

IT CORRIDOR

Adyar » Kanathur » Kelambakkam » Navalur » Semmencherry » Thoraipakkam » Velachery » IIT Madras » Kandanchavadi » Kottivakkam

Neelankarai » Sholinganallur » Thiruvannamiyur » Vijaya Nagar » Indira Nagar » Karapakkam » Kotturpuram » Padur » Thalambur » Pallikaranai

Stepping stones to danger



The alertness with which dysfunctional systems are called out needs to be extended to functional systems that foment trouble on the side, often unseen, the process lying under the radar. Pedestrians have the advantage of a flight of concrete steps to access the service lane on Rajiv Gandhi Salai (also known as Old Mahabalipuram Road) along Parameshwaran Nagar in Sholinganallur. On this section, the service lane is at an elevation, hence this provision. How many people really use those concrete steps is a debatable question; there are other access points nearby. One certainty about those steps exists: they can be missed – if a habitue of that patch were to be believed, not only at night but in broad daylight too. Motorists are known to have run their wheels into that drop. Those steps can be levelled and the provision done away with so that they do not lie in wait for motorists, particularly motorcyclists. The images were taken on June 7, 2025.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

1500 saplings distributed as school completes 150 years

St. Patrick's in Adyar launched "Green Crusade" on World Environment Day

In a meaningful move to spotlight its sesquicentennial year, St. Patrick's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School in Adyar marked World Environment Day with the launch of an initiative titled "The St. Patrick's Green Crusade." The campaign saw the distribution of 1,500 saplings, symbolising the school's 150 years of growth and service.

Each student received a sa-

pling with the mission to plant and nurture it at home or in their community. The initiative was inaugurated by Rev. Bro. Arockiaraj, superior of the Patrician Brothers' Community in Adyar, who served as chief guest and planted a ceremonial sapling on the campus.

The school already has an expansive green cover and an eco-conscious ethos. Every tree on the campus carries a board with

its scientific and common name, transforming the grounds into a living laboratory that encourages awareness and curiosity, says a press release.

Since 2011, the school's Green Squad – a team of student environmental ambassadors – has taken the lead in organising rallies, awareness campaigns and cleanliness drives across the city. The Green Crusade is one among several special initiatives leading up to the school's sesquicentennial celebration to be held on October 8, 2025, the release adds.



Students take out an awareness rally

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‘Free 4th Avenue in Besant Nagar’

Besant Nagar residents use this quiet road for their morning and evening walks; unauthorised parking of heavy vehicles should be checked

S. SRINIVASAN

Fourth Avenue in Besant Nagar, which is lined with fenced greenery on one side of the road has become a parking area for numerous buses and heavy vehicles.

This is a lovely straight road opposite Rajaji Bhavan on one side and the Shiv Nadar School on the other. Residents of Besant Nagar use this quiet road for their morning and evening walks. The whole ambience of a quiet Avenue road with fenced greenery on one side is spoilt by numerous buses parked on the opposite side hampering walkers. I appeal to the authorities to disallow the road from being used as a parking area and free the road of this menace.

(S. Srinivasan is a resident of 6th Cross Street in Besant Nagar)



4th Avenue in Besant Nagar

A snapshot of Ponmar on Environment Day



At Moolacheri in Ponmar, garbage was set on fire on June 5, 2025, which happens to be World Environment Day. The photo and the information have been provided by Bernice Jacinth, a resident of that region.

‘Stray dogs lord it over Fourth Cross Street in Besant Nagar’

N.S. VENKATARAMAN

Fourth Cross Street in Besant Nagar is a short street with just around two blocks of building and another three blocks of building waiting to be demolished and reconstructed.

As there are ten stray dogs on this short street, it has become difficult to walk freely on the road, as these dogs run here and there all the time.

Fearing the stray dogs, we keep the main gate closed all the time but the dogs jump over the wall and go through the sideways, jump over another wall and enter the backyard of the apartment. The dogs refuse to go away in

spite of our shouting.

As we read repeatedly in the media about stray dogs biting people walking on the road, senior citizens on the street are scared and do not know how to overcome this problem.

We have written to Greater Chennai Corporation but no action has been taken so far.

The easiest way for GCC is to build a few dog parks and leave them there with a feeding arrangement.

GCC should realise that the stray dogs issue is tarnishing the fair image of Chennai city.

(N.S.Venkataraman is a resident of Fourth Cross Street in Besant Nagar)

Bookworms of OMR meet again



From the event.

HARSHA KODA

The Bookworms Club, a celebration of literature and authors, among communities of OMR marked its enriching June gathering at Sobha Meritta Apartments.

The meeting coincided with the 16th edition of FOMRRA Book Swap, a beloved tradition that continues to grow in popularity. Over 70 books exchanged hands, each carrying the potential to spark imagination and inspire minds. Managed seamlessly by Anitha and Prabha, this eco-friendly initiative encouraged a sustainable, community-driven way of sharing stories and spreading the love for reading.

In a special segment highlighting home-grown literary voices, author Sujata Rangachari engaged in an inspiring conversation with Jayesh Paniker, co-author of *Unscripted*. The book narrates the real-life journeys of 25 dynamic entrepreneurs who transformed ambition into achievement. Jayesh eloquently shared the resilience and drive behind these stories. As the book's epilogue aptly puts it: "Every success is a shared celebration of human potential." Jayesh hopes *Unscripted* will continue to serve as a beacon of hope for aspiring changemakers.

In a soul-stirring poetry session, Paul Mathew, a resident of Sobha Meritta and founder of Corporate Theatre, read his evocative poem "Barbecue" from his book *Spirit Lakes and Other Poems: An Actor's Journey*. His poetry painted the journey of a wanderer who, after restless exploration, discovers peace by reconnecting with his innermost self. Moderated by Ranjit Narayanan, this session offered a deep dive into Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's acclaimed novel *The Palace of Illusions*. The two-hour-long discussion was both insightful and emotional, revealing the intricacies of Draupadi's perspective on the Mahabharata. Attendees explored how the author preserved the mythological core while providing a refreshingly modern voice to an age-old tale. With rising interest and registrations, Bookworms Club is quickly becoming the literary heartbeat of the OMR region. We are committed to nurturing a vibrant space where book lovers can connect, converse and celebrate books – under one large, inclusive literary canopy.

The book for the next session is *Kane and Abel* by Jeffrey Archer. If you have read the book and want to discuss it, join us at the next event. Just fill the form on <http://join.fomrra.org> to know more, (Harsha Koda is co-founder, FOMRRA)

Hottest topic of the season

While everyone stresses about the soaring mercury, these three groups of researchers are studying heat stress in and around Chennai and how it impacts human health and the economy. They share the details of their work with *The Hindu Downtown*

LIFFY THOMAS



A man quenches his thirst with water from a sprinkler at Marina Beach.
FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Collecting data

Professor Vignesh K.S. and his team of researchers from the Occupational Safety and Disaster Risk Management Department of SRM University are waiting for the sun to burn bright. The June 3, 2025 show-ers in the city forced them to postpone their plans to set up a camp at an industrial location in Thiruvottiyur where they will be collecting data about heat stress.

In April-May, the team completed the field study from Chengalpattu to Pallavaram. Industrial zones, in particular areas classified as “red” (in terms of contribution to global warming) by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board have been the focus of the team this year. They have set up camp near an industrial area with all their devices including an exclusive heat stress monitor.

“Heat stress is calculated based on relative humidity, wet-bulb temperature and globe temperature. Through geospatial technology, we cover areas within a one to three kilometre radius of an industry to understand how the community is getting affected. From that buffer we will access and locate a few sample

places where heat exposure is high,” says the assistant professor.

Once the field reports are completed, they work on presenting their studies and publishing them in leading science journals.

Vignesh says their reports played a crucial role in Tamil Nadu government formulating a Heat Action Plan (HAP).

“We are also in a capacity to give recommendations at a regional level on actions that need to be taken during heatwaves and other calamities,” says the professor.

Their role does not end with bringing out a report rather they engage with communities. “We do training programmes with local communities that are vulnerable to heat. Many people do not know what is dehydration, heat stroke, especially those working on the highways. We sensitise them as per public health standards,” he adds.

During the pandemic, the department studied air pollution levels in various neighbourhoods.

“As researchers, we generally focus on pre-disaster which is prevention, mitigation, preparedness and early warning.”

Studying the vulnerable population

It is a hot and humid Friday in Chennai and beyond. A team of researchers from Chennai have headed to the Marakkanam salt pans in Villupuram district. Team members have fanned out to different sections of the salt pans.

One researcher is collecting urine sample of workers, another is collecting blood, a group is interviewing workers and another set of them is measuring heat with sophisticated instruments.

When the sun goes down they would return to their lab at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research to document their findings. Once the field evidence is consolidated, analysed, peer-reviewed, the team would work on advocacy. This research is needed to better understand the impact of heat and heatwaves on human health, especially the vulnerable population, to develop effective mitigation strategies and improve public health interventions.

Vidhya Venugopal, professor of Climate Change, Occupational and Environmental Health at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, who is leading this team of researchers, says many lesser-known heat-related illnesses often go unrecognised.

As a global expert in heat and health, Vidhya has studied how high temperatures affect kidney, pregnant women and communities among others. While the direct affect of heat stroke is widely acknowledged, kidney ailments and cardiovascular diseases are not commonly associated with heat.

Having worked in the area for the last 16 years, she says they have rich data to show that heat stress poses significant health risks for vulnerable groups.

This summer, their outreach work extended to street vendors in the city. They like to focus more on women, especially as their working conditions are such that they avoid drinking water and this leads to dehydration and other issues, she says.

“We try to reach out to make sure vulnerable communities are not impacted so much by heat. If exposure is less the impact is less,” says the Velachery resident.

Towards the end of this month, the team will be visiting a research practice centre of the institute located on the outskirts of the city to study and sensitise those coming to the outpatient department. After all, heat preparedness should be a 365-day effort.

Resettlement sites in sharp focus

Chennai resident Suchismita Goswami, who is currently pursuing her PhD in the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, is carrying out research on the new risks in resettlement sites in Chennai. This work brings her to the city.

Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board’s resettlement site in Perumbakkam and the AIR resettlement colony in Thiruvottiyur are where her field works are concentrated. These resettlement facilities had been planned to provide safe and secure housing for communities; however today, floods and heat have impacted them socially and economically.

With heatwaves being a big concern for the State Government, Suchismita thinks there should be a special focus on resettlement sites.

“The findings are very particular to the resettlement sites and as a researcher you cannot universalise that,” says Suchismita, who had a stint with the Madras School of Social Work as a faculty.

During fieldwork, she found it particularly challenging to initiate conversations with residents about heat-

related stress. “Given Chennai’s high temperatures, heat is often normalised and rarely discussed as a distinct concern

to resettlement sites,” she says.

The resettlement sites severely lack green cover and also experience long hours of power outage in comparison to the rest of the city during summer months.

The resettlement sites are spread across vast tracts of land, and residents have to walk long distances due to the absence of last mile connectivity. They are typically inhabited by the most marginalised groups who cannot afford alternative housing options within the city.

The only formal heat-relief measure mentioned by the administration was distribution of electrolyte water at health centres. Residents however have found their own coping mechanisms such as extending the building, closing shops during the afternoon, installing sheds and curtains, and investing in multiple cooling devices.

The closing of shops or covering store fronts to block heat can reduce business visibility and income. These are new forms of risks which affect their health and finances directly, she adds.

A home production

What awaits gated communities that assume the responsibilities of facility management? There is the possibility of workers becoming trusted lieutenants

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

A facilities management agency is a cake ordered off the shelf. An in-house facilities management team is a cake baked at home. The latter obviously calls for a greater outlay of energy and time. But the icing on this cake is thicker, double-layered. Layer one: owners at a gated community that opts for this bold arrangement, actually begin to “own” the space, every jot of it. Layer two: the facilities management team they put together, hand-picking workers and assigning them to roles, can be won over in ways that a team sent in by an outside agency with a human resources roster, cannot be. The workers are likely to be in for the long haul. And as time rolls on, the possibility of workers rising to the status of trusted lieutenants increases.

One finds this possibility illustrated with arresting images from the flood experience of The Central Park South (TCPS) in Sholinganallur in 2015. The workers pitched tent at the gated community. If it were dry harbour they were looking for, these workers could have found it elsewhere. They stayed at the community – occupying vacant flats – in the days after the floods to ease the challenges it faced. Remember, there were places on earth drier than TCPS: at this community, vehicles were marooned, some gulping rainwater all the way into their engines.

The fact that even now workers are offered places downstairs where they can stay and cook, and an AC room for a dash of comfort, proves offering shelter to them during floods was not a calculated, self-serving move.

