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READERS WRITE ABOUT CIVIC ISSUES

'These footpaths on Santhome High Road need attention' **P2**



PRINCIPAL'S LOVE FOR ANIMALS, A LESSON FOR CHILDREN

Grace Sheela teaches compassion and empathy to her students by taking care of injured animals **P6**



'Fire at material recovery facility a wakeup call'

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

It would have been a good seven hours after the fire fighters had mauled the fire to the ground and arm-twisted it into submission. But it was still present, not as leaping flames, but in a more insidious form – as toxic compounds released into the air.

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) functioning at Greater Chennai Corporation's local ward office on Kamaraj Salai in RA Puram had caught fire in the morning of July 2, 2025. A range of materials parked at the MRF (which is attached to Ward 171; earlier, before the realignment of GCC wards, it was under 173) were nothing more than charred remains. In the evening, while setting foot in the MRF, one could sense off-gassing, as the smell of volatile organic compounds released by the fire was hanging heavy in the air. One can imagine the unnecessary toxic air those living and working around the patch would have been exposed to. Two members of two major residents welfare groups the region – K.L. Balasubramanian of RK Nagarra community and Ganga Sridhar of Mandaveli Raja Street Residents Welfare Association – note that the fire did not raise any eyebrows, at least those of residents. Balasubramanian says this was expected. There had been a fire earlier, and nothing significant was done to prevent the recurrence of a similar event, he says.

Balasubramanian notes that a significant number of discarded mattresses had been dumped at the MRF; and they had been accumulating for days. Among the materials that caught fire were these mattresses. If they had been cleared periodically, the fire probably could not have happened. The



Fire at the GCC facility on Kamaraj Salai in R.A. Puram; and the evening after the fire. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND PRINCE FREDERICK

MRF also has many old, discarded furniture.

Ganga Sridhar recalls how a poorly managed MRF on Sringeri Mutt Road, along the Buckingham Canal would frequently catch fire and was eventually closed down. A material recovery facility would hoard a variety of materials, including synthetic materials, and pollution resulting from a fire in an MRF has serious implications for environment and human health. From a video of the fire that had been shot and shared on social media, one could see conservancy workers stepping in to clear some of the materials, thereby minimising the damage. But given the diversity and nature of materials lodged in an MRF, even a moderate fire can let out highly toxic VOCs into the environment.

Both Balasubramanian and Ganga Sridhar hope that learning from this mishap, those managing this MRF on Kamaraj Salai would take effective measures, including regular clearance of collected material, and prevent recurrence of such events.

'New library coming up in R.A. Puram'

The State Public Works Department has a property in Raja Annamalai Puram and the local MLA has ensured the construction of a library in the space making an allocation from the MLA Fund. The library is coming up opposite Hotel Sangeetha and it is going to be a ground-plus-one building. This library will function under Local Library Authority of the State Government.

Minister Sekar Babu performed the bhoomi pooja (*in picture*) and MLA Dha Velu was present along with officials of the local ward 123. The construction is expected to be completed in January 2026 and the inauguration is scheduled for February 2026.

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'These footpaths on Santhome High Road need attention'



Greater Chennai Corporation is planning to construct 60 km of new footpaths in the city as reported in *The Hindu* dated July 9. While I am happy to learn about this, I am reminded of the state of many narrow footpaths along Santhome High Road particularly near Sri Natraj Park. The images show cement concrete footpath being replaced with uneven and large size stone slabs and they have been improperly laid and cured.

J. Francis, Santhome

A nagging concern



Residents of NMK Street in Mylapore are worried about the increasing stray dog population in their area, and want to know if the ABC programme is being implemented effectively. PHOTO SRINATH M

'It is time to have a tweaked message'



Whenever I see this cautionary message displayed on the rear side of MTC buses my eyebrows go up; and I want to ask the regional transport office as well as MTC authorities : "Is it possible to follow 10 metre distance in urban traffic situations?" It is time to coin a message that emphasises the need for distance but also other essentials such as defensive driving; greater caution when the distance is considerably reduced and so on. TEXT AND PHOTO: C. R. SAINATHAN, TIRUVALLIKENI

'Additional washrooms needed at Nungambakkam cremation ground'

A second gasifier crematorium is being constructed at Greater Chennai Corporation's cremation ground on Nelson Manickam Road. This was a long-time request of the residents, the need being acutely felt at the height of the pandemic. GCC is expected to develop a park at the crematorium. Dumping of waste around the facility has been stopped, which is also commendable. A request to GCC is that it construct additional washrooms.

