

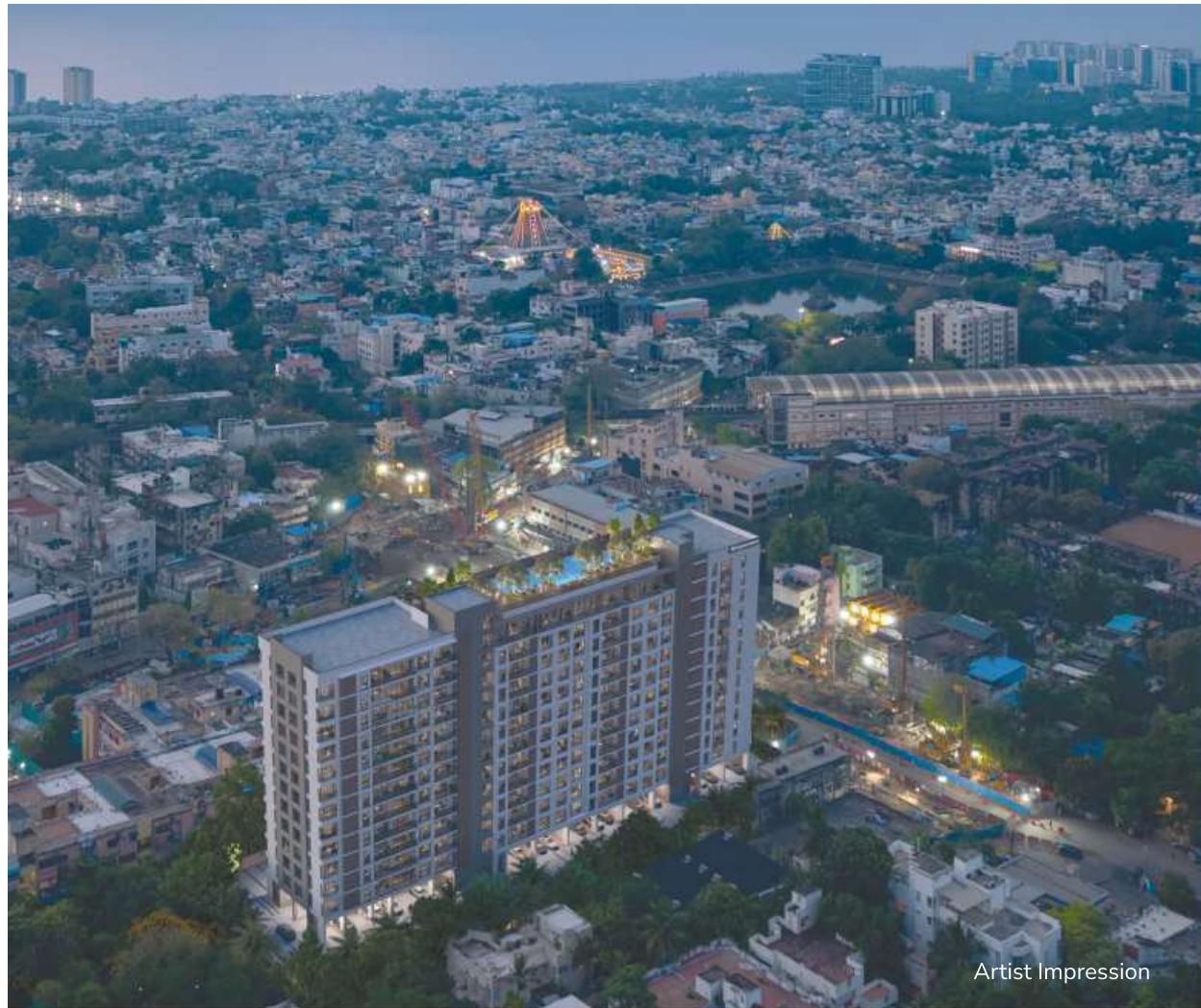
DOWNTOWN

Sunday
December 21, 2025

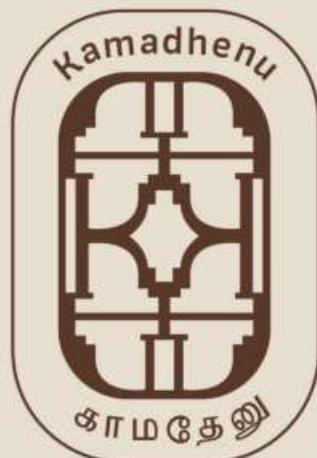
THE HINDU

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(Clockwise from top) The canteen at Vani Mahal in T. Nagar; C.R. Balaji outside Mylapore Fine Arts Club and the glitch in the GCC nameboard. PHOTOS: RAGU R AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



C.R. BALAJI

When I first jabbed it out, this report came out in a chronological order. The account beginning at the beginning of the day. In the revision, the chronology got jumbled, the features of the day that stood out – in some cases, stuck out like a sore thumb – muscling their way to the front lines.

So, my narration of how December 18 went visiting sabhas starts *in medias res*, the clock hovering over the interstitial space between late afternoon and early evening. And I had set out on a sabha-hopping schedule in the morning. If you are a soul currently domiciled in Chennai and sensitive to civic issues, which I think I am, you cannot miss how Metro Rail work has re-routed your life. And if one is given to kvetching about something or the other, the topic of how Metro Rail is redirecting your steps is just for you.

While heading to Ethiraj Kalyana Nilayam in Alwarpet where Indian Fine Arts Society is conducting Marghazi concerts, I realised how Metro Rail work around Alwarpet makes sure you are never on time for anything unless you have given yourself enough buffer time for at least a couple of detours on wheels, and in some cases, some traipsing for good measure. On account of traffic diversions, I had to park my vehicle at C.P. Ramaswamy Road and walk towards Ethiraj Kalyana Nilayam. The trek to the venue had left a bad taste in my mouth, and a sumptuous meal from the caterer Mountbatten Mani would have reversed it. But my tank had already been filled to capacity, and a meal at this sabha canteen is reserved for another

A rasika's day out

As he heads to various sabhas in one day, this Mandaveli resident finds himself switching between many notes, including a note of bitterness for the traffic diversions on some roads