“They are not servants. They are helpers,” says Rakesh Ohri, president of the TCPS Owners’ Association, his conviction crystallised by the memory of many difficulties surmounted, and achievements scaled, all because these workers went the extra yard. Rakesh notes that when the managing committee is running the show, dignity of the workers can be safeguarded more easily. Residents are instructed not to scold workers; complaints are handled by the managing committee to maintain respect. He is of the view that a



From Bollineni Hillside.



facilities management agency would not give this instruction to residents with the same emphasis.

A yard for a yard – that is how it works. Loyalty is earned and goodwill returned. Rakesh notes that one sign of a happy workplace and even loyalty is that on an average, a worker stays on the team for 10 to 11 years. If a worker hits a rough patch, the Association extends a financial lifeline – advances with a flexible repayment plan stretching up to a year. “Some repay earlier, some take the full period. And if they genuinely can’t pay for one month, we grant an extension,” explains Rakesh. Health insurance is another non-negotiable thread in this safety net. A group policy covers all workers. What is done for these workers in their darkest hour, returns as burnished loyalty.

“One of our plumbers lost his 25-year-old son recently to leukaemia” – when the youngster was battling the condition, the association had banded together to help the family with medical and other expenses.

Workers join residents in festivities, breaking bread and thereby, barriers. “We do Dandiya, and on May Day we arrange free food,” says Rakesh. “During Diwali, we arrange short eats and programmes. They are en-

couraged to participate in that.” In these shared moments, the line between “worker” and “resident” blurs into a sense of a joint family. Some communities grasp what a team formed and installed by them can do for them, but balk at taking the exercise all the way to the finish line.

Sujatha Y, secretary of the owners’ association at The Central Park East – a hop away from TCPS – says her community was the first in the area to have a home-grown team running the facility.

“We have seen the TCPS model – it is very structured and policy-driven,” says Sujatha Y, secretary of the owners’ association. Sujatha notes that “here at Central Park East, we are a bit more flexible” – some workers are hired directly; the community also goes to contractors to find

teams for certain functions.

Different strokes for different folks, indeed! East does have a group insurance option for workers it has appointed, but cares for the absolutely helpless through non-institutionalised aid.

“We have elderly gardeners with no bank accounts or family support,” Sujatha says. “We make sure they are looked after.” Financial help here is often personal and spontaneous, with residents stepping up to support the workers in paying their children’s education fees or medical bills. Some community members contribute to programs supporting children’s education, for example, treasurer’s family trust aiding economically weak children with a minimum of 60% marks.

At Navin’s Maris Dale in Semmancherry, Arokya Inian shares a unique way their community cultivates bonds. “We have garden spaces with fruit-bearing trees, and the harvest is shared with our workers,” he explains. This gesture isn’t just about food – it is about sharing the fruits of collective effort, fostering dignity and connection. They have also embraced sustainability: recyclable waste is collected and sold, and the proceeds distributed among workers to

cover minor expenses such as tea and refreshments. It is a small but meaningful way to say, “We are in this together.” At Bollineni Hillside in Arasankalani, the owners association has made arrangements for staff to live onsite in dorms. It is a win-win situation. The need for daily commuting has been struck off the list for the staff who avail this option. And for the residents, there is 24/7 availability of workers for urgent repairs. Staff receive group medical, life, and accident insurance. And the owners association has introduced a system of incentives to motivate the staff to do quality work.

Secretary K. Thirugnanam highlights another key aspect of this arrangement: easy knowledge transfer through mentorship. For example, experienced electricians train apprentices, creating a pipeline of talent that is clued into the unique power system within the community.

The challenges

In this scenario, committee members do not just step into the shoes of a facility management services provider, but wear an additional pair of shoes over the ones they are already wearing. A majority of them do this work in the midst of another work, one that puts bread on their table. In some seasons, the added responsibility can get overwhelming.

At Bollineni Hillside, Thirugnanam explains: “For example, in May, despite my responsibilities as a government advocate, I dedicated all my time outside of court to association work – covering recurring maintenance, new developments, public relations and government liaison.”

He emphasised the workload intensifies during certain periods, such as the rainy season, which requires additional planning and precautionary measures. He adds the in-house management committee is sizeable and “collective effort by (treasurer Senthilkumar, president Sajeekumar, 23 EC members and Thirugnanam himself as secretary) makes things easy” At TCPS, Rakesh notes that while many members have day jobs, two or three of them from the core committee are involved in daily operations. “I do not have a day job. Two or three of us do not. One is a housewife who also has other commitments such as singing. So, these responsibilities are managed as and when required.”



Battery cart being operated around Mada streets



SRINATH M

Karur Vysya Bank has donated a battery-driven cart for use on the Mada streets around Kapaleeswarar temple in Mylapore.

HR&CE Minister Sekar Babu for-

mally launched the free ferry service in the presence of senior officers of the bank on May 31, 2025.

The cart can be used by senior citizens and the differently abled to access the temple entrance from the Mada streets.

When not in service around the

Kapaleeswarar temple, the cart stays at Sai Baba Temple hall. It is kept there at night. Space constraint at the Mada veechi had led to this arrangement.

The service starts by 9.30 a.m. and is on till the temple closes at night.



PHOTOS: SRINATH M



Glimpses of the workshop

EcoKonnectors Trust, in collaboration with Munnnetram Trust and FICCI FLO Chennai, recently conducted a sustainability workshop "Make Best Out of Waste" at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Mylapore.

Designed to empower women self-help groups and specially-abled individuals by equipping them with practical upcycling skills that can create viable business opportunities and to help environment enthusiasts integrate sustainable living into their daily routines, the workshop fea-

Reclaiming waste

tured a hands-on experience in sustainable crafting, led by trainer Malathi and her team from Munnnetram Trust.

Participants learnt to transform temple flower waste into sambranis and handmade soaps; to create activated charcoal from coconut shells and its various applications, including charcoal pouches, soaps, and face masks.

Over 50 participants, including members from self-help

groups and non-profit organisations such as SNEH, V-Excel, Nalamdan Trust, Kalliamman Trust, Vidya Sagar School, Vriksha along with school students and sustainability supporters engaged in experiential learning.

The sambrani-making session was particularly interactive, where participants mixed their own blends and used a sambrani-making gun to craft fragrant

sambrani bullets. Similarly, the soap-making workshop provided participants with an opportunity to cut the soap base, observe the melting and mixing process, and mould the soaps themselves.

Not only did they gain practical insights, but they also took home a sample of their creations, reinforcing their newfound skills.

Throughout the event, the core team—Ashok, Bala, Ganga, and Sumithra from EcoKonnectors Trust—imparted knowledge

on sustainability, reinforcing the importance of upcycling as a practical and impactful solution.

To ensure continuity of learning, e-certificates and a PDF instruction manual were provided to all participants, allowing them to replicate and further spread the upcycling techniques learnt.

Here are some feedback who attended the workshop

Tejasvini Rao (CA student from Adyar), a participant, pointed out: "As someone who has recently gotten into sustainability, I left with a lot of insights on how I can implement it in my life. I loved the sambrani making tutorial the most."

Another participant Iswari Muthu noted: "The trainers were very clear in their explanation. The organisers had planned the workshop meticulously and we were kept engaged throughout."

Kathirvel of Kalliamman Charitable and Educational Trust, Thondiarpet, had a word of praise for organising live demos.

(Ganga Sridhar is a resident of Raja Street Mandaveli and co-founder EcoKonnectors Trust)

Pond in Perumbakkam needs help



Perumbakkam Pond. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Residents want the pond to be desilted and deepened

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Residents of Perumbakkam have requested that the Perumbakkam Village Panchayat restore the neglected Perumbakkam Pond.

Located along Kulakarai Street and First Main Road, the pond has been languishing in a state of neglect for years.

A section of the pond's water-holding area is filled with garbage and overrun with water hyacinth. Seemai karuvellam trees can also be spotted.

Motorcyclists bring garbage in bags and fling them into the pond. The patches along Kulakarai Road are also littered with garbage.

The stormwater drain network discharges sewage into

the pond. The structures in the pond have reduced the water-holding area.

M. Haseena, a senior citizen and a resident of Kulakarai Street, says: "The groundwater is contaminated and we are tired requesting this to the Panchayat."

Residents want the pond to be restored to store rainwater.

"If desilted and deepened, the groundwater table will be replenished. The condition of the pond has worsened and it is now a health hazard, with flies and mosquitoes swarming in large numbers," says Haseena.

Along First Main Road, the bund is littered. The refuse consists of debris from the newly constructed stormwater drain network, stones and vegetation.