S. Kasturi Rangan, secretary, Choolaimedu Exnora Innovator's Club, Choolaimedu

Send write-ups to downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in.



Two badly pitted roads

A stretch of the road outside Omandurar Government Estate near MLA Hostel and Press Club as well as a stretch of Arunachalam Street in Chintadripet will give any motorist a back-breaking ride. PHOTOS: RAGU R

The space around this facility on Bharathi Salai had been reduced to an open toilet and cow shed, according to habitues of the area



Bharathi Salai where a transformer is getting a “metal casing”; and (right) the section of Babu Jagajeevanram Road near Bharathi Salai. The images were taken on July 11, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Transformer to be accorded ‘privacy’

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The transformer on Bharathi Salai in Triplicane is going to be accorded some privacy. Protective encasing of the type that features perforated metal panels is going to be erected around the transformer. Preliminary work is under way.

While bringing art and design to the mundane function of safety, the protective covering in this case would also bring privacy to the transformer.

Finally, the transformer can

keep itself to itself. Habitues of this section of Bharathi Salai note that the transformer area has been profaned, being reduced to an open toilet and a cow shed.

Tarakadu Ganapathy Sriram, who has a shop on Bharathi Salai, bang opposite the transformer, points out that open urination has been rampant around the transformer.

Around the transformer, cows would be tethered to whatever could hold a rope, Sriram adds.

In the light of such misuse, giving the transformer a covering and

the resultant privacy seems welcome.

Giving credence to Sriram's account, just a sniffing distance away from the transformer area, right where Babu Jagajeevanram Road (also known as Bells Road) begins, one could see a herd of stray cattle holding an early evening conference, not the least bit perturbed by the movement of vehicles around them. In a case of innovation, a couple of cows, the older ones, are tethered to the iron hooks in manhole lids of the storm-water drain.



This spot on Anna Salai needs attention

On Mount Road, this is public knowledge. A patch near the Lawrence & Mayo showroom and the pathway leading to the Musee Musicals shop serves as an open urination point. This section is dingy at night and added to that, a van is parked most of the time, providing the concealment that is required for open urination in a busy section. A habitue noted that this space is a spot for all fresco urination for as long as one can remember. It does not matter that this road is under highways' watch, but as the city manager Greater Chennai Corporation would do well to identify such spots on this arterial road and take special measures to prevent the scourge of open urination. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Starting this week, in the spirit of Aadi Pattam, a tradition celebrating the sowing season, stretching from mid-July to mid-August, *The Hindu Downtown* will feature volunteering groups that promote greening exercises. The spotlight this week is on Team Green which began in Mogappair East and now has a pan-Chennai presence due to consistent efforts by its volunteers



A short tour of Team Green's greening activities

Green provides saplings for free, except when they do not have the saplings of a specific tree species that has been sought. In such an event, they help procure it from a nursery, with the cost being borne by the one making the request.

Vidiyal: an offshoot

Deepa Lakshmi is part of a force driving an initiative called Vidiyal, which splices women's empowerment with environment action. Vidiyal is designed in a manner that gets groups of three to four women from an underprivileged background to gather every day at a designated school to nurture saplings. They are provided with soil, seeds and used milk packets, these materials having been collected and supplied by Team Green volunteers. The women work from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., nurturing saplings and starting new ones with the soil and seeds. In case you are wondering what the milk packets are for: they serve as coverings for the saplings. Currently, around 15 to 20 women are engaged in this work on a full-time basis.

The project operates on a community-supported model where volunteers contribute financially to pay the women for their efforts. For instance, a donation of ₹900 is enough to pay three women ₹300 each for a day's work. Those who wish to support just one person can contribute ₹300. Deepa mentions that they never have to actively seek sponsors, as there is always a steady flow of generous volunteers who come forward to pitch in and help sustain the project.

Deepa notes that Team Green is not an NGO, only a scattered but tightly-knit group of individual volunteers. The volunteering group functions on its own except for collaborations with Exnora from time to time. Deepa finds the most supportive volunteer in her hearth: her husband Mohanasundaram who has handed over the reins of his earthmoving business to his team, distancing himself from its day-to-day activities and thereby freeing up time for Team Green's activities.

