

ANNA NAGAR

Purasawalkam » Villivakkam » Kolathur » Nazarathpettai » Pattabiram » Maduravoyal » Koyambedu » Tiruverkadu » Puzhal » Kilpauk » Perambur » Mogappair
Avadi » Ayyapakkam » Tiruninravur » Nerkundram » Moolakadai » Ayanavaram » Retteri » Padi » Ambattur » Tirumullaivoil » Aminjikarai » Vysarpadi » Red Hills



READERS WRITE ABOUT CIVIC ISSUES

'Stormwater drain work makes slow progress' **P2**



CELEBRATING ABILASH'S SUCCESS

He has specific learning disabilities; and by clearing the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission Group II examination, he is now a source of inspiration to those battling similar challenges **P5**



The face of a message

Two girls from an orphanage in Thiruverkadu win prizes at an event organised by the Tiruvallur Collectorate



Shreya Vidyakar and Priyadarshini Vidyakar, both residents of Udvam Karanganal, an orphanage for children at Thiruverkadu, participated in a face art competition organised by

the Tiruvallur Collectorate. The event was held to observe International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Shreya won the first prize in Tiruvallur district and Priyadarshini was given the participation prize by the chief guest T. Prabhushankar, Collector of Tiruvallur. A certificate with a shield was presented to the winners. While Shreya was the artist, Priyadarshini lent her face to the initi.

Through the face art executed in oil painting, Shreya showed how drugs and alcohol can harm the liver and heart.

A parody of a pavement



On this section of Anna Nagar First Main Road, pedestrians can stay away from the pavement without it being labelled as an act of incaution. The image was taken on June 25, 2024. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

hp WORLD

savex
TECHNOLOGIES

BACK TO COLLEGE OFFER
From gaming to classes, dominate with OMEN 16 with Intel® Core™ i7 processor (14th Gen)



◆ OMEN | intel CORE i7

Student benefits worth up to Rs. 63,123* @ just Rs. 6,997*

1-year Adobe Creative Cloud subscription*	2-years extended warranty*	
---	----------------------------	---

Additional cash benefits of up to Rs. 31,000*

Exchange benefits of up to Rs. 21,000*	AMERICAN EXPRESS AXIS BANK DBS BANK HDFC BANK ICICI BANK IDFC FIRST BANK oneCARD YES BANK	Cashback of up to Rs. 10,000*
--	---	-------------------------------

Flat Rs. 2,000* Cashback on UPI Payment

pinelabs	paytm	amazon pay	benow
----------	-------	------------	-------

On Selected models only

*Terms & Conditions apply

 **globus | hp WORLD**

ANNA NAGAR
Shanthi Colony
72990 12230

ANNA NAGAR
VR Chennai Mall
96000 08353

GUDUVANCHERY
Opp. EB Office
72990 12211

MOGAPPALAI WEST
Next: McDonald's
80155 14020

PORUR
Near Super Saravana
98400 94780

VADAPALANI
Nexus Vijaya Mall
72990 12240

'This stormwater drain will be misused for sewage discharge'

Greater Chennai Corporation is carrying out stormwater drain construction at Kamatchi Ammal Third Street (Ward 33, Zone 3 - Madhavaram) in Ponniamman Medu. But this street lacks an underground sewage drain and sewage overflow is a recurrent problem here. Because, the size of the septic tanks in most of the apartments is relatively small. In other words, it is not proportionate to the number of houses and unable to contain the sewage. This causes sewage overflow in this street. Hence, construction of an underground sewage drain (by CWMSSB) should have been a priority. Not GCC's stormwater drain. Now, sewage will be discharged into stormwater drain paving the way for the pollution of waterbodies.

Raghukumar Choodamani, convenor, Perambur Neighborhood Development Forum



Kamatchi Ammal Third Street in Ponniamman Medu on June 29. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In jeopardy



By carrying a ladder on a motorcycle, they are placing themselves and other road users in jeopardy. The image was taken on June 28 at Mannurpet on CTH Road.
PHOTO: VEDHAN M

'Korattur subway's service lanes usurped'



One of the service lanes near Korattur subway on June 25.

A row of vehicles are parked along the service lanes of the subway near Korattur railway station.

The safety of pedestrians is com-

promised during peak hours. It should be noted that there is a Greater Chennai Corporation - run school near the subway.

