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Strike temporarily suspended, garbage piles up

GARBAGE has been piling up along the road-side in many parts of the city, causing foul smell and inconvenience to residents, students and motorists. The waste is also being scattered across the roads as cows and dogs rummage through it, which certainly is an eyesore.

Various types of waste, including old plastics, food remains and discarded clothes, have been dumped along the road-side. unprecedented rains that lashed the city has led to water stagnation and bad smell. Signalling health risks, residents have complained that stagnant rainwater and uncleared garbage can become breeding centres for mosquitoes and flies.

This was mainly due to the sanitation workers who have been sitting on

a protest at the Ripon building for the past 16 days. At present they have temporarily suspended their strike and residents hope that things will get back to normal. Recent talks have resulted in agreements on many shortcomings in their workplace and welfare demands.

However, the issues that formed the centre of the agitation — permanent employment, paid weekly leave and higher wages —

have been kept aside for the next round of talks scheduled for Oct 3. The government has agreed to provide the workers with daily food allowance of Rs 50 from Oct 1, 200 toilets for women workers across wards by Sept.30, and withdrawal of criminal cases filed against those who had fought for sanitation workers' rights during the previous government's tenure.

The government also agreed to set up a sanitation

workers' welfare board office within the Chennai corporation premises, with an officer to be appointed. Officers will meet sanitation workers every two months, while the

GCC commissioner will hold discussions with the workers' unions every four months. The Uzhaipor Urimai Iyakkam will also be given a union office.

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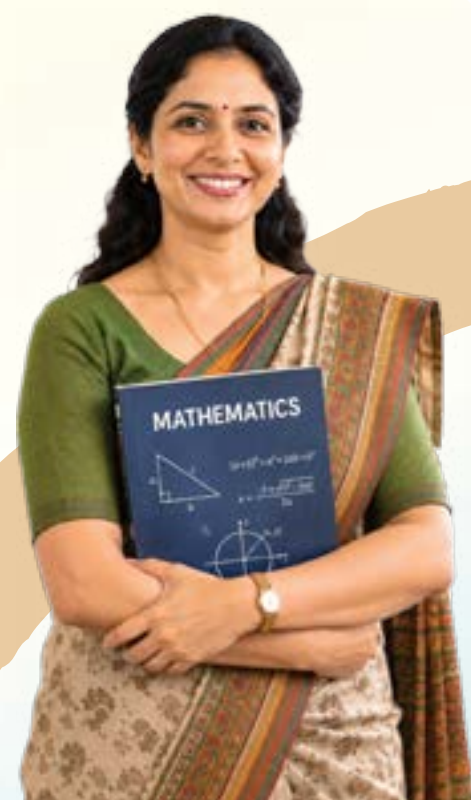
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Pothys Swarna Mahal's Mela

POTHYS Swarna Mahal has announced its Chain & Bangle Mela, offering customers chains and bangles at 2.99 percent to 4.99 percent wastage (VA) from September 1 to 20, 2026, across its showrooms in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The Mela also offers Rs. 10,000 off per carat on Diamond Mogappu

Chains & Bangles, 50 percent off on wastage for select chains, bangles, Antique and Precious Gemstone Bangles, along with new Rajkot, Cuban, Antique, Diamond and Fusion chain collections and Bombay, Featherlite and Sparkling bangle designs.

Mr. Sadayandi Ramesh, Managing

Director, Pothys Group, said, "When gold prices see a correction and wastage is at its lowest, it creates a great opportunity for customers to invest in gold." Customers can also exchange old gold and diamonds for new jewellery.

TN govt begins onion sale at ₹ 35/kg

THE Tamil Nadu government on Thursday launched the sale of onions at a subsidised price of Rs 35 a kg through ration shops. Market intervention has been undertaken to check the rising price of onions, an essential commodity, and ease the burden on poor and middle-class families.

The government has procured 1,000 metric tonnes of onions from Nashik in Maharashtra through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF). Each family cardholder can purchase up to one kg at Rs 35 a kg. The sale has initially been taken up through 8,914 outlets, including urban fair price shops, consumer cooperative outlets, primary cooperative stores, retail outlets of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and Farm Fresh shops.



