

T. NAGAR

Saidapet » West Mambalam » Vadapalani » Porur » Kattupakkam » Irungattukottai » Nungambakkam » Manapakkam » Ashok Nagar » Valasaravakkam
 Gerugambakkam » Mangadu » Choolaimedu » Egmore » K K Nagar » Kodambakkam » Virugambakkam » Somangalam » Poonamallee » Chetpet

‘Expedite this work’

A CMWSSB exercise on Ponnambalam Salai in K.K. Nagar has a ripple effect, say residents

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The effect a wound has on a body depends on its location. Besides, even a wound the size of a peanut can prove quite a handful if it has the persistence of a burrowing badger.

A ‘wound’ on Ponnambalam Salai in K.K. Nagar is both inconveniently located and unrelentingly persistent, creating a ripple effect impacting residents in neighbouring streets as well.

According to K.S. Rajendran, president of Federation of KK Nagar Residents Welfare Association, the wound was inflicted on the road six months ago when a part of it caved in as a result of a problem pertaining to CMWSSB’s sewage line underneath. Rajendran notes that a quick fix was offered, but the issue returned and water seepage persisted.

Around a month ago, a massive remedial exercise was undertaken. This move caused



Ponnambalam Salai in K.K. Nagar.
 PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

a section of the road to be cordoned off. Rajendran remarks that in whatever space was available on this section, hawkers parked their wares making it almost air-tight, making it impossible for even motorcyclists to squeeze through it.

Rajendran says Ponnambalam Salai has been pitchforked into a busy section.

“Five schools, including PSBB, Springfield and MAK are located within a half-a-kilometre radius. While access to Ramaswamy Salai and 66th Street and Raghavendra temple from Ponnambalam is noticeably hindered for motorists on account of the work, wider movement has also been hit but is not all too evident, except to those living in these parts,” says the Federation president.

Echoing a collective demand, he seeks that the work be expedited and also carried out in a manner that would not require barricades to come up on this road again.

One way traffic rule flouted

Violation of one-way traffic rule has become commonplace on P.T. Rajan Salai in K.K. Nagar.

A section of this road – from Shivan Park junction to Lakshman Shrutthi junction – was made one-way a few years ago to facilitate metro rail construction at nearby Arcot Road in Vadapalani.

A part of the one-way stretch that is from Shivan Park junction to the intersection of Kamarajar Salai, Lingam Street and P.T. Rajan Salai (commonly known as Nagathamman Kovil junction) witnesses rampant violation of the one-way rule.

Among the heavy vehicles, only MTC buses follow this rule. CMWSSB’s water tanker lorries and school vans drive on the wrong side of the road. The ‘no entry’ signboard at Shivan Park junction is rudely ignored.

Auto rickshaw drivers and residents of the locality want the one-way arrangement revoked. Being violated by most road users, it throws the door open for accidents.

“Due to this arrangement, residents have to take a four-kilometre detour to enter the one-way stretch. The violation is mostly committed by motorists coming from P.V. Rajamannar Salai. The number of barricades at Shivan Park junction are not sufficient to restrict the motorists from entering P.T. Rajan Salai. The others who violate the rule are motorcyclists coming from the interior lanes that lie along P.T. Rajan Salai. They misuse the openings in the median meant for pedestrians to cross the road,” says a resident, adding that these violators usually drive at a fast clip.

Due to the violation, Nagathamman Kovil junction and Shivan Kovil Junction witness chaos. At Nagathamman Kovil junction, motorists do not obey the traffic signal.

While some residents suggest restoration of two-way traffic on P.T. Rajan Salai, others suggest imposition of heavy fines to ensure motorists stick to the rule book.



A peepal tree as bus shelter



▼ In the absence of a shelter, this decades-old tree provides relief to commuters at the bus stop at Porur junction. Here buses toward Guindy halt. Porur junction is busy one. Here three main roads intersect. They are: Mount Poonamallee High Road, Arcot Road and Kundrathur Main Road. There are bus stops on either sides of these roads at the junction. But most of them lack shelters.