For details about Team Green and its activities, call 9042594891 / 6379072259

Branching out to other neighbourhoods

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

The pandemic had two contrasting effects on newly sprouted initiatives. Some went into a tailspin and never recovered from it. And there were others that got their tail up, the pandemic years, strangely, providing them with a conducive environment for growth.

Deepa Lakshmi and her husband K. Mohanasundaram had barely started a hyperlocal greening exercise around their moorings in Mogappair East when the pandemic struck. Deepa Lakshmi is an English teacher at Chennai Higher Secondary School on Subbrayan Street in Shenoy Nagar, and in addition to her teaching role, serves as in-charge headmistress of the school. While latching the doors of the school (and taking the classes online), the pandemic threw wide open the door to environment action. Deepa Lakshmi seized that opportunity.

"It all started during COVID. There was so much free time," re-



calls Deepa Lakshmi, co-founder of a volunteering force called Team Green. "We used to water the few plants we had, and then one day, we just planted some saplings. Neighbours noticed, and slowly people started joining us."

The streets in the neighbourhood saw more green; and then the streets beyond the neighbourhood did. What began as a simple act became a habit not just for this duo and their neighbours in Mogappair East, but also for many eco-conscious people elsewhere in Chennai.

Team Green – as this group of

sapling-toting volunteers are called – has expanded to Perungudi, Keelkattalai, Madipakkam, Gated Communities in OMR, Perumbakkam, Tiruvottiyur and Thirumullaivoyal.

Team Green provides saplings of native trees for free to residents and individuals upon request – a huge volume of such requests being honoured on special days such as Environment Day – but not before extracting a promise from them.

The recipient has to take a vow to never abandon the saplings. They would be put through a



wringer of questions, much like someone adopting a puppy would be before taking the bundle of fur home.

A quick run-through of the posers high up on the questionnaire: who will be responsible for the care of the saplings? Has proper soil preparation been done? The interviewee will find themselves being edified about plant care. Team Green does not leave anything to chance. A volunteer would one day invite themselves to the recipient's stomping ground to see how the saplings are coming along. This stringent process weeds out diletantes, and brings on board only those extremely keen on greening their neighbourhoods and personal spaces.

Residents interested in greening their patches constitute much of the demand. Colleges (through their outreach wings such as NSS units) also seek saplings for their environmental initiatives. Team



School children sprint to catch a bus near Chintadripet MRTS Railway Station. FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Schools say **'no'** to motorised vehicles

To encourage the safety of children, many educational institutions in Chennai discourage them from driving to school

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Last month, a higher secondary class student in South Chennai was stopped at the school gates.

He was on two electric wheels, but what powered the vehicle, a battery-assisted motor or an internal combustion engine was not the sticking point.

As a policy, the private school would not want its students to ride any powered vehicle (electric or otherwise) to school. So, when the boy put forth his argument that it was a

low-powered e-scooter, and he was in the age bracket to ride that machine, he did so weakly, knowing that it would not cut ice with the management.

Before proceeding further, a peek into the rule book. According to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), those aged between 16 and 18 can get a special driving licence for an e-scooter with a maximum power of 4 kilowatts and a maximum restricted speed of 70 km per hour.

Electric vehicles might be in the limelight, and the law might even favour even 16-year-olds to ride low-powered e-vehicles. But many educational institutions in Chennai are not open to the idea.

Chettinad Vidyashram sends reminders every academic year asking parents not to let their children operate two or four-wheelers to school. Staff from the PET department stand

outside the school to keep an eye on students breaking the rule.

Teachers of many other schools *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to note that although schools discourage students from riding any two-wheeler, many students park them on streets outside the schools or ride them to tuition classes or for last mile connectivity.

Meenakshi Kukreja, director, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, says in India the process of according licences is not stringent, and the question of whether a 16-year-old is adequately equipped to meet the challenges of the road cannot be answered satisfactorily. Many do not take their two-wheeler classes seriously is her contention.

"We discourage students from driving two-wheelers before the age of 18. A few of our member companies like Hero and Honda have been providing training to young drivers and that covers the dangers on road," says Meenakshi.

