

## TAMBARAM

Chromepet » Pallavaram » Tambaram West » Rajakilpakkam » Mannivakkam » Guindy » Keelkattalai » Nanganallur » Guduvanchery » Hasthinapuram » Pammal » Tambaram East  
Medavakkam » Srinivasa Nagar » Kathipara Junction » Kovilambakkam » Sadasivam Nagar » Potheri » Selaiyur » Sembakkam » St.Thomas Mount » Madipakkam » Urappakkam » Paranur

## New seats at Tambaram West bus stop are a *disappointment*

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

**T**he new bus shelters and seating facilities provided at the elongated Tambaram West stop outside the railway station along GST Road have not brought much cheer to commuters.

The seats are positioned at such a height that people have to climb on to it. More than 10 new shelters and seating facilities have been installed across

the spacious stop.

Commuter A. Krithika Anand says the seating facilities are not of much use to them. Some commuters use the seats to keep their luggage, and some sit on the tiled pavement, she says.

A halting area (along the parking lot) needs shelter and seating facilities.

The stop has buses plying towards Kilambakkam, Kovalam, Thiruporur, and Guduvanchery regions and Chengalpattu town.



A large number of commuters at Tambaram West bus stop give the seating facilities a wide berth.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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## 'Fence the lake's water-holding area'



On September 13, members of Saving Nanmangalam Lake team held their 65th weekend cleanup, showcasing a great example of community spirit.

More than 20 students from Kurinji Silambam joined the members. We saw great interest in students cleaning up the trash from the lake, says R. Sathya, a core member of the team.

The residents of Nanmangalam urged the State government to install a fence immediately because meat waste is being dumped into the water, and to take action to remove the dump yard.

## Palm seeds sowed around waterbodies in Pallikaranai

Residents of Appasamy Mapleton in Pallikaranai carried out a tree plantation drive recently. According to a press release, palm seeds were sowed in and around the following waterbodies in Pallikaranai: Narayanapuram lake, Anai Eri and Amman Kulam.

Around 2,000 seeds, donated by IIT - Madras and Vanavani School, were sowed with permission from the Public Works Department, adds the release.



The seeds were sowed near a private school too. The Councillor of Ward 190, Siva Prakasam, took part in the drive, says the release.

## 'Remove those stepping stones at Anna Salai in Guindy'



A few weeks ago, concrete stones were placed on a stretch of Anna Salai in Guindy, allowing pedestrians to scale the medians and cross the stretch. The arrangement is unnecessary and fraught with risk, as this is a busy road with continuous vehicular traffic. The State Highways Department should remove the stones (towards Little Mount) and barricade the median so that pedestrians do not place stones again and cross the arterial stretch, says S. Ramya Sriram, a pedestrian. TEXT AND PHOTO: T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

## Chengalpattu station will be revamped by December

Chengalpattu Railway Station is getting a facelift. Under the Amrit Redevelopment Scheme, the station which serves over 60,000 commuters and passengers every day will be getting a host of amenities to improve passenger experience.

Structural work on the new administrative building, concourse, porch, and ticket counters is nearing completion, said a press release from the Chennai Division of the Southern

Railway.

Over 85 percent of the facade and pedestrian walkway construction has been completed. Resurfacing of platforms 5 and 6 is finished, and work is under way at platforms 7 and 8. The roofing of platform shelters is complete, and lifts have been installed for platforms 2, 7, and 8. Work for lifts at platforms 3, 4, 5, and 6 will start soon, added the release.

The work, which started last year,

is expected to be completed by December 2025.

Apart from the final touch, work is under way on the pedestrian pathway, passenger information system, and other electrical projects.

The upgraded station will have air-conditioned waiting halls, a VIP lounge, expanded parking areas, a state-of-the-art public information and display system, and an enhanced public CCTV surveillance.

## Saunders's tern sighted at Adyar Estuary

This sighting of the species is said to be the first for Chennai



Saunders's tern at Adyar Estuary on September 12, 2025. Photo: Kumaresan Chandrabose

A day can change a life: from a rank outsider, the Saunders's tern found itself hogging the city's attention – that is obviously a hyperbole, but the reader should get the point. Kumaresan, who has sighted the bird along with another birder M. Saravana Manian, points out that this is the first record of a Saunders's tern in Chennai. The bird is associated with north-western patches washed by the Indian Ocean; and it was previously never known to have Chennai included its winter-vacation plans plans.