In the case of the one where buses toward Iypanthangal halt, (that is before ascending the flyover) a fabric serves as a shelter. But it is torn and serves no purpose.

“Given the construction of metro railway infrastructure at the junction, permanent shelters cannot be expected. At least make-shift arrangements using fabric materials should be provided. Some of them lack signboards indicating the presence of bus-stops,” says a commuter.

Another important bus stop in Porur is at Ramachandra hospital. It is a two kilometres from Porur junction. A good number of commuters, including patients to the hospital, wait at this stop. But, there is no shelter for buses toward Guindy and Vadapalani.

TEXT & PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ. B

PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ. B



College Lane to be renamed

Greater Chennai Corporation has clarified that it is College Lane that will be renamed as Jaishankar Salai and not College Road as was reported in the media. GCC passed the resolution

recently at its council meeting to honour the yesteryear actor Jaishankar.

As on August 9, the College Lane nameboard was yet to be replaced.

Treasure hunt in Chetpet

Super Chennai, a citizen-powered urban movement, will be organising a ‘Car Treasure Hunt’ on August 17 from Lady Andal campus, Chetpet at 8:30 a.m., taking the teams on a journey through the city. The winners will receive exciting prizes worth ₹1 lakh, said a release.

The rally encourages families, friends, and spirited city lovers to revisit, rediscover, and reconnect with the magic that makes the city truly one of a kind. Each team can include up to four people per car, and the entry fee is ₹1250 per vehicle, which will also cover lunch for four.

Along the way, participants will receive goodie bags and experience surprise interactions. Interested participants can register on www.superchennai.com or call +91 955278007.

PHOTOS: SRINATH M



A tour of Valluvar Kottam

The renovation has taken the facility several notches up in terms of aesthetics

SRINATH . M

A month has passed since the renovated Valluvar Kottam was opened for the public. The sprawling facility in Nungambakkam is registering considerable footfall on weekends.

A tour of the place proves it would be a treat to heritage and art lovers. Starting from the intricate work on the stone chariot at the entrance to the display of 1330 Thirukurals, each with a painting explaining its significance, the walk makes one ponder and also leaves them wiser.

If one wants to see the charm of the place with lights then they should drop in in the late evening as the 10-minute ‘light and sound show’ at the stone chariot and the musical fountain are usually turned on after 7 p.m.

The authorities encourage educational institutions to go on



a tour of the place with prior appointment so that a guide can be arranged to take the students around.

The hungry and weary can take a break at the food stalls that serve a variety of gastronomic items. Do check out the shopping plaza where one can pick a variety of items including t-shirts printed with Thirukural, souvenirs and books.

The car parking for the visitors is getting ready and from the size it can easily accommodate a great number of vehicles.

There is no entry fee from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.





'Space within fenced transformers is unkempt'

Electricity junction boxes and transformers on the footpaths of K.K. Nagar have been fenced. It is a welcome move one aimed at public safety. But all kinds of rubbish, such as cables and debris are found inside.

Captain S. Nandakumar
K.K.Nagar

Erikkarai Road relaid



NOW

Erikkarai Road in Noombal, which was full of potholes, has been relaid finally. It is an immense relief. The road was battered for the past five years and several requests were made to relay the stretch. The road provides connectivity to Chettiyar Agaram Road in Karambakkam (near Porur) and Oil Mill Road in Iypanthangal.

P. Senthil Kumar, Iypanthangal



BEFORE



Sluggish traffic movement on key road in Ramapuram

Due to construction of stormwater drain, traffic moves sluggishly on Thiruvallur Road in Ramapuram during rush hour. Residents pointed out the number of safety barricades at the construction site is not adequate. Photos: Velankanni Raj . B



Readers Write announcement

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.

