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March 29 - April 4, 2026

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## Residents race against time as property tax deadline nears

By N Rathi Chithra

A cross-section of residents of Mogappair and Anna Nagar is rushing to meet the March 31 deadline as the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) steps up its property tax collection drive, urging citizens to pay their half-yearly dues and avoid penalties.

With only two days left, awareness campaigns and reminders appear to have had a visible impact in these neighbourhoods, where many residents say they are either completing payments or planning to do so shortly.

"I paid my property tax online last week after seeing repeated reminders," said R. Kumaresh, a resident of Mogappair East. "The process has become much simpler now.

But at the same time, we expect better upkeep of roads and stormwater drains, especially during the monsoon."

In nearby Mogappair West, Latha Krishnan said the Corporation's messaging helped her act in time. "The warning about penalties made me prioritise it. Still, I think the GCC should send personalised SMS alerts, particularly for

senior citizens who may miss social media updates," she noted.

In Anna Nagar too, residents echoed similar sentiments, balancing appreciation for easier payment options with expectations of improved civic services. "I prefer going to the e-Seva centre to pay my tax. It's reliable, though it gets crowded as the deadline approaches," said Rajendranath, a resident of Anna Nagar West.

Divya Narain, a working professional in Anna Nagar, highlighted the convenience of digital methods. "The QR code and online payment options are very helpful. But sometimes the website slows down during peak hours.

I hope the system holds up in these last few days," she said.

GCC officials said a range of payment options have been enabled to make the process hassle-free. Property owners can pay their taxes online through the official Corporation website, via WhatsApp, at public e-Seva centres, by visiting zonal offices, or by scanning QR codes issued by the civic body.

A senior revenue official

**WAYS TO PAY**  
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- 1 Via WhatsApp : 9445061913
- 2 Online : [www.chennai.gov.in](http://www.chennai.gov.in)
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reiterated the importance of timely payments. "Property tax is a major source of revenue for the Corporation.

It directly supports essential services such as road maintenance, waste management, and public health infrastructure. We urge residents to pay early and avoid last-minute delays," the official said.

The Corporation has also intensified its outreach through social media campaigns and public notices, particularly targeting high-density residential areas like Mogappair and Anna Nagar, where compliance

levels have generally been strong in recent years.

Civic observers note that while digital adoption has improved significantly, last-minute rush and server slowdowns remain recurring challenges. They suggest that staggered reminders and system upgrades could ease the burden during peak periods.

With the March 31 deadline fast approaching, GCC has made it clear that penalties will be imposed on unpaid property taxes. For residents of Mogappair, Anna Nagar and across the city, the message is clear: act now to stay penalty-free.

## Rukminidevi Natyakshetra Foundation's art festival

This April, in Mogappair, North Chennai, Rukmini Devi Natya Kshetra Foundation will mark the close of its academic year with a thoughtfully shaped month of dance, music, and visual art—guided by patience, discipline, and attentive learning.

Founded by Shri Premnath, RNF follows a Kalakshetra-inspired philosophy where art is not rushed into performance. Here, learning is allowed to gather through time and repetition, enabling young artists to grow with clarity, restraint, and cultural grounding. A start will be made on April 4 with *Kalai Kondattam*, as students in their second to fourth years step

into dance and music within the serene spaces of Kalakshetra Foundation.

The days that follow will turn inward with Chitra Kala Sammelana—an exhibition of over fifty works where familiar landscapes of Mogappair are re-seen through patient observation and imagination.

April will find its centre with the 22nd edition of Kala Sampada. The first evening will present Panchabhasha Sangeetham, weaving compositions across five languages into a single musical offering. The next day will bring the dance drama Shri Devi Kanyakumari Charitram—an original RNF production first premiered in 2016

and later staged at the Krishna Gana Sabha. Through lyrical choreography, resonant music, and refined abhinaya, the work traces a journey from innocence to awakening—strength shaped by compassion, harmony emerging over conflict. To attend is not simply to applaud young artistes, but to stand beside them—to affirm that art grows strongest when a community gathers as witnesses, neighbours, elders, and believers.

This has been Mr. Premnath's guiding vision from the beginning: that art could become a meeting place, that it could bring people together—not for prestige, but for purpose.

For details contact 156, Chendur Bhavan, Srinivasan Street Golden George Nagar, Ch - 37. Ph: 98401 87553, 79047 57453

## Ambattur Estate sewage dumping fouls canals

UNTREATED sewage is being illegally discharged into the Mogappair Eri Scheme canals daily, causing a severe stench and health concerns for local residents. According to Chennai Me-



Untreated waste is systematically dumped into the canal after 8 a.m. every day

trowater and Sewage Board (CMWSSB) employees, the contamination originates from the Ambattur Industrial Estate. Field reports indicate that untreated waste is systematically dumped into the canal network every morning, typically starting after 8:00 AM.

Residents of the Eri Scheme housing area have noted that the foul odor becomes unbearable during the forenoon hours, coinciding with the discharge schedule. While Metro Water staff have identified the industrial estate as the source, the consistent mixing of raw sewage continues to degrade the local waterway and increase the risk of diseases.

**Kiruba Shankar**  
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**NEGLECT NEAR MARAIMALAI ADIGALAR SALAI:**

# Junked bikes, waste worry residents

By Our Correspondent

A stretch at the turning of Maraimalai Adigalar Salai, near Valayapathi Salai, in Mogappair East has become a spot for junking two-wheelers and throwing garbage, raising concerns among residents about safety, hygiene and encroachment on public space.



At the turning off the road, at least half a dozen old motorcycles and scooters can be seen parked haphazardly along a compound wall. Many of the vehicles appear unused for months, covered in dust, with flat tyres and missing or damaged parts. The space around them has also accumulated litter, including plastic waste, paper and dry leaves, further adding to the neglect.

Residents say the issue has persisted for several months, with little intervention from civic authorities. "These vehicles

have clearly been abandoned. They are not just taking up space but also attracting garbage dumping. It gives the entire stretch an unkempt look," said Prakash, a resident of Mogappair East.

The affected stretch is used regularly by pedestrians and motorists accessing interior residential lanes. Locals point out that the presence of unused vehicles reduces road space and visibility, especially near the turning, posing a potential safety hazard.

"During evenings, when traffic increases, this

corner becomes risky. The parked bikes narrow the road and make it difficult for vehicles to pass smoothly," said Kavitha, another resident. "It is worse for pedestrians, who are forced to walk closer to the road."

Apart from safety concerns, residents have flagged hygiene issues. The accumulation of garbage around the vehicles has raised fears of mosquito breeding and rodent activity. "We are already worried about dengue during certain seasons. Such spots only make things worse," a local shopkeeper noted.

The compound wall along the stretch is also plastered with posters, and a small roadside structure nearby appears unused, contributing to the overall sense of neglect. Residents say that without regular monitoring, such spots tend to become informal dumping zones.

Civic activists stress that abandoned vehicles on public roads should be

identified and removed promptly. "The Corporation and traffic police need to coordinate to clear such vehicles. There should also be stricter enforcement to prevent people from leaving vehicles indefinitely on public roads," said a local civic volunteer.

Residents are urging the Greater Chennai Corporation to take immediate action by clearing the aban-

doned vehicles, removing the accumulated garbage and restoring the stretch to a usable condition. They also suggest installing signage or conducting periodic inspections to prevent recurrence.

"We pay our taxes and expect basic upkeep. This is a small issue, but it reflects the larger need for regular maintenance," a resident added.