The rule book states that no person under the age of 18 years shall drive a motor vehicle in any public place. And as stated above, someone aged 16 or 17 could ride a low-powered e-bike with clearly spelt out power specifications. In terms of bikes with an internal combustion engine, a similar law exists, but has become obsolete. It states that a motor vehicle with engine capacity not exceeding 50 cc might be driven in public places after someone attains the age of 16 years with a valid learner's licence.

As manufacturers do not produce vehicles of this specification anymore, this provision is null and void for all practical purposes.

Monsoon session: RSN wants spotlight on children's safety

The Road Safety Network (RSN), a collective of civil society organisations working to reduce road crash fatalities, wants policymakers to address four critical gaps in road safety when the Monsoon Session of the Parliament begins on July 21. They are child safety, speed management, stronger State Road Safety Action Plans and targeted amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act (MV Act).

According to a report by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), children made up nearly 10% of fatalities in 2022. Between 2011 and 2022, road accidents claimed the lives of 1.98 lakh children. Informal modes of school transport – such as vans and auto-rickshaws – play a major role in student mobility yet they are often found operating outside existing regulatory frameworks. RSN is urging the government to amend Section 2(11) of the MV Act to explicitly include informal school transport – such as vans and auto-rickshaws – and ensure their registration and safety oversight. The coalition also recommends coordinated local action through mandated safe school zones, especially as 60% of Indian children walk to school, says a press release.

RSN is advocating for a scientific approach to speed zoning, tailored to local environments such as school areas, markets and residential lanes. States such as West Bengal have introduced zone-wise speed guidelines, which RSN recommends as a national model.

RSN also called for states to implement robust State Road Safety Action Plans, especially for urban areas often excluded from standardised design practices. Though the 2019 MV Act brought uniformity to highway design, urban road planning must also align with Indian Roads Congress safety standards, ensuring safer infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users, added the release.

Members of RSN include Parisar, SaveLIFE Foundation (SLF), Consumer Voice (CV), Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), Synergie, Centre for Environment Education (CEE), and CUTS International.

Grace Sheela teaches compassion and empathy to her students by taking care of injured animals



Principal's *love for animals*, a lesson for children

LIFFY THOMAS

Kindergarten students at Madras Christian College Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Chetpet have someone dropping in on them, mid-class, at least once in a day. They look forward to this interruption. This visitor is a rescued myna living on the campus.

Principal and correspondent Grace Sheela, known as a saviour of injured birds and animals, got the myna from her friend Sabeena Varghese on July 4. She ensures the "patient" is under her direct care; so much so that the bird "joins" her when she goes on school rounds.

"It was lifeless and shaken when Sabeena brought it in. It had a fall from the third floor of a building

where it had built a nest near the AC unit," says Grace.

Grace took the bird under her wing, doing everything it takes for the bird to adapt to its new environment.

"The moment she sees me she needs food and I need to keep feeding her," says the principal sitting in her chamber with the myna next to her.

The myna is also the latest friend of students and staff at MCC School. In the past, injured pigeons, young parakeets and tender hare had been rehabilitated on the campus.

"When they are severely injured I take them to the veterinary hospital for treatment, take care of them till they can be on their own," says the principal who has had stints with Vidyodaya Girls Higher Sec-

ondary School in T.Nagar and Union Christian Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Chetpet.

The English teacher's love for nature began while teaching nature-related topics and it reached a new height during a visit to Parambikulam Tiger Reserve as part of a school project.

"Exnora Naturalist Club started a nature club at Vidyodaya School as part of which I took 76 girls to the Parambikulam forest," she says.

She associates with groups working on conservation programmes and ensures the children are taught conservation issues in an engaging manner.

She had organised a visit for the students to Supraja Dharini's Tree Foundation to have a ringside view of rescued turtles.



Grace Sheela with the dog Whitey and her students; (below) the rescued myna with kindergarten children; woodpeckers and snakes are often spotted on the campus. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

take up green initiatives.

"When a bird is rescued I take it to the classes so children develop love, empathy and connection with these creatures," she says.

The principal has her home on the campus, which has enabled her to spend considerable time with her rescues.

The story of Whitey, a mongrel with a fluffy tail, is known even to visitors to the campus.

The puppy set paws in the campus during the time of the Board examinations in 2019 along with a constable who was deputed to the school.