Sevai Chemmal Award for K. Gopinath



In the fourth Anniversary function and 200th Stage Show Performance function of Intellectually disabled Students of Surya Special School of Music (SSSM) held at Sir P.T. Thyagaraya Hall in T.Nagar, State General Secretary of Tamilnadu Udavikkaram Association for the Welfare of Differently Abled K. Gopinath, was honoured with "Sevai Chemmal Award", for the exemplary services rendered by him to the cause of the differently abled persons in Tamil Nadu for more than 25 years.

The award was presented to him by the Retired Justice of Karnataka High Court Shri. Gururajan.

Praba Gurumurthy, founder of Surya Special School of Music, legendary Actress Rajashri, founder of Chennai Sai Sankara Matrimonials Panchapakesan, Mukund Madhavados Swamiji, Vice President of Iskon, Jagadeesan, assistant director (Placement) of TN Differently Abled Welfare Department, businessman Suresh Rowey from Dubai were among those present on the occasion.

Pranayama classes at Jeeva Park

Jeeva Park T Nagar Walkers' Association conducts Pranayama classes for senior citizens at Jeeva Park on Gopathy Narayana Road in T Nagar. According to a press release, no fee is charged. It is held on all days except Sunday.

Time: From 7.30 a.m. to 8 a.m.

The association celebrated the third year of this programme recently.

Those interested to take part in the session may contact, D. Gopinathan at 99625 46441



There is a case for introducing Terminalia arjuna trees along waterways. Two trees from this species found at the MLAs Hostel in Chepauk show why this should be done

PRINCE FREDERICK

What the reader sees in these pictures is affected by perspective distortion, the inevitable result of scrunching a three-dimensional reality into a flat, two-dimensional visual representation.

The two trees are not being represented as they truly are, their trunks far more massive in reality than they appear in those frames. When they have grown to maturity and exploited their full potential, Neermaruthu trees (*Terminalia arjuna*) stand tall and robust, exuding a presence comparable to celluloid superstars known to fill a screen. With its imposing stature, massive, smooth white trunk and the bough making for a dense canopy and the subsidiary branches simulating a skyward-bound cracker returning to *terra firma* in a shower of colour and light, a Neermaruthu is sure to force a passerby to take notice of it.

These two trees in the images achieve that effect, bringing out the paparazzi in most people. These Arjuna trees (another name for Neermaruthu trees) have the same door number as the MLAs Hostel in Chepauk, accessible via Sivananda Salai as well as Wallajah Salai. They are domiciled in a park at the Hostel. If one chose to reach it via the former road, they would understand this species' essential character in a practical, unambiguous manner. In times when landscapes were left to themselves, Neermaruthu trees thrived along waterways and riverine systems, coastal and inland. They are identified with coastal wetlands.

Sivananda Salai is a jogging partner for the Cooum river in Chepauk; they run alongside each other. The Cooum as known to us now might be icky, but there is a recorded past when it did flow more swiftly with clearer waters.

"These twin Neermaruthu trees, as also one on the opposite side, at the MLAs Hostel premises occurred naturally, and were not planted. And

Standing tall and robust



Twin Terminalia arjuna trees at the park that is integral to the MLAs Hostel in Chepauk, on August 5, 2025. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

they serve as an indicator species, decoding the arboreal past of the landscape," says T.D. Babu, member of Chennai District Green Committee and a key member of tree conservation organisation Nizhal. "Their presence along waterways is the result of the flowing waters dispersing the seeds. The seed is dispersed through water as the fruit is woody and float and get accumulated along the banks and starts germinating."

Further illustrating the connection between Neermaruthu trees and riverine systems, he calls up the name of a town found on the banks of a Cauvery tributary in Thanjavur. "Thiruvaidaimarudur, a

town in Thanjavur district is named after Neermaruthu as it has this tree in good numbers," says Babu, adding that this town's location on the banks of Virasolanar, a tributary of Cauvery, contributes in no small measure to the species' proliferation.

Back to the twin trees

Babu calls the two trees at the MLAs Hostel twin trees. And, they sure come across as identical twins, if you ignore the fact that one has a lop-sided look, its branches on one side restrained by the presence of an artificial structure.