Riya Shree S.V. of Velammal Vidyalaya Annexure won a gold in the cadet girls under 33 kg weight category and a silver in the Poomsae competition at the Thiruvallur District Championship.

Wrong-side riding turns new bridge into a road hazard

By N Rath Chithra

TWO-WHEELER riders and even auto rickshaws taking the wrong side of the road to make an unauthorised right turn have emerged as a serious safety hazard on the left side of the Maduravoyal New Bridge, which connects Mogappair East with the Koyambedu-Maduravoyal Road.

The traffic police have banned the right turn at the highway for vehicles emerging from the bridge. Motorists intending to proceed towards the Poonamallee stretch are required to use the designated lane, take a left turn on the highway and then



make a U-turn to continue in the opposite direction.

However, instead of following this arrangement, several two-wheeler riders are using the lane meant for traffic travelling in the opposite direction. They ride against the flow of traffic for a considerable distance and then attempt to turn right across the road.

The practice has created a dangerous situation for vehicles coming from the Maduravoyal New Bridge towards Mogappair East. Drivers travelling in the correct lane are suddenly confronted by motorcycles and scooters approaching them head-on, leaving little room to react.

"This is not just a traffic violation; it is a serious accident risk. A rider coming towards you from the wrong direction can appear suddenly, especially when traffic is heavy," said a commuter familiar with the stretch.

The problem becomes particularly acute during peak hours, when the bridge and the approach roads carry a steady stream of two-wheelers, cars, autorickshaws and buses. A motorist travelling towards Mogappair East has to slow down or move away from the edge of the carriageway whenever a two-wheeler enters

the wrong lane.

Another commuter said the arrangement at the highway may require motorists to take a longer route, but that was no justification for violating traffic rules. "The U-turn may take a few extra minutes, but riding into oncoming traffic is putting everyone at risk," the commuter said.

The situation also raises concerns about the effectiveness of the existing traffic restrictions. Unless the banned right turn is physically prevented or motorists are adequately channelled towards the authorised U-turn, some riders appear willing to take the risky shortcut.

Residents and regular commuters want the traffic police and road authorities to examine the stretch and take measures to prevent wrong-side riding. They have suggested stronger enforcement, clearer lane markings, prominent signboards and, if necessary, physical barricading to ensure that two-wheelers cannot enter the opposing lane.

For motorists approaching from the bridge, what should be a routine journey into Mogappair East has instead become a daily exercise in watching out for vehicles coming the wrong way on their side of the road.

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University of Madras to celebrate 170 years

THE University of Madras, one of India's oldest institutions of higher education, will mark its entry into its 170th year on September 5, with a year-long series of academic, cultural, sports, media and social awareness programmes under the banner 'UoM – Legacy 170'.

Founded in 1857 during the British era, the university has played a significant role in the growth of higher education and research in the country and has produced several scholars, leaders and professionals.

The year-long celebrations will involve heads of departments, faculty members, staff and students across the university's five campuses.

As part of the programme, 'UoM – Acumen 170' will feature an e-poster competition, while sports activities, including cricket and badminton competitions, will be held under the same theme.

The cultural segment, 'MoM –

Mosaic 170', will provide students a platform to showcase their talents through dance, music and literary events and 'UoM – Thirai 170' will focus on media and encourage participants to create reels and short videos.

The university will also organise a marathon to highlight the importance of education and social awareness.



Midhula K. of Velammal Vidyalaya Annexe earned a place in the Infinity Book of World Records for her outstanding achievement of completing 108 rounds of Surya Namaskar.

100 barricades for a safer Adyar



MGM Healthcare Malar, Adyar, a 180-bed multispecialty hospital in the heart of Adyar, has taken a community-focused step towards improving road safety and traffic management around the hospital.

As part of this initiative, 100 barricades have been provided by MGM Healthcare Malar under the jurisdiction of J2 Adyar Police Station,

supporting better traffic regulation, pedestrian safety and smoother movement in the area.

The barricades were distributed in the presence of Thiru A.C. Karthikeyan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Adyar; Thiru R. Aldrin, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ashok Nagar; and Mr. Venugopal Bhat, Vice President – Group Strategic Initiatives and Chief

Operating Officer, MGM Healthcare Malar, Adyar.