S Sekhar, Korattur

'Stormwater drain work makes slow progress'

Stormwater drain construction began at the junction of Vaigai Street (Ward 65) and North Red Hills Road (Ward 94) in Kolathur two months ago. (Both the Wards come under the purview of Zone 8 - Anna Nagar.) This is a busy junction as it leads to Villivakkam, GKM Colony, Poompuhar Nagar and Periyar Nagar.

Therefore, the work has put road users to considerable inconvenience, especially during the recent rains. But residents find the work to be moving at a tardy pace, and they want it completed at the earliest.

*S. Venugopal,
Kolathur*



Vaigai Street in Kolathur.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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 downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in. Letters must carry the contact number

Gated community & No Wall Sharing Affordable Elite Residences



THIRUVERKADU
SVVD
Silver Oak

Rs.3999/-
per Sq.ft.

954 to 1004 Sq.ft. Stilt + 3 Floors
12 Units - 2 Blocks -
Each Block 6 Units
60% Construction Completed
Possession in 5 Months

Price Starts from
38.15 Lakhs



THIRUVERKADU
SVVD
Silver Pine

Only 5 Units - 1796 Sq.ft.
Possession in 5 Months

3 BHK Villa

Price Starts from
85 Lakhs



VANAGARAM
SVVD
Springs

Rs.5199/-
per Sq.ft.

1150 to 1190 Sq.ft.
Stilt + 2 Floors with lift
Only 4 Units
80% Construction Completed
Possession in 2 Months

Price Starts from
59.8 Lakhs

❖ **24/7 Security** ❖ **Lift** ❖ **CCP**



SVVD GREEN HOUSING PRIVATE LIMITED
Contact: +91 98409 82237, 90879 00087
www.svvd.in



Residents seek changes at 'median opening' on GNT Road

They see the need for a traffic signal and zebra crossing

L. KANTHIMATHI

VGP Santhosh Nagar Residents Welfare Association and Federation of Madhavaram Resident Welfare Associations have sought a traffic signal with zebra-crossing at a "median opening" at GNT Road near Ganapathi Thottam in Madhavaram. This median opening is hardly wide; it consists of many narrow openings.

"GNT Road is a wide highway with vehicles coming at a good speed. Earlier, the median was open for a length of 45 metres. It allowed motorists coming from Ganapathi Thottam lane and also from the opposite Thattankulam Road to cross GNT Road. But citing safety reasons this opening in the median was closed around four years ago. However, this closed median is marked by small narrow openings created to facilitate the movement of pedestrians and motorcyclists. These narrow openings are proving to be dangerous. Many accidents including fatal ones have occurred at this spot. The association has been taking up this issue with the State Highways, Greater Chennai Traffic Police, Greater Chennai Corporation and to elected representatives since 2017. But our efforts were to no avail," says D. Govindaraj, the secretary of VGP Santhosh Nagar Resi-



Chaos at Ganapathi Thottam in Madhavaram on GNT Road on June 27. PHOTOS: VEDHAN M

dents Welfare Association.

In the case of four-wheeler users, the closing of the median has forced them to take U-turns at nearby junc-

tions which they find time-consuming and results in greater fuel expenditure.

"Four-wheelers can't use the nar-

row openings to cross the road. They have to take a U turn at Madhavaram junction near the truck terminal or at Moolakadai junction.

During peak hours, with heavy traffic congestion, it is quite trying," says D. Neelakannan, the federation's president.

TANGEDCO's office in Avadi division gets new address

Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) shifted its Office of the Executive Engineer - Operation & Maintenance - Avadi Division, which was functioning on New Military Road to CTH Road. The office is now located at 110/33-1KV Sub-Station, CEDC/West, Chennai 600 062. Murugappa Polytechnic College is a landmark to locate the office.

This office conducts grievance redressal

This office conducts grievance redressal meetings on the first Friday of every month

meetings for TANGEDCO consumers coming under Avadi Division on first Friday of every month. Time: From 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

Avadi Division covers the following areas:

Avadi, Pattabiram, Paruthipattu, Puzhal, Redhills and Alathai.

"It is a fortnight since this office was shifted to CTH Road. This is TANGEDCO's own building," says a TAGEDCO official.

The office can be reached at 044 - 2655 7007.