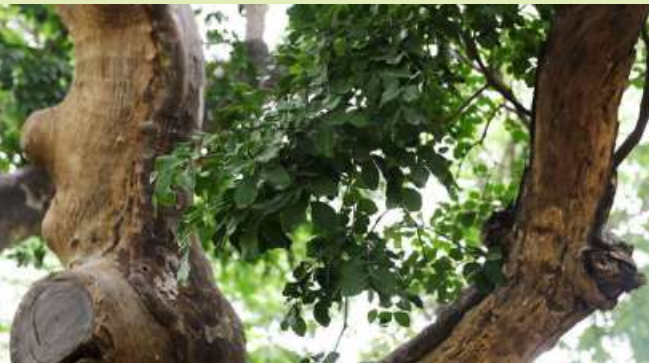
Babu says before this structure (which in fact is a wall made of metal sheet that is part

of a badminton stadium) came up, this tree also had free-flowing branches, and together they twinned to the hilt.

Neemaruthu trees have as much utilitarian value as aesthetic value. Babu notes that the oval-shaped leaves of the Neermaruthu is staple diet of the South Indian small tussore (*Antheraea phapia*), a moth providing tussar silk.

Looking at the twin trees at the MLAs Hostel, one notices exfoliation, the barks that are peeling off seemingly inviting one to make use of them.

Says Babu, "Vagbatta emphasised the role of Neermaruthu barks in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicine for heart health."



A Roughbark lignum-vitae at Queen Mary's College. Photos: Prince Frederick

A peek into the city's natural history

Ahead of Madras Day, *The Hindu Downtown* will be presenting stories about "residents" of this city that have been around for decades, are rare and stubbornly ignored. Some of them find their numbers dwindling at a rapid rate and their human neighbours are oblivious to that fact

An endangered tree staying at a college campus

Roughbark lignum-vitae which finds itself close to the brink has a representative at Queen Mary's College

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The surest way to lose something valuable is to persist in ignorance about its value. Viewed from an ecological viewpoint, Roughbark lignum-vitae (*Guaiaecum officinale*) might not belong to these parts. But if one accorded natural history the place it deserves but is often denied, sometimes wilfully, this Roughbark lignum-vitae needs to be made welcome, felt at home in the handful of earth in Chennai it has claimed as its own.

Exotic trees have become naturalised in their adopted

landscapes and are readily identified. The Roughbark lignum-vitae has not achieved that level of familiarity in Chennai; there is just a scattering of them in the city. And this clutch needs to be zealously guarded as this tree is faced with dwindling numbers everywhere. It is rare not just in Chennai, but even in lands where it is considered native. According to IUCN, the tree is endangered, exploitation of the tree for its wood having reached the tipping point.

T.D. Babu, member of Chennai District Green Committee and a Nizhal asso-

ciate, underlines its special feature – "this tree has the densest wood in the world". When these facts are lined up, one would expect more care to be given to the clutch of Roughbark lignum-vitae trees found in Chennai.

One of them has the Queen Mary's College Campus for an address. Babu notes that the base of the tree has suffered damage, not natural but human-inflicted in the past. It also displays "wounds" further up its gnarled frame – an amputated branch. Babu wants the state of the tree's precincts to reflect its preciousness. Currently, the earth it stands in is overrun with weeds. This is the status report about this tree at Queen Mary's College campus as on August 8, 2025. Besides, on that day, this Roughbark lignum-vitae was wearing a nameboard not meant for it; one erroneously identifying it as a *Ficus benghalensis* moraceae (banyan tree).

Babu observes that besides the campus of Queen Mary's College, the Rostrevor Garden, a residential locality with railway housing in Teynampet, Kalakshetra campus in Thiruvanniyur and Lady Willingdon Institute of Advanced Study in Education on Kamarajar Salai in Chepauk has a Roughbark lignum-vitae each.

