

## MYLAPORE

Mandaveli » R A Puram » Royapettah » Chindatripet » Royapuram » Korukkupet » Ennore » Luz » Alwarpet » Triplicane » Central  
Washermenpet » Tondiarpet » Manali » M.R.C.Nagar » Teynampet » Mount Road » Broadway » Kondithope » Tiruvotiyur



## Navigating Warren Road

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A bottle has a neck, the shorter part, one that is constricted. Warren Road is a case of a neck having a bottle – the constricted part is the larger part.

The morning rush hour is long past and the one to arrive still distant, and the dimensions of Warren Road can be seen clearly.

Every time a bus heads into any of the severely constricted sections, there is a hint of a struggle, even at this relaxed hour. The section of Warren Road where Abhira-

mapuram Fourth Street meets it is restricted even without any extraneous element taking a bite out of it.

With five garbage bins plonked haphazardly on Warren Road (around this junction), one can sense buses slowing down. Picture these bins parked in a similar fash-



This is not a busy hour at Warren Road. During rush hour, that bus and other vehicles will have anything but a smooth run through this road. The images were taken on August 16, 2024. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

ion during rush hour: traffic movement would be massively hindered.

When Warren Road was turned into a bus route road due to traffic changes relating to Metro Rail work, it might have been thrust into a role it was hardly equipped for. But it can be enabled in small mea-

sures to play the role better than it does not.

Residents note haphazard parking of vehicles – and one may add, garbage bins – need to be checked. Wherever parking is inevitable, one-side parking should be ensured. It can ameliorate the situation.

## Endless 'buffering' at this crossing in Periamet



The wait at the crossing in Periamet, on August 7, 2024. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

It is an equivalent of endless Internet buffering. There is Internet connection, and that is a positive. But that enabling feature is cancelled by the never-ending wait. At any given time, pedestrians using the crossing on EVR Peiyar Salai in Periamet – diagonally opposite the Sub-registrar Office, Periamet – can be seen at the refuge at median, standing in a state of

eternal buffering. And trying to put a hand out with a palm beseeching motorists to stop only rarely helps. Motorists would usually be thick on this road, and everyone would not be of the same mind, obviously, and heed the plea. And so, the buffering would continue.

The least that could have been done is have a zebra crossing – taking note of that, some motorists might slow down. If a crossing is worth creating, it is

worth making it user-friendly. That thinking obviously did not create this pedestrian crossing.

The next authorised crossing point on either side is quite a distance away. One is near the Sydenhams Road junction and the other near the Gandhi-Irwin Bridge Road junction. That makes this pedestrian crossing near the sub-registrar office an absolute necessity. The traffic police needs to address this safety issue.



## All hearts on the traffic signal

RAJALAKSHMI V.

**H**ave you noticed the heart-shaped red traffic lights at busy junctions? If not, Greater Chennai Traffic Police (GCTP) wants you to take note of these hearts, smile and drive stress-free.

As part of the ongoing Zero Accident Day campaign, GTCP has installed these hearts on busy junctions across the city. Signals at EVR Salai, Kamarajar Salai and near Gemini flyover were among the first to see the change. Many more signals are expected to turn into hearts soon.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (traffic headquarters) Bhaskaran K. of the Greater Chennai Traffic Police explains that the initiative aims to subliminally help people drive with less stress.

“Motorists generally get frustrated and agitated seeing the signal turn red. By changing them to a heart symbol, we hope to reduce that. Besides, heart symbolises kindness, calmness, love and positivity,” says Bhaskaran.

The larger aim of this campaign is to reduce accidents as GCTP has been running a 20-day Zero Accident Day campaign, ending on August 26.

“This isn’t a one-day campaign. We are committed to ensuring that Chennai remains accident-free in



At Anna Flyover

the future as well,” says Bhaskaran.

Many youngsters seem to have taken note of this campaign.

Divya Muthukumaran, a resident of Old Washermenpet, feels this initiative should continue in some form to prevent commuters from getting annoyed at red signals. It should also encourage them to follow traffic rules.

Aishwarya S. from R.A.Puram says seeing something catchy on the signal post will encourage motorists to stop rather than jump the signal.



## The city on a lighter note

Here are a few events lined up as part of the *The Hindu* Made of Chennai campaign.

### Stand-up show

*The Hindu* Made of Chennai will host a stand-up show at The Music Academy on August 23 from 6 p.m. onwards. Titled ‘Chennai, We have a problem and it’s hilarious’, the live show will take audience on a hilarious journey through the ups and downs of life in a day of Chennai.