Seeking to make sense of the appearance of the Saunders's tern in Chennai, Kumaresan turns to a finding by a group of researchers (H. Byyu, H. Maitreyi, N. Raveendran, D.A. Marshal and S. Ravichandran) that the Saunders's tern breeds on the sandbars of Adam's bridge. They had come upon breeding tern colonies (the Saunders's tern included); their paper has been published at threatenedtaxa.org.

Adam's bridge (located between India's Pamban Island and Sri Lanka's Mannar Island) is a chain of natural limestone shoals.

### PRINCE FREDERICK

**B**roke(n) people can be a source of healing. Broken things can provide a wholesome experience. One does not have examples ready at hand to il-

lustrate the first statement. Not so with the second one. The Broken Bridge (found in the liminal zone between Besant Nagar) springs wholesome surprises for birders from time to time. For birders, the Broken Bridge signifies a section of Adyar Estuary, a section that has

served as an illustration of the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect. At the time of this article going to print (which is on September 13), this patch was crowded with binoculars-toting humans. The reason: the previous day, environmentalist and birder Kumaresan Chandrabose had

posted a sighting of the Saunders's tern – also known as the Black-shafted tern – on birding platforms including eBird. And that had opened the floodgates on September 13. Kumaresan observed that the Saunders's tern did not disappoint the hopeful birders.

## READERS WRITE

### MTC buses block road outside Alandur bus depot

AQEEL KHAN

Every morning, vehicle users from Adambakkam, Alandur and Velachery driving towards Tirusulam or proceeding towards the city through GST Road face temporary road block. Reason: Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) buses occupy the road.

Parked on both sides of Cement Road, bus drivers bring the traffic to a standstill when buses exit the Alandur bus depot, marking their spot between the MKN Road Circle and Hotel Saravana Bhavan.

After parking the buses, the



### Traffic signals are needed at Kolapakkam junction

A. PONNAMBALAM

The Vandalur Kelambakkam Road witnesses heavy traffic as it is used by IT employees, students studying in Vellore Institute of Technology, Sathyabama University, and other motorists heading to Madambakkam, Agaramthen, Selaiyur, Padur and Siruseri. Gandhi Road in New Perungalathur region intersects with Kelambakkam Road at Kolapakkam junction.

At the junction, the traffic doubles, with motorists from IT Corridor, Vandalur, and New Perungalathur converging. This results

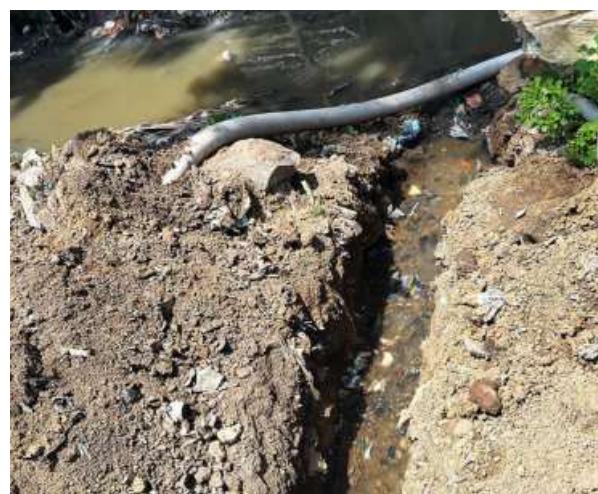
in congestion. This junction does not have vehicular traffic signals.

Traffic congestion is especially common between 7.30 a.m. and 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. as motorists are heading to Gandhi Road from Vandalur Kelambakkam Road.

I request State Highways Department and the Tambaram City Police Commissionerate to coordinate and install automatic signals to prevent accidents and regulate traffic flow.

A. Ponnambalam is a resident of Kolapakkam

### Raw sewage destroying Sembakkam Lake



M. RAVI

The newly constructed sewer pipeline on Thiru Vi Ka Nagar Main Road in Pallavaram, near Hasthinapuram carries sewage from Vinobhaji Nagar, Venkatraman Nagar, Haridossapuram and Thiru Vi Ka Nagar to Sembakkam lake.

Near the lake, where once a 'burning ghat' existed,

the civic body has constructed a huge tank, which collects sewage from the underground pipeline on the main road.

When the tank gets filled up, the base is broken to let the sewage into the Sembakkam Lake through the Pachai Malai water channel. Even pipes are facilitated to let sewage into the lake.

The lake is already con-



drivers and conductors have morning tea in the refreshment stalls lining the stretch while motorists struggle to cross the bottleneck.

At times, the buses are parked on the stretch the previous night.

With no proper reflectors on the buses and a dimly lit road, this poses a significant risk to vehicle users.

I request that the authorities concerned in the MTC to take action against the errant drivers and conductors and ensure that the buses are parked on the depot premises until they can exit the depot.

Aqeel Khan is a resident of Alandur

### Plant saplings along Medavakkam Road



BALAKRISHNAN. S.

Metro rail work on Medavakkam Main Road, from Nehru Colony Main Road in Nanganallur to Eechangadu junction (covering Puzhuthivakkam, Madipakkam, and Keezhkattalai regions), is nearing completion.

Currently, on the lane towards Vanuvampet and Eechangadu, there are no trees. I request the authorities concerned in CMRL and the State Highways Department to plant saplings along the stretch by barricading the spaces.

Both agencies must also look at the option of beautifying the pillars.

Balakrishnan. S. is a resident of Keezhkattalai

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*The Hindu Downtown* seeks to find answers to unanswered questions commuters might have about lifts and escalators at railway stations in Southern Railway's Chennai Division, particularly when these facilities are malfunctioning

**Who services the lifts and escalators?**

Eighteen maintenance depots are tasked with the job of attending to various complaints at stations in the Chennai Division of the Southern Railway, which covers Kanchipuram, Sriperumbudur, Tiruvallur, Arakkonam, Vellore and Villupuram — and two districts in Andhra Pradesh, namely Chittoor and Tirupathi. This is besides periodical maintenance by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM). All lifts/escalators are covered under annual maintenance contract (AMC), but they are not covered if the cause of fault is a slipper slipping in or any other comparable reason.

**What is the average lifespan of a lift/escalator?**

**20**  
years

#### **Choosing the best option**

Both the lift and the escalators have their advantages and disadvantages. The former has become a basic necessity in every station as part of Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

While the average cost of a lift is around ₹50 lakh, an escalator costs over a crore. The need for a lift/escalator is decided based on the number of footfalls a station receives. For a station with a patronage of 5,000 people, a lift should be provided. If the footfall is more than 25,000 then escalators must also be made available. Space is a big constraint in certain stations in setting up such a facility, so sometimes priority is given to escalator that goes upward (the logic being it's easier to climb down). Based on recommendation by the commercial department, engineering feasibility such as width and other parameters are studied. Civil along with electrical works take an average of four months for a lift to get running.



# When the station lift lets you down

LIFFY THOMAS

#### **Top reasons for malfunctioning**

**When the emergency button is pressed unnecessarily:** this means the technical staff has to come with keys to release the button to get it running again

**Vandalism,** especially inserting slippers and other hard objects into the escalator can cause it to get jammed

**When there is power supply-related issues** and door is distributed

#### **Overload**

**Insufficient maintenance** and faults in mechanical and electrical systems



#### **Evolution of lifts in terms of technology**

CCTV cameras are increasingly being attached to lifts, six MRTS stations including Thirumayilai are currently getting new lifts with this safety feature. Real time monitoring of working of these system is coming up soon.

#### **How should a complaint be raised?**

RailMadad offers three options (Web, App, SMS) to register a complaint. Passenger helpline (139), the helpline number pasted on the lift/escalator, informing the station master and writing in the complaint book kept at every station are among the options.

#### **What is the standard response time to a complaint?**

The normal response time is within 24 hours. But if the complaint warrants calling the OEM to look into it, the timeline could be stretched. Fixing an escalator-related complaint takes more time than one pertaining to a lift.