Book CMRL tickets now on Uber App

Chennai Metro Rail Limited has collaborated with Uber via Uber app to enable Uber app users to plan their metro journeys, purchase QR-based tickets and access real-time transit information.

This functionality has been enabled through Open Network for Digital Commerce's (ONDC) interoperable network, connecting Uber with public transport infrastructure, said a press release issued by the CMRL. As a promotional offer, Uber is offering a 50 percent discount for tickets purchased through the app to attract more commuters to their platform.

The offer is valid this month and does not apply to any other CMRL ticketing platforms or services.

Entries invited for MTC's Madras Day contests



Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) is inviting entries for a short-film contest titled Madras Reel that is based on the theme 'Oru Perundhin Kadhai'.

Participants should tell a story about Chennai and its lifeline, MTC, and the vital role it plays, says a press release from MTC.

The film could be about daily life, memories, emotions, dreams or the city's unique culture seen in the context of a bus journey, the press release adds.

The film can be fictional; or a documentary or experimental and should run for a maximum of three minutes.

There is also a photography contest (as part of Madras Day) on the theme 'En Payanam, En Kadhai', where participants should capture candid, artistic or everyday moments involving MTC buses, commuters, or cityscapes featuring public transport. In addition, a poetry contest titled 'Namma Chennai Bus' is also on.

The last date for submission of entries is August 15.

For details, visit <https://x.com/MtcChennai> to scan the code to send the entries.

CMWSSB's advisory to consumers

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has issued an advisory urging its consumers to pay 'Water and Sewerage Taxes' through its authorised payment methods. The advisory comes amidst complaints by consumers that people posing as CMWSSB staff call and ask them to pay pending taxes to numbers linked to bank accounts with UPI facility via Gpay, Phonepe, and Paytm or any other UPI app. They note that in the event of failure to pay the taxes, water and sewerage connections will be disconnected.

The CMWSSB advisory has asked consumers to not pay the pending taxes through these methods, and that if any calls come in, they should be cautious and not respond to them. Consumers should make payments through the CMWSSB website (cmwssb.tn.gov.in) or the direct billing portal <https://bnc.chennai-metrowater.in/#/public/cus-login>.

The payments can be made through UPI apps under the utilities category under Bill payments option, by selecting CMWSSB, entering the bill number and phone number. Consumers can pay taxes through a cheque, demand draft, credit and debit cards at the tax counters in the 15 zonal offices and at the head office. They can make payments by scanning the BBPS QR at the tax collection centre and through the iPoS machines with the depot managers, the release adds. Further, the Board will not be liable for any financial loss suffered due to a fraudulent transaction.

For queries, consumers are requested to call 044 - 4567 4567.

Doctors feel the pulse of their alma mater

When they meet for their golden jubilee reunion on August 10, the 1975 batch of Madras Medical College would be Janus-faced, looking back in time at how the institution formed them and also looking ahead to see how they can form it

A rare 'diagnosis' of excellence

LIFFY THOMAS

Madras Medical College of the 1960s and 70s encouraged extracurricular activities from the get-go. Interviews pertaining to admission into courses accorded weightage to accomplishments in sports and music as well as communication skills. Once onboarded, students found themselves being urged to participate in intercollegiate festivals.

Dr. N. Karthikeyan, an active member of MMC's basketball and volleyball teams when he was a student at the college, recalls: "In July and August, an inter-medical colleges sports festival would take place for a week. I remember going to CMC - Vellore where basketball, volleyball, hockey and athletics tournaments were conducted," says Dr. N. Karthikeyan, retired director of medical services (ESI).

MMC had a decent sports facility which was busy during weekends and busier ahead of inter-medical colleges sports events.

"MMC's biggest rival was Stanley Medical College as they too had a good basketball team," says Karthikeyan.

Sports enthusiasts from the 1975 batch recall a visit to Thanjavur Medical College where they were provided with bicycles, the campus being vast in expanse and could not be covered on foot.