"A hostel staff was taking care of it when I joined the school, but once he left I entered the picture and today she is an integral member of my home and school," she says.

The vaccinated dog roams on the campus as if she owns the place.

She impress everyone but cannot stand another furry animal coming to the campus. "Many a time she has fought with them and they in turn have bitten her. At least four times she got injured this way and once her ear was torn and we had to rush her to the hospital," says the principal.

Most children make sure they get their turn to play with "ma'am's dog".

The principal, who has a busy schedule as she has registered for a PhD programme in environment literature, says how good or bad Earth turns out depends on how well we take care of it. "I tell my children that every single creature matters. When I see a small caterpillar on the floor, I move it to a plant so that vehicles do not crush it," she says, adding that every small action counts.



At MCC School, as part of an initiative by non-profit School Health Annual Report Programme 'Conserve my planet' programme is conducted where 100 students take part in a month-long programme where they go about creating awareness about conservation. Under the 'Green Ambassador Award' students are nudged to

PLAN YOUR WEEK

Songs from a bygone era

Satrangi's next presentation '1975' will be held on July 20 from 5:45 p.m. at TEACH Auditorium, Taramani.

This programme will feature memorable songs from movies released exactly 50 years ago such as *Aandhi*, *Sholay*, *Julie*, *Chhoti Si Baat*, *Khushboo*, *Geet Gaata Chal*, *Dharam Karam* and *Dharmatma*.

The programme will be presented by Promod, Smriti, Abhishek and Ramya on pre-recorded tracks.

Tickets for this event are priced at ₹500 and ₹300 and will be home delivered on calling 9884778073.



Workshop on how to make incense sticks

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on making camphor and incense sticks on July 17. Also, a culinary workshop on preparing flavour powders made from spices and herbs will be held on July 18. Both the sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, Frist Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 29530048

Vedic talent competition

The 17th annual 'Vedic Talent Vista' of students studying Vedas and Sastras will be organised by Om Charitable Trust on July 19 and 20 at Sri Krishnaswamy Kalyana Mandapam, T.Nagar.

Successful vedic scholars from across India will be honoured at the event.

Cash prizes and memento for the best team will be presented to schools with the highest average marks in each Veda.

Justice G. R. Swaminathan will inaugurate the Vaidika Vignana Vignana Vikasini Sabha on July 19 at 8.30 a.m.

This will be followed by display of vedic skill by scholars.

Immersive theatre in Alwarpet

VILLAINS is back with a second immersive theatrical performance on July 13 at Medai in Alwarpet.

Presented by **tale'O'meter**, VILLAINS offers a unique 90-minute experience that blends theatre, poetry, paechu and audience interaction to explore powerful themes. With intense segments including moments in complete darkness and blindfolded storytelling, the show challenges traditional narratives and invites deep emotional engagement.

Have 'challan posts' dwindled on social media?

Some users on X say Greater Chennai Traffic Police is no longer providing status updates about complaints raised through posts

LIFFY THOMAS

Has Greater Chennai Traffic Police stopped issuing challans based on complaints on X? Browse through the official handle of GCTP @chennaitraffic and one would find no challan-related posts in the recent weeks. Challan is issued to levy a fine on a motorist after verifying the complaint posted by a user. This exercise builds trust among social media users about the traffic police taking action on their complaints, and also keeps the department informed about new concerns and issues faced by people. Shenoy Nagar resident Chinni Krishnan, who regularly posts complaints on X, says the handle @chennaitraffic has not posted any challan for close to 50 days now.

"They used to investigate and then issue challans. They acknowledge the tweet but then it goes all dark," says Chinni. The resident has posted multiple complaints about vehicles abandoned at the junction of 3rd Cross Street East and Pulla Avenue that pose a safety risk to both ped-



Screenshot of a traffic challan issued by Greater Chennai Traffic Police on April 23, 2025

estrians and motorists. He says his complaints have not been acted upon.

The social media team of the traffic police say they post challans based on what they get from the traffic and planning wing of the department.

A senior official from the planning section says issuing challans is a continuous process and they will resume it soon. Once a user posts a complaint, their team has to investigate whether it is a violation or an action done unintentionally. They have to review it and then take action, says the official.

