

DOWNTOWN

Sunday
October 12, 2025

THE HINDU

ANNA NAGAR

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‘Padi junction looks beautiful, service lanes need better maintenance’



The flyover in Padi on October 9. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B



The flyover at the junction of CTH Road and 100 Feet Inner Ring Road in Padi has been spruced up with paintings and artworks. The entire junction looks vibrant with colours. Further, saplings are being raised.

While this is a welcome exercise, efforts should be taken to ensure service lanes are maintained well. The lane where the traffic movement is from Anna Nagar to

Retteri has become a dumping spot.

There have been days when piles of waste can be seen occupying a sizeable portion of the lane. This also attracts stray dogs. Also, pedestrians crossing the junction is unsafe. There is continuous flow of traffic at the junction and it is quite difficult. Appropriate safety measure are needed here.

T. Gunaseelan, Ambattur



‘Speed breakers needed in Korattur’

Speed breakers are badly needed on Water Canal Road in Korattur especially near Alliance Orchid Springs, a housing complex. This safety measure is needed because there were quite a few instances of close call on this spot. It was also noticed that there is a spurt in the vehicular traffic on this road of late.

Kesavan Krishnan, Korattur



‘Lorry drivers flout safety rules’

The unsafe practice of lorries carrying load protruding beyond the vehicle body such as long pipes or metal rods without displaying red flags, as mandated by traffic safety rules, has become widespread. Red flags are a sign to caution other road users. Unfortunately, the enforcement of the rule by the authorities is also poor.

D.Suresh
Thirumullaivoyal

‘Fish carcasses at Arafath lake indicate sewage discharge’

Scores of dead fish was found afloat at Arafath lake in Thirumullaivoyal on CTH Road last week. It was learnt from the dailies that officials cited eutrophication as the cause.

Encroachments and illegal discharge of sewage and industrial effluents are plaguing the lake and from time to time residents and citizens groups in Thirumullaivoyal have been highlighting this issue but to no avail.

It should be noted this lake which was once sprawling and a major source of drinking water for the people of this region decades ago has shrunk in surface area and unable to

sustain life. Yet another concern is that the polluted lake will gradually contaminate the groundwater of the surrounding region.

Avadi Corporation, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and other departments concerned are requested to take stringent measures to end this problem. It was also learnt that there are plans to restore the lake. It is a welcome move but the exercise will turn out to be futile if discharge of sewage and other pollutants is not stopped.

T. Sadagopan, president, Tamil Nadu Progressive Consumer Centre, a citizens group based in Avadi.



‘Park gets new gate’

With the aim of preventing cattle from straying into Thangal Park in Ambattur, Greater Chennai Corporation has replaced the wicket gate with a desired model which serves the purpose.

K.V. Saikrishna, Ambattur



‘Lane in school zone plagued by parking of vehicles’

Parking of vehicles on 81st Street at Fourth Block at Muthamizh Nagar in Kodungaiyur causes inconvenience to the public. The half-a-kilometre long road is just 12-feet wide. A sizeable width of the road has gone to unauthorised parking of autorickshaws forcing pedestrians walk in the middle of the road.

This road provides connectivity to Cement Road and South Avenue and hence witnesses good traffic. Close calls are common during peak hours.

It should be noted there are many schools and hospitals in the vicinity. There have been a few instances of ambulances having difficulty entering the road.

Hence, appropriate measures such as police patrolling should be taken to curb this problem. The roads falls under Ward 35 in Zone 4 - Tondiarpet.

Noor Wasim Anjum
Kodungaiyur.

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GCC plans to *restore old traffic order* in Ganesapuram



L. KANTHIMATHI

With the reopening of Ganesapuram subway on Dr. Ambedkar College Road in Vysarpadi, plans are afoot to revoke the two-year-old traffic diversion and restore the earlier order of traffic flow.

The traffic diversion was introduced to facilitate construction of a flyover by the Greater Chennai Corporation. The flyover runs above the subway. Now, Greater Chennai

Corporation is considering restoration of the earlier traffic arrangement by unblocking the section of the Dr. Ambedkar College Road near the subway.