#### **Numbers**

Total number of railway stations in Chennai Division:

**160**

Stations with lifts:

**89**

Stations with escalators:

**69**

Sanctioned lifts:

**64**

Work in progress (lifts):

**16**

Sanctioned escalators:

**17**

Work in progress (escalators):

**12**

Questions were answered by Electrical General Department, Southern Railway



# STATUS REPORT



## A deadly combo on sections of ECR

Fast-moving vehicular traffic and stray cattle do not mix well. But in certain parts of East Coast Road they are often found in close proximity, the cattle seeking greener pastures in the median. How can these bovines be kept off the road?

PRINCE FREDERICK

This patch of East Coast Road has one foot in the urban and the other in the pastoral. As close to Kovalam Link Road-ECR junction as superficial veins are to the skin, this patch is largely untouched by the bustle except during weekends. There is nary an effort here at rhapsodising over the scene, but every possible effort to underline a danger that does not seem like danger at all at first sight. The cattle lumber in seeking greener pastures (on the median). The whole scene comes off as innocent. And then the cattle bolt without a warning, leading to screeching halts. But that is about it. No one is injured: that is in the best of times, when luck is in attendance, smiling beat-

ifically and doing its bit to ensure safety of limb and life. In the worst of times, there can be a thud and a clunk. Those sounds followed by the sight of mangled metal – let us avoid the rest of the gory details. Fast-moving vehicular traffic and bolting cattle are a partnership that never made for a happy outcome.

In these parts of ECR, workers employed by TNRDC can often be seen hairdressing the median, trimming the grass, but this is Sisyphean, a task that is cyclical and during the winter months, more demanding. Despite the regular hairdressing of the median, the bovines continue to be drawn to it. Oddly enough, the cattle are drawn to the median even when it sports a crew-cut; and by the side of the road is a luxuriant growth of grass, largely ignored – the holding picture meshes with this description. In the day of food delivery apps

built on the philosophy of ease, the cattle also probably want a form of ease to go with their gastronomic pursuits. Is browsing on the grass at the median less taxing on the neck than picking up grass from the ground?

Now, the hairdressing of the median has to continue, the grass cut close to the “skull”, but other measures are just as necessary to avoid accidents, to prevent running cattle and fast-moving vehicles from sharing road space.

### IRC guidelines

Among guidelines provided by In-

**Metal fencing along sections of East Coast Road rife with unfettered stray cattle movement can be one solution**

dian Road Congress (IRC) to keep cattle off highways with its fast-moving traffic, a couple of them could be relevant to East Coast Road. One of them is erecting metal fencing along sections of East Coast Road rife with unfettered stray cattle movement. This fencing can be dismounted in the event of road widening. Fencing of this kind does exist in certain sections of ECR, but they have been installed only where the road curves dangerously or it is at an elevation, and descent on the sides is huge. You would encounter these scenarios with metal fencing to offset it in Nemmeli, Perur, Pattipulam and a few other sections. The fencing is clearly meant to prevent motorists from veering off the road. Where these challenges do not exist, but cows help themselves to the greenery in the median, such fencing/barricading is not to be found. The feature should be extended to

these sections as well.

Based on what the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has spelt out from time to time as well IRC's highway safety code, the managers of the road should collaborate with local bodies on these sections to rein in owners, educating and enjoining them to not let cattle loose on the road. Personnel in the TNRDC patrol vehicle need to keep an eye out for stray cattle and ensure they do not roam free on the carriageway. Even in the event of metal fencing being erected by the side of cattle-prone sections of ECR, cattle can enter the carriageway through unfenced area.

With ECR being widened, median locations are being redefined and medians rebuilt, thought could be given to raising the height of the median sufficiently enough for the cattle to be unable to reach for the grass sprouting in the earth meant for raising median greenery.



Stray cattle browsing on the grass at a section of East Coast Road not too far from the Kovalam Link Road-ECR junction. And (below) a metal barricade by the side of ECR in Nemmeli; this feature needs to be extended to cattle-prone, pastoral sections of ECR. Images were taken on September 12 and 13, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



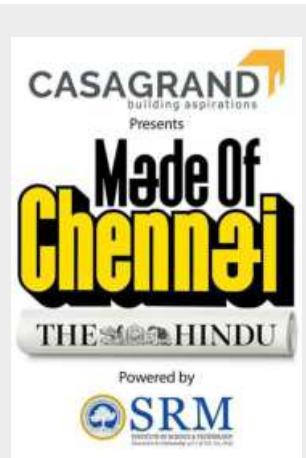
Snapshots of the market. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PRINCE FREDERICK