A talent show



Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women welcomed its new students' council and also celebrated its cultural fiesta for first year students on July 10. Radhakrishnan Balaji, founder and chief executive Kavniya Technology Solutions, was the chief guest. Competitions in nail art, bottle art, mandala, group singing, talent show, and group dance were conducted.

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Mental health and cultural identity fest at Anna Library



At the event.

Adaiyalam 2025, a two-day mental health and cultural identity festival held recently at the Anna Centenary Library, brought together over 20 mental health organisations under one roof. It was organised by House of Hibiscus, which is a collective of three mental health organisations, namely Hibiscus Foundation for Social Welfare, Hibiscus Counselling, and Hibiscus Connect.

Day one featured a series of impactful sessions including Movement Therapy, Expressive Arts, Puppetry and Storytelling and Sound Healing. These were co-hosted by Chennai-based creative wellness organisations RASOHAM founded by Laasya Narasimhachari and The Open House. The day also hosted a Mental Health Networking Meet that brought together professionals, students and

mental health advocates to foster new connections and collaborations. The documentation and media outreach were supported by Youth for Mental Health Foundation, one of the country's leading youth-led mental health collectives, says a press release. A key highlight was the launch of the Mental Health Timeline of Tamil Nadu, which traced emotional and psychological narratives from the Sangam era to the present day – from literary insights in classical Tamil poetry to colonial-era asylums, to the evolution of community-based mental health care. The exhibit also spotlighted Tamil cultural elements such as kolams, beetle leaves, and traditional objects as a way of acknowledging mental health through a local, lived, and culturally resonant lens.

The fest also saw the release of *Adaiyalam*, a book authored by

Aksheyaa Akilan, founder of House of Hibiscus. Rooted in Tamil history, the book weaves personal narrative, cultural memory and socio-political critique, inviting readers to rethink identity and mental health through a decolonial lens. Day two was open to walk-in visitors and featured an expansive mental health exhibition with stalls hosted by 22 partner organisations including the pioneer Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF - I) and The Banyan.

These stalls offered therapeutic tools, games, accessible mental health resources, student-focused content, and culturally rooted wellness practices, the release adds.

Importantly, the festival embraced intersectionality in its programming – going beyond age-specific needs to address broader systemic and social issues. Partner organisations worked on mental health at the intersections of caste, displacement, disability, and community healing. This included groups focused on refugee well-being, mental health of those affected by caste-based violence, and arts-based approaches to therapy, ensuring the space reflected the diversity of experiences across Tamil Nadu, says the press release.

Over the course of two days, more than 500 people visited the fest. Participants ranged from students and therapists to caregivers, elders, and those exploring mental health for the first time. With its inclusive tone and culturally grounded programming, Adaiyalam 2025 carved out a new kind of space – one that was equal parts celebratory and reflective, says the press release.

Scholarships distributed to children

Indian Youth Association (IYA) conducted a scholarship distribution function recently at Badal Chand Sayar Chand Choradia School in Sowcarpet.

Close to 200 meritorious underprivileged students from various schools are beneficiaries.

Chief Guest Ajay Choradia appreciated the Indian Youth Charitable Trust for consistently providing scholarships for the past 55 years. Uttam Chand Kankaria, president, IYA; Rajkumar Dugar, managing trustee and Lalit Baghmar, treasurer, spoke on the occasion.

Barricades not in place



A riding helmet is of little use unless it is worn. Having barricades hardly achieves safety unless they are in place. The barricades are present at this stormwater drain work site on Bharathi Salai in Triplicane, but hardly in a manner that would make them contribute to safety. The image was taken on July 11, 2025. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

Entrepreneurship in solar energy sector

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, Department of MSME, is conducting a training programme on installation of solar power system from July 21 to 23 at its premises in SIDCO Industrial Estate, EDII Office Road, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the following concepts will be covered: introduction to solar energy, entrepreneurial opportunities in solar energy sector, business models in this sector, relevant computer software, financial planning, regulations and subsidy schemes.

Those aged above 18 and who have completed class 10 can take part. For details, call 8668102600 / 8072914694.



Hockey fever grips the city

The 96th All India MCC Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament 2025 is happening at Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Egmore till July 20. This is the first time an international team is taking part in the prestigious tournament, which will see the participation of 10 teams. This image was taken on July 11 with Tamil Nadu unit competing with the Indian Army. PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM