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The city airport authorities have advised passengers to attach coloured ribbons or other distinctive markers to their suitcases to help avoid baggage mix-ups at airports. Chennai airport sources said that incidents of passengers mistakenly collecting the wrong luggage from conveyor belts are reported frequently, particularly on international flights. As many suitcases look similar in size and colour, passengers often find it difficult to quickly identify their baggage.

Although airlines provide baggage tags and matching tag numbers on boarding passes, passengers sometimes fail to verify them due to travel fatigue, resulting in luggage being exchanged by mistake.

To address the issue, the Airports Authority of India has advised passengers to tie brightly colored ribbons or other easily identifiable markers to their bags. Officials say this will help passengers quickly recognise their luggage and reduce confusion at baggage claim areas.

Meanwhile, passengers at Chennai Airport have also called for better management of baggage collection areas. They say passengers often crowd around conveyor belts with trolleys, making it difficult for others to retrieve their luggage. Passengers have urged airport authorities to encourage travellers to maintain some distance from conveyor belts and wait for their luggage in an orderly manner.



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## ₹45.60-lakh road relaid in Ambattur Zone's Ward 82

By N Rathi Chithra

**T**HE Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has completed road improvement works on Karukku Main Road in Ward 82 of Ambattur Zone at an estimated cost of ₹45.60 lakh, providing a smoother and safer commuting experience for thousands of residents and motorists in the locality.

The renovated stretch, which serves as an important arterial road connecting several residential neighbourhoods and commercial establishments, was recently opened for public use after undergoing extensive relaying and restoration works. The project forms part of the Corporation's ongoing efforts to strengthen urban infrastructure and improve road conditions across the city.

Visuals released by the civic body show a freshly laid blacktop road with improved riding conditions, clear carriageways and uninterrupted traffic movement. The road is frequently used by two-wheelers, autorickshaws, cars and

public transport vehicles, making its maintenance crucial for daily commuters.

Residents said the road had suffered from wear and tear due to continuous traffic movement and weather-related damage over the years. The relaying work has significantly improved travel conditions and reduced discomfort for road users.

"We had been requesting repairs for quite some time. Earlier, the uneven stretches would slow down traffic and make commuting difficult, especially during the rainy season. The new road has made travel much smoother," said R. Kumar, a resident of Ambattur.

Motorists also expressed satisfaction with the quality of the work. "The difference is noticeable. Vehicles can now move without frequent braking and swerving. It has improved both comfort and safety," said autorickshaw driver Selvam.

Corporation officials stated that the project was executed as part of a broader initiative to upgrade key roads in Am-

battur Zone. The objective is to enhance connectivity, reduce vehicle wear and tear and ensure safer transportation for residents.

"The Corporation is committed to improving civic infrastructure across all zones. Road relaying works are being taken up based on field inspections and public feedback. Karukku Main Road was identified as a priority stretch because of its importance to local traffic movement," an official said.

Local traders believe the improved road will also benefit businesses in the area by making access easier for customers and delivery vehicles. "Good roads have a direct impact on commercial activity. Better connectivity encourages movement and helps local businesses," said a shop owner operating near the road.

Residents, however, urged civic authorities to ensure regular maintenance of storm-water drains, road margins and utility cuts to preserve the quality of the newly relaid surface.



World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5 at Government Primary School, Vanagaram, by Goodwill Trust and Alliance Club of Chennai Super Kings, with the support of Nature Research Foundation.

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V. Sriharini, of Velammal Vidyalaya, secured the second place in the women's 4x200m freestyle relay at the 80th Senior State Aquatic Championship, held at SRMIST, Kattankulathur. She clocked an impressive time of 09:28.93.

# Arya's Ananthan Kaadu set for June 25 release

**T**HE makers of *Ananthan Kaadu*, director Jiyen Krishna Kumar's upcoming political action thriller starring Arya, have announced that the film will hit theatres worldwide on June 25. Arya shared the release date announcement on social media, confirming the film's theatrical debut later this month. Produced by S Vinod Kumar under the Mini Studio banner, the multi-lingual project has its story written by Murali Gopy, best known for *Lucifer* and *Empuraan*. The film has been generating interest since the

release of its title teaser, which paired intense action visuals with a powerful poem hinting at a rebellious protagonist determined to challenge oppression and inspire hope.