**R**azack Market in Saidapet is 94 years old. If one revelled in platitudes and chose to assume a feel-good tone, they would say the market looks its age, and looks good. But that would be a blatant untruth. During a downpour, this market is at the mercy of the rain gods. On September 6, when a whir of shutterbugs from Madras Photo Bloggers (as part of *The Hindu* Made of Chennai initiative to capture the city's rhythms) gathered at the market to tell stories of the market in pixels, there was a sneaking fear that the rain could play spoilsport. The rain stayed away, and the cameras went a-whirring. The market has around 220 shops, each of them sporting an "extension" not out of expansionist motives. Shopkeepers have fitted tarpaulin covers to the edges of the Madras-tile roofing to keep sprinkles of rainwater from them, and more importantly from their customers.

This market is worn-out both in body and spirit. A majority of the shops stayed closed on that Saturday evening. A shopkeeper notes only one-fourth of the shops stay open during the week, business having ceased to be brisk long ago. Sunday is when the market bustles with movement and haggling, as more shops have their shutters up.

There are two categories of shopkeepers based on their hold on their



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piece of real estate. Those who have temporary access to the space pay less for it, but also have less of a say if and when Greater Chennai Corporation seeks to "disturb" it and rearrange things. The word is that temporary space comes on the cheap, dirt-cheap in fact – according to one Suresh who runs a fancy store, 50 paisa per day. On the other end of the spectrum are those assured of

suggests an inner order: he is essentially twinning with his shop.

There is then the affable Poongothai who has a nameless cat staying loyally by her side. But the feline does not share her enthusiasm for the camera, meowing in protest when she gets it to strike a pose for it.

Suresh has a jaw set with confidence – that is odd, considering he is swimming against the tide. The market is essentially about trade in vegetables, vegetable sellers making up a massive majority. Suresh instead sells fancy items, tchotchkies and he knows he is at a disadvantage, but does not seem worried about it at all.

On the outer perimeter of the market, particularly the side overlooking Bazaar Road (also known as Alandur Road), there is greater variety in terms of commerce. Textiles, tailoring, flower and even coffee bean selling shops heave into view. The market may be rundown. Business might have slumped. There is a peace (possibly, resignation to their lot) even occasional cheerfulness among the shopkeepers that makes the market click.

## Inter-school management conclave gets students to think green

Organised by Department of Business Administration of Madras Christian College, 30 schools took part in the event



Team from St. John's School with the trophy. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### 'Don't let setbacks crush your passion'



The Crescent Matriculation Girls Higher Secondary School, Pycrofts Garden Road, recently celebrated its 50th annual sports day grandly at the Rajarathinam Stadium, Egmore.

Racer Chethan Korada was the chief guest.

An amputee, Korada has overcome his disability to make a name for himself in international motor sport, inspiring countless young people. He encouraged students to fol-

low their passions with resolve and never let obstacles stop them.

"There are no limits in dreaming and achieving, so be active athletes without limits."

Students displayed their abilities in different track and field events.

The sports day celebrated Crescent's 50 years of excellence and served as a reminder that discipline and perseverance can turn challenges into successes, said a release.

### Young skater shines at South India championship



M. Arul Senthuran, a fourth-grade student at Vidyasagar Global School in Chengalpattu, has won two gold medals in the 500-meter and 1,000-meter skating events at the South India CBSE Inter-School Skating Championship.

The student won medals in the under-nine category at the championship held at Avani Public School, Coimbatore.

In November, the student will participate in the national skating competition scheduled for that month.

nesses and to seek innovative solutions that help both people and the environment.

The students took part in a series of engaging and creative competitions aimed at testing their business judgment, problem-solving abilities, and innovative thinking, said a press release.

From pitching entrepreneurial ideas focused on profitability and sustainability to designing eco-friendly product packaging and debating issues related to business and the environment, students demonstrated remarkable creativity and teamwork, the release added.

Another highlight of the event was the launch of the department's magazine, Acumen.

The overall winner's award was given to St. John's Public School, Medavakkam, while Bethel Matriculation School was named the runner-up.

