

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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INSIDE

• **Madras Week Celebrations across the city**

Yet another Madras Day comes to a close, but how do we make it better?

And so, yet another Madras Day has come to a close, though at the time of writing, events are still on at a few places. What began as a day's celebration in 2004 has grown extensively and has graduated from being Madras Day to Madras Week and now, a Madras Month. With officialdom too recognising the occasion over the last few years (with special messages from the Chief Minister and his immediate predecessor), it has moved out of the "why-should-we-celebrate-our-colonial past" question and has acquired a different dimension. While it is heartening to see the growth in the scale of celebrations, there is scope for some reflection on how it can be made better, especially as it moves towards its silver jubilee.

History has shown us that when a city grows, it is inevitably skewed in favour of the newer parts, with the older ones which have been the nucleus being left out in terms of development. The way the Madras Day celebrations have unfolded too has largely mirrored this pattern, with events being concentrated in venues across the southern and central parts of the city. While it must be acknowledged that awareness of the origins and the contribution of the oldest part of the city – the north, to its development is much better today than what



This I Love Madras artwork is an example of Karuppur Kalamkriya and was produced by the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Corporation specially for Madras Day.

● by **Karthik Bhatt**

it was when the concept of Madras Day was first thought of, it remains a matter of concern that there have been no consistent attempts at making them an integral part of the celebrations. While the concept of Madras Day celebration itself is purely a voluntary exercise, there must be a dedicated effort to encourage more institutions, schools and establishments based in North Chennai to showcase and celebrate their heritage. The Department of Tourism has in the recent past taken a special interest in the celebrations, and maybe to ignite young minds, they can think of organising special visits for school children regularly

to various heritage buildings across the city and get them to learn about their history!

Over the years, the concept of Madras Day itself has metamorphosed from being a commemoration of the founding of the city to a celebration of its ethos and its spirit, as these columns noted a couple of years ago (MM, Aug 16-31, 2024). Social media has played an important role in this transition. However, a question that needs some introspection is, has the focus shifted away too much? While the transition and the variety of events have certainly brought to the fore aspects of the city's growth as it constantly evolves, how much have the celebrations

actually inspired dedicated individualistic efforts to learn of its historic past, of people, institutions and events that have shaped it and brought to light new findings? It is important to recognise that the concept itself was initially designed as a means to encourage people to learn more about our past, and losing sight of this would mean a body blow to that very purpose.

Another aspect of the celebrations that has been debated and commented upon in the past is that they largely cater to a niche, restricted audience, with almost the same set of participants seen at every event. Unfortunately, there has been little progress on expanding the audience base over the years. For this to change, there certainly

needs to be more effort at the community level, for people to take ownership of conceptualising and organising events in their own way. Since the last time these columns wrote about this (MM, Aug 16-31, 2019), sporadic attempts have been made, but for the celebrations to be broad-based, there needs to be continuity. There is certainly no dearth of content to work with and all it requires is a constant, dedicated effort to keep the attempt going.

For all its laidback and conservative outlook, our city has been adept at constantly adapting to change, while ensuring that its roots to tradition and history are firmly in place. May this spirit continue to guide the celebrations in the years to come.

Madras Week Events

Madras Week at SRM



Stamp Seal making workshop.



Special address by Sriram V.



Madras Heritage Tour organised by TTDC.



Honouring Madras at the Panchayat Union Middle School, Chettipunniyam village.

The School of Architecture and Interior Design, SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur organised a three-day outreach programme that offered participants an engrossing experience through workshops, expert talk and field visit.

Day 1: At the workshop on 'Stamp Seal Making – Stamping the Icons of Madras', the participants converted visual identities of Madras into

stamp designs and produced actual rubber stamps using liquid polymer. A Screen Printing workshop was also conducted for the participants. In the afternoon, there was a special address by Sriram V. exploring the fascinating history and evolution of Madras from its early settlements, the establishment of Fort St. George, the growth of George Town to the emergence of modern Chennai.

Day 2: A Madras Heritage Tour was organized in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC). Conducted aboard an Electric AC Double-Decker Bus, it was a guided field visit to significant heritage precincts and iconic landmarks of Chennai, offering first-hand exposure to the city's architectural, cultural and urban history.