Chennai’s favourite comics Rajmohan, Vikkals Vikram, Badava Gopi, Mervyn Rozz, Ramkumar Natarajan and Praveen Kumar will perform.

### Chennai Run

A run of 5 km and 10 km will be held on September 8. Powered by Chennai Runners, the run would start at 5 a.m. The route, the start and end points will be published soon.

Participants can register for the run for ₹499 inclusive of medal, t-shirt and timing.



To register for the run, check out the link <https://reg.myraceindia.com/MRTS/MoCR24> or scan the QR code.



To get tickets, click on the link to register: <https://newsth.live/MOC2024SCA> Or scan QR code

*The Hindu* Festival of Chennai is done in partnership with Greater Chennai Corporation, Namma Marina, Greater Chennai Traffic Police, Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation, Associate partners: Ather and UP Tourism, Happiness partner: On The Streets of Chennai, Radio partner: Big FM

## RWAs honour community workers at Independence Day event

MANASA VIJAYLAKSHME C

**T**he Central Abhiramapuram Residents Welfare Association (CARWA) celebrated the 78th Independence Day recognising the field workers for their dedicated efforts in serving the locality and keeping it clean. The celebration took place at the junction of Abhiramapuram 4th Street and Subramanian Street, where residents from nearby localities gathered making it a neighbourhood celebration.

S. Rangarajan, founder-chairman and managing director of Data Patterns (India) Ltd, was the chief guest. The other guests of honour included Anthony Manimaran, zonal head, Urbaser Sumeet; and Sivaprakasam, assistant zonal manager, Urbaser Sumeet. Manimaran spoke about waste segregation and how it is every individual’s responsibility to segregate before handing over to the sanitary staff.

“By separating recyclables and non-recyclables, we not only support the efficiency of waste management systems but also play a crucial role in protecting our environment. If we all do our part, we can significantly reduce the burden



on our sanitation workers and contribute to a healthier and more sustainable community,” said Manimaran.

A key highlight of the event was the distribution of grocery kits to the field workers of Urbaser Sumeet. This gesture was a token of appreciation for their tireless ef-

forts in serving the locality and ensuring a clean, healthy environment for all residents.

Established in 2019 with the goal of transforming central Abhiramapuram, CARWA is working towards a clean and green locality. It has conducted many events in the past.

## Free eye camp conducted

M. Ganesh, contractor with Greater Chennai Corporation who maintains parks, hoisted the National Flag at the I-day event organised by Raja Annamalaipuram Residents Association (RAPRA). School students and scholars in music added colour to the celebration by rendering songs.

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Paramasivam AD of TANGEDCO was honoured for his outstanding support for ward 126 at the Independence Day celebration of Jethnagar Residents Association (JERA) in Mandaveli.

The flag was hoisted by Krishnamurthy, a resident of Chokalingam Street for over 60 years, who has a friendly title among residents as “Abdul Kalam of Jeth Nagar”.

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Srinivas Youngmen’s Association (SYMA) entered its 48th year of service on August 15. On the occasion, SYMA in association with Sankara Eye Hospital and Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Medical Trust, conducted an eye camp.

A total of 163 people were screened for eye problems by doc-



tors from Sankara Eye Hospital in Pammal. According to a release, 12 patients have been referred for free cataract surgery and 42 will be provided with free spectacles in memory of Late K.E. Raghavan, a member of SYMA.



## CMRL introduces **non-KYC ride** for commuters

The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), in collaboration with Ongo, a digital payment platform, has launched a 'National Common Mobility Card' dispensers at more than 10 stations.

The initiative aims to provide city commuters with a hassle-free and speedy ticketing option. Commuters need not provide their KYC verification to apply for the card.

The cards can be instantly purchased from dispensers at Nandanam, Koyambedu, Guindy, Thousand Lights, Government Estate, Chennai Egmore, Chennai Central, Thirumangalam, High Court, Kaladipet, Alandur, Vadapalani and Chennai International Airport metro stations.

The card issuance process is simple: commuters can select their desired card, pay via

UPI and collect it instantly. Each 'Ongo' ride card comes preloaded with ₹50 and can be easily topped up through the Ongo mobile app or at any CMRL ticket counters, said a release. The latest development complements CMRL's existing 'Singara Chennai' card, which offers a unified payment solution for other transportation modes, added the release.