According to GCC officials, the part of the flyover's structure which required the construction site (near the subway) to be free from vehicular movement is built now and hence GCC is considering restoration of the earlier order of traffic flow. To this end, the blocked stretch of the road is being



The subway and road restoration work at Ganesapuram in Vysarpadi. PHOTOS: RAGU R

relaid and the earlier order of traffic flow can be expected in a couple of weeks, say officials.

"It is a relief to see the work to unblock the road getting under

way. People have been enduring circuitous routes and bottlenecks in narrow residential lanes which came along as part of the traffic diversion. However, we want the

construction of the flyover to be completed without much delay," says A. S. Asogan, a resident of Perambur, a neighbourhood of Ganesapuram.

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Giving waste its due

Retired art teacher S.V. Kumar gives discarded items a new purpose; his latest work is now on display at Chennai Rail Museum



LIFFY THOMAS

When visitors see installations born out of trash they have thrown, they would be struck with awe and shame. That thinking has been motivating 75-year-old S.V. Kumar to give waste new life in the form of art.

His latest work, a 12-foot replica of the India Gate in New Delhi is on display at the Chennai Rail Museum in Perambur. Used paper cups, paper plates, plastic bottles, gift wrappers and plywoods pieces, all collected from the museum campus, went into making this installation.

Kumar along with a team of 25 people worked on this project before Independence Day. "Before starting the exercise, when I surveyed the campus for unwanted items, I asked the museum staff not to send away garbage from the 10 dustbins. These were then sorted,

Trash art
There are more than 60 metal sculptures across the ICF campus carved out of wheels, waste components from coaches and nuts and bolts.

This time, the museum team went a step ahead to collect wood waste from its Technical Training Centre to model trains, dining tables, aeroplanes and many other showpieces.

Under Swachhutsav, a Swachh Bharat Mission initiative, these artworks made from discarded items are on display at the museum premises till the end of the month.

some had to be washed and painted to give it a new lease of life," says Kumar, a resident of Villivakkam.

More than 20 kilos of waste went into making the India Gate. Plastic bottles that once contained energy drinks were used to make the flag, water bottles were used as



the entrance to the garden and the cups were sorted into various colours.

The museum on an average receives 10,000 visitors a month, a bulk of them being school students who come on an educational visit. Kumar says he generally does not take any money from institutions as this cause is important for him but he pays his team member their



At a waste to art workshop; U. Subba Rao, ICF General Manager, honours S.V. Kumar (extreme right); the installation; and a train made out of waste wood

daily wages.

A graduate of the Government College of Fine Arts, Kumar retired as art teacher from NKT National Boys High School in Triplicane after close to four decades of service. He was always fascinated with unwanted items. "Once I spotted some old wood pieces on the road I assembled them to make them a work of art," says the teacher who is a resource person for art and craft with various institutions.

Post-retirement, he has done close to 64 projects including a 100 ft. Christmas tree, a representation of Lord Vinayaka and a 36-foot dinosaur. "Hyundai has been a well wisher, they have allowed me to take automobile scrap from their plant for my creative projects," says Kumar, who has a mention in the Limca Book of Records.

The scrap materials are generally stored in a neighbourhood park so that nobody is inconvenienced anyone, he says.

The average life span of these installations is six to eight months after which they die a natural death. "They ultimately end up in the landfill but there is a special joy when you are able to recycle or increase the lifespan of an item you have discarded," he says.

The septuagenarian, who is a member of SIDCO Nagar Residents Welfare Association, is also offering free classes to youth who have completed Bachelor in Fine Arts or Master in Fine Arts but are without a job.

For details, call 9840478392.

