her to seek those dolls that need to check into a workstation before ascending the kolu stage. Quoting Renu: "I am able to do this work only because I know how to draw and paint." Though "Renu the artist" is germane to the topic, let us save that for the last.

The Kolu display stands out for its diversity, the dolls differing noticeably in stature and dimension.

Renu, a resident of Kesavaperumalpuram in R.A. Puram, explains: "Nothing I got, I got as a set. That is why the dolls are in disparate sizes. I think in those days they used to make the Ramayana set and all that. But nothing has been handed down to me from those days. This is not from my in-



Sections of Renu Sabanayagam's kolu; some of the dolls she has restored; her artwork based on Gond tribal art; and a pair of white shoes she embellished with painting for her granddaughter. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

laws, this is not from my parents. This is what I have collected myself in antique shops. So, sometimes you get big dolls, sometimes small dolls."

A walkaround

In traditional kolu displays, the dolls sit squat on stands with multiple steps (*kolu padi*), resembling school students in a bleachers-style seating arrangement, every strand of hair slicked into place for

a group photograph. This tiered arrangement works best when the author of the display is faced with restrictive spatial bandwidth. Renu need not skimp on space, but that is only half the reason for dispensing with the traditional display format. The other half, the more compelling one, is that her kolu tableaux accommodates multiple themes, and demands (and warrants) a walkaround. The result: a "banquet" dis-



plainly, the drift of her kolu stories is predicated on the dolls that show up in those old antique stores, some cobwebbed.

Renu notes: "When I find this doll, then that doll, I say, okay let me have this story." Which ancient story, and which aspect of it is thrown into relief, depends on the dolls she has gathered as well as the dolls she is willing to wait for.

An illustration from Renu: "I found these two beautiful dolls, which were Sita and Lakshmana. And for a long time, I searched for a Rama doll to match this. But no Rama doll I found came equal to the beauty of these two dolls. I could not match it. I told myself 'Why not try something new?' And so, I did the Lakshman Rekha part of the story." She placed a decorative tape to signify the Lakshman Rekha with the Sita and Lakshmana dolls in the picture.

The themes she has stitched together working around the inherent limitations of her uncompromising kolu-designing philosophy include Rama avatar, Krishna avatar, Meenakshi kalyanam, Trishabha

vahana, a collection of Vahanas, the story of Kannappa Nayanar from Periyar Puraanam, the story of Kothai becoming Andal. Towards the fag end of the walkaround, one notices a shift in focus. She has dolls demonstrating justice delivered and denied from the seat of power by Manu Nidhi Cholan and Pandya king Nedunchezhiyan respectively. The tour ends with two themes, each sending out a message to the modern, largely urban consumerist soul – how ancient traditions conserved water and eschewed excess even in wedding ceremonies.

Now, let us have a glimpse of the rehabilitation process. Renu works with clay and enamel paint to restore these dolls. Dexterity is an invisible ingredient. Terracotta dolls make a massive majority, coming close to constituting the entire collection. And sandblasting an old, vintage car, 10 feet long and abandoned for a hundred years is an undemanding exercise when compared with cleaning a terracotta doll that fits in between the thumb and the index finger. Porous, terracotta dolls accumulate considerable

dirt. Brittle, they can give way under slightly sustained pressure. One can be certain she was breathing easy while working on a handful of wooden dolls, also on display at the kolu.

Renu has been collecting and restoring kolu dolls since 2018, adopting the hobby to fill a void created by an empty nest, the children leaving home in pursuit of their own destinies. Renu notes in all these years only around a couple of dolls came painted in natural pigment colours; the rest arrived with enamel paint in various stages of flaking. In many a case, she has had to recreate entire features with the paint brush, and restore the doll's essential patina. Renu the artist is intrinsic to this collection. She observes that when she saw two dolls, both based on Ravi Varma's paintings, she knew the creative source.

The artist

Renu calls herself "a largely self-taught artist" and "an amateur artist" (which comes across as a modest self-assessment when one gets acquainted with her work) who "works with different art forms". One senses a particular liking for Gond tribal art. She does not always work with paper and canvas, occasionally with white shoes too – "shoes" here is not an auto-correct error.

Her husband Rajendran Sabanayagam (who was with McKinsey & Company in New York and on return to India founded Sumangala Steel) explains: "Her artistic abilities were developed under the informal tutelage of my mother, Savithri Sabanayagam, and while travelling with me both in India and abroad. The artworks are of professional quality, everyone who sees them says that, but she does not want to leave her comfort zone and keeps her art within the family." Which means giving her artworks to relatives, and also adding artistic value to white shoes bought for children in the family (she has three grandchildren) as well as those in the extended family.

Says Rajendran: "She gets shoes, white shoes. And she paints on the white shoes for all the children. I have given her one of my white shoes and I have asked her to paint it for me."