Day 3: "Create an Iconic Thumbnail for Madras" -- A creative and engaging heritage-awareness workshop was conducted for the students of Classes VI and VII at the Panchayat Union Middle School, Chettipunniyam Village. The session introduced the young participants to the story behind Madras Day, helping them understand the origins of Madras and the city's rich architectural heritage. The programme concluded with a special felicitation ceremony titled "Honouring Madras" to acknowledge and appreciate all the participants. Students who assisted in conducting this event were also acknowledged during this session.

Madras Day Events at Asan Schools



A skit on "A Glimpse of Studios Last Days".



Symposium on "Dying Studios of Madras".



Banners displayed on the theme – Lost Landmarks of Madras – it's Grand Studios.

At Queen Mary's College



History students of Queen Mary's College on a Mylapore Walk led by K R Jambunathan.



Dept. of History students display coins, stamps and vintage items at the Madras Day event.

At Sri Kanyaka Parameswari College



Visitors at the Madras Day event hosted by Sri Kanyaka Parameswari College, George Town.

Madras Quiz organised by the Murugappa Group



Jayakanthan R and Kartik Ramadas – Winners of the Madras Quiz (Open) 2026.



K Palani and A Santhanam – the first runners-up.



K L Dheeraj and Ramesh Krishna S from PSBB, K.K. Nagar – Winners of the Schools Quiz.

As Chennai celebrated its 387th anniversary during Madras Week, the **Madras Quiz for Schools and Madras Quiz (Open) 2026**, presented by the Murugappa Group and conducted by renowned quizmaster Dr Sumanth C Raman, were held at Victoria Public Hall. The twin quizzes attracted 166 teams from across the city, transforming the iconic venue into a vibrant celebration of Chennai's history, heritage, culture, and spirit.

As many as 88 school teams from across Chennai participated in the Madras Quiz for Schools 2026. In a closely contested final, KL Dheeraj and Ramesh Krishna S from PSBB, K.K. Nagar, emerged the winners, receiving gift vouchers worth ₹6,000. Dev Naveen and Aakush A Dhanujnath from Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, Kilpauk, secured the first runners-up position and won gift vouchers worth ₹ 4,000 while S Lokeshwar and Sanjeev S from The Grove School, Teynampet, were declared second runners-up, taking home gift vouchers worth ₹3,000.

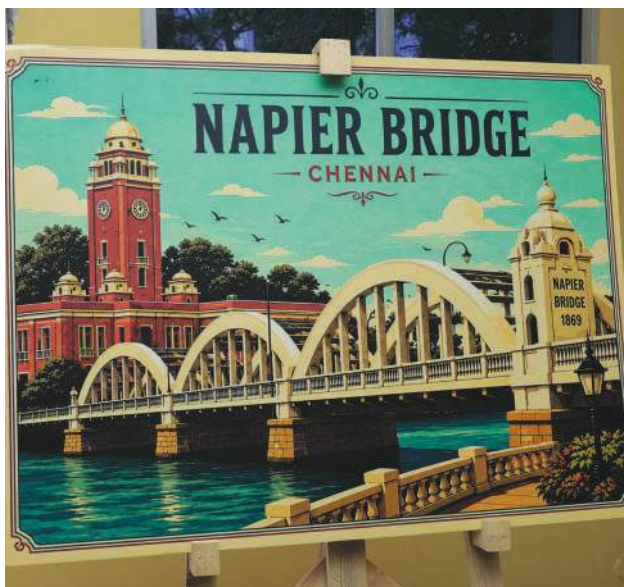
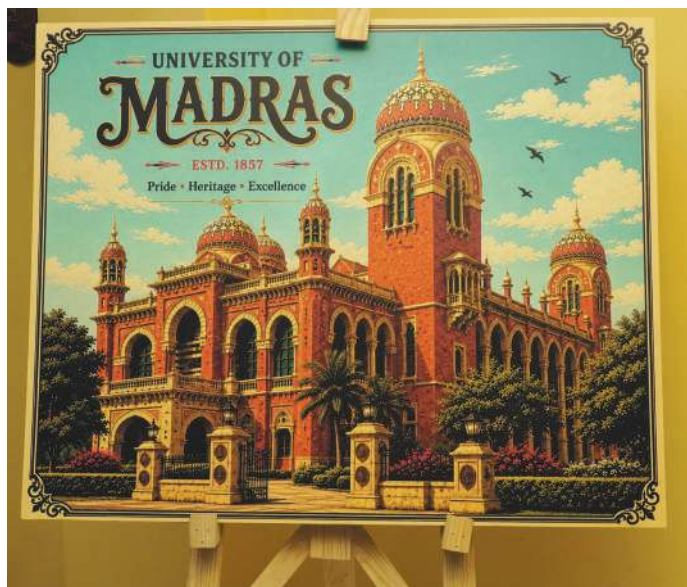
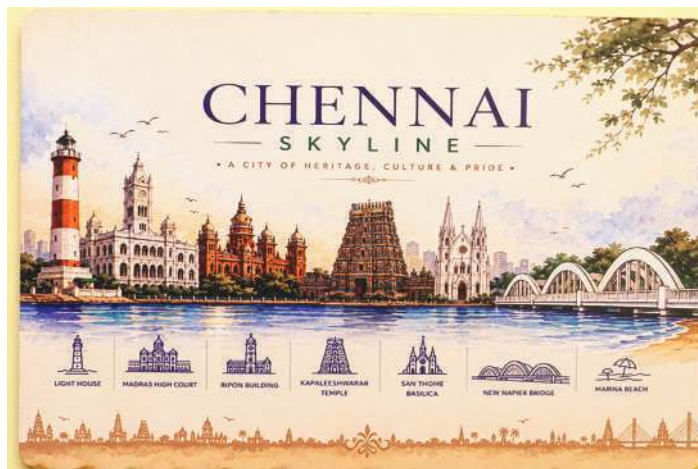
The afternoon witnessed an engaging contest, with Jayakanthan R and Kartik Ramadas emerging winners of the Madras Quiz (Open) 2026. They lifted the prestigious rolling trophy and received gift vouchers worth ₹15,000. K Palani and A Santhanam secured the first runners-up position and won gift vouchers worth ₹10,000, while Srinivasa Ramanujam and Deepa Alexander finished as second runners-up, taking home gift vouchers worth ₹8,000.

The excitement continued throughout the day, with members in the audience and even those joining virtually, winning spot prizes. This year's theme -- "Manasellaam Madras, Vibe-ellaam Chennai", came alive through lively quizzing, bringing together 166 teams, quiz enthusiasts and audiences of all ages.



Dev Naveen and Aakush A Dhanujnath from Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, Kilpauk – the first runners-up of the Schools Quiz.

Madras Day Souvenirs Collection at Poompuhar



The Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar) unveiled a special Madras Day souvenir collection on August 21, 2026, at the TNHDC Office on Anna Salai, Chennai. The launch event was graced by MSME Minister P. Mathan Raja, alongside key officials including Principal Secretary TN Venkatesh and Poompuhar Managing Director S. Amirtha Jothi.

Madras day Celebrations by *Mylapore Times*



Mylapore Walk for Senior Citizens led by K.R. Jambunathan and Sridhar Venkatraman.



Vidya Mandir team – winners of the 'Heritage of Chennai' project contest for city schools.



One of the teams that took part in the project 'City Streets' meant for architecture college students.



Team of Rani Meyyammai Girls School – winner of the Madras Quiz in Tamil.



Winners of the 'Champions of Chennai' trophy organised by KSA Trust.

Madras Day celebrations at Hotel Aadithya



Moods of Madras Through its Melodies – A performance by Akhilesh Rajan and band



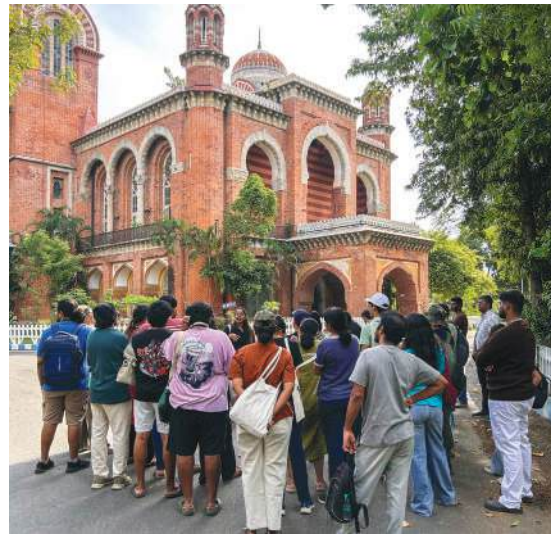
386 Years... And Madras Still Lives On – A presentation by Meenakshi Devaraj.

