

Two wrongs do not make a right



Motorcyclists from Wallajah Road taking an unauthorised right on Anna Salai.
PHOTO :SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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In the essay, “Rule of The Road”, AG Gardiner notes traffic rules signify “liberty” in the true sense of the term. With boundaries that keep personal whims out of the picture, this liberty entitles every road user only to behaviours that are beneficial to themselves and those around them – most importantly, keeping both parties safe from danger to life and limb.

The essay is timeless as its message has not diminished in relevance, as road users across climes continue to put personal whims ahead of traffic rules, violating the latter with impunity.

For the sake of illustration, Gardiner uses the famous Picaddilly Circus, painting a picture of what can happen to the junction if every road user insisted on enjoying his

private liberty, as they themselves defined it.

One can simply replace Picaddilly Circus junction with the Wallajah Road junction, without taking anything away from Gardiner’s message.

Last year, at this junction, the right turn towards Anna Salai from Wallajah Road was disabled, and the traffic was channelled towards a U-turn created further up Anna Salai. The move was aimed at preventing traffic from getting bunched up at the busy junction.

However, one gets the impression that, due to lack of proper enforcement, this traffic arrangement has only heightened the problem it sought to address. Not only that, it has also increased the risk of accidents around the junction.

Some motorists – particularly motorcyclists – from Wallajah Road skirt around the arrangement by sneaking into Anna Salai by tak-

ing an unauthorised right. They sometimes find themselves on a collision course with motorists coming from Blackers Road, who for their part, ignore a no-U-turn signboard on Anna Salai, and take an unauthorised right turn to head down Anna Salai (in the direction of LIC) or into Ellis Road.

Invariably, these violations happen under the nose of the traffic police.

In a side-story – quite literally – motorists heading towards Ellis Road sidle into a lane that would take them there. These are the motorists that come from Blackers Road and cut through the traffic flowing into Anna Salai from Wallajah Road. By indulging in this violation, they endanger the safety of motorists coming from Wallajah Road, besides putting themselves out on a limb.

A Greater Chennai Traffic Police has promised to do the needful.

READERS WRITE

Issue addressed



Following a photograph being published in these pages about a junction box that was left open, at Dr Ranga Road in Mylapore, Baskar Seshadri from Mandaveli has written to note that TANGEDCO has addressed the complaint.

‘Improve civic amenities at Parris’

We read a lot about various projects initiated in different areas under Singara Chennai, but why has Parris been left out of them? These pictures are proof of the poor standard of living and lack of basic amenities in that locality.

Ilyas



You can be our volunteer-writer

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 downtown feedback@thehindu.co.in. Letters must carry the postal address and contact number. Here’s a short note on the basic building blocks of any short news feature.

a) The lead is the first section of an article, and leads that narrate a human situation work the best.

b) The next element is the cosmic paragraph, in which you give the overall picture.

c) The articles have to be factually well-grounded and the central portion, which will consist of a few paragraphs, should support the anecdotal paragraph and the cosmic paragraph.



Residents want Kathivakkam High Road mended



Kathivakkam High Road; and the space below the flyover.
PHOTOS : SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

TS ATUL SWAMINATHAN

In 2021, when the State Highways Department relaid Kathivakkam High Road in Ennore, resi-

dents of Girija Nagar heaved a sigh of relief.

Their long-standing demand had been met. The joy however was short-lived.

Just weeks after the relaying work, Tamil Nadu Generation

and Distribution Corporation and Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board dug up portions of the road as well as the space below the Kathivakkam flyover to lay power cables and drinking water pipelines respectively.

Though the work reached its logical conclusion the same year, telltale signs that these works were carried out still remain.

The dug-up portions were closed with sand. They were not even given the dignity of a patchwork. On account of monsoonal rains in 2021 and 2022, these closed sections look battered, says N Govindan, a trader and a resident of Ennore.

Minor accidents involving motorcyclists are the order of the day. Residents want these sections of the road relaid at the earliest. In addition, they have sought better illumination under the flyover.