With hospitals requiring clear and timely access, particularly for ambulances and patients, better traffic management can make a meaningful difference.

The initiative is a practical step towards creating a safer and more accessible environment for patients, healthcare workers, pedestrians and motorists in Adyar.



VKids (TSK) School celebrated Krishna Jayanthi with great enthusiasm and religious fervour on Thursday. The tiny tots came dressed in colourful attire as Lord Krishna and Radha, which filled the entire campus with a devotional atmosphere.



Sanjana R (Class III) of Velammal Vidyalaya, Ayanavaram, won the first prize in the National Open Silambam Championship.



Velammal Nexus felicitated its dedicated teachers with Service and Academic Excellence Awards for their exceptional contribution. As a mark of appreciation for their commitment and achievements, prizes worth ₹70 lakh were presented. The cheque was handed over by Correspondent Shri MVM Velmohan to the Senior In-charges representing all schools of Velammal Nexus on behalf of the awardees.

Faulty traffic signal leaves motorists struggling in Mogappair West



By N Rathi Chithra

A malfunctioning traffic signal at the Bharathi Salai – Mogappair West Main Road junction is causing considerable inconvenience to motorists and raising concerns about road safety at one of the busy stretches in Mogappair West.

The signal, located close to the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) bus depot and the Kambar Salai junction, is particularly problematic for vehicles travelling along Bharathi Salai and attempting to take a right turn towards Mogappair West Main Road or proceed along Kambar Salai towards Ambattur Industrial Estate and Wavin.

With the signal not functioning properly, motorists attempting the right turn have to negotiate traffic without the assistance of a proper signal phase.

does not regulate the movement of traffic, vehicles trying to turn right are left to find their own gap," the motorist said.

The absence of a functioning signal also creates uncertainty for motorists travelling through the junction. Two-wheelers, cars and larger vehicles compete for road space, while motorists making the right turn have to cross the path of vehicles coming in the opposite direction.

"The right turn is the biggest concern. You have to look in several directions before moving. A moment's misjudgment can result in a collision," another commuter Kishore said.

The problem is more pronounced when traffic builds up around the MTC bus depot and Kambar Salai junction. Vehicles entering and leaving the adjoining roads add to the complexity of traffic movement, leaving little room for motorists to safely make the turn.

Residents and regular road users have urged the traffic authorities to inspect the signal and restore it at the earliest. They also suggested that traffic personnel could be deployed at the junction during peak hours until the signal is repaired.

"A functioning signal would bring some order to the junction. Until it is repaired, motorists are being forced to negotiate a busy intersection on their own," a regular road user said.

Motorists hope that the malfunctioning signal will be attended to promptly, particularly given the volume of traffic using Bharathi Salai, Mogappair West Main Road and Kambar Salai.



Devakarunya SV of Velammal Vidyalaya West with five points out of six finished second in the Under-10 girls category at the Children's Chess Tournament held at Chennai Citi Centre.

If you or your neighbours are facing any civic problems such as water logging, stray dogs menace, garbage dump on vacant sites and so on. Don't hesitate to send a photo with a caption to ayanambakkamtimes@gmail.com or alert us at 4269 0063.

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Open dumping turns vacant space into a waste zone

By Our Correspondent

A VACANT stretch behind an apartment complex on Gangai Amman Kovil Street in Mogappair has turned into a dumping ground, with construction debris, household waste, plastic, discarded material and uprooted vegetation strewn across the site.

A visit to the locality showed a large accumulation of rubble and soil spread across the vacant space. The debris was mixed with plastic bags, discarded household material, broken concrete, construction waste, tree branches and other garbage. Parts of the site were covered by dense vegetation, while waste could be

seen scattered over the ground.

The location is immediately behind residential apartment buildings, raising concerns among residents about sanitation and the possible health and environmental consequences of allowing the waste to accumulate.

"This space has gradually turned into a dumping ground. Instead of being maintained as a clean vacant area, it is now filled with rubble and garbage," a resident said.

The presence of both construction and household waste is a particular concern. Large quantities of broken concrete and other debris have been dumped alongside plastic and other garbage, making



the area difficult to clean and potentially encouraging further dumping.

"Once waste starts accumulating in a vacant place, people begin treating

it as a convenient dumping spot. It needs to be cleared completely and the dumping must be stopped," another resident said.