Talk on The Chandragiri Fort



An illustrated talk by Sudha Umashanker, writer and storyteller, on "The Chandragiri Fort and its Role in the founding of Madras" held on August 30, 2026 at Hotel Palmgrove. The event was organised by Storycorner at Bookmine.

Madras Week Events organised by Madras Inherited



Indo-Saracenic Heritage Walk – led by Ashmitha Athreya on August 22.



Madras on a Table Event – led by Ashmitha Athreya and Olivia Daniel on August 22.



Kasimedu Cultural Heritage Walk – led by Ashmitha Athreya and Shruthi Sivakumar on August 23.



Pattalam Cultural Heritage Walk – led by Ashmitha Athreya on August 23.

HERITAGE WALKS

At Fort St. George organised by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department

A tour of Fort St. George was conducted by Sriram V on 22 August, Madras Day. The feedback from Tamil Nadu Tourism Department states that the participants thoroughly enjoyed the walk and appreciated the insights and stories shared during the experience.



At Fort St. George organised by Past Forward



Freedom Markers Heritage Walk on Mount Road



Events Conducted by Social History Group

Heritage walk series for Madras Day by Nam Veedu Nam Oor Nam Kadhai, TTDC and Madras photo bloggers, led by: Prasanna S, Muhilann M and Srivatsan Sankaran.



Heritage Walk on NSC Bose Road on August 16 for World Photography Day.



At Victoria Public Hall.

Chennai Heritage-Madras Musings Lecture Series 2026

August 16: Screening of *Dispatches from the Wall Corner* – a documentary about single screen cinemas by Ninad Kulkarni, followed by interaction with the filmmaker at Hanu Reddy Residences, Poes Gardens.



August 17: *Birds of Madras* – Talk by K.V. Sudhakar, President, Madras Naturalists Society at Amethyst, Whites Road.



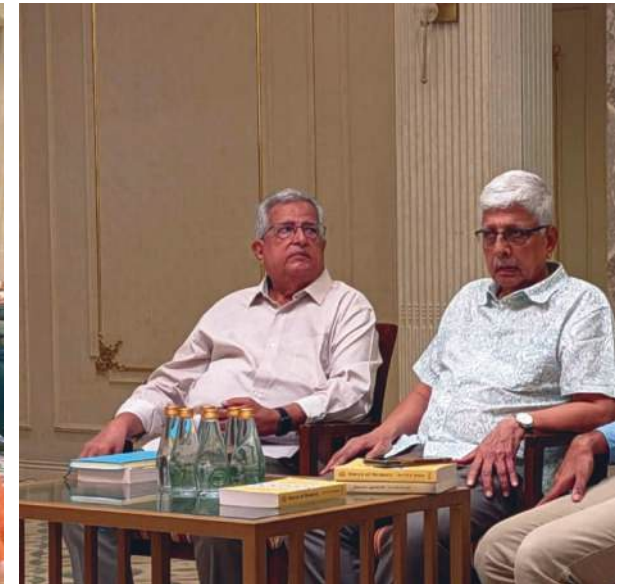
August 18: *Musical Memories of Madras* – Sangita Kalanidhi Dr. S. Sowmya in conversation with Sriram V at Amethyst, Whites Road.



August 19: *The Sporting Side* – Sharath Kamal, Padma Shri awardee, in conversation with Srinivasa Ramanujam at Hotel Maris, Cathedral Road.



August 20: *Waves of Memory* – Release of the English translation of the memoirs of Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, followed by a conversation between translator N. Kalyan, writer P.A. Krishnan and Sriram V on the book at GRT Hotel, Sir Theyagaroya Road, T Nagar.



August 21: *Sleepless in Chennai* – Dr. N. Ramakrishnan in conversation with Ramya Kannan at Residency Towers, T Nagar.