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**No refund if cancellation within 8 hrs to departure**

There will be no refund for cancellation of train tickets up to eight hours before departure, instead of the existing norm of four hours. The new refund rule will take effect between April 1 and 15 this year. Other refund slabs have also been revised: a cancellation between 24 and eight hours will incur a 50% deduction from the ticket cost. This is currently 12 to four hours. Cancellation between 72 and 24 hours before departure will cost 25%. A full refund — except a flat cancellation charge per passenger — will be given for cancellations made more than 72 hours before the train's departure. Travel class upgradation will now be allowed up to 30 minutes before departure for passengers who bought counter tickets, and passengers will be allowed to change their boarding point 30 minutes before the train's scheduled departure.

**Former Velammal siblings among strong field in Candidates Chess**

By R Srinivasa Raghavan

Candidates is the most exciting one among classical tournaments. Once in two years, the chess aficionados are glued to the internet for 18 days, watching pulsating games, brilliant finishes, unexpected blunders, while anticipating the winner of the big event. Dommaraju Gukesh brought joy to India in 2024, winning the Candidates and going on to become the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand to become World champion in Singapore. Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa will be eyeing the Candidates title in the Open section, when it begins in Pegeia, Cyprus on Sunday. Of course it will be a big challenge for the Indian owing to the depth of the field, which has the likes of Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura and Anish Giri. The tournament consists of eight players competing in a 14-round double round-robin tournament. Wei Yi, Javokhir Sindarov, Andrei Esipenko and Mathias Bluebaum are the other players in the tournament.

The former Velammal student will be hoping to recreate his 2025 form (in the first half) in the Candidates. He won the FIDE Circuit in 2025, which earned him a spot in the Candidates. However, in the second half of last year, his form was a concern, losing early in the World Cup, besides struggling in the Grand Swiss. Pragganandhaa also lost a lot of rating points because of his loss in form. Having a good temperament, Pragg is expected to perform well, brushing aside his disappointing show in Wijk aan Zee. If Pragganandhaa can finish with a +2 score in the first half, he will be a strong contender for the title. Before the Candidates, Gukesh said it will be exciting to face Pragg in a World Championship Match.

Caruana, who is competing in Candidates for the sixth straight time, will start as favourite because of his sheer consistency in classical chess. Heading into the Candidates, he is in good form, finishing second in the St Louis Masters. He followed it up by reaching the Champions Final in

- WINNERS (Open)**  
2013: Magnus Carlsen (Nor)  
2014: Viswanathan Anand (Ind)  
2016: Sergei Karjakin (FID)  
2018: Fabiano Caruana (USA)  
2020/2021: Ian Nepomniachtchi (FID)  
2022: Ian Nepomniachtchi (FID)  
2024: Dommaraju Gukesh (Ind)
- WINNERS (Women)**  
2019: Aleksandra Goryachkina (FID)  
2022/2023: Lei Tingjie (Chn)  
2024: Tan Zhongyi (Chn)

the American Cup, going down to Wesley So (1.5-2.5). He bowed out of the tournament, losing to Levon Aronian (1.5-2.5) in the Elimination Final. Chess experts pick Caruana to go all the way because of him being the second best classical player behind Carlsen for the last 10 years. If Caruana continues his rich vein of form, he might get another shot at the World title. Top seed Hikaru Nakamura, who will be playing in his fourth Candidates, will be one of the strong contenders for the title. He is solid, resourceful and performs well under pressure, which is what makes his world's second best player. One disadvantage he has is playing less classical games against top opposition. However, among the top players, he plays the most number of games on-

line, which keeps Nakamura sharp, besides benefiting him as the results vindicate. Anish Giri had an outstanding 2025, triumphing in the Grand Swiss. The Dutch No.1 is one of the best prepared players and will be highly motivated to win the title in his third Candidates appearance. Winning more games and not getting bogged down by draws will be crucial to Giri having a successful tournament. Sindarov has improved tremendously in the last one year. He won the World Cup in 2025, and finished second in the Tata Steel Masters this year. In the women's Candidates, which will take place at the same venue, Vaishali Rameshbabu (former Velammal) and Divya Deshmukh are the two Indians in the fray. India No.1 women's player Koneru Humpy withdrew from the tournament because of security reasons (ongoing war between USA-Israel vs Iran). Anna Muzychuk has come in as a replacement. Vaishali performed well in her first Candidates in 2024, tying for the second spot with Koneru Humpy and Lei Tingjie (7.5/14) but finished fourth because of a lesser tie-break. Handling time pressure and avoiding losses in the first seven rounds will be the