## Rotary award for musician

Rotary Club of Chennai Noble Hearts in association with Fellowship of Music Loving Rotarians conferred "Raga Ratna" upon Ramesh Vinayakam, Music Composer and inventor of Gamaka Box Notation at Music Academy Mini Hall on August 14, 2024.

S. Mahaveer Chand Bothra, Rotary District Governor 3233, Usha Bothra, president, Aruna Khivsara, secretary of the Rotary Club of Chennai Noble Hearts participated in the function

## Independence Day celebration at Indian Oil Bhavan



The 78th Independence Day was celebrated at Indian Oil Bhavan on Nungambakkam High Road with traditional gaiety and cheer.

M. Sudhakar, executive director (regional services), Southern Region hoisted the national flag in presence of M. Anna Durai, executive director and state head, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry and other senior officials, says a press release.

Sudhakar received the guard of honour given by the contingent of Territorial Army officers and Security Personnel from Indian Oil. Sudhakar encouraged people to bring the Tiranga home and to hoist

it to mark the 78th year of India's Independence.

He also mentioned that our relationship with the flag has always been more formal and institutional than personal.

Certificates and prizes were distributed to the meritorious children of the employees in addition to long service award for the employees, the release says.

Various cultural activities and programmes were planned by the employees of IndianOil. The event concluded with distributions of prizes to winners of various competitions and felicitation of security staff.

## Bus pass camps from August 20 to 23

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Chennai, will issue online bus passes to visually-impaired commuters residing in the South and North Chennai regions, and Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts.

The camps will be held at the following locations from August 20 to 23; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### South Chennai

1) District Differently Abled Welfare Office, Directorate of Medical Services Complex, Teynampet.

2) State Resource and Training Centre for the Differently Abled, KK Nagar.

3) Saint Louis Institute for

the Deaf and the Blind, Adyar.

4) Little Flower Convent Higher Secondary School for the Blind, Teynampet.

### North Chennai

1) District Differently Abled Welfare Office, North Chennai, District Collector Office Complex, George Town.

2) Anbalaya Special School for the Intellectually Challenged, Thiruvottiyur.

3) Mary Clubwala Jadhav Special School for the Hearing Impaired (Near Anna Nagar Bus Depot).

Commuters should bring their national identity cards, Aadhaar cards, passport-size photos, Unique Disability ID cards and family cards.

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## Roads in the shadow of Metro Rail work



▼ A stretch of a road from East Abhiramapuram to Luz Avenue where Chennai Metro Rail work is happening is considerably bad and residents are tired of complaining about it. As this is also a bus route road, the dust levels are high and to add to it, there is slush to deal with after a downpour. At a few points metal sheets were placed to cover the potholes but most residents say that has not helped much. PHOTOS: SRINATH M

## Peer at those pillars



Across Chennai, there are pillars offering specific commentaries about neighbourhoods. They are an abridgement of local history, providing pointers to an understanding of development, even birth of a neighbourhood. These pillars provide a sketchy information of housing projects by government agencies including the City Improvement Trust (forerunner to Tamil Nadu

Housing Board) decades ago. In many cases, these projects signalled the growth of a neighbourhood.

Though the pillars continue to be in fine fettle, the history they present in precis format is often lost on people. In the run-up to Madras Day, *The Hindu Downtown* urges residents of Chennai to peer at these pillars, click pictures of them and send them along with write-ups about the housing projects they comment on. The photos in jpg format and the write-up, not more than 150 words, can be sent to [downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in](mailto:downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in) and they will be carried in the pages of *The Hindu Downtown*.

## Check out these Madras Day events

Essence of Madras

Presented by Madras Inherited and Shiva Ravishankar.

**Date:** August 18; 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Location:** The Art Kin Centre, Alwarpet

Showcasing the works of 14 talented local artists and photographers, this exhibition captures the timeless traditions and dynamic spirit of Chennai. Being the curatorial debut of Shiva Ravishankar and Ashmitha Athreya, this exhibition offers a fresh and profound perspective on Madras. This is a free event and open to all.

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A spotlight on Radio Stations

**Date:** August 20; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Location:** The Department of Journalism and Communication, University of Madras, is organising a Madras Day seminar that focuses on Radio Stations in Chennai - Part 2 (Private FM Radio Stations). This seminar series will discuss private FM broadcasters such as Hello FM, Suriyan FM, Radio Mirchi and Radio City. For more events, visit [themadrasday.in](http://themadrasday.in)

## A civic drive by an autorickshaw driver

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**A**utorickshaw driver Devaraj B. has been making many trips over the last few weeks. There is a strong reason for that. His stand is located at Tiruvottiyur High Road in Royapuram. This road has been facing many issues as the stormwater drains on it have not been cleaned. After a rain, water does not drain easily and slush and sewage makes it difficult to navigate the road.