*Ananthan Kaadu* features an ensemble cast including

Regena Cassandra, Nikhila Vimal, Indrans and Sunil. The film's technical team includes cinematographer S Yuva, music composer B Ajaneesh Loknath, editor Rohit VS Variyath and stunt choreographer R Sakthi Saravanan.

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saravakkam, Chennai - 87. The key topics scheduled to be covered in the training programme include Goal of Human Life, Way of Living, Meditation Practices, Concentration and Control of Mind, Pranahuti (Yogic Transmission) and Stages of Spiritual Progress. The programme includes 4

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## Construction materials dumped on footpath raises concern

By Our Correspondent

**R**ESIDENTS of Anna Nagar have raised concerns over the increasing practice of dumping construction materials on public footpaths, forcing pedestrians to walk on busy roads.

A visit to Shanthi Colony in Anna Nagar revealed a large heap of construction gravel occupying a substantial portion of a pedestrian walkway. Concrete paving blocks were also stacked along the side of the footpath, leaving little room for people to walk comfortably. The obstruction has effectively rendered the footpath unusable for pedestrians, particularly senior citizens, children and persons with disabilities.

The incident highlights a growing problem in several residential and commercial localities of Chennai, where public spaces are often encroached upon during construction and renovation activities. While construction work is a common sight in rapidly developing neighbourhoods, residents argue that private projects should not come at the expense of public conve-



nience and safety.

Local residents said the situation becomes especially dangerous during peak traffic hours. Pedestrians are frequently forced to step onto the carriageway to bypass such obstructions, exposing them to moving vehicles. The risk is even greater for elderly residents, who may find it difficult to navigate uneven surfaces or walk amidst traffic.

This footpath was recently improved to encourage people to walk safely. If construction materials are allowed to be dumped here, the entire purpose is defeated," said a resident of Shanthi Colony, requesting anonymity.

Urban planners have repeatedly stressed that footpaths are essential public infrastructure and must remain free of obstructions. Chennai has invested significant resources in creating pedestrian-friendly streets over

the past decade. However, experts note that poor enforcement often allows temporary encroachments to become a recurring problem.

Residents also pointed out that construction debris and materials left in public spaces can create additional issues such as dust pollution, inconvenience to road users and difficulties for emergency responders. During the monsoon season, such obstructions can also impede drainage and contribute to water stagnation.

Under civic regulations, builders and property owners are generally expected to ensure that construction materials are stored within the premises or in designated areas with appropriate permissions. Unauthorised occupation of footpaths and public spaces can attract penalties from civic authorities.

Citizens have urged the Greater Chennai Corporation and local officials to conduct regular inspections and take prompt action against violators. They have also called for stricter monitoring of construction activities in residential neighbourhoods to ensure that pedestrian rights are protected.

## Parked vehicles choke traffic, residents seek action

By N Rathi Chithra

**U**NREGULATED parking of cars and two-wheelers on both sides of the Electricity Board (EB) Road in Mogappair East has emerged as a major concern for motorists and residents, with many complaining that the practice has significantly reduced the effective width of the road and created traffic bottlenecks throughout the day.

The EB Road is an important thoroughfare in Mogappair East and serves several key establishments, including the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board office, the popular EB Road Park, a school, two marriage halls (kalyana mandapams) and a temple. The constant flow of visitors to these facilities has led to a growing number of vehicles being parked along the roadside, often for extended periods.

A visit to the area revealed cars lined up on both sides of the road, leaving only a narrow carriageway for moving traffic. Residents say the situation worsens during school hours, temple festivals and wedding functions, when the number of parked vehicles increases substantially.



Motorists complain that the indiscriminate parking creates blind spots and makes it difficult for vehicles travelling in opposite directions to pass safely. They also point out that emergency vehicles could face delays if the road becomes fully congested.

"Every day we have to slow down and carefully manoeuvre through this stretch. When vehicles are parked on both sides, two cars cannot pass comfortably. During peak hours, traffic comes to a standstill," said R. Prakash, a regular commuter who uses the road.