A memory served 'steaming hot'

The newly-created 'Donor's Wall of Art' at Chennai Rail Museum in Perambur offers a space for those who want their artworks related to the Railways to be displayed

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The next time you are visiting the Chennai Rail Museum at Integral Coach Factory look keenly at some of the new exhibits and artefacts on display. There is a slice of history in some, a moving story in a few others and a lesson in sustainability in many others. The newly-created 'Donor's Wall of Art' in the Art Gallery is showcasing artworks donated by the public on a rotational basis. Two artworks of an Anglo Indian steam engine driver sourced from Australia are currently on display.



A painting that is on display

play. His assistant loco driver drew him.

"The artworks belongs to The Ring Family who migrated to Australia in 1996. Rudolf Joseph Ring (R.J. Ring), the steam locomotive driver, is seen standing tall and proud on the doorway of 'his Engine', where memories never die," says Hansel Aubert, office superintendent, Chennai Rail Museum, ICF who has prepared a special note to go with the painting.

Ring served Southern Railway from 1954 to 1993. "During those times, when steam engines were slowly being phased out and broken down as scrap, giving way to diesel locomotives, Mr. Ring was heartbroken. To capture the essence of the fading era of steam engines, he got

his assistant and artist M.A. Gafoor to capture the moment on canvas, of him standing at the doorway of his engine," says Hansel.

The two paintings stayed close to family until his death in 2016. When Hansel, who knows the family, came to know that they were planning to give away the paintings this offer was made.

"The Ring family returned the paintings to India, and that is how this piece of art and passion found its way on these walls of the Chennai Rail Museum," adds Hansel. The section will feature works from art enthusiasts with the only condition being that they must be related to the Railways. The artwork will credit the donor and carry a story of the art piece if the artist wishes so.

Want to declutter your home? Call 1913

On October 11, Greater Chennai Corporation launched an initiative to collect discarded household items such as sofas, clothes, mattresses and furniture from residents' doorsteps; a collection drive is scheduled every Saturday

LIFFY THOMAS

If you have plans to declutter your house this Deepavali, 1913 is the number for you. Greater Chennai Corporation has invited residents to register with 1913 for removal of household discards such as sofas, clothes, mattresses and furniture. The drive was launched on October 11 and the items will be picked up from residents' doorsteps every Saturday.

According to a GCC official from the Solid Waste Department, they have received more than 50 calls since October 4 when they started creating awareness about this campaign through various channels including social media.

A step-by-step process will be followed to collect unused items from homes. Residents can register on Namma Chennai app mentioning the



details of the items they plan to dispose of. Those not comfortable using the App can either call 1913 or WhatsApp 9445061913 and share the details. The request will then be passed

on to the respective conservancy inspector of the zone who coordinates on the time and day for the doorstep pick-up. Once collected, the items will be taken to GCC's incinerator in Kodungaiyur.

The department expects more citizens to avail this free service once it kicks off. Often mattresses, cushions and broken furniture are dumped near garbage bins as people do not know how to dispose of them. Collection drives organised by citizen groups and NGOs encourage giving away gently used items that can be used by someone else and not broken or unwanted stuff.

GCC had conducted a similar drive in December 2023 for residents of its seven zones to discourage open dumping. The official says that this time every zone has been asked to procure vehicles to transport items to the incinerator.



Representational picture only.

A desperate 'art installation'

Residents of Sreenivasam Flats at Giriappa Road in T. Nagar have resorted to a curious measure to keep tipplers out of their planter bed

PRINCE FREDERICK

In the urban milieu, a tangle of cables hardly draws attention until it brushes against someone's jugular vein. Urban living is dysfunctional at multiple levels and this anomaly is among the easiest to take in one's stride.

Where buildings are packed together with each featuring multiple dwelling units, a criss-cross of drop cables usually mars the facade. Nobody notices it, let alone whine about it. But at Giriappa Road in Drivers Colony, T. Nagar, a tangle of cables invites more than a second look: it piques curiosity which usually extends into an amused request for information. It is not so much the cables as their location that forces one to suspend every activity, no matter how life-redefining, and stand gawking at this spectacle.

A spaghetti of cables is tied over a planter bed that runs along the compound wall of an apartment, Sreenivasam Flats. The planter bed is defined by a grille enclosure. The compound wall and the front of the grille enclosure serve as posts to tie cables in warp-like fashion.