"Once we went to Osmania Medical College, where all arrangements and expenses were met by our college so that we could participate in the events," says Dr. Karthikeyan.

Skits and drama events were a big draw at college fests. V. K. Ramadesikan, who was professor of Biochemis-

try at MMC, remembers being part of "Operation Garage" where he played the role of a patient. The skit was staged at the fest organised by All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi and won the team the best skit award.

"It was a humorous mime about surgery happening in a motor service garage," says Dr. Ramadesikan, adding that it was later telecast on Doordarshan.

The 1975 batch has a doctor's satchel of memories to relive during the reunion on August 10. During the third year of college, more than 50 of them went on an overseas trip to Ceylon. The college also hosted a medical exhibition - a first of its kind - that widened the students' horizons of knowledge in terms of advancements in the field of medicine.

Notable members of the 1975 batch include Dr. S. Natarajan, a Padma Shri and BC Roy awardee; Dr. C.V. Harinarayanan, an endocrinologist; and Dr. T. Rajkumar, a cancer researcher.

There are also batchmates who excelled outside the field of medicine.

"Next to my roll number was Rajasekhar's, who completed house surgery and decided to enrol with the film institute and is today a popular actor in Telugu film industry," says Ramadesikan.



An old initiative to be restarted

The 1975 batch during a reunion in 2015.

In 2015, students from the 1975-1981 batch of Madras Medical College started "MMC Batch of 1975 Trust" to free economically disadvantaged students of financial worries as they pursue their medical education.

The trust, which has Dr. N.V. Arulmozhivarman as managing trustee, has so far provided 15 students with financial assistance from the first to the final year of their medical course. Doctors V. K. Ramadesikan, Shantha Ravisankar, G. Kumaramanickavel and Vasantha Jayaram are the member trustees.

"A card given to students when they joined college would mention their parents' occupation. We would identify the most deserving students and fund all their expenses during their medical programme including tuition fee," says Dr. V. K. Ramadesikan, who retired from the Department of Biochemistry, MMC in 2016.

Every year, five students were identified and helped to complete their studies. "We spent an average of ₹55,000 on a student for a year," he says, adding that Dr. Sudha Seshayyan, who was his colleague, also helped get names of deserving students.

The initiative ran for three batches, and lost the initial momentum as the team struggled to find students.

"During this reunion, we will discuss how this initiative could be restarted," says Dr. Ramadesikan, adding that 70 batchmates from various geographies across India and abroad are expected to participate in the two-day meet being held in Chennai on August 10. The meetup will be followed by a trip to Yercaud. The meetup promises to be a union of doctors who have made significant contributions in fields of medicine, medical education, research and healthcare over the last five decades. The 1975 batch has 161 students and 19 of them passed away.



Oncology department gets new chief

Prof. Dr. S Rajasundaram has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Director, Oncology, and Head of Department of Surgical Oncology at Iswarya Hospital, Old Mahabalipuram Road.

According to a press release from the hospital, he is a globally renowned surgical oncologist with over 30 years of experience. He has performed over 25,000 major surgeries including those



for complex head and neck ailments. He has been instrumental in introducing courses such as DNB surgical oncology, medical oncology, and radiation oncology at various institutions across India. Dr. Arun Muthuvel, managing director, Iswarya Hospital welcomed the doctor and the latter also expressed his happiness in joining the hospital, adds the release.

Women's troupe to stage its latest play on August 27



Troupe members rehearsing for their new play.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sarvam Nataka Priyas, an all-women amateur drama troupe, will be staging its latest play titled *Konnadhu Neethana?* on August 27 at Sarvam, a gated community on 200 Feet Radial Road in Pallikaranai.

According to a press release, it is its ninth play and it is set in the genre of thrillers. The play is written by Kesavan Raghavan and music has been

scored by Dakshin.

"Our earlier scripts were humour-based and we are attempting a whodunnit for the first time," says B. Vijayalakshmi, founder of Sarvam Nataka Priyas. The play is held as part of Vinayaka Chaturthi celebration, says a press release.