Devaraj has been leading a representation signed by many shopkeepers and residents on that road to push civic authorities towards finding a long-term solution to the problems faced by residents and shoppers there.

"We have given representations to elected representatives," says the 55-year-old who has been in the auto rickshaw driving business for three decades. The written representation was given 40 days ago and residents and shopkeepers say no action has

been taken yet. The stretch from Nirmal Stores till Bombay Hotel has more than 200 shops, a majority being jewellery outlets. "This stretch is the worst-affected. The SWD network is small for the growing population of the area and has to be widened," says Devaraj.

Businessman Goutham C. has shifted to Royapettah because of the civic issues in the area. "The stormwater drains have not been cleaned for the last three years, and after a heavy rain there is a foul smell pervading the area," says Goutham. He says complaints are closed without issues being resolved.

He says GCC also needs to clear the encroachments as there is hardly any space for shoppers to walk. The public toilets are blocked and hygiene is poor, he adds.

When contacted, Zonal officer of Zone IV said he would send his team to access the issue. Poor civic sense among people is also a reason why water logging is an issue and we want all stakeholders to work together, said the zonal officer.



▼ PHOTOS: R. RAGU





## Discovering Madras in the bustle of Chennai

In the run-up to Madras Day, *The Hindu Downtown* will be presenting a series of articles showcasing Madras as it is enshrined in the everyday things of Chennai. These are not major monuments, but minor markers of the past that are often ignored because they have woven themselves intricately into the fabric of Chennai and are in plain sight.

Readers are invited to write in to [downtownfeed-back@thehindu.co.in](mailto:downtownfeed-back@thehindu.co.in) about such markers of time. It could be a lamppost, a very old milestone marker or an antediluvian bus shelter that has survived time.



LIFFY THOMAS

## A key to the past



John Moses is at a friend's shop in Kilpauk when this reporter calls him. The 71-year-old hangs out with kabadiwalls to collect antique objects. One such visit a few decades ago got him a 1912 Chubb lock from a north Indian gentleman who had come to sell it.

"The key was jammed in the lock and I bought it from him. It took me many days to remove it; I had soaked it in different solutions," says Moses, a well-known antique collector in Chennai.

The lock weighs around five kilos and was made in England by the Chubb company and has Queen Victoria London as the patent embossed on one side.

On the rear side, it reads Oakes & Co., a company on Mount Road that was in the automobile business and into importing such locks.

Moses finds it very difficult to give up on this hobby. He has a number of such interesting antiques displayed on his showcase and he wants the youngster generation to show interest in antique collection.

"I want educational institutions to invite antique collectors to present a talk to them about the hobby," says Moses.

One of the recent antiques he got hold of is a steamer trunk made in England and two candle sticks attached to a spring that ensure wax does not come out and the flame is steady.

## A multi-purpose wedding gift

A walking stick presented to M.V. Krithivasan by his in-laws at his wedding in 1971 is a cherished item. And it is a handy tool for members of this house.

"By God's grace I am in good health and have not started using the stick but every time we pick this up to align the clothes on the cloth line, my wife and I are reminded of our marriage," says 80-year-old Krithivasan.

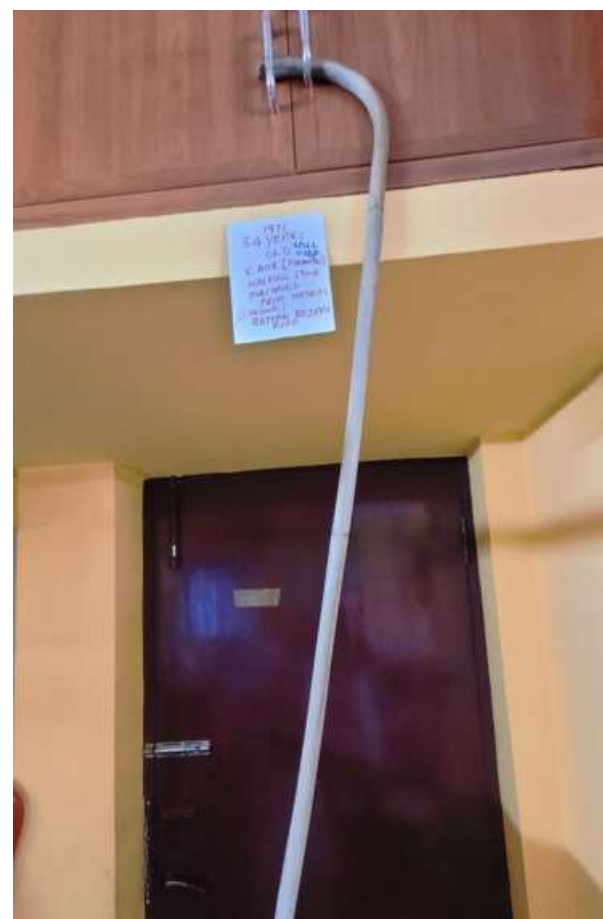
The three-day wedding was solemnised at Sarva Mangala Kalyana Mandapam in T. Nagar, which was later converted into an apartment complex.