day. The ambience at this concert venue is commendable.

Earlier in the day, when I had visited Narada Gana Sabha, which also boasts a good ambience, I was extremely thankful that it offered sufficient parking inside the campus.

On the topic of expansive spaces, how can one miss The Music Academy? It is expansive enough not only for the rasikas to move about but also the wheels that brought them there. There is an aura about this venue that is comparable to the Lord's cricket ground. If you are an international cricketer, and you have not walked out to the middle at Lord's, you are woefully short of having had a complete international cricketing experience. The Music Academy can be used analogously while describing a complete music experience during Marghazhi. A word of praise for the organisers for allowing people who visit the venue only for the canteen food, catered by Shastha.

At Thyaga Bramma Gana Sabha

in Vani Mahal, T. Nagar, parking for two-wheeler was a sore point: I had to squeeze my two wheels through the narrow side entrance. Parking should be a huge challenge in the evening hours, and through the day during weekends. Krishna Gana Sabha at Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai in T. Nagar stands out for a building that seems to have been cut out of picture from the British era, and also for the trees that provide shade. The seats in the hall were filled, so were the ones in the canteen, where catering is being done by Sattva Catering. My civ-



ic consciousness coming to the fore, I could not help notice a glitch in the Greater Chennai Corporation name board at this road: 'M' in Santhanam is missing.

At the end of the day, I wished I had carried a spare tummy along with me. My small tummy was filled to capacity in the morning after breakfast spread across two sabha canteens, and refilled in the



afternoon at another sabha. So, at most sabha canteens, I was just a curious bystander. My commentary about sabha canteens in this report is therefore restricted.

The Mylapore Fine Arts Club on Musiri Subramaniam Road is the sabha closest to my patch and by 7.30 a.m., I settled down at the sabha canteen to be served by ABC Catering. The footsteps on the road were thin, largely those of morning walkers. A few of them had settled down beside me. I go in for Pongal and Vadai. Pongal was lip-smacking good. I wished the Vadai was bigger and not of medium size that it was, and also wished the bill was on the lower side. But the gastronomic fare meets expectations; I gulped down coffee without sugar and left.

The next stop was Sri Parthasarathi Swami Sabha at Vidyabharthi Kalyana Mandapam. The sabha has on board Arusuvali Arasu Caterers. My tastebuds craving an experience from the past, I ordered a plate of idlis. With the exquisite softness of the idlis from this caterer etched in my memory, I could not but notice that this quality was not as pronounced as before. I gave my honest feedback to the one in charge of the counter; and I

swept my eyes at the other tables, and how the gourmands were lapping it all up, I sensed all other items were fine.

Lunch happened at Thyaga Bramma Gana Sabha in Vani Mahal where Sattva Catering Service is on board. Lunch came in impressive quantities and damage to the wallet was low, just ₹ 400. Tastebuds were pampered. Features included Elai Sappadu without onion and garlic.

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Signals too low to catch eyes

At the Foreshore Estate junction, motorists can easily miss the traffic lights

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Greater Chennai Corporation's adaptive traffic signals are coming up in phases at important junctions across the city. These signals are intelligent, do not operate on the basis of pre-set timings and they shorten or lengthen the duration of a signal factoring in the volume of traffic flowing in different directions. At the Foreshore Estate junction (where Loop Road, DGS Dinakaran Salai, Santhome High Road and Canal Bank Road meet), the new signalling system



is in operation. Motorists heading towards Santhome Basilica have no problem with the func-

tion of these signals, only their position. The signals are placed too low for motorists to be able

to notice them without any difficulty. Even if a moderately tall vehicle is in the front, most other motorists behind this machine would be unable to notice the signals, particularly the green signal as it occupies the lowest point. There could have been a more "intelligent" placement of the signals. The image clicked on December 19, 2025 was taken at a three-fourth angle which makes the green signal seen clearly. When motorists stand in single file, the visibility of the signals diminishes, particularly the green signal, for those in the rear.

Photo: Prince Frederick

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 contact number.



**Hyperlocal History,
as written by
residents**



Three years shy of three decades: that is a long time. Over this period, *The Hindu Downtown* has been at its post, relaying residents' civic concerns to the powers that can address them. On this anniversary, besides renewing this commitment, the supplement refreshes the various initiatives it has launched. One of them is to spotlight climate change in a manner that is accessible to residents: what they can do in their corner of their world to combat it.

Besides, in the new year, *The Hindu Downtown* will be rolling out what it calls "Hyperlocal History". It is history as written by residents, not just residents of neighbourhoods with known heritage value, but also obscure ones whose stories are waiting to be told. In the first edition of 2026, the focus of this project, and how residents can contribute to it will be made known. So, be tuned in.

Enhanced look

This view cutter, installed by Greater Chennai Corporation on the Marina beach, around a transformer has given this spot a facelift. PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM



An Anglo Indian ball at a star hotel in the city; and (below) an Anglo Indian family in Royapuram in the 70s. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On December 25, the famous Anglo Indian Christmas Ball will get rolling once again, at Faiz Mahal in Egmore

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Over the decades, the Anglo-Indian Christmas Ball in Chennai has stepped into many venues, from Railway enclaves to private halls. It has left an indelible mark on some of these venues, Faiz Mahal and Shiraz Hall, both in Egmore, counted among them. On December 25, Faiz Mahal is going to play host to yet another Christmas Ball, organised by Anglo-Indians but by no means restricted to them.

For a good part of the twentieth century, the epicentre of Anglo-Indian social life was the Railway Institutes, and in Chennai, it was the one in Perambur.

"Earlier, the majority of Anglo-Indians worked in the Indian Railways," says Harry MacLure, publisher and editor of *Anglos in the Wind*. "So all our balls and dances naturally happened there."

These institutes were cultural commons. Christmas dances, Easter balls, May Queen celebrations and Valentine's Day Balls would unfold there year after year. Entry was not restricted to railway employees. "Anglo-Indians from outside the railways were always welcome," Harry recalls. "That

The Ball is back



camaraderie was a defining feature."

The dances themselves were formal, unhurried affairs. Live bands played through the night. Waltzes, foxtrots and jives held the floor. Even those who did not dance stayed on, content to listen. Christmas balls often began at nine at night and ended at five in the morning – a full night given over to music, movement and social ritual.

By the 1970s and 80s, Anglo-Indians were beginning to look for fortunes beyond the Indian railways, migrating abroad or entering new professions. "We lost our hold over the Railway Institutes," Harry says. "Once that happened, we had to look for other venues."

That search led to a succession

of spaces across Chennai – Binny's among them – before settling, over the last two decades, on private halls. In Egmore, Shiraz Hall and Faiz Mahal emerged as consistent hosts of what is now known as the Grand Christmas Ball. "Shiraz has been happening for at least 20 years," Harry notes.

"There has always been a strong relationship between the Anglo-Indian community and the Muslim families who own these halls." Even as costs rose, negotiation rarely entered the picture. Christmas, after all, is not the season for bargaining.

Not just the economics of celebration, its composition has also changed. Live bands, once essential, now share space with DJs and

singers performing with backing tracks. "Earlier, if you said there would only be a DJ, the show would flop," Harry recalls. "People would not come."

For many, these halls are not interchangeable spaces but repositories of personal history. Treasure Jacob, a member of the Forum of Anglo-Indian Women (FAIW), remembers her first dance clearly and not because of the venue. "I did not meet my husband at the dance," she says. "He was already my boyfriend. But the first time we went together, he taught me how to dance. It was 1988. "I did not know how to dance at all," she recalls. "He told me, 'Do not worry, I will teach you.'" Songs such as Save the Last Dance, Mari Mari and Could I Have This Dance still return her to that floor.

Getting there, however, required negotiation. "As children, we went with our parents," Treasure says. "But once we grew up, getting permission was a struggle." Dances ran through the night, and parents enforced strict curfews. "My dad would come at four in the morning, show his watch and say, 'Time is up.' We would beg for one last dance."

The protocol was firm. Tickets were checked. Dress codes enforced. Suits and gowns were mandatory. Fathers sometimes waited outside, unable to enter without

formal wear, standing guard until it was time to go home. Fashion, like everything else, has evolved from low-waist dresses and leg-of-mutton sleeves to long gowns and contemporary silhouettes but the sense of occasion remains intact.

Even the food tells a story. Earlier menus featured pork fry, meat roast, cutlets, chapathis, sandwiches, tongue and oxtail. Chicken was rare. Today's spreads include everything from pasta and noodles to Manchurian – a buffet shaped by migration and return.

That return remains a powerful pull. Many Anglo-Indians travel back from Australia, particularly Perth every Christmas. Others come once every two years. "We all want to come back," Harry admits. "Even if we can't resettle, the connection never goes away."

So does the venue matter? "Each place has its own mood," Harry says. "But the identity comes from the people."

While the grand Christmas balls now gravitate towards Shiraz Hall and Faiz Mahal in Egmore, the season is not confined to these marquee addresses. Smaller associations continue to hold dances in neighbourhood halls across Pallavaram, Tambaram and St Thomas Mount – areas that once had a striking Anglo-Indian presence. These gatherings are more compact, often organised by local clubs or family networks, but they carry the same codes of dress, music and memory. For many older residents, these halls are closer to home and closer to heart.

AWARENESS

Chennai-based non-profit Road Guru Trust is close to completing the distribution of 15,000 helmets provided by an insurance company to students and their parents in the city

LIFFY THOMAS

Recently, 48 students of Kesari Higher Secondary School in T. Nagar and their parents received free helmets. When this initiative kickstarted at the beginning of the academic year, 15,000 helmets had to be given away. The stock has dwindled hugely, which is commendable; every helmet cleared off the shelf is a safety measure in place for an individual.

Road Guru Trust, a non-profit committed to improving road safety in Chennai is distributing these helmets provided by ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company as part of its corporate social responsibility.

K.P. Sendil Kumar, who runs Road Guru Trust, explains: "In June, I attended this national summit 'Dialogue to Action: VRU's and Road Safety' organised by NGO TRAX S. Society and Central Road Research Institute in New Delhi. Under the CSR programme 'Ride to Safety', the company has been giving away helmets for the last seven years, focusing on one metropolitan city every year. Chennai was their focus for 2025 and I happened to be the only person from the state at the summit, so I volunteered to drive the distribution." Sendil, 58 years old IT professional who retired from a multinational company.

The campaign resonated with Sendil for many reasons including the fact that his Trust promoted road safety through education and awareness programmes.

The highlight of this initiative is the equal focus on distributing junior helmets. It therefore serves as a silent but effective advocacy for children's helmets, largely ignored because many parents are unaware of their availability.

"Most children dropped at schools by their parents in a two-wheeler do not wear a helmet. In fact, many do not buy one for their children. So this campaign was unique as it targeted both parents and children, each nudging the other to wear an ISI helmet while driving," says Sendil.

The Trust received close to 15,000 helmets for distribution. Since June, Sendil has been reaching out to government and less-privileged institutions asking school heads to identify students who would need them the most.

This turned out to be the most challenging task for the Trust. "We reached out to 170 schools in Chen-

K.P. Sendil Kumar during a distribution drive at a school.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Volunteer for road safety

K.P. Sendil Kumar's longstanding desire was to wear the police uniform and he fulfilled that by becoming a member of Tamil Nadu Police Traffic Warden Organisation in 2011. "Various statistics on road accidents was the trigger for me to do something more on road safety," says Sendil Kumar.

In 2015, Road Guru Trust was registered and works on a lean team mainly volunteers from Rotaract clubs. "We conduct awareness campaigns at schools, colleges and apartment complexes," says Sendil, adding that they invite volunteers to join them in efforts to make city roads safe.



A head start in road safety



nai and only 65 got back to us with a list of names," says Sendil.

The next task for the Trust was conducting a session at the schools for students and parents about road safety and the importance of wearing a proper headgear, before giving them a helmet.

"My sessions are made interactive and engaging with stories and live examples," he says.

The Trust has 15 more schools to cover. The number of helmets distributed in a school ranges between 48 and 540, and they are only given to students from classes IV to VIII, given the size of the junior helmets.

Sendil is grateful to a few school heads who helped spread the word. The headmaster of Chennai Public School in Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar contacted other GCC schools. Likewise, Natarasabapathy, principal of Anjugam Higher Secondary School in West Mambalam collected details of 15 educational institutions and got a list ready. T. Nagar traffic SI Manjunath and traffic warden Mala have also been great support.

Another rarity at Broken Bridge

Rare seabird shows up on Chennai coast. A Bangalore resident documents it



Red-billed tropicbird photographed by Anu Parthasarathy at Broken Bridge in Adyar Estuary on December 14; and (below) Anu with a few members of the birding community she is part of.

PRINCE FREDERICK

Birders could put in an absurd number of hours at a habitat, one next to their own "burrow". Every dawn, they could be sleepwalking to the patch, trussed up in camouflage rags, bent under the weight of expectations and gear, shutter sack on the shoulders and binoculars around the neck. And yet, that one rarity could defiantly stay out of their radar. Counter to this, someone strolls in from another city, strays on to the patch, as all other options for the day got crossed out. And lo and behold, there it is! The bird directs a red-billed smile at them.

Anu Parthasarathy probably would have preferred sighting a Red-billed tropicbird after waiting for it for years, to the way she actually sighted it – just like that. A Banglorean who manages once-a-month visits to Chennai to bond with close relatives, she decided to bird around the Broken Bridge area of the Adyar Estuary on December 14, as all other plans for the day had peeled off like paint flakes. How one big plan fell, in her own words – "I ended up at the Broken Bridge because I could not get online tickets to the renovated Tholkappia

Poonga."

A birder through-and-through, Anu's mind instantly associates leisure with bird walks. Social visits to Chennai are always a package tour with time for extemporaneous birding trips thrown into it. But prior to this visit, she had ambled down what is unofficially called the Broken Bridge Road only a couple of times. Her parents living in Velachery, a peek at the Pallikaranai marsh and Sholinganallur marshland is more common.

"This Sunday was pure joy and thrill – I was almost wrapping up around 8 a.m. after birding from 6:30 a.m. photographing the egrets and storks. I met Bharath there. He along with Sagarika excitedly pointed me to what initially looked like Caspian terns to me, till I noticed the long tails. They told me they were sure they were tropicbirds and asked me to click and document," Anu recalls. Those two birders are Bharath Ravikumar and Sagarika Gupta, names recognisable to those swinging by the Chennai section of eBird.

"The tropicbirds were a sight – beautiful with long streamer tails. They came around a few times closer and were circling. I did not see them land anywhere. There were four birds – all of them as far as I could tell were Red-billed trop-



icbirds. After about 10 to 15 minutes I did not sight them again and I had to leave by 8:30 a.m. There were some other birders too that might have sighted these birds again," Anu recounts. She has posted the record of the sighting with photos on eBird. Sagarika Gupta has also posted the sighting on the platform. Rummaging through eBird records, this could be the first documented sighting of red-billed tropicbirds in Chennai.

Anu used to live in Chennai in the 1990s. In Bangalore where she has been living for 15 years following her return to India from the United States, she is domiciled in a community called Eagle Ridge, near Bannerghatta. She is something of a change maker in her neck of the woods.

"It is a small green and wooded community. I work on trying my best to conserve the trees and habitats we have, but it has not been easy with the new residents cutting out a lot of the trees and undergrowth. It has been documenting birds in the community for almost 10 years now. I created a small safe garden area for migratory and residents birds to access water by placing a bunch of water bowls. I have been maintaining this for many years now and many bird enthusiasts visit to sight the birds as well. A few other residents also have been doing this and helping sustain the bird life. We have a small group of birders here now. We have recorded over 125 species in the community over the years."

So, Anu is not Fortune's favourite child, as one assumed at first, seeing her being gifted a rare sighting on a golden platter. She worked for it, showing up for trees, birds and Nature in her "gated habitat" back in Bangalore, and the award ceremony for this perseverance took place at the Broken Bridge in Chennai on December 14.

Another sighting on December 20

On December 20, when this edition was going to print, another sighting of a Red-billed tropicbird close to the Broken Bridge area of the Adyar Estuary was reported. Sundaravel Palanivel spotted the bird in the skies just as he had hit the path to the Broken Bridge area. The bird was hovering over the fishing hamlet, says Sundaravel. He was going to bird at Adyar Estuary with a bunch of the other birders, who had arrived at the spot before he did. "I was ten minutes late, and so, was behind them." And that made all the difference. Punctuality is overrated, going by Sundaravel's experience.

MTC to issue tokens from December 21

Metropolitan Transport Corporation - Chennai will start issuing tokens from December 21 for senior citizens for travel on its fleet of buses. The half-yearly tokens will be valid for the January-June period (till June 30).

Elderly citizens can travel on the bus 10 times a month and they receive around 60 tokens for the period.

The tokens will be issued from 8

a.m. to 7.30 p.m. until January 31 at more than 40 bus depots, halting points and terminuses across the city.

In addition to renewing (obtaining new tokens), beneficiaries can also apply for new identity cards and first-time applicants can get tokens, said a release from the MTC.

Those who want to apply for tokens and beneficiaries renewing their identity cards should submit

photocopies of their ration card (address proof), Aadhaar card, driving license, educational certificates, and electoral identity card (age proof) and two-colour passport-size photographs.

Beneficiaries who want to renew the tokens should bring their identity cards and a recent passport-size photo.

The tokens will be issued at Adyar, Besant Nagar, Thiruvanmiy-

ur, Foreshore Estate, T. Nagar, Saidapet, Saidapet railway Station, Central bus depot (Pallavan Salai), Central Railway Station, Broadway, Chromepet 1, Pallavaram, Alandur, Guindy Estate, Iyyappathangal, Vadapalani, K. K. Nagar, Adambakkam, Velachery, Anna Nagar, Koyambedu, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Ambattur Old Terminus, Avadi, Ayanavaram, Integral Coach Factory, Tondiarpet -1, Toll Gate,

Ennore, Vyasarpadi, MKB Nagar, Madhavaram, Padiyanallur, Red Hills, Tambaram Sanatorium Madras Export Processing Zone bus terminus, Poonamallee, Perambur railway station, Vallalar Nagar, Semmancherry, Thiruvottiyur, Kilambakkam, and Kundrathur bus terminuses.

After January 31, tokens will be issued at the terminuses during working hours.

An opportunity to be a zoo ambassador

School students attending Vandalur Zoo's winter camp will receive this title and also a one-year passport that offers 10 free visits and access to newsletters

Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Vandalur is hosting a winter camp in three batches for school students.

'Vandalur Zoo's Ambassador Winter Camp - 2025', as it is called, is open for enrolment by students from Standard V and above.

The two-day camp will be held on December 24-25, 26-27, and 28-29.

The camp will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on each of these days, and the fee is ₹900.

Parents should arrange for



their children's transportation from home to the zoo and back home. They should send their children with a water bottle,

snacks and fresh-cut fruits, says a press release.

The participants will receive a course kit that includes a student bag, writing pad, pen, activity sheets and an e-book on 'Animals in Vandalur Zoo'.

The benefits of the camp include being titled 'Zoo Ambassador' with a badge and certificate, a zoo passport with a validity period of one year that entitles them to 10 free visits and access to newsletters.

For details, log in to <https://aazp.in/wintercamp2025/>



Pothys opens a new showroom

Pothys and Pothys Swarna Mahal opened an 'integrated' showroom on December 14 in Padi. Spread across 5,00,000 square feet, the showroom is designed as a one-stop destination offering textiles, jewellery, home essentials, lifestyle products and groceries.

The seven-floor showroom has dedicated each floor to a category such as ground floor for jewellery

and sixth floor for groceries, vegetables and fruits.

As part of the opening offer, a 10 percent discount is given on textile products till December 21.

At the Swarna Mahal, ₹ 2,000 discount can be availed per sovereign on gold jewellery and a ₹10,000 per carat discount on diamond jewellery till December 31, said a release.

Hospital celebrates founder's day with blood donation drive



As part of the founders' day celebration, Be Well Hospitals organised a series of events to support those in need. Dr. C.J. Vetrievil is the founder of the hospital.

The hospitals organised a blood donation camp with Chennai Blood Centre, where the public and hospital employees donated blood.

This was followed by free lunch for the residents of Charu Old Age Home and distribution of household essentials, including dhotis to underprivileged families in T. Nagar, said a release issued by the hospitals.

Malayalee federation forms business club in Chennai

The World Malayalee Federation, headquartered in Vienna, Austria, inaugurated its Chennai Business Club recently. Rejin Chalappuram, the international president of the federation, said the club's objective is to unite Malayalees from across the world and support their business growth. Francis Daniel, the federation's vice-president for Asia region, announced that several leading business personalities from Chennai had expressed their willingness to join the club. Chennai Business Club's president, secretary, and treasurer are A.G. Thomas, Prasheed Kumar, and M.J. Unnithan respectively. Those interested in becoming members of the club may call 9884803077 / 9840141485.

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The carol tradition hits a fresh note

CSI Redeemer Church Annanagar's Carols is a much-awaited Yuletide event. As in the previous years, this year's carol concert (on December 14) met expectations. Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi set the tone for the concert titled 'Star of God', and right from the first note to the last, it was an evening to remember, says a press release.

There was a beautiful mix of songs of different genres. A taste of classics from Messiah, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn and Gounod and also the melodious Angels' Carol by John Rutter besides many other contemporary pieces and hymns gave the variety that kept the audience guessing what's next.

The Junior choir of the church also presented 'Mary Sing Alleluia' and 'Go tell it on the Mountain' and this gave a fresh wave of energy for the evening. The choir had a fine



tone and was very expressive in their singing. The choir has been singing together for a long time and it was evident from their coordination. Majority of the choir were youth and the young voices sang with excellent control. In the middle of the programme was a very

apt Christmas message for the present times by the pastor Rev. I. Samuel Prabhakar.

The 'Genesis Chamber Orchestra' ably backed up the choir, and the strings, wind instruments, piano and voices were in perfect harmony. Altogether it was an evening

to remember and cherish as each and every one in the packed church had something to take away.

The choir was conducted and led by Emmanuel Ponraj. He was supported by Hannah Jane on the piano.

Biogas plant established at GCC school

In a significant stride toward advancing sustainable and renewable energy practices, The Rotary Club of Madras (RI Dist. 3234) and The Thoon Trust, in association with the Residents of Kasturibangar Association (ROKA) has inaugurated a state-of-the-art bio-methanation plant at the Chennai Primary School in Thiruvanmiyur.

The initiative marks a meaningful contribution to community-led environmental stewardship, transforming organic waste into clean energy while foster-



ing awareness among young students about sustainable living, says a press release.

The dedication cere-

mony was attended by distinguished members and contributors who have been instrumental in driving community welfare pro-

jects. Notable attendees included Rtn. Nikhil Raj, President, Rotary Club of Madras; Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan, Honorary Secretary, RCM; Rtn. Suresh Amrapu, Director of Community Services Development, RCM; and Rtn. B. V. Gautam, Chairperson, Environment Action Committee, RCM.

Also present were Janani Venkitesh, Secretary, ROKA; Rtn. Sid Hande, Vice Chairperson, Environment Action Committee; Rtn. Sabina Narayan; and Stella Rosalin, Headmistress of

Chennai Primary School, whose support has been vital to implementing the project on campus.

The event highlighted the spirit of collaboration that made this environmental milestone possible, particularly recognising Rtn. Kadresan and Vasughi, who lead The Thoon Trust and have been central to bringing this green initiative to fruition. the release adds.

Maths talent exam on February 8

Tamil Nadu Science & Technology Centre is conducting a talent examination in mathematics on February 8, 2026 at Periyar Science & Technology Centre. Time: At 11 a.m. It is a 90-minute test.

Students from class five to eight can take part. The nature of the test is pattern recognition in numbers, says a press release.

Those interested, need to register on or before January 27, 2026. For details, call 044 - 2441 0025.

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Tamil theatre festival from December 25

Bhavan's Margazhi Mahotsav is conducting a nine-day Tamil Theatre Festival at the TAG Auditorium, Kilpauk. Featuring performances by leading theatre groups and eminent playwrights of the city, the festival seeks to present discerning audiences with high-quality Tamil dramas of artistic merit. Entry to all performances is free. Canteen facilities will be available at the venue.

Athithi, Ardhanaari, Kaanal Neero, Payanam and Kapidhwaja, all by Drummies Drama, will be staged on December 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 respectively. Other plays that will be staged from December 30 to January 2 are Surukku Pai, Leela Vinodham, Kalavu Neekiya Padalam and LKG Aasai.

All plays begin at 7 p.m.

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