For details write to sarvamnatakapriyas@gmail.com



Students seek justice for honour killing victim

Student Development Council (SDC) of Madras School of Social Work organised a silent protest as a tribute to C. Kavin Selva Ganesh, the 23-year-old Dalit software engineer brutally murdered in Tirunelveli allegedly over an inter-caste relationship.

Under the banner "Raise Voice, Not Violence: Condemn Honour Killings", over 450 students and faculty members gathered under what is called "Wisdom Tree" on the campus. The event began with one minute of silence, followed by speeches reaffirming that "Caste is not culture. Murder is not honour," says a press release

Students came together in a peaceful but powerful protest to demand justice for Kavin, a victim of caste-based violence. The event began with a strong message from a student speaker who said the gathering was not just of students, but of young change-makers refusing to accept caste violence as normal. A group of Parai drummers performed a moving Parai Isai, using traditional music as a form of cultural resistance and strength followed by Sillambam, a traditional art form.

The students put forward five clear demands aimed at long-term change: creating a special law to stop honour killings, iden-

tifying and declaring districts where caste violence is common as atrocity-prone zones, giving special reservations in education and jobs for children of inter-caste marriages, providing job-based training for SC/ST partners in inter-caste families, and promoting traditional art forms in schools and colleges to build equality and inclusion from a young age. These demands were not just symbolic, but focused on real and practical reforms to stop future tragedies.

After presenting the demands, a pledge was led where all students raised their hands and promised to be strong supporters of justice and human dignity.

Workshop on making soaps

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on making soaps from herbs on August 13. Another workshop on making chocolates will be held on August 14. Both the sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. Prior registration is required. For details, call 044 - 2953 0048.



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RCC Ladies Wing on a shopping spree

The Rajasthan Cosmo Club's Ladies Wing roared into action this term with a high-energy, fun-filled event – titled "CAR-T Attack" – in Chennai. Flagged off by RCC President Manish Kumar Chowdhari, the event featured 10 spirited teams with 4 ladies in each racing against time in a 90-minute city-wide shopping challenge. The mission? Source a specific list of items at the lowest prices possible, solve a riddle en route, and film a creative, social-media-ready video – all while battling traffic and staying within budget, says a press release. Conceptualised by Ladies Wing Director Piyush Swetha Jain and his enthusiastic team, the event was a true test of wit, teamwork, and street-smart shopping skills. Laughter echoed through the roads as participants bartered, brainstormed, and bonded over bargains. The excitement didn't end on the streets. Back at the venue, the collected items from each team were auctioned off, turning the post-hunt gathering into a buzzing celebration. Winners were later declared by First Lady Pooja Chowdhari, with applause and cheers filling the air.



1985 batch of SIGA has a gala reunion

The 1982-85 batch of SIGA Polytechnic College of Printing Technology at Kilpauk organised a gala reunion, one marking the 40th year since they walked out of the portals of the institution with a degree.

The 1985 batchmates would meet once in five years at the SIGA campus, and during these meetups the agenda would include plans to give back to their alma mater.

The 40th year reunion, which took place on August 2, 2025 on the campus, was obviously grander than any previous meetup with nearly 60% of the batchmates making it from various parts, including places abroad. The batch's Chennai Core Committee Team Members played a major role in organising this event.

The programme got off to a start with a prayer by Fr. Lio Charles, administrator, SIGA.

A two-minute silence steeped in quiet prayer was observed in honour of five members of this batch,

two faculty members and a few from SIGA management who had departed.

A complete summary of events by this batch from 1985 to 2025, in support of their alma mater was presented by S. Joe Rajkumar, a member of the Chennai Core Committee Team S. Joe Rajkumar. Also from this team, B. Manojkumar David was the master of ceremonies.