key to Vaishali having a successful tournament. After finishing third in the Prague Challengers, Divya will be the dark horse in the tournament. If she makes a good start, Divya will be in the hunt for top spots. Top seed Zhu Jiner had a forgettable Prague Challengers but still she begins as a favourite because of her consistent performances last year. **Players in brackets: (country, ranking & rating) (Open): Men:** Hikaru Nakamura (USA, world No.2, 2810), Fabiano caruana (USA, world No.3, 2795), Wei Yi (Chn, world No.7, 2754), Anish Giri (Ned, world No.8, 2753), Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, world No.12, 2745), R Pragganandhaa (Ind, world No.13, 2741), Mathias Bluebaum (Ger, world No.32, 2698), Andrei Esipenko (FID, world No.33, 2698). **Women:** Zhu Jiner (Chn, world No.2, 2578), Tan Zhongyi (Chn, world No.6, 2535), Aleksandra Goryachkina (FID, world No.7, 2535), Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, world No.8, 2522), Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, world No.9, 2516), Kateryna Lagno (FID, world No. 10, 2508), Divya Deshmukh (Ind, world No.12, 2497), R Vaishali (Ind, world No.18, 2470). (The writer of this article is a senior sports correspondent)



Pragganandhaa



Vaishali

# JJ Nagar Police arrest man for abducting businessman

By N Rathi Chithra

In a shocking incident that has raised concerns among residents of Mogappair, a businessman was abducted in the locality recently.

The JJ Nagar Police have arrested a 29-year-old man on charges of assaulting the local businessman and abducting him in a car following a dispute over a vehicle transaction.

According to police sources, the victim, Saravanan (54), a resident of a private apartment in Reddipalayam, Mogappair, is engaged in buying and selling cars. The incident occurred a week ago when Saravanan, accompanied by his son, had gone to a restaurant in Mogappair for a meal.



At the restaurant, one Manikandan, along with a few associates, allegedly approached Saravanan. The group reportedly abused him in foul language before physically assaulting the father and son. In the course of the attack, the assailants are said to have snatched an iPhone belonging to Saravanan's son.

The situation escalated further when the accused allegedly forced Saravanan into their car and drove away, effectively abducting him in broad daylight. The brazen nature of the incident has alarmed local residents, particularly as it took place in a busy neighbourhood.

Following the incident, Saravanan's wife lodged a

complaint at the J.J. Nagar Police Station. Acting swiftly, the police registered a case and launched an investigation. Based on initial leads, a search operation was initiated to trace the vehicle used in the crime.

Later that night, police personnel intercepted a vehicle near Golden George Nagar. Saravanan was rescued safely, and the accused, Manikandan, a native of Vadamadurai near Uthukottai in Tiruvallur district, was taken into

custody.

The police also recovered the stolen iPhone from the accused and seized the Mahindra XUV car used in the offence.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the incident stemmed from a dispute related to a car purchase. Manikandan had reportedly bought a vehicle from Saravanan, and differences arising out of the deal are believed to have triggered the violent confrontation and subsequent abduction.

Manikandan was produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody as per court orders. Meanwhile, police officers stated that efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining accused who are currently absconding.

Residents in Mogappair expressed concern over the incident, urging increased police patrolling and surveillance in the area to prevent such crimes. Police have assured that stringent action will be taken against all those involved.

## திடீர் திருப்பங்கள் நிகழ திங்களில் தேன் அபிஷேகம் செய்யுங்கள்

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- மணாளன் அமைய மஞ்சள் மாலை குடுங்கள். (இது 8-வது அபிஷேகம்).



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