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A TOUCH OF DRAMA TO MADRAS

Mandaveli resident Thambi Parthasarthy has a sharp sense of the evolution of Tamil theatre in the city, having been part of nearly half a dozen troupes since the 1960s **P2**



WELL AND TRULY BROBDINGNAGIAN

Around 20 pairs of hands are needed to form a human chain encircling this Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha; the tree is 250 years old **P5**

Shelter for cows coming up in Royapettah



Stray cattle roaming on roads will soon have an additional shelter. Zone IX of Greater Chennai Corporation (ward 115) is building a goshala. The facility is coming up on Peter's Road in Royapettah. Cows that are tied on streets and on the road side in areas coming under the Chepauk-Thiruvakkeni assembly constituency will be taken to this goshala, said a press note. The floor area of the facility is 330 square metres. The contract was awarded in November 5 2024 and the work should be completed in 12 months.

PHOTOS: SRINATH M

READERS WRITE

CP Ramaswamy Road flyover is now two-way

Two-way traffic movement introduced on CP Ramaswamy Road had some teething problems. They seem have been largely tackled.

Not aware of the new system, some motorists drive up the flyover as if it were still one way, and that is one of the reasons for traffic congestion.

GCC also started stormwater drain work this week near Sriman Srinivasan Road and are of the view that at least one month might be needed for work to be completed.

Baskar Seshadri is a resident of Mylapore

You can be our volunteer-writer

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

Madras Day events in Mylapore



A pavement shop for old books at Luz (Mylapore) in Madras. Picture taken in October 1963. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

The Madras Postcrossing community is organising a series of events at Ranade Library, Luz (Sastri Hall campus - near Nageswara Rao Park) on August 17 that will showcase philately and post cards.

At 3 p.m., an exhibition showcasing postcards of Madras will explore some of the unique collections. This will be followed by

showcasing letters that speak of fascinating stories and insights about the city.

At 4 p.m., one can meet the members of Postcrossing community who will be talking about the hobby and how they exchange postcards related to Madras. The events are open to all.

To register, call Moulipriya 8148566110

Bring a friend or family member, form a team and test your knowledge about the city. The 2025 edition of Murugappa Madras Quiz will be held on August 24 from 2 p.m. onwards at the MMA Auditorium, Anna Salai.

Quizmaster Sumanth C. Raman will be conducting this open quiz based entirely on Madras/Chennai.

There is no age restriction for the participants, and the top three teams will win prizes. The biggest stake is a rolling trophy.

There are special gift hampers and gift vouchers for the Best Women's Team, Best Students' Team, and Best Senior Citizens' team. No pre-registration is required.

Institutions take the lead

The Department of History, Stella Maris College is celebrating Madras Day on August 19 and 20 with competitions and exhibitions.

Discover Heritage of the University of Madras in this walk led by T. Jaisakthivel from the Department of Journalism and Communication on August 22 at 3 p.m.

For more info about events, visit <https://themadrasday.in>

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

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

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

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

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

Not a surprise when you consider

A touch of drama to Madras

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

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

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

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

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

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



The highlights

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

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

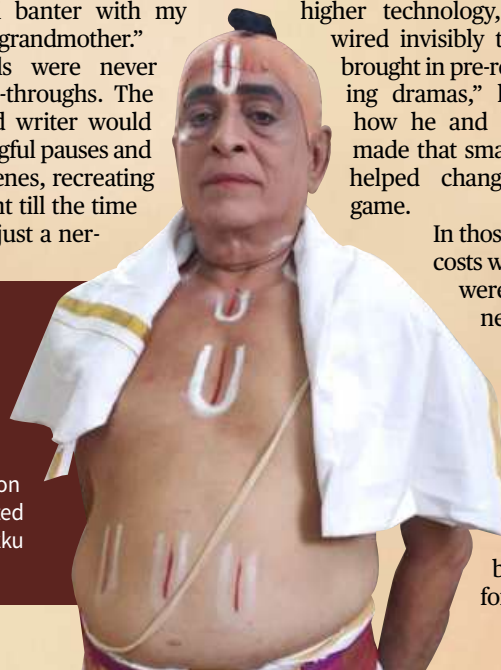
vous step away. Sessions ran from 6-6:30 p.m. to 9-9:30 p.m., getting extended as the premiere loomed large. Since all members had day jobs, evenings were their only window for practice.

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

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

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

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





Registrations open for Maya Kannan contest

The Hindu Downtown is conducting 'Maya Kannan - Janmashtami Contest 2025', an event that enhances the festive spirit in the neighbourhoods of Chennai by enabling residents to take Janmashtami celebrations to the higher place: by having their children dressed up as Lord Krishna.

This contest is for children in the 3 to 8 age group, who must dress up as little Krishna or Radha and present a dance, song or sloka-recital performance in the praise of Lord Krishna.

The title partner for the event is Gopuram Turmeric Powder & Kumkum, the food partner is Madras Coffee House, the venue partner is Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women, Anna Nagar, Chennai, the Water Partner is Repute Water and the Tech Partner is Hilaptop.com. Gift Sponsors are DIFA, Lalwani, Medimix, My Resale Plot.com, Naga, P S Tamarind, RAS Chekku Oil and Vivekanandha Sarees.

To register and participate, scan the QR code given herewith or visit <https://newsth.live/MK2025CH>. Upload a 1-2-minute video and picture of your kid's performance as Krishna/ Radha to our microsite. Registrations close on August 18, 2025. For further queries, you may call 8148748183 / 9003077030



Workshop on hospital administration on September 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

For details, call 99529 68552 / 73053 68552.

Applications invited for M-UTS Sahayaks at Central station

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

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

Under this scheme, unreserved tickets will be facili-

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

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

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Children draw to express what they seek in parks; and (below) students of Gurukulam at Bougainvillea Park.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Making parks *inclusive*

Greater Chennai Corporation's Gender and Policy Lab, Kilikili, Disability Rights Alliance and other groups are fanning out to different localities to gather inputs that would drive design decisions pertaining to an exercise to make 10 public parks in Chennai friendly to children with disabilities

LIFFY THOMAS

"I used to be overweight, and so I could not use the slide as a child.

Though older and past the age of using slides, I am interested in slides, the design of slides. I do not want children on the heavier side missing out on the slide," says Arvind Kumar, a student of Gurukulam, a centre for children with special needs in Anna Nagar.

The youngster with autism typed out an explanation approximating to this when asked why he sought "wide slides" in parks. Arvind was responding to a team that has fanned out to various neighbourhoods in Chennai to under-

The list

The 10 parks identified for the project: MMDA 1st Main Road Park (Zone I; Division 19); KKR Park in Madhavaram (Zone III; Division 28); Vasuki Nagar (Zone IV, Division 36); Anna Park (Zone V, Division 52); Murasolimarman Park in Perambur (Zone VI, Division 71); Bougainvillea Park (Zone VIII, Division 102); Natesan Park (Zone X, Division 133); Thiruvalluvar Nagar Park (Zone XII, Division 156); Jayachandran 1st Street Park (Zone XIV, Division 191); and Sri Sai Nagar park in Thoraiyakkam (Zone XV, Division 193)

Existing inclusive parks in Chennai are: Infinity Park in Santhome, Sensory Park in Kotturpuram and another in Mogappair

How can one be part of this initiative? The form <https://forms.gle/CfFyU3yYwtkGZybNA> seeks to understand what children with disabilities, their families and caregivers and persons with disabilities would like to have in public play spaces and parks. Scan the QR code that will be placed at these identified parks and give your feedback.

stand the need for inclusive parks.

To make Chennai's parks more accessible for persons with disabilities, Mayor Priya R. as part of 2025 budget announced making 10 important parks inclusive. Greater Chennai Corporation's Gender and Policy Lab, Kilikili, Disability Rights Alliance and other volunteering groups are facilitating consultations with different stakeholders to understand their needs.

On August 12, the team engaged with three institutions working in the inclusion space in Anna Nagar – MITHRA, Sankalp and Gurukulam – that brought their students to Bougainvillea Park which is among the green spaces that make up the ten.

"A day earlier, we took six of our students to Bougainvillea Park so that they have an idea of the space. Five of them are on the spectrum and can only type their answers but they have valuable inputs to offer in terms of making public spaces welcoming of all," says Radha Nandakumar, founder-trustee, Gurukulam. She says suggestions given by students included need for ramp, path for cycling, tactile floor, a soundproof room and train games.

Three-pronged approach

The team is having a series of consultations, both in-person as well as online, across the city for the next few weeks to take in as many inputs as can be from all stakehol-

ders including children with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

"We are looking at institutions in and around the parks, and making sure to include people across disabilities," says Kavitha Krishnamoorthy, founder and managing trustee of Kilikili.

Those who may not be able to articulate their thoughts are shown photographs of different types of play equipment that are provided in parks including the ones associated with inclusive parks. And then they are asked to choose.

"Even if they cannot answer, we are trying to see what they are reaching out for," says Kavitha who has worked towards setting up inclusive parks in Bengaluru and Chennai.

For those who cannot make it to the consultations, a Google form is also being made available to gather feedback.

The 10 identified parks will soon have posters with QR code where any user including those from the community around can give inputs on inclusive features they would like to see incorporated.

Building a community

"Besides integrating the inputs collected from various parks, we see this as a community building exercise where people visit and monitor it regularly," says Kavitha.

Infinity Park at Santhome, which was opened in 2018, was one of the best examples of an inclusive park that is community-driven, but since the pandemic the place has slipped into neglect.

Pre-COVID, an active community, mostly of residents from the neighbourhood, oversaw the park.

"They were given some orientation before being enrolled as volunteers and it served as a good example of community ownership. They followed a roster between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to help facilitate the park for special children. Their roles involved telling children not to use an equipment wrongly, alerting authorities of faulty equipment, and mediating for parents who hesitate in putting across a point to able-bodied children. Besides infrastructure, that is also needed to make a public space inclusive," says Kavitha.

While the team is working on collecting inputs for the 10 parks, they are also pushing to see Infinity Park restored.

Maintenance of public parks is another key concern. At Infinity Park, for instance, a developer took care of the maintenance for the first two years.

"Maintenance is a big issue anywhere and we have to think of a new kind of arrangement and not just blame GCC. Can there be a maintenance fund for parks? What is the civic responsibility? Can the monitoring be done by a special school or RWA? These are among the questions we are grappling with," adds Kavitha.



Well and truly *Brobdignagian*

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

PRINCE FREDERICK

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

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



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

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

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

20 pairs of hands to do so.”

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

He points out the tree’s age would be anywhere between 250 to 300 years. It is still in the flush of youth: a Baobab’s life expectancy is



▼ The Baobab at Andhra Mahila Sabha.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

1000 years. One need not be surprised to find Baobabs departing from planet earth prematurely. The lack of a conducive physical space can send them packing early. A Baobab at Egmore Museum left, whole centuries un-lived.

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

It is the fruiting season, and the tree was sporting a few fruits during the recent visit. The fruits, as well as the leaves, have uses for the dining table. Babu notes that even when the Baobab is reduced to its

“bare bones”, it would wear quite a look. During summer, being a deciduous tree, it sheds all its leaves. At that time, it would look like it has been turned on its head, standing upside down – the branches would look like roots that have been suspended in air. Babu adds that during such times, the Baobab evokes the shape of a bandicoot. The shape of the trunk gives the impression of a horde of elephant legs being spliced together – one of the Tamil names for the Baobab tree is *Annapuli*.

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

Registrations open for **Made of Chennai Run**



From the 2024 edition of MOC Run.

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

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

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

The Hindu Made of Chennai is

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

The event is also being done in partnership with Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, Greater Chennai Corporation, Greater Chennai Police, Greater Chennai Traffic Police and Namma Marina, Namma Pride. Radio Partners: Big FM,



Fever FM and Radio On. Active-wear partner: Technosport. Chennai Runners is an active running club that organises several running events throughout the year and has been instrumental in popularising running as a route to wellness.

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



Photography Day: events for shutterbugs today



At an exhibition organised by Chennai Photo Biennale

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

The programme schedule is as follows:

1. Compose & Capture for Kids (by registration). From 11

a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

2. World Photography Day Sale (drop in; in-store & online). From 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Shopping info is available at chennaiphotobiennale.com

3. Cyanotype Experience (free entry). From 11:00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

4. Open Air Projection, 16mm Film Screenings (free entry). From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Fatimites' *homecoming*

Alumni from across decades gathered for the first-ever grand reunion of Fatima Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Kodambakkam



Some came with flowers, some with walking sticks, and some simply with hearts overflowing. After decades apart – for some, as long as 40 years – the corridors of Fatima Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kodambakkam, once again echoed with the laughter, tears, and warm em-

braces of its past pupils. The first-ever large-scale alumni reunion, Voyage of Hope, held on August 2, 2025, was more than an event – it was a homecoming.

Founded in 1958 beside Fatima Parish Church with just eight students, the school now educates over 2,500 annually and has pro-

duced achievers in every walk of life – from judges, doctors, bankers, engineers, and lawyers, to scientists, professors, lecturers, and inspiring teachers. Its legacy also sparkles with gifted dancers, actors, dubbing artists, and playback singers.

Over 500 alumni, teachers, and



The march past and campus walk took the alumni down memory lane
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sisters from across the globe returned for the celebration. The day began with a Holy Mass, followed by a spirited March Past, where alumni from as early as the Class of 1971 walked alongside younger batches in coordinated colours. Mother Provincial officially declared the reunion open, marking a historic moment for the institution.

Highlights included the launch of a special e-magazine, multiple whole-group photographs taken

across different venues, and a nostalgic campus walk that unlocked a flood of memories. Even alumni with health challenges – some in wheelchairs or on oxygen support – made the journey back to their alma mater.

Months of planning by the Past Pupil Association culminated in an evening of music, dance, and a buffet lunch, leaving everyone with memories, laughter, and more than a few happy tears to last a lifetime.

Water supply to be suspended in five zones

More than 10 regions across the city will not have water supply on August 18.

The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has announced that the piped water supply will be suspended on August 18 at 8 a.m. to August 19.

The disruption is attributed to the drinking water main pipe inter-

connection work undertaken by the Chennai Metro Rail Limited, Anna Nagar zone on Purasaiwakkam High Road.

At Zone 5 - Royapuram, Purasaiwakkam, Periyamedu, Sowcarpet, Chindadripet and Egmore; Zone 6 - Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, Otteri, Ayanavaram, Perambur and Sembium; Zone 8 - Anna Nagar Zone, Kilpauk, Villi-

vakkam and Kellys; Zone 9 - Triplacane; and Zone 10 - Kodambakkam, T. Nagar, and Saidapet will be affected, stated a release issued by the Board.

Residents are requested to store adequate drinking water for their needs. In case of an emergency, residents can avail water through tankers 'Dial for water' on the CMWSSB website, <https://cmwssb.tn.gov.in>.



From a previous edition of the event

School students spruce up the Marina



Staff and students of St Antony's Girls Higher Secondary School in Mylapore; St. Lazarus Middle School and Bon Secours Primary and Nursery School in Mandaveli cleared the Marina sands of trash on August 14. An anti drug rally was inaugurated by Dha Velu, MLA, Mylapore.

Junior tennis tournament at Nungambakkam stadium; entry free

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

The ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors gives players aged 18 and under the opportunity to travel the world and develop their talent. TNTA has been hosting this ITF junior event for the past 20 years, and many players have benefited from this event and gone on to represent India at the world stage. One such recent beneficiary of this tournament and the TNTA developmental system is Rethin Pranav, who won this tournament two years ago and recently reached as high as 31 in the world juniors—securing his place in the Australian Open, French Open,

and Wimbledon Junior event, says a press releases.

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

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

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

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

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

Thugil's festive sale

Thughil, a store for handlooms is having a festival sale of curated handloom, cotton, silkcotton saris, dress material and eco-friendly bags for the festival season. The range includes block-printed, Ikat and kalamkari saris.

The sale is on August 22 and 23 at C.P.Arts Centre, Mini hall (2), Alwarpet. Contact no: 7395972701 Timings 10.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Yoga festival on August 24

The 12th National Level Yoga Competition organised by Global School of Yoga and Universal Yoga Club will be held on August 24 at Decathlon in Nolambur. Yoga enthusiasts from various cities will be taking part in the competition. A yoga world record of performing 50,000 asanas in a day is also planned, said a release.

For details, call 96771 62580/ 82485 79145

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Make your own eco-friendly Ganesha

Fabulous Fundigais team is conducting a natural clay ganesha making workshop for children and parents on August 23 and 24 at two venues in the city - Utopia World, Abhiramapuram and Soul Garden Bistro, Kilpauk. This is the 7th year of the workshop. The event also includes storytelling, reciting slokas and games. Register on tiny.cc/ganesha25uw Contact 95000 50776 / 88841 00232

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The Ponniyin Selvan crew; and (right) the women who “recreated” Ravi Varma paintings.

A soiree to remember for **MRC residents**

Samavesha 2025, the cultural highlight of the MRC Fest, concluded last week, drawing an audience of over 700 enthusiastic MRC'ians to the MRC Kalyana Mandapam, Ramaswamy Hall.

Carrying the theme “Where Traditions Embrace Tomorrow”, Samavesha showcased a vibrant blend of Indian classical elegance, folk traditions and contemporary creativity – creating a

seamless bridge between the heritage of yesterday and the innovations of today, says a press release.

The evening began with the lighting of the kuthuvilakku by senior citizens, followed by a warm welcome from the MRC residents association president and an elegant entry of the office bearers. The programme included a choir performance in multiple languages that set the tone for unity in di-

versity; a classical jugalbandhi by Neeraja and Nandhini, merging rhythmic grace with musical brilliance; Mom and I – a heartwarm-

The programme included a choir performance in multiple languages that set the tone for unity in diversity; and a classical jugalbandhi

ing mother-daughter twinning hairstyle contest; a Spanish folk performance bringing global culture to the stage; and Ponniyin Selvan Fashion Round, beginning with a soulful song by Kundavai and Vanathi.

Staff nurses of Chennai Breast Centre, MRC danced to a contemporary Tamil fusion medley.

Among the highlights of the fest was a Ravi Varma-inspired sequence wherein his paintings

were brought to life on stage by MRC residents.

The evening also honoured three distinguished guests: Major General Indra Balan, a Kargil War Veteran, Commodore J. Suresh, reputed Indian author and activist Sivasankari, and whose presence added immense prestige to the celebration.

To have a taste of what unfolded at MRC Fest, go to <https://www.instagram.com/lifeatmrc>

RA Puram residents treated to **patriotic and folk songs**



Raja Annamalai Puram Residents Association (RAPRA) celebrated the 79th Independence Day in a grand manner.

TNPdcl executive engineer A. Venkatesan was the chief guest; he hoisted the tricolour. Srimayi, a twelfth standard

school student, rendered patriotic songs. Govindaraj, folk songs artiste, sang folk songs to the accompaniment of Thavil by VEDIAPPAN.

RAPRA president Dr. R Chandrasekaran presided over the function.

Iswarya Hospital launches breast health centre

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

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

The centre offers routine breast check-ups, diagnostic consultations, and evaluations based on family history, stated a release from the Hospital. Playback singer Chinmayi Sripada inaugurated the centre.

Dr. S. Rajasundaram, director of Oncology and chief executive officer of Iswarya Hospital, said, “Breast cancer continues to be the most common cancer among Indian women, accounting for nearly 1 in 4 cancer cases. Unfortunately, more than 50 percent of these cases are detected in late stages due to a lack of awareness and delayed screening. Early detection of breast cancer dramatically increases survival rates. Women, those above 40, should undergo timely screening.



I-Day with seniors at park

Residents gathered at St. Lazarus Church Street Government Park in Mylapore to celebrate Independence Day. We had joy, respect, and gratitude through flag hoisting, singing of patriotic songs and a shared laughter, said a

note shared by R. Sammandan. This day is dedicated not only to celebrating the 79th Independence day but also to celebrating our elders, whose resilience, wisdom, and sacrifices continue to inspire us, adds the note.

THUGHIL FESTIVAL SALE
22ND & 23RD AUGUST 2025

Thughil, a store for handlooms is having a festival sale of curated handloom, cotton, silkcotton saris, dress material and eco-friendly bags and other gifts for the festival season. The range includes Block-printed, Ikat & kalamkari sarees.

The sale is on 22nd & 23rd August at C.P.Arts Centre, Mini hall (2), Alwarpet. Contact no: 7395972701 Timings 10.30am to 7pm.