"A famous eye surgeon operates his clinic and that sometimes takes us there," says Krithivasan, who works as an oil and gas consultant.

In Hindu marriages, a walking stick is given as a gift to the bridegroom during a function called 'kasi yatra'. The stick made of *pirambu* (cane) was purchased from Rattan Bazaar in Park Town.

"Cane items were made near a river bank in Chidambaram as well as at a village in Tirunelveli before they are sold at markets," he says.

Another heirloom the family takes great pride in is a bronze uruli and lotta (mea-

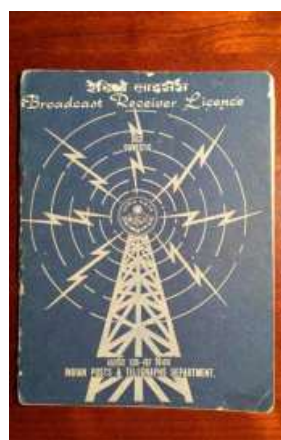


suring vessel), which were used by Krithivasan's mother till 2002; and then they gifted it to his wife.

"The two bronze items were purchased from Kumbakonam more than 90 years ago for gifting them to my mother for her marriage," he says.

These bronze items are now used by the family for puja purposes.

## The licence to 'listen'



T. Jaisakthivel owns a radio licence, one that was used by his parents in the 1950s. It was needed back then to tune in to radio stations. "One had to visit the post office to renew it once a year," says the faculty from the Department of Journalism and Communication, University of Madras.

The blue book like a ration card is among the many heirlooms that Jaisakthivel takes pride in. It was issued by India Posts and Telegraphs Department.

"There's a licence fee stamp that one had to purchase for renewal that was affixed on the book," he says.

The professor says this is special for him as India Post had not brought out many stamps during those times. "One of its first stamps was released during the silver jubilee of All India Radio," says Jaisakthivel, adding that this practice of renewal stopped during the 70s.

## Lines from a postcard

An old diary filled with nuggets of information of the 1950s is locked up in a loft at the house of M. Easwaran and E. Kamala.

The couple, who are senior citizens, say the diary is a memory of the past written by S. Mahalingam.

Among the things tucked inside the pages is a postcard written in microscopic handwriting from S. Mahalingam to his son M. Easwaran when he was working in Mumbai.

"The postcard has more than 100 lines and conveys many

thoughts.

It starts by enquiring about Easwaran and then goes to talk about the economic situation at home; and then, his advice for his son, importance of staying in touch with relatives etc.," says Kamala.

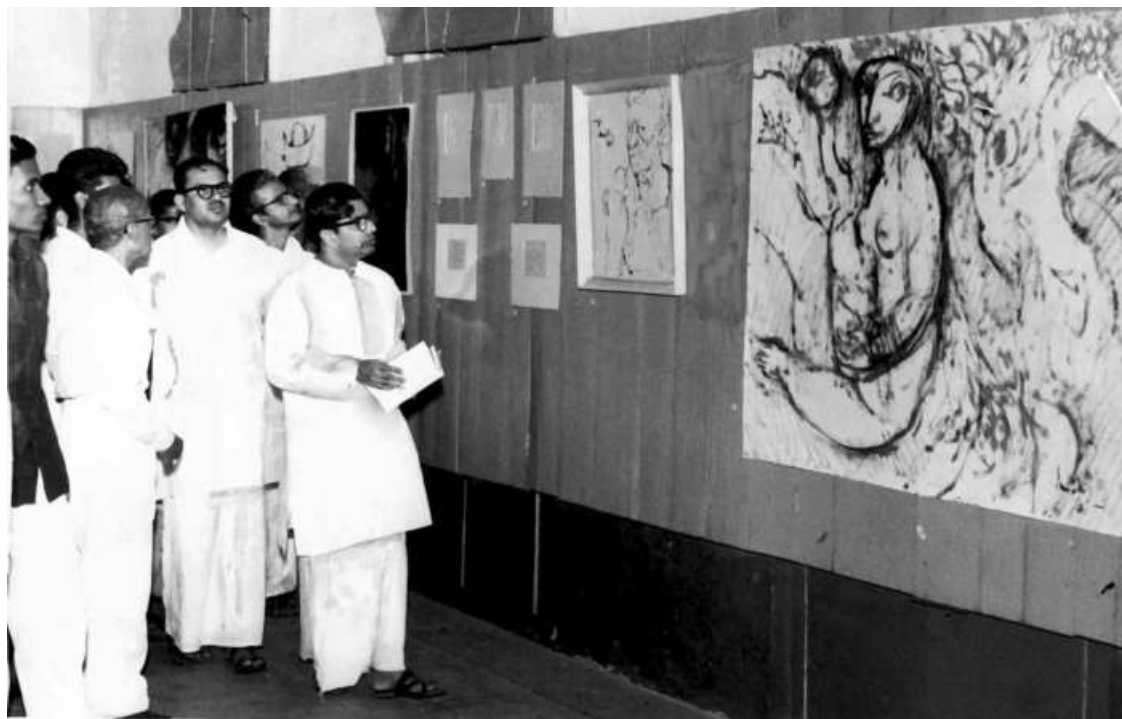
The diary also has information about expense incurred towards giving gifts for various family functions.

Kamala, a theatre artiste, has a century-year-old diamond earring that holds a special place in her heart as it has been passed down a few generations.



# Time travel

Chandra Ravichandran, a resident of Chetpet, recalls her stint at the Government Museum in Egmore in the 1960s



LIFFY THOMAS

**W**henever retired school teacher Chandra Ravichandran (then Chandra Daniel) visits the Government Museum in Egmore she gets

emotional. The 86-year-old had one of her best stints managing collections, taking care of the display of items, and educating the public at this centuries-old museum.

Chandra was fresh out of college, having graduated from Ma-

dras Christian College with a degree in MSc. (Zoology). As the curator of the zoology section was on a long leave, the museum was looking for a candidate to fill in this role on a temporary basis.

"The museum superintendent knew my college professor who



Old photographs from the museum; and (below) Chandra Ravichandran. PHOTOS: THE HINDU ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

encouraged me to take it up till I found a full-time job," Chandra recalls with child-like excitement.

As curator for 10 months in

1961, Chandra got to do and learn a lot. "I spoke good English, so whenever we had foreign guests at the museum I was asked to offer them a tour of the museum which enhanced my knowledge about other sections as well," she says.

An alumnus of Benetick High School, Chandra did her BSc. (Zoology) at Presidency College before going on to do the masters in the same discipline at MCC – she notes these institutions had been instrumental in honing her communication skills.

From the little that Chandra can remember, she says, a giant-sized skeleton at the section was big hit with visitors. The bronze gallery had many artefacts and was a huge success.

Foreigners who visited the museum were in awe of Ravi Varma's paintings.

One of the best memories that Chandra carries is a diplomat family from Myanmar that sent her photographs and gifts. "I had shown them around the museum, especially the Buddha statues and the Sakya kingdom," says the resident of Chetpet.

Her daughter Preetha Ravichandran shares another memory about students from Don Bosco High School, the neighbouring institution, sent to the museum on field visits. Preetha explains: "After the tour of the museum, students were given a test to gauge their knowledge. The principal insisted that the score card be sent to the school; such was the value attached to an educational visit those days."

## Resilience on display at a diminutive kiosk

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**S**tick-to-it-iveness sometimes has to be displayed in terms of geography. It is about staying put in the turf when the atmosphere around has gone from friendly to indifferent, and even hostile. Major public infrastructure projects can spew "hostility", impersonally, not at anyone specifically, but everyone finding themselves within its range.

P. Karupaiah and his wife Chellammal and their quaint-looking round kiosk find themselves under the shadow of Metro Rail activity.

Wedge into a corner at the OMR-ECR Link Road junction in Sholinganallur, the kiosk that announces itself proudly as "Kuzhipaniyaram Kadai" is a picture of resilience.

With Metro Rail work hitting the Sholinganallur junction, right in the middle, and roads all around being reduced to thin strips, parking of even two-wheelers for a fleeting nano-second is not countenanced.

"Where even pedestrian move-



The kiosk. These images were taken on August 13, 2024. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

ment from one end to another at the junction is carefully "curated". Parking of two-wheelers is unthinkable," says Karupaiah.

In its heyday, the shop with its kuzhipaniyarams, sweet as well as sour, would draw techies in bikes. The machines carelessly parked

on the road, the young techies would tuck into the only dish around which the shop has built its USP. The picture now is far removed for that afore-described image. Karupaiah however views the present through the lens of a past challenge: the pandemic. And sud-

denly, the current trial seems insignificant.

He explains: "The situation can never get as challenging as what we faced during the pandemic. Even during partial lockdown, when shops could be open for a narrow window of two to three

hours, customers would stay away fearing infection."

The couple put their head down and soldier on, persisting with their grand calling in life – making kuzhipaniyarams, sweet and sour, nowhere else but at the Sholinganallur junction.



# 'The Ramayana' comes alive on stage



**T**he 48th annual day celebration of P.S. Senior Secondary School was held on August 5 and 6 at Narada Gana Sabha. On August 5, Carnatic singer S. Sowmya, vice-chancellor of The Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalitha Music and Fine Arts University, also an alumnus of the institution, graced the celebratory event as chief guest. She expressed her joy and greetings to the school for maintaining high standards in academics and for honing students' talent in a wide

range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, says a press release.

K. Alamelu, a nonagenarian and director of Bharathi Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, former Principal of P.S. Senior Secondary School, was the chief guest on August 6.

She spoke about the development of the school in its formative years and congratulated the staff and the students for their achievements in curricular, sports and co-curricular areas.

The students put up a spectacular cultural show on the theme of 'The Ramayana'. The entire show which ran on a single thread of narration and development spoke about Valmiki in the English Play 'Valmiki Prathiba' adapted from Tagore's Bengali opera of the same name. The Tamil play, songs and dances and the Namasankeerthanam brought alive the various virtues of the Prince Ram of Ayodhya. The cultural programme concluded with the school anthem 'Vazhgave'.

## Independence Day celebration



Vathsala Narayanaswami, honorary secretary; and principal S. K. Umashankar. PHOTO: S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

**S**ir Sivaswami Kalalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School celebrated Independence Day with great enthusiasm. T.A.Vignesh, an IAS officer and alumnus of the school, was the chief guest.

Vathsala Narayanaswami, honorary secretary of NBGES;

S.Sridharan, joint secretary and treasurer of NBGES; V.S.Subramanian, secretary of the school; principal S.K.Uma Shankar; and vice-principal V.Subbulakshmi took part. Patriotic songs were sung by the junior students. Renuka Devi R. from class VII showcased impressive karate stunts.



## Space Day celebrated



**I**n order to commemorate the National Space Day (August 23), an initiative was taken by Stella Maris College to celebrate the day which emphasised human achievements in space, to educate and inspire the young generation about the future advancements in space exploration,

says a press release.

On August 16, 2024, the Galactic Club of the Department of Mathematics in collaboration with the Department of Physics organised a session titled "Beyond the Horizon" and the resource person was Chrisphim Karthick, Scientist C, Deputy Head of Science Communi-

cation Public Outreach and Education, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, the press release adds.

The seminar gave an understanding of extra galactic objects, positional astronomy, cosmology and various career opportunities pertaining to space science.

Competitions such as Olympiad, Adzap, Collage and JAM were conducted on the theme "Touching lives while touching the moon: India's Space Saga" and students across departments of Stella Maris College participated and won prizes. The competitions instilled in students a deeper appreciation for space exploration and its limitless possibilities, says the release.

## Focus on safety of road users

"Project Safety" seeks that readers write in to downtownfeedback

@thehindu.co.in about chinks in the civic infrastructure, seemingly minor but capable of much harm, putting road users at risk. It could be a tree dangerously leaning across the road, a speed bump that is unmarked, a speed

bump that is of dimensions that do not do much for motorists' safety, a deep pothole, an elevated manhole on the carriageway or anything else endangering motorists' safety. The write-up should be accompanied by photos of the safety hazard the reader seeks to highlight through this section.



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## Injambakkam group's plea to CMWSSB

Injambakkam Coastal Conservation Society has written to the Managing Director, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply And Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) drawing attention to the “incomplete sewerage main project in lanes from East Coast Road to the beachfront in Injambakkam and Akkarai”.