That would likely be the immediate project following this kolu season – Rajendran hopes it is.

Art challenge driven by AI celebrates Durga Puja

SMCA Charitable Trust in association with HashHackCode is conducting the competition on October 1 for children



South Madras Cultural Association (SMCA) Charitable Trust, in collaboration with HashHackCode (HHC), is introducing a first-of-its-kind event to this year's Durga Puja celebrations: the Generative AI (GenAI) Kids Competition.

Scheduled to be held on October 1, the competition invites children to create AI-generated images inspired by the vibrant spirit of Durga Puja, says a press release.

This programme blends tradition with technology, giving children a unique opportunity to explore generative AI while celebrating their cultural heritage. Participants will transform their written prompts into stunning digital artwork, sparking creativity, building digital confidence, and developing future-ready skills. It shows how festivals can become platforms for creativity and learning, the release says.

Families attending Navami festivities will witness how a community celebration can evolve into an inspiring space

for technological exploration—offering children a glimpse of the future while honouring cherished traditions.

SMCA Charitable Trust is a community organisation in Chennai dedicated to promoting art, culture and social welfare. Through year-round activities including music, dance, educational initiatives and charitable outreach – SMCA fosters community engagement and preserves cultural heritage while embracing modern, inclusive ideas.

The event

When: October 1
Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Venue: Mantra Gardens, Nandanam Extension, Chennai – 600035
Who can join: Children aged 8–16; no prior experience required
Registration link: <http://bit.ly/HHCMSMA>
Contact: 9176894576 | 9886693027



Raising more *families*

The Pheasant-tailed jacana which depends on the monsoons and availability of water to breed can now be seen wearing its breeding plumage more frequently, sometimes as early as mid-April and that should not raise eyebrows



PRINCE FREDERICK

The LinkedIn profile might be up-to-date, but not the profile picture. The jawline might not be as well-defined in reality as in the display picture. Usually, the difference between reality and representation goes unnoticed unless the person has developed a bald pate overnight. But if one belonged to the Aves class of Kingdom Animalia, the date of the “display picture” would matter, some birds shedding their “look” as often as clouds change their shapes. Some species are known for “makeovers” as dramatically different as those assumed by a Kamal Haasan and in the western film world, a Daniel Day-Lewis.

“There is nothing deliberate about it,” says ornithologist V. Santharam, “they are programmed to breed when the ideal conditions are present, their gonadal morphology changing in response to the availability of resources. Birds are opportunistic not by choice, but their biology. And South West Monsoon being more fruitful in terms of rains in Chennai, many waterbirds must be making the most of that situation.”



Pheasant-tailed jacanas in breeding plumage this year by September-end, July-end and even mid-April (where one bird is in full breeding plumage and the other in partial breeding plumage). The images are from water-filled patches in Perumbakkam and Semmancherry. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



The frequency of makeovers depends on a bird species’ breeding cycles. Waterbirds and birds that synchronise their breeding cycles with rains could wear their breeding plumage more often if the showers get oftener.

“There is nothing deliberate about it,” says ornithologist V. Santharam, “they are programmed to breed when the ideal conditions are present, their gonadal morphology changing in response to the availability of resources. Birds are opportunistic not by choice, but their biology. And South West Monsoon being more fruitful in terms of rains in Chennai, many waterbirds must be making the most of that situation.”

Conversely, when the ideal conditions are absent at a time they are expected, that would be mirrored by gonadal morphology, it being underdeveloped. Birds could skip a breeding cycle on account of an unhelpful environment.

In Chennai, waterbirds and birds whose breeding cycles depend on rains are likely to be making more “babies” now, as in recent years, the South West monsoon has been more productive than before.

Even outside of the monsoons, there have been showers – one noticed it in April (when a thunderstorm happened) and May this year in Chennai. On account of frequent showers, waterbirds would be raising more clutches. One can get a sense of that from certain species that put on dramatically different plumage when they are breeding, by how often they are toggled up in these feathers.

The Pheasant-tailed jacana can particularly be seen slipping into breeding plumage more frequently.



Prince Group honours professors with awards

The Prince Group of Institutions recently hosted the 'Prince Perasiriyar Virudhu' ceremony to recognise professors for their contributions to research and education innovations.

The ceremony took place at Prince Shri Venkateshwara Padmavathy Engineering College in Ponnmar.

V. Narayanan, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), presented awards and certi-

icates to the professors.

Narayanan emphasised the vital role of teachers in shaping a nation. He said that the discipline and values taught by teachers, along with education help build a strong and ethical society.