An updated address book with the latest family photos of batch members printed by a batchmate, J. Robert of Nanjil Off-Set, Nagercoil was released by Rector Fr. Jeyapalan. The highlight of the programme was the RU '40 Event memento (Specially made backpack) sponsored by a batch member Rahul Kaushik from the United States, who distributed it to the dignitaries

An updated address book with the latest family photos of batch members was distributed

and also the dignitaries distributed it to the batch mates, calling out the names as per the the in the attendance register during their course years. The present management at SIGA – rector and secretary Fr. Jayapalan SDB; administrator Fr. Lio Charles SDB and press manager Br. Arun SDB – were all present.

There were reminiscences by alumni and commemorative speeches by the dignitaries.

S. Martin Thomas, another member of the team, proposed a vote of thanks.

Outside the Class room, batch member A. Titus Rayan of Dubai garlanding the bust statue of Bro. Santi Guliano, an Italian brother from Salesian order, who selflessly nourished this college and was the chief architect of SIGA.

Following this formal meeting, the batchmates departed to Harrison Hotels at Sterling Road for an evening of lighter moments, games, singing and dancing and a special buffet dinner.

Training session in gold appraisal



Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is conducting a training programme on gold appraisal from August 18 to 22 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 session focuses on essential concepts in metallurgy with focus on gold and silver, difference between karat and carat, methods to assess gold purity, jewel loan assessment procedures, touchstone testing practices, and hallmarking procedures and standards.

Also, hands-on training in jewellery-making techniques such as casting methods, filigree work, and stone setting (both open and closed styles) are part of the programme.

Participants will learn about the entrepreneurial opportunities in gem and jewellery sector and jobs in banks.

Those above 18 years of age with a minimum qualification of class 10 can apply for this programme. Prior registration is required.

For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280

Everest conqueror Ashish honoured



Velammal Nexus felicitated Master Ashish, the youngster who scaled Mount Everest, in a grand function held at Velammal Hall. The event was graced by Grandmaster Gukesh, Velammal's very own chess prodigy and the nation's pride, says a press release.

The highlight of the event was the generous ₹40 lakh cash award presented to Ashish by the Deputy Correspondent of Velammal Nexus, Sriram Velmohan, and Gukesh, recognising Ashish's extraordinary feat.

The function witnessed a warm and vibrant welcome as both Ashish and Gu-

kesh made a grand entry amidst applause and admiration, the release adds. Adding a creative twist, Velammal Nexus hosted fun and engaging games between Ashish and Gukesh, showcasing their skills, wit, and sportsmanship, leaving the audience entertained and inspired.

A deeply emotional moment unfolded when an AI-generated video of Ashish's late father was broadcasted, virtually blessing and congratulating his son. The heartfelt tribute moved many in the audience, making the event even more special, the release says.

School conducts road safety programme

The management of St. Joseph Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School in Perambur organised a month-long road safety programme. The initiative was driven by the school's RSP students with the support of Victor Niranjana, Traffic Warden of the Tamil Nadu Police Traffic Wardens Organisation, Chennai, who takes care of the RSP activities at this school.

Azeem Ahmed, Chief Traffic Warden, TNPTWO, Sr. Vanitha, principal, and RSP Teachers Padmini and Sundari were present.

They had conducted various activities with the aim of making our roads safer for everyone under the motto of RSP – "We live to serve". This included placards, distribution of pamphlets, educating vehicle users on road discipline through audio messages and appreciating them by giving them brochures and placard medals.

Going forward, they will be conducting a session for the students and parents of the school.



Hosted by **EXPLORE Talentina 2025** Sponsored by **EXPLORE Talentina**

at Ashok Nagar, Chennai.

REGISTRATION FEE ₹100

Date : August 30th 2025 Saturday | Time : 9.30 am to 1 pm

Register on or before August 26th 2025 Contact : 94872 04768 A student can participate in only Two Events

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Public Speaking **Age 9-10 Years Topic தேச பக்தி** **English Age 9-10 Years Topic Patriotism** **Thirukural Recitation Age 6-8 Years Topic அறக்காரம் நூல்**

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