August 22: A Madras Day Special. *The Future has a Past* – Sriram V in conversation with Tripurasundari Sevvil.



Tree Walks organised by Nizhal



Tree Walk at May Day Park on August 15.



Tree Walk at Egmore Museum on August 16.



At Natesan Park, T Nagar on August 23.

Nature Walks organised by Madras Naturalists' Society



Tree Walk.

Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS) organised a set of Nature walks to celebrate Madras Day. The walks led by the members attempted to sensitise participants to the biodiversity and natural history of the city.

August 12: A walk up the Pachamalai hill to explore butterflies led by the young member Jomi Jose who led the walk along with Tejaswini.

August 14: An Insect walk was conducted at Madhavaram Botanical Gardens by young member Aparna Shyam along with senior member Dr Kalpana Jayaram.

August 17: The Nochikuppam Shore walk was led by young member Gowtham Marimuthu and Dr Kalpana Jayaram.

August 18: The Perumbakkam Madras Day Bird walk introduced the participants to the wetlands of Chennai. It was led by experienced birders Umesh Mani, Gnanaskandan Keshavabharathi and Srinivas Daripineni.

August 23: A large group of curious children and adults participated in the Boat Club

area Tree walk led by member Gayathree Krishna. They were taken along the avenues and introduced to the trees that people usually ignore.

Sept 4: A Nature walk along the Adyar river, rounding up exposure to another important natural phenomenon of the city with three rivers. – (All photos courtesy MNS members)



Shore Walk.



Butterfly Walk.

Postcard Collection Celebrating Madras

A special collection of postcards featuring illustrations inspired by the history, elements, architecture and iconic buildings of Madras by the late artist, writer, translator and heritage enthusiast Pavithra Srinivasan

was released at Higginbothams Book Store, Anna Salai, in Chennai. Titled "Madras: Arches, Alleys & Icons", the collection celebrates Pavithra's deep connection with the city. The postcards were released by T.N. Venkatesh, IAS, Justice Prabha Sridevan and historian K.R.A. Narasiah.

The initiative was put together by the Postcrossing Welfare Society of India with Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai, and the Madras Literary Society.

Pavithra's father, Srinivasan, said that she was also a musician and that proceeds from the sale of her books and related materials support a non-profit foundation that helps pay school fees for underprivileged children. The book and games that she had been working on would be released soon.

The collection is priced at ₹500 for a set of 12 postcards. Copies can be obtained by emailing madras.kadhai@gmail.com or through Postcardsville.



Super Chennai honours ICON of the Month and launches Let's Talk Chennai



On the occasion of the 387th Madras Day, Super Chennai honoured renowned historian, author and heritage curator Sriram V, as its ICON of the Month, recognising his decades-long contribution to documenting, preserving and bringing alive the history, heritage and evolving identity of Chennai. The award was presented by Dr. G.S. Sameeran, IAS, Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation. The occasion also marked the official launch of Let's Talk Chennai, a global citizen-led movement inviting Chennaiites and the Chennai diaspora across the world to share their stories, memories, photographs and experiences of the city they love. These can be shared at www.letstalkchennai.com

The event was organised at a special Madras Day edition of Super Chennai Arattai. Sriram spoke about the many layers of Chennai and the importance of looking beyond its well-known landmarks and celebrated personalities to discover the stories of its neighbourhoods and ordinary citizens like railway workers and linesmen to traffic constables and others whose lives shaped particular neighbourhoods and moments. Many of these stories exist only in public memory and remain largely undocumented..



He highlighted neighbourhoods including Shenoy Nagar, K.K. Nagar, Anna Nagar, Aminjikarai, Tambaram and Sholinganallur, noting that many places that appear relatively new have histories that stretch much further back. With rapid urban development transforming the city, he stressed the importance of documenting these stories before their physical and social traces disappear.

Dr. G.S. Sameeran, IAS, Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation felicitated Sriram for going beneath the surface, tracing those roots and bringing them into public consciousness, thereby helping people to look at Chennai not merely as a modern city, but as a city with a deep and continuing history.

Speaking on the occasion, Ranjeeth Rathod, Managing Director, Super Chennai, said that Madras Day is indeed a celebration of the city, but more importantly, it is a celebration of the people and stories that have made Chennai what it is.