Professors from various institutions were honoured. They include: N. Pappa from Anna University, Pandiarajan from Agni College, R. Narayanamoorthi from SRM Institute of

Science and Technology, Haiter Lenin A from Saveetha Engineering College, A. R. Aravind from Prince Shri Venkateshwara Padmavathy Engineering College, P. Rameshkumar from PSN Engineering College, Dr. S. Baskar from Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies, and V. J. Kishor Sonti from Sathyabama Institute of Science & Technology.

Ayurveda medical camp organised

Over 80 patients benefited from a free Ayurvedic medical camp held at a yoga hall in Nanganallur Independence Day Park on September 16.

The camp was organised by Sri Sairam Ayurvedha Medical College and Research Centre, Tambaram (West), as part of its 10th year Ayurveda Day. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dr. Madhumita, Dr. Amala, and Dr. Thothadri Nathan attended to the patients at the camp, a release said.

Free heart health camp

Rela Hospitals in Chrompet is conducting a free heart health camp on September 28 to commemorate World Heart Day.

The free check-up includes blood pressure measurement, random blood sugar testing, height and weight assessment, ECG, ECHO, and a cardiologist consultation.

The camp is open to the public, but registration is required in advance. To register, contact 93846 81770.

Cleanliness drive at Kovalam beach



The Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, the Environ Club and the Department of Environmental Studies in collaboration with EFI's International Coastal

Clean-Up, organised a "Beach Swachhata Drive" at Kovalam on September 20, 2025.

The initiative was aimed at creating awareness on marine ecosystem protection and to curb plastic pollution along coastal areas, says a

press release. Thirty-one students participated with enthusiasm, assembling at the venue by 7 a.m. and contributing actively to the clean-up efforts.

The event showcased effective collaboration between academic institutions, NGOs and students, underlining the importance of collective action in ensuring a cleaner and safer environment for humans and marine life, the release adds

World Heart Day: quiz for school students

As part of its education awareness initiative, Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals has launched a quiz programme, "Heart Wise" for students in classes V to IX.

Organised as part of World Heart Day 2025 (September 29), the event is aimed at inspiring students to take an interest in their health and understand the importance of heart care. The quiz will cover topics such as the basics of the human heart, nutrition, exercise, lifestyle choices, and preventive healthcare.

On October 6, the preliminary round will be held online. The shortlisted students will compete in the semi-finals and finals, scheduled to take place on October 12 at the hospital auditorium in Pallikaranai at 2 p.m.

Students can register at <https://bit.ly/heartwisequiz25>, and schools can call 98840 89340.

For further details, email your queries to quiztime@zigmads.com



Navagraha Mahayajna Mahotsav

Seeradi Sai Baba Guru Dhyana Peedam in Nanganallur will organise 'Navagraha Mahayajna' from October 3 to 5.

The event aims to invoke the blessings of the Navagrahas, fostering spiritual harmony and world peace through Vedic rituals, said a release.

The programme starts from October 3 with Vigneswara Puja, Anugraha Bhashanam and Annadanam.

On October 4, at 8 a.m., 'Go Puja' will be held.

This will be followed by Mahabhishekam, Sri Lakshmi Sahasranama Parayanam, Annapurna Puja, and prasadam distribution at 12:30 p.m.

On October 5 at 6:30 a.m., Go Puja and Japam will be held, followed by Navagraha Mahayajna at 10:30 a.m., Mahapoornahuti at noon, and Mahabhishekam.

The temple is located on 24th Street, Thillai Ganga Nagar, Nanganallur. For details, call Pradeep at 7010730596, Lokesh at 9841797695.



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Bonsai expo from September 30 to October 2

Bodhi, the Chennai Bonsai Association, is hosting its annual 'Bonsai' exhibition from September 30 to October 2 at Lalit Kala Akademi (from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each of these days).

At the expo, visitors can experience the tranquillity and beauty of Japanese Bonsai for peace of mind. Bonsai beginner classes will be held on the occasion, says a press release

The association aims to promote the art of Bonsai and share its philosophy of patience, balance, and harmony, the release adds.

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Road in Perumbakkam waits for mending



▼ Potholes at Mettu Street in Perumbakkam lead to water stagnation.
PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN.

CMRL opens **Lost and Found** office

Lost something during your trip on the metro rail? No need to panic. The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has facilitated a Lost and Found office at the Chennai Central Metro Station. Commuters can approach a single dedicated facility to retrieve their lost belongings during travel.

For queries regarding lost and found items, commuters may email: LFO@cmrl.in; the website is <https://chennai-metro-rail.org/lost-and-found-enquiry>, says a press release from the CMRL. CMRL will not be responsible for any lost items. However, belongings lost during tra-



vel can be retrieved at the respective station or the centralised Lost and Found Office, the release adds.

A safety hazard in Pallikaranai



▼ A slanting electricity post at Tambaram Velachery Main Road in Pallikaranai. With rains lashing the city regularly and NE Monsoon not too far from the door, letting this post continue in this manner is not in the interest of public safety.
PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

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