Another motorist, Kavitha, said the situation becomes particularly difficult when marriage functions are held at the nearby halls. "Guests park wherever they find space. Sometimes vehicles are left right up to junctions, making it hard to see oncoming traffic. Authorities should designate proper parking areas," she said.

Residents also expressed

concern about pedestrian safety. With vehicles occupying the road margins, walkers are often forced to use the carriageway, increasing the risk of accidents.

"The park attracts senior citizens, children and families throughout the day. At the same time, school students and devotees visit the temple. A road with so many public facilities should not be turned into a parking lot," said a resident of the locality.

Local residents have urged the Greater Chennai Corporation and traffic police to conduct regular enforcement drives, install no-parking signs at critical points and explore the possibility of creating designated parking spaces near the public institutions.

They believe that timely intervention will not only improve traffic flow but also enhance safety for pedestrians, motorists and visitors using one of Mogappair East's busiest neighbourhood roads.

## Velammal Alumnus Pragg Wins Norway Chess

By R Srinivasa Raghavan

**F**ORMER Velammal student Ramesh Pragganandhaa made a stirring comeback to win the Norway Chess in Oslo on Friday. With a victory in the final round against Vincent Keymer, Pragg became the first Indian to seal the double round-robin tournament, securing 18 points. Former American champion Wesley So took the second spot (17). Alireza Firouzja (15.5) came third.

World champion Dommaraju Gukesh (8) had a forgettable tournament, ending in last place (8th). He lost five games, besides winning his only game against his compatriot

Pragg. World No.1 and seven-time Norway Chess champion Magnus Carlsen had a below-par event (13), capturing the fourth spot. In a rare occurrence, Carlsen suffered four losses, besides dropping 17.8 rating points.

It was a much-needed victory for Pragg, who has been not having the best results for the last 10 months, losing more than 50 rating points. The way it was going it looked like another disappointing tournament (2.5/6) for Pragg, who lost back-to-back games against Firouzja and So. However, in a remarkable turnaround, Pragg posted four straight victories over Carlsen, Firouzja, Gukesh and Keymer

to end the tournament on a memorable note.

Pragg's tournament win will also be remembered for his twin victories against Carlsen.

The former Velammal student gained 15.2 points to jump to world No.11 with a live rating of 2750.2.

Talking to the commentators following his victory, Pragg had this to say: "I just wanted to play chess, but somehow things all went my way, and I also feel that I started playing with more control, which in this time control is always a good thing."

"I was speaking to my mother on June 1, before Alireza's game, and she was telling me, 'It's a new month, you'll play well. It's

just one of those things that mother always says, and then these four games I won. She knew something, I guess," reflected the 20-year-old on his mother's foresight and encouraging words.

### Bibisara Triumphs

World Blitz champion Bibisara Assaubayeva emerged champion in the Norway Chess Women, which took place simultaneously at the same venue. Posting three classical victories over Koneru Humpy, Zhu Jiner and Divya Deshmukh, the Kazakh (16.5) outdistanced her nearest rival by half a point. Having a rating gain of 10.6 points, Bibisara leaptfrogged to world No.5

(with a live rating of 2537.6) in the women's rankings.

Zhu Jiner of China came second with 16 points, followed by last year's champion Anna Muzychuk (15) in third place.

India No.1 Koneru Humpy and India No.2 Divya Deshmukh had a difficult tournament. Divya at least had one bright spot, defeating Zhu Jiner in a classical game. She finished fifth with 10 points. Humpy (9), who has won many big tournaments, ended at the bottom of the standings.

Five-time women's World champion Ju Wenjun (13.5) had a moderate event, ending in fourth

place. The Chinese finished the tournament on a high, inflicting a loss on tournament winner Bibisara.

### Mitrabha C' wealth Champion

Mitrabha Guha bagged the Open section (classical) at the Commonwealth Chess Championship in Kalutara, Sri Lanka. Remaining unbeaten, Mitrabha (7.5/9, six wins and three losses) clinched the title with a +6 score.

Pannerselvam Iniyan, who had a fruitful 2025, comprehensively won the Commonwealth Rapid title, scoring 6.5 points in seven rounds.

(The writer of this article is a senior sports correspondent)



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