While processing this picture oneself without any helpful footnotes, one can still be certain about two things. The "artistry" with cables was an afterthought. It was born out of desperation.

Ramanathan Stalin, secretary of Sreenivasam Flats association, con-



firms the ornamental planter bed was not always enhanced by this "art installation" and it was a desperate attempt to keep tipplers away from the planter bed.

He elaborates, "At night, outside vehicles are parked in front of the apartment close to the grille enclosure, and that provides just the screen for some outsiders to consume alco-

hol, sometimes sitting in the planter bed and throwing the bottles right there. The cables are meant to keep tipplers and bottles out of the planter bed." Giriappa Road runs parallel to Anna Salai; and does one need to add that it draws considerable pairs of feet that are not domiciled there?

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

The association secretary admits, as does another resident, that they still break through the defences. There is proof of it: the cables are disturbed in one place, and two liquor bottles lie on the patch of the planter bed right under this "aerial breach".



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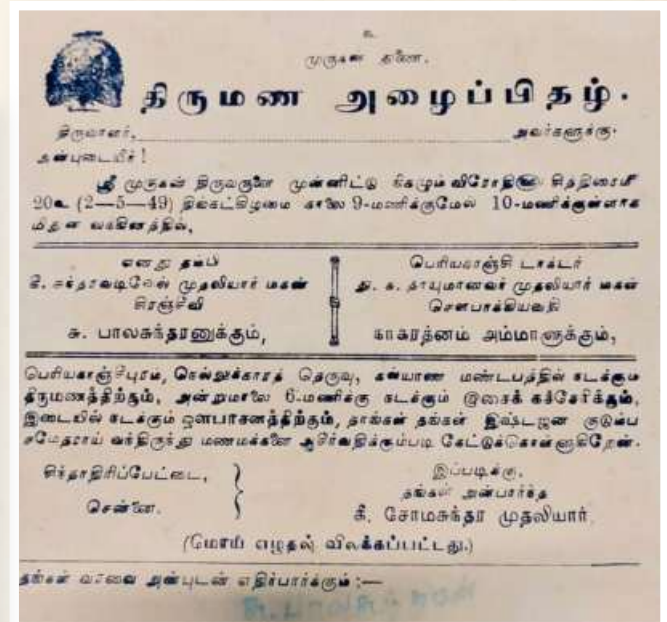
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HERITAGE

Ramaswamy Rangachari with his postal savings passbook; Prabhakar V with two postcards, dated 1922 and 1949, that served as wedding invites; and a view of those postcards



SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

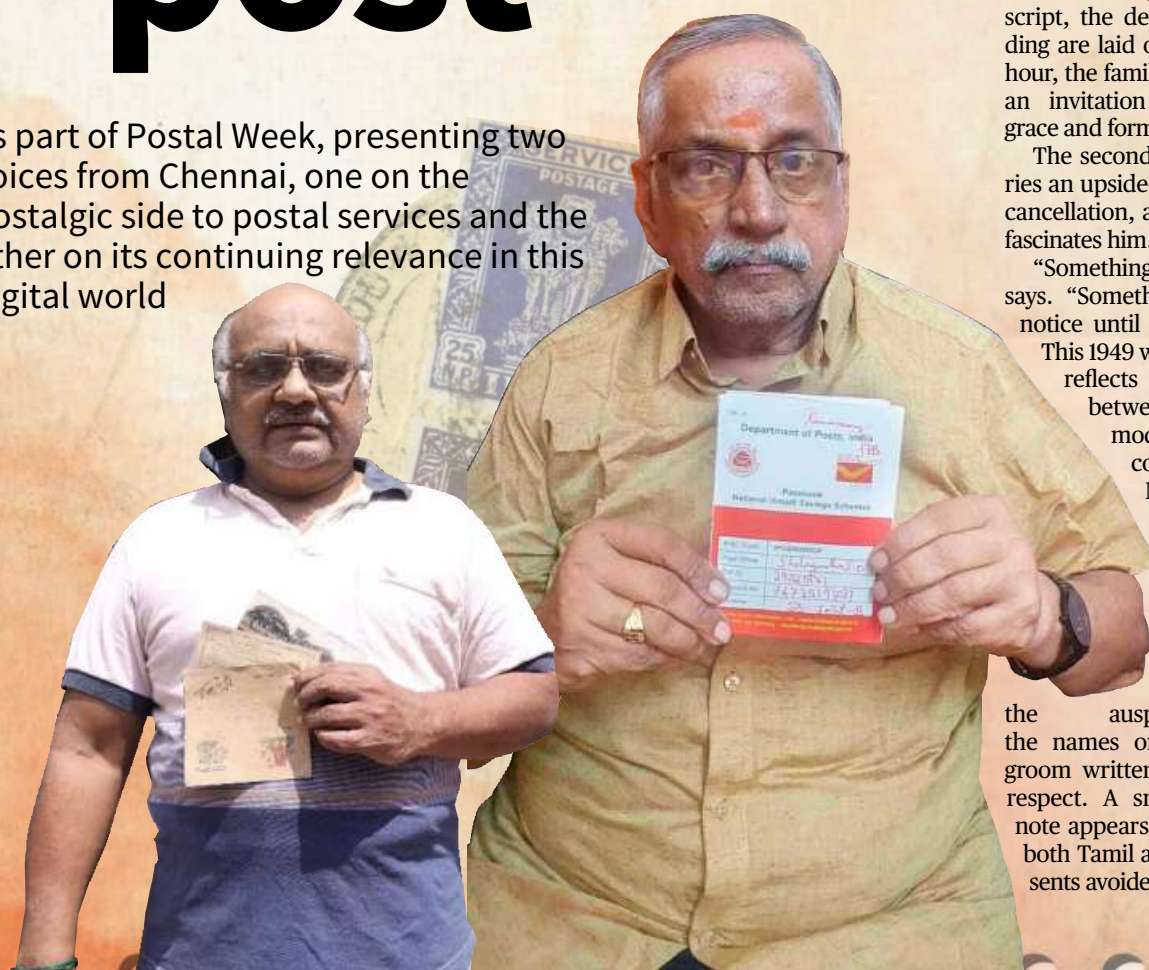
The original post

In this age of instant messaging, the soft jingle of the postman's cycle bell might be growing feebler. Ironically, in some minds though, that jingle only keeps gaining in intensity, almost achieving the resonance of a gong. That is the power of memories, enhancing the past, sometimes to distorted proportions. But nostalgia alone does not buttress postal services. Belief in its future does that too. As part of Postal Week, presenting two voices, one on the nostalgic value of postcards and postal services and the other on its continuing relevance in this digital world.

Ramaswamy Rangachari, a resident of Sholinganallur, is a much recognised face at the local post office. When he finds the services at the post office below par, he does not flinch from sending out a missive to the powers-that-be. His views on how the Sholinganallur post office could up its game have been published in these pages. If one delved into 76-year-old Ramaswamy's education and career, this obsession with postal services would seem out of the ordinary. A retired investment banker, urbane, much-travelled across the globe, lived abroad, and more importantly, tech-savvy, being an admin in a hyperlocal community group or two, Ramaswamy is a patron of India's postal services.

"My mother used to have a savings account and some fixed

As part of Postal Week, presenting two voices from Chennai, one on the nostalgic side to postal services and the other on its continuing relevance in this digital world



deposits in the Mylapore Post Office," he recalls. "After I came back to India, I have been banking with the Sholinganallur Post Office." For Ramaswamy, the post office is not merely about monetary transactions. As a trustee of an NGO supporting rural education, he personally mails receipts, scholarships, and teacher salaries through Speed Post every week. There is an air of officialdom and formality about documents sent through physical mail that cannot be matched by digital mail.

"I have to send receipts of donations by Speed Post at least once a week. Apart from that, I have my own deposits and other things to handle," says Ramaswamy.

Prabhakar V, a resident of Anna Nagar, collects memories in various forms – tram tickets, coins, books, everyday objects from bygone eras and postcards. Many of his postcards have come from Moore Market, exhibitions and online forums where collectors traded living fragments of the past. Among his most treasured postcards and wedding invitations printed on postcards. The first, from 1922, was purchased at Moore Market. Back then, a postcard as a wedding invite was a novelty – surely, it would be a novelty even now, more than it was in the past. There is no extra embellishment but just the message itself, printed in neat teal-green ink within a modest floral border. Below, in precise Tamil script, the details of the wedding are laid out: the date, the hour, the families involved, and an invitation extended with grace and formality.

The second, from 1949, carries an upside-down post office cancellation, a small quirk that fascinates him.

"Something different," he says. "Something you do not notice until you look twice."

This 1949 wedding invitation reflects a turning point between tradition and modernity in printed communication.

Neatly composed in Tamil, the details are presented with order and restraint: the Tamil month, the exact time of the auspicious hour, and the names of the bride and groom written with measured respect. A small yet striking note appears at the bottom in both Tamil and English, "Presents avoided."

Engineering college opens 'Spoke Centre'



S.A. Engineering College inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Centre of Excellence For Advanced Manufacturing (TAN-CAM) Spoke Centre at its campus on October 6.

G. Prabakaran, assistant professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, welcomed the gathering. S. Salivahanan, advisor, asked the students to use the best of the system enhancing global engineering excellence to make a mark beyond academics.

S. Amarnaath, correspondent and treasurer, spoke about industry-academia partnerships, which fosters innovation, skill development and research in advanced manufacturing technologies.

Delivering the inaugural address Wg Cdr.

P. Madhusoodhanan, director of TANCAM, asked students to experience engineering, build system of systems. He asked students not to chase marks but to chase mastery through hardwork, said a release. G. Ravichandran, president, Ambattur Industrial Estate Members Association (AIEMA) said that the Spoke Centre will aid the students to learn with zeal, perseverance and hardwork to involve in real time projects.

Frederic Besson, World Wide Vice President, CATIA Global Sales, France asked students to liberate their knowledge and deliver the best to the country and the world. S. Ramachandran, principal, S.A. Engineering College, presented the vote of thanks.

College organises short films contest

A two-day film conclave, M.O.P. MATINEE '25, was hosted by the Department of Communication and Media Studies at M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women. The conclave, dedicated to "a celebration of cinema, passion, and expression," was inaugurated by Rajkumar Periasamy, film director and screenwriter. A major highlight was the short film competition, which saw entries from several institutions.

According to a release, the Best Short Film Awards went to: Inside the Door 7 by D.G. Vaishnav College; Awakening by M.O.P. Vaishnav College; and Soap in My Eyes by Loyola College

The host college, M.O.P. Vaishnav College, secured the second prize in the short film showcase. Filmmaker K. Hariharan served as the dedicated jury, added the release.



Event recognises contribution of teachers

Dwaraka Doss Goverdhan Doss Vaishnav College celebrated Teachers' Day on October 8 on the theme "Acharya Devo Bhava - Honouring the Pillars of Progress and Excellence." The event recognised the contribution of teachers in nurturing students' potential and driving institutional growth.

The event also honoured NIRF, IQAC, and Administrative Heads, along with the Top 5 SheRNI Profiles (Based on Citation), for their contributions to the college's academic and research achievements, said a release.

Chief Guest E. Balagurusamy, former vice-chancellor, Anna University, reflected on how his teachers shaped his journey. "I stand here today because of my teachers. When I almost gave up, one teacher's encouragement changed my life," he recalled.

Guest of Honour S. Vijayakumar, additional chief secretary and commissioner, Land Reforms, Government of Tamil Nadu, reminisced about his student days. He lauded DG Vaishnav College for prioritising research.

Captain S. Santhosh Baboo, principal and member syndicate, University of Madras, commended the faculty for their dedication and detailed the college's strategic steps in enhancing its research culture.

Ashok Kumar Mundhra, secretary, delivered the felicitation address.



A Bharatanatyam performance



Mrithika, granddaughter of Sowbaghya Varadharajan and daughter of Subramaniam, showcased her Bharatanatyam Arangetram at The Music Academy on October 5. She was accompanied on stage (left to right) by Gayathri Balasubramaniam, Sowbaghya Balasubramaniam, Karthick (Vellammal Group), M.V.N. Murthy, C.R. Baskar, Kavitha Raman, Parameshwari, and her guru Lakshmi Jayapriya. The event celebrated tradition, dedication, and the grace of classical dance, said a release.

New collection of saris at Stories in Silk

The Stories in Silk store at Anna Nagar has stocked a new range of collection for the festival. There's Kancheepuram to elegant Banarasis to soft tussars, fancy, cotton and silk cottons saris to choose for Deepavali, said a release.

The store also has veshti and pattu pavada, ready-to-wear blouses and customised tailoring.

The store is located on Sixth Avenue and is offering a discount of 20 percent.



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PLAN YOUR WEEK

Monthly **humour club** meet today

The monthly meeting of Anna Nagar Humour Club will be held on October 13 at 4 p.m. at Shri Krishnaswamy Vidhyashram, Vaigai Colony, Anna Nagar West.

Dr. A Anantharamakrishnan, president, will give an oration on outstanding October. Other members will be jesting on diverse topics on significant events of the month. Admission is free. All are welcome.

For further details, contact Arjuna Chetty 98402 69123/ Karthikeyan at 98400 76022

Srimad Narayaneeyam in Malayalam

Srimad Narayaneeyam Saphaha Mahayagnam will be conducted in Malayalam at Ayyappa Temple, Anna Nagar from October 19 to October 26. Brahmasri Thottam Hari Krishnan Nambudiri is the Saha Acharyan. The inauguration and Mahatmyam will be held on October 19 at 7 p.m. Regular saphaha parayanam and prabhashanam will be from October 20. Devotees participating in the sapham will be provided breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea free of cost by the Samajam. For details, contact Samajam office on 7448813282.

Bengal saris and dress materials

An exhibition-cum-sale of Bengal woven saris and dress materials is on at C.P. Arts Centre (main hall), Eldams Road in Alwarpet till October 17. Time: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

This is the 27th year Rang Mahal is putting up the exhibition in the city. For the festival there's jalchuris with contrast blouse, nakshis in tangail borders and motifs in baluchar ornamental saris.

Workshop on **AI tools**

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME, is conducting a workshop on application of artificial intelligence (AI) in digital marketing from October 15 to 17 at its premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate in Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session will focus on Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Large Language Models such as ChatGPT; Jasper, an AI-driven content generation designed for businesses and marketing; research tools like SEMrush and Surfer SEO; Canva AI, an AI tool for graphics; Sprinkl - a tool for social media analytics and engagement tracking.

For details, call 9840114680.

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Nominations invited for **CavinKare Ability Awards**

CavinKare Pvt. Ltd. and Ability Foundation invites nominations for the 24th edition of the CavinKare Ability Awards 2026, a platform that honours outstanding achievers with disabilities.

Nominations are invited under two categories: The CavinKare Ability Award for Eminence that recognises an individual with disability, the founder of an organisation that has had a

transformative impact on society; and the CavinKare Ability Mastery Awards celebrates individuals with disabilities who have achieved distinction and excellence in their chosen domains.

Awardees will receive a cash prize, a citation, and a trophy. Eligible nominees must be Indian nationals with disabilities as recognised under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Individuals may either nomi-

nate themselves or be nominated by others. The multi-stage selection process includes scrutiny of applications, interviews, field visits, and final evaluation by a distinguished jury, said a release.

The deadline for submission of nominations is October 30, 2025. Nomination forms and complete details are available at www.abilityfoundation.org and www.cavinkare.com. For further assistance, please contact +91 98400 55848.

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