Rotary Clubs to raise a forest in Medavakkam



Rotary Clubs have come together to restore the Vellakkal Periya Eri and cultivate an ecological forest in Medavakkam. This initiative was launched as part of World Environment Day.

Rotary Club of Chennai Capital, Rotary Club of Madras Midtown, Rotary Club of Chennai Central Elite and Rotary Club of Chennai Sneham will work to create a sustainable environmental model for urban neighborhoods.

The Medavakkam residents and social activists were battling to restore and protect the lake for over a decade.

Sivabooshanam Ravi, president of Medavakkam Village Panchayat, cine actor Arya, and Mahaveer Bothra, Rotary District Governor, District 3233, inaugurated the projects.

The dense forest project involves planting over 3,000 native saplings to increase groundwater level, encourage local flora and fauna, and reduce ambient temperatures in the vicinity by up to 4°C.

Together, the clubs have contributed a total of ₹25 lakh towards the project, said a release.

The Yatha Green Council of India is taking up the execution of the project.



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Workshop on entrepreneurial opportunities in solar energy sector

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, Department of MSME, is conducting a training programme on installation of solar power from June 18 to 20 at the institute's premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate, EDII Office Road, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prior registration is required.

According to a press release, the following concepts will be covered: introduction to solar

energy, entrepreneurial opportunities in solar energy sector; business models in this sector; relevant computer software, financial planning, regulations and subsidy schemes.

Those above 18 years of age and who have completed Class 10 can take part. The institute offers hostel facility for the participants on first come, first serve basis. For details, call 8668102600.

Culinary workshop on June 11

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on ready-to-cook food items on June 11. According to a press release, the session focuses on millets-based sweets and savouries and tea-time meals such as *idli*, *adai* and *puttu*. Another workshop on making soaps will be held on June 13. The session focuses on making soaps from herbs, leaves, flowers, and fruits.

Both the workshops will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy.

For details, call 044 - 29530048

Session on social media marketing

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, Department of MSME, is conducting a workshop on creating a YouTube channel and social media marketing from June 11 to 13. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, call 9543773337

Bio-enzyme soaps

The institution is also conducting another workshop on making bio-enzyme soaps on June 14. Time: From 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Those above 18 years of age with a minimum educational qualifica-

tion of class 10 can apply. Hostel facility is available. For details, call 8668102600

Puja products

Another training programme on production of Puja products will be held from June 10 to 12. The products include: incense sticks, camphor cakes, rose water, omam water, oil, herbal candles, sandalwood tablets. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, call 9360221280. Prior registration is required. All the workshops will be held at the institute's premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate, EDII Office Road, Guindy.

RSIC summer programme concludes at IIT Madras



Lakshmi Narayanan presents a certificate to a student at the valedictory function of RSIC's summer programme. Also seen are Sheela Rajendra; and M.S. Ananth. PHOTO: R.RAVINDRAN

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Thirty-seven students from schools in and around Chennai wrapped up a summer programme at Research Science Initiative Chennai (RSIC), jointly hosted by Padma Seshadri Group of Schools and IIT Madras. The summer programme is an annual feature.

Selected from a competitive pool of nearly 250 applicants through a screening and interview process, these students took home life stories, a renewed sense of curiosity apart from immersive academic experiences and project reports. Over the course of the

programme, they attended around 90 lectures and took part in 15 hands on research projects, and each received a stipend of ₹ 3000.

"Living on the IIT campus while still in school and attending lectures by IIT professors were really the best part of the programme," said Aisvarya Lakshme Kannan, studying grade 12 at PSBB Nungambakkam, one of the attendees of the summer programme. "Beyond lectures on science, we also had extra mural sessions where we took part in nature walks, theatre classes as well as yoga sessions every day," she said. At the valedictory function, Dean & Director and Correspondent of PSBB Group of Schools, Sheela Rajendra addressed the students to not follow

the crowd but chart their own paths, understand their aptitude and passion, and what truly brings them joy.

"Mental curiosity to learn and question is something everyone needs to develop," said former Vice Chairman of Cognizant Technologies, Lakshmi Narayanan. He also spoke about how a student needs to be technologically and data literate irrespective of their career streams, as well as human literate including critical and design thinking. Guest of honour, former Director of IIT Madras, M.S. Ananth spoke about the principles of teaching, character building, and nuances of research for students as cornerstones of meaningful education.



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