The site also has con-

siderable vegetation, with tree branches and other organic material lying among the debris. Residents say that the accumulation could become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other pests, apart from creating unpleasant odours as organic waste decomposes.

The proximity of the dumping site to homes adds to the concern. The vacant land is not an isolated location but lies within a developed residential neighbourhood, with apartment blocks visible immediately beyond the site. "We are living right next to this area. The authorities should not wait until the garbage becomes a bigger problem. The site needs to be

cleaned and maintained regularly," a resident said.

The dumping also raises questions about the disposal of construction and demolition waste. Such material requires appropriate handling and disposal, rather than being left in vacant plots alongside ordinary garbage.

Residents want the civic authorities to inspect the site, remove the accumulated waste and debris and take steps to prevent the location from being used for further dumping.

A one-time clearance, they say, may not be enough. Unless the vacant space is monitored and fresh dumping is prevented, the area could quickly return to its present condition.



DSAV HOSTS 12TH ANNUAL SPORTS MEET

Dayasadan Agarwal Vidyalaya hosted its 12th Annual Sports Meet. Mrs. Preetha Jagadeesh, Asian Powerlifting Champion was the chief guest in the presence of Correspondent Mr BP Jhunjhunwala and members of the school management committee. Patel House (Red House) emerged the overall house champion. Students participated enthusiastically in track and field events and presented performances including Dynamic Dynamos, Mass Ribbon Symphony, Fusion Frenzy, Pole Elegance and Pyramid of Glory.



Six students from Velammal Vidyalaya Link School, Melayanambakkam (JS. Shazia Tabassum, Swanjana, Nivethiga, Vedanth, S.J. Reanna and Hasini) won in the "Thirukkural Festival" painting competition organized by Sri Ram Literary Society, CSI Jesse Moses School, Anna Nagar.

Tasmac launches helpline to report complaints

A day after granting the salesmen a substantial hike but also warning them of strict action if the constant complaints of overcharging continued, the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac) launched a 24x7 helpline for consumers to report complaints about its retail outlets and services.

According to a release,

consumers who have complaints may call 1800-889-2015 or send complaints and queries through WhatsApp at +91-7397720230. The numbers have been operational from August 31 (Monday).

The corporation has also listed its official accounts on all social media platforms, including Facebook, X, Instagram, and

YouTube as channels for public grievances. Complaints received through these platforms will be forwarded to the concerned officials and monitored. It has been announced that Tasmac workers found fleeing violations will face a three month suspension from service. Repeat violation will result in dismissal.



Velammal Vidyalaya, Mogappair West securing 9 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze finished overall runner-up in an athletics championship. They also finished overall champions in the under-17, under-19 boys categories and stood second in the under-17 girls category.

Netflix launches dedicated hub for south films, series

Netflix has launched Into The Southverse, a dedicated collection page for members in India that brings together films and series from southern India in one place.

Available directly on the Netflix homepage and through search, the new hub features curated selections across Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and other southern languages, organised around genres, moods and popular stars. The collection is aimed at making it easier for viewers to discover both familiar favourites and new stories.

The Southverse lineup includes theatrical successes such as Peddi, Blast, Amaran, Maharaja,

Court: State vs A Nobody and Lucky Bhaskar. It also features Netflix Originals, including the recently premiered Pyaar Prema Kalyanam, Made in Korea and Super Subbu, Netflix's first Telugu Original series.

Made in Korea also became the first title from southern India to reach the top spot on Netflix's Global Top 10 Non-English Films list. Upcoming titles such as the romantic-comedy series Love and the much-awaited series Legacy are expected to further expand the collection.

The launch comes as Netflix continues to increase its focus on stories from southern India. The streaming platform had

earlier announced that viewers can expect an average of one new title every week from the region for the rest of 2026, including major post-theatrical releases and Netflix Originals.

According to Netflix, the popularity of southern Indian content has also extended beyond its home markets. Since 2025, India's Top 10 Films list has featured at least one film from the region every week. In 2025, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam films appeared on Netflix's Global Top 10 Non-English Films list in 39 of 52 weeks, while titles from southern India reached Top 10 lists in 59 countries outside India. *Agencies*



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