The Department of Business Administration, Madras Christian College (MCC) recently hosted an inter-school management conclave, 'EXOUSIA 2025 - Sustainovate: Green Ideas, Great Futures.'

Over 30 schools participated in the conclave, which focused on innovation, sustainability and entrepreneurial thinking.

M. Sesha Sai, honorary Consul General of the Republic of Seychelles, was the chief guest.

He motivated students to adopt sustainability as the basis of future busi-

### Abacus and vedic maths competition

Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Teacher Association (AMATA), an ISO 9001:2018 certified body, will be conducting the 'International Open Abacus and Vedic Maths Competition 2025' in an offline format on September 20 and 21, at Seethalakshmi Hall, Poonamallee High Road, Maduravoyal.

The competition is open to all Abacus students from any

centre. Model question papers will be provided in advance, and participants may select their level of entry based on the syllabus.

For further details, visit <http://www.abacuscompetition.com>

or contact the organisers via WhatsApp at 8144443777/ 9841023115



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## Suicide prevention helpline launched

**M**astermind Foundation, in collaboration with The Mind Care and CSR support from Husky Injection Molding Systems, has launched a 24/7 suicide prevention helpline number to observe World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10).

"Jeevanline", as it is called, has been created to ensure that no cry for help goes unheard. Built on an AI-enabled, digital three-layer platform, the helpline offers immediate, professional, and confidential counselling to individuals in

emotional crisis.

The service went live on September 10, extending a hand of hope to people across Tamil Nadu. With trained psychologists available around the clock, Jeevanline is accessible in Tamil, English, and Hindi, said a release.

Dr. Lakshmi T.K., founder-president of Mastermind Foundation, said "Jeevanline is not just a helpline; it is a promise that no one will have to fight their darkest battles alone."

### How Jeevanline works

- 24/7 Access: Available via the toll-free number 1800 202 8760, the SOS button on The Mind Care app, and the Jeevanline website.
- Confidential and safe: Caller privacy is fully protected, while essential details (time, date, location) are logged to ensure effective response.
- Expert intervention: Calls are handled by trained psychologists, with AI-enabled triage.

For more details, visit: <https://mastermindfoundation.com/jeevan-line>



## Closing the gap on ECR Link Road



PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Motorcyclists can be rodent-like, sneaking out to the other side of sealed spaces, having made the most of inscrutable openings. In Sholinganallur, on ECR Link Road, motorcyclists find such an opening. Two flat, elongated, horizontal concrete slabs are often slightly disturbed, reportedly by motorcyclists so that they can move quickly from one side of the road to another. This section of ECR Link Road nuzzles close to TNHB Main Road on one side and on the other,

Fifth Street Extension, where CMWSSB's lorry decanting facility is located. On September 11, 2025, this gap was being plugged by Sembakkam traffic police attached to the Tambaram city traffic police, with help close at hand. The median at this point is marked by concrete Jersey barriers arranged in a line, slightly crooked. The two flat slabs are the odd ones out in this group of barriers. If one wonders why this gap is also not plugged with Jersey barriers instead of the two flat barriers, the latter can be moved in times of heavy traffic flow and a temporary passage created to ease traffic.

## Workshop on organic farming

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on ready-to-cook food items on September 18. According to a press release, the session will focus on preparation of *puttu*, *adai*, *idli* and sweets and savouries.

Another workshop on organic farming in vegetable crops on September

19. The session will focus on chemical-free methods of nourishing soil, pest management and preparation of manure.

Both the sessions will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy.

For details, call 044 - 2953 0048 / 044 - 2953 0049.

### Display your AI art skills

Super Chennai has called for nominations from upcoming artists for Reimagine Chennai, an AI Art contest. This initiative aims to bring together art and AI to envision the future of Chennai, from its ever-evolving skyline to its vibrant culture, all expressed through the power of generative AI tools. The last date to submit entries is September 30. The top 25 artworks, handpicked by a distinguished panel, will be featured in "The AI Art Show", said a release.

The contest serves as a canvas for participants to blend creativity and cutting-edge technology, presenting new possibilities for the city's identity, design, and cultural spirit.

Entries can be sent to [hello@superchennai.com](mailto:hello@superchennai.com). For details, visit <https://www.superchennai.com/>

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