The letter notes that “the project, which commenced over six to seven months ago, remains incomplete, leaving our communities in a state of disarray.”

It underlines that “a sewerage collection well dug at the end of each of the lanes has been left open, posing a serious threat to public safety. This well is pre-

causiously close to the narrow path leading to the beach, with exposed steel rods jutting out, creating a risk of injury, particularly to children and elderly residents. You will also notice that ground water level has risen in these areas and mosquito menace in our areas is bad.”

The letter continues: “Despite the significant impact this project will have on our community, the residents of Injambakkam were not consulted or informed about the plans to lay this sewerage line.”

It points out that with the monsoon season approaching, “the incomplete work on the collection wells and open road cuts will likely result in severe flooding.”

And it also expresses concern over “the proximity of the sewerage lines to the ocean front.” and “long-term damage to the groundwater quality and the marine life along the coastal environment.”

The letter concludes with a request that members of Injambakkam Coastal Conservation Society get to have a meeting with the CMWSSB managing director.

## Pitfalls on the morning walk

A slow-moving CMWSSB project is proving disruptive, even dangerous for Injambakkam residents

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

This structure has the look of a head with spiked hair, but lacks its innocuousness. This one can kill, at night or day; all it takes is a misstep for the unsuspecting beachgoer to get impaled on rusty rods that reach for the skies.

These construction rods are being worn uneasily like a crown of thorns by a half-complete sewerage collection well, on Harichandra Avenue – Third Cross Street in Injambakkam. The beach is just a whiff away.

Here is a picture of the space, one captured as recently as August 13, 2024.

Two giant CMWSSB boards are stationed. One is standing dutifully at its post. Its effort however goes in vain, as the other is lying face-down, and leaking people in. Local *jugaad* takes care of the rest of the access, past the structure and to-



Incomplete and poorly-barricaded sewerage collection wells at Harichandra Avenue - Third Cross Street and (right) Bharathi Avenue. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

wards the beach.

A ladder rustled up with casuarina poles by nobody-knows-who provides free access to everyone, along the side of the structure.

The frugal ladder and fallen barricade and the regular movement

of unauthorised feet make a commentary about the speed of this CMWSSB project.

This project is more than six months old, and moving at a tardy pace, says Capt. A. Ranganathan, president of the newly-formed In-

jambakkam Coastal Conservation Society. The project even bears the signs of something that progresses in fits and starts. People who need to notice the fallen barricade and the ladder seem to have not noticed it – and that makes a statement about the consistency of the work.

Capt. Ranganathan voices his concern for public safety: an inebriated beachgoer – not unusual around beaches off ECR – can walk right into those rusty rods. Under darkness, even the sober can meet with a similar fate.

This street is part of the coastal conservation society president's regular one-hour morning walk, as are two other streets, Bharathi Avenue and Rajiv Avenue, that also showcase neglect and lack of planning – both of them sport an in-

complete CMWSSB sewerage collection well too.

As *The Hindu* joins Capt. Ranganathan on this “morning civic walk”, he notes the an incomplete CMWSSB sewerage well is a feature of quite a few streets from Injambakkam to Akkarai off East Coast Road. He remarks that the three afore-mentioned streets, as also a few others, are low-lying, and hence, sewerage would be drawn through a pipeline to these collection wells close to the beach, and then through another pipeline taken to ECR.

He sighs at what this would entail for residents – a protracted project. And going by those incomplete sewerage wells, considerable ground still needs to be covered. The photos were taken on August 13, 2024.

## New HDR Brachytherapy System inaugurated

Dr Kamakshi Memorial Hospital recently inaugurated a new “High Dose Rate Brachytherapy” system called Flexitron. Brachytherapy is a form of radiation therapy where a radioactive source is placed inside/ near the tumour via suitable applicators. This enables the tumour to get maximum doses and a rapid dose fall-off to the surrounding normal tissues, said a release. This treatment modality can be used either in combination with external beam radiotherapy or as a standalone treatment for specific cancer sites. Brachytherapy has its significant role in the management of many cancer sites like cancer tongue, bronchus, oesophagus, soft tissues, buccal mucosa and prostate, said the release. Chairman Dr T.G. Govindarajan and



more than 40 eminent radiation oncologists took part in the inaugural event. This event was celebrated on a tagline of “My Brachy”, which will create interest on the young radiation oncologists to use the brachytherapy techniques for

the management of cancers.

Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospital has branches in Pallikaranai, Medavakkam, Adyar and Siruseri.

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