Chennai welcomes Madras Day with India's first midnight musical Metro ride



150 Chennaiites boarded a Metro train at Chennai Central for what is believed to be India's first midnight musical Metro ride — a one-of-a-kind celebration of the city that brought together music, community and Metro awareness. The experience was jointly organised by Super Chennai and Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL)

as a special post-working-hours initiative, transforming a Metro journey into a "moving" celebration of Chennai!

At the Chennai Central Metro station, the celebrations began at the stroke of midnight, with a cake being cut by the CMRL mascot. Soon after, the crowd boarded the train, with Chennai-based folk music ensemble

Office Gaana taking their place across two compartments. Special arrangements ensured that passengers seated across both compartments could experience the concert. Passengers sang along, clapped, grooved and, at several points, even moved to sit on the floor of the compartments to get closer to the music. For nearly an hour, the train became a celebration on wheels, travelling from Chennai Central to Arumbakkam and back.

As the train began to move, the music began to flow and Chennai began to groove — making history with India's first-ever midnight musical ride on a moving Metro. Office Gaana launched into one song after another in their distinctive folk style, turning the Metro into a moving sing-along.

For one hour, a Metro train was more than a means of getting from one part of the city to another. It became a stage, a music venue, a community space and, most importantly, a celebration of Chennai.

Madras Day had arrived. And Chennai had welcomed it on the move!

Wheels of Memory at Women's Christian College



The Consul General of the USA in Madras organised a full-day seminar at the Women's Christian College. It was titled *Wheels of Memory* and explored the automobile connect between the USA and Madras. This was part of the USA 250 celebrations.

The story of American theatre and Madras Players



The 387th birthday of Madras and the 250th birthday of the United States were together celebrated by *Madras Musings* and Madras Book Club on August 24, 2026, at the CP Art Centre in Chennai. They hosted a compelling talk by PC Ramakrishna, theatre icon and voice-over artist, on the fascinating story of the interaction of American theatre with the Madras Players.

Madras Players, founded in 1955, is India's oldest English theatre group. Madras at that time was strongly influenced by American culture, literature and performing arts. American theatre of the 20th century had developed a distinctive voice through famous playwrights whose plays explored family conflict, social injustice, alienation, and the psychological pressures of modern life. American theatre was therefore a rich source of inspiration for Madras Players.

Some powerful American plays were brought to Chennai by the United States Information

Service (USIS). PCR recalled that George Deligianis, then Deputy Director of USIS, was a theatre enthusiast who permitted rehearsals for American plays to be done in the American library, which was a great help. Later, during the 1990s, Miriam Guichard of USIS was most helpful and encouraging.

The first American play performed by Madras Players (in 1965) was the famous Tennessee Williams production *The Night of the Iguana*. Madras Players had picked a complex American work and transformed it imaginatively for an Indian audience.

PCR had made his Madras Players acting debut in 1969 with an American play – Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* (1969) where he enacted a priest. His favourites among the American plays he acted in were *The Doubt: A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley (2010) and *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller (1990). Recalling the central role he had played in *The Doubt* – of a priest accused of molesting an altar boy in a school in the northeast, PCR remarked "The priest in the play was traumatized, so was I through several rehearsals and the main play!"

Madras Players has staged more than 30 American plays since its founding in 1955. These include *A View from the Bridge* (Arthur Miller, 1966); *Plaza Suite* (Neil Simon, 1977); *Here Lies Jeremy Troy* (Jack Sharkey, 1979); *Next* (Terrence McNally, 1979-80); *Our Town* (Thornton Wilder, 1983); *The Shadow Box* (Michael Chrisofer, 1986); *Play It Again, Sam* (Woody Allen, 1988); *All My Sons* (Arthur

Miller, 1990); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Edward Abee, 1990); *The Doubt: A Parable* (John Patrick Stanley, 2010); *California Suite* (Neil Simon, 2015); *To Kill a Mocking Bird* (Harper Lee 2025).

"The American plays brought to Madras Players a new theatre idiom, a new vocabulary," said PCR. They showed different approaches to characterisation, dialogue, stage realism and contemporary social themes. These experiences stimulated Indian actors and directors to experiment.

Later, a new trend opened up in Madras Players. Several excellent plays from Indian languages became available through translation into English. Writers like Girish Karnad, Badal Sircar, Mohan Rakesh and Vijay Tendulkar featured in Madras Players' repertoire. PC Ramakrishna said audiences responded enthusiastically to these works because of their distinctly Indian idiom. PCR himself has tapped the talent of Indian theatre and writers for presentation by Madras Players.

To sum up, the interaction between Madras Players and American theatre is a story of cultural exchange. American theatre expanded the understanding of Madras Players about what theatre could do. It demonstrated how international cultural influences can strengthen rather than diminish a local artistic tradition. American theatre helped an Indian theatre movement find its own voice.

by S.R. Madhu

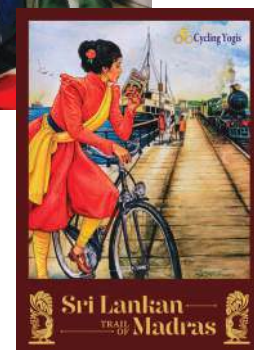
Madras Week Celebrations organised by The Cycling Yogis



Madras the First Cycling Trail – in association with TTDC & Probikers on August 22.



Sri Lankan Trail of Madras – book release at Higginbothams on August 22.



The cover of the book.

MCCI celebrates America-Madras Business Connect



The Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) organised an event titled “America 250 - Madras 387: A Long Business Connect” on 19 August at Grand Chennai by GRT (Southern Crown Hall, T. Nagar) during the Madras Week.

Chennai continues to serve as a key gateway for global business, while the United States remains one of India’s most important economic partners. The event was a celebration of this enduring connection reflecting shared values of entrepreneurship, trust, and progress, paving the way for stronger collaborations and sustainable growth in the years ahead.

Madras Week Celebrations organised by *The Hindu*



Moonlight Cinema at Marina beach on August 19.

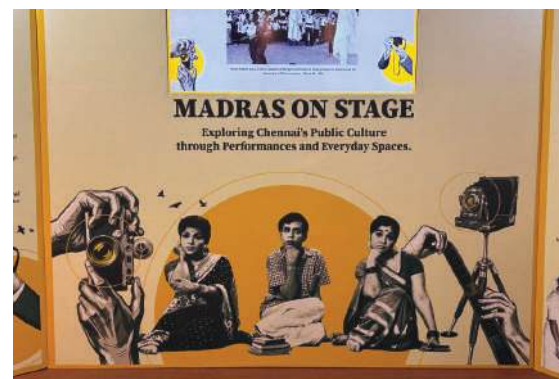
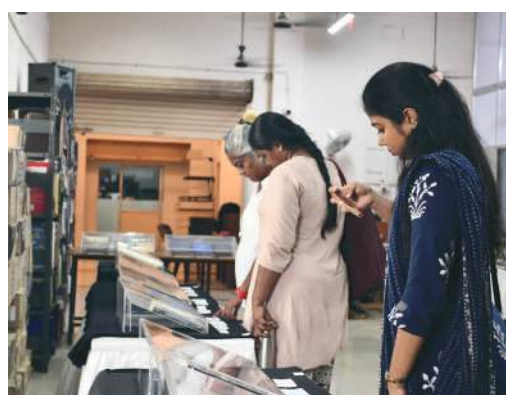


Photo exhibition titled Madras on Stage.

Madras Week Celebrations at RMRL



Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL) organised an exhibition titled “Vanakkam Chennai” from August 17-22, 2026. This exhibition showcased books and periodicals on Madras from the Library’s collection. Key exhibits included colonial records on Madras by the British Government, histories of Madras in both Tamil and English, works of fiction set in Madras, and important works on the history and culture of North Madras. Visitors were given complimentary Madras-themed bookmarks featuring archival images of the statue of Sir Thomas Munro and St. Andrew’s Church (The Kirk). More than 300 aficionados of Madras visited the exhibition. Throughout August, RMRL’s social media pages carried a special daily series titled *Chennai Pokkishangal*, sharing rare photographs and images of Madras from its collection.

The celebrations concluded fittingly on Madras Day, August 22, the final day of the exhibition, with a performance by the Madras MBS Choir, one of India’s oldest choral music groups. The children’s and senior Choir presented a thoughtfully curated performance to celebrate the cultural and linguistic diversity of Chennai.



Talks organised by Madhuradhwani at Arkay Convention Centre, Mylapore



Dr Sudha Seshayyan on Madras Bhashai.



Dr V Preethi on Madras in Sanskrit works.



J. Raghunathan on Print to Kollywood.



Venkatesh Ramakrishnan on Heritage of Triplicane.



A cross-section of the audience.

Playing Through Madras: Kreeda Explores the City



During August 2026, Kreeda marked both Madras Week and its own 24th anniversary with *Playing Through Madras*, a month-long public programme that invited participants to discover Chennai through the lens of traditional games, local histories and community memories.

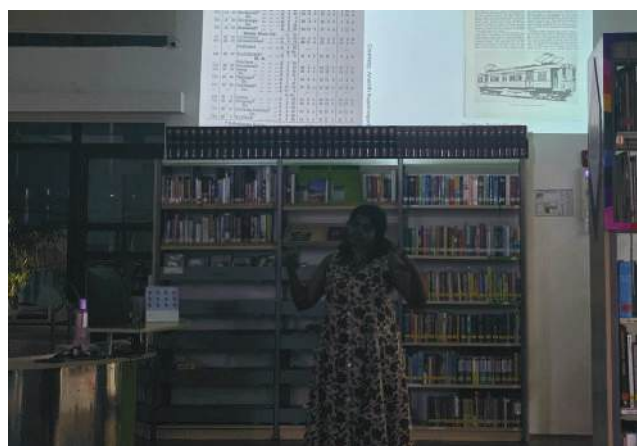
Drawing inspiration from the city's rivers, which have historically shaped settlement patterns, livelihoods and cultural practices, Chennai was divided into four regions, each represented through a dedicated exhibition and a public

conversation. Every Monday, visitors gathered at the Kreeda Experience Centre to engage with researchers, community historians and subject experts who shared perspectives on heritage, ecology, food traditions, textiles and urban life.

The first week, *Between the Adyar and the Cooum*, featured discussions by Vinita Sidhartha of Kreeda, Shreya Krishnan of Pelathope Urban Living Lab and Priya Ramkumar, who spoke about the culinary legacy of Meenakshi Ammal. The second week, *South of the Adyar River*, brought together Pavithra Sriram

of Project Thiruvanniyur Mada Street and birder Dr Meenakshi Swaminathan, who highlighted the rich birdlife of Chennai.

Makkal, Migration, Memory & Music



The event was conducted on August 21 at the Goethe institute, Max Mueller Bhavan. Pooja Ashokkumar, from Bombay, and Julien Dechery of Paris, moderated by Thirupurasundari Sevel, brought out in a talk for an intimate group of listeners, a new angle to the standard Madras Month

line up: the diaspora. It was about 19th-20th Century Tamil Migration: Madras, Bombay & Paris Connections.

Pooja, a resident of Mumbai, runs the 'Bombay Tamil History' Instagram page which documents the history and lives of the working class Tamil diaspora of Mumbai.

Julien is a music aficionado who has been collecting Tamil music at home in Paris from 2005. He has built up a physical repository of hundreds of records and DVDs. The talks were followed by an Ilayaraja listening session, curated by Julien, and a brief Q&A.

– Nandan S Kaushik

The third week, *The Westward Push*, focused on architecture and ecology, with heritage architect Thirupurasundari Sevel and environmental educator Meenakshi Devaraj sharing insights on indigenous plants and the changing urban landscape. The final week, *Travelling North of the Cooum*, featured cyclist and community documentarian Ramanujar Mounlana of Cycling Yogis and textile researcher Shreemathy, who explored the history and continuing relevance of Madras Checks.

Each exhibition captured games found in temples and monuments of the area and did a deep dive into its background and history. Each one remained on display for the week following the public conversation. Through photographs, maps, game boards, stories and community narratives, participants were encouraged to view familiar neighbourhoods in new ways. The delightful sessions were accompanied by carefully curated traditional snacks and coffee from much loved eateries of the city.

Madras Musings is supported as a public service by the following organisations