Office of the Executive Engineer.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



LIFFY THOMAS

Last month, the Welfare of the Differently-Abled Persons Department issued a circular to 19 universities in Tamil Nadu reminding them that they have to reserve five per cent of the seats in higher education for persons with benchmark disabilities. And that was a momentous development for those working towards an inclusive education system, especially for V. Padma, mother of a differently-abled son.

Last academic year, 20-year-old E. Sachin's dream of joining the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University for a bachelor's programme got quashed after the institution denied him a seat saying he did not meet the physical requirements demanded by the course. A promising basketball player and swimmer, Sachin, who is on the spectrum, later relocated from Chennai to Tiruchirapalli to pursue a course in sports education from an arts and science college.

His mother Padma was determined to know why Sachin was rejected despite having all the required documents.

"I first registered a complaint with the State Commission for the Welfare of the Differently-Abled, which acts as a magistrate for any complaints brought to them, against the Sports University," says Padma.

The Sports University denied admission to Sachin as they were following a 2015 Government Order that states that the candidate must be medically fit and free from any deformities to take up the course in physical education.

"Actually the University had not changed its admission guidelines based on the RPWD Act, 2016. In the process, the University has been rejecting students citing the old GO," says Padma.

For this parent who was helping her son realise his dream, taking on



Padma and Sachin

A mother's cry for justice

When Sachin was denied admission in a college due to his disability, his mother Padma petitioned the State Commission for the Welfare of the Differently-Abled. And that initiative set the ball rolling towards a significant reformation

a university meant doing lot of groundwork. Filing an RTI plea, doing rigorous follow-ups and studying various judgements helped build up the case. She took help from special parents. "I knew I could not fight it alone, so I met dis-

ability activists, support group members to understand if the reason for denying admission was justified," Padma says much of the hearing happened virtually.

Besides filing the case, Padma met up with the secretary to the

Points to be considered

- A person with benchmark disabilities shall be given an upper age relaxation of five years for admission in institutions of higher education.
- Educational institutions must ensure 'reasonable accommodations' according to the individual's requirement.
- Candidates with at least 40% disability shall be allowed to apply irrespective of the type of disability. Courses shall not be restricted unreasonably. The core course module, barrier associated with a particular type of disability and the reasonable accommodation can be used as the criteria for

- inclusion/exclusion.
- The functional requirements for reservation in employment is sitting, standing, bending, lifting, seeing and hearing. All these requirements may not be necessary for studying in a course. Hence, the institution may arrive at the functional requirements for each course and furnish them in the admission prospectus.
 - If any institution has already issued prospectus that is not in line with the RPWD Act 2016 that institution may consider issuing addendum.

(Extracts from the circular issued to Universities)

Welfare of the Differently-Abled Persons Department and also the sports minister Udhaynidhi Stalin.

Never mind Sachin did not get to study in the Sports University but the family is happy with the outcome of the case. "I am glad the verdict came before the start of the new academic year as many other deserving children are sure to benefit from this circular reminding universities about their responsibility," says Padma.

She adds: "My fight was against the Tamil Nadu Sports University but S. Nagarajan, former secretary, Welfare of the Differently-Abled Persons Department, went a step ahead. The circular signed by him asks the 19 universities to implement the RPWD Act in letter and spirit. The circular gives enough clarity and a lot of reasonable accommodations that universities have to provide to those with disabilities."

Suitability analysis
Senior officials with the Welfare of

the Differently-Abled Persons Department agree that this is the first time such a detailed circular was issued to various state-run universities to amend its prospectus and it was triggered by a complaint raised by Padma. A study was done to see how other universities were implementing reservation for persons with disabilities.

"We did a suitability analysis by calling HODs of various departments. They were given the syllabus book and asked to come up with 'abilities' for various courses. For instance, students with any disabilities can be allowed for a computer science course. The speech and hearing impaired would find an aeronautical programme challenging," says P. Balaji, legal consultant.

The Department plans to resend the circular before the end of December and also monitor institutions. Says Balaji, "The government is ready to look at any feedback coming from the parent community."

Celebrating Abilash's success

He has specific learning disabilities; and by clearing the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission Group II examination, he is now a source of inspiration to those battling similar challenges

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

All those who have played a role in V. Abilash's journey in the last few decades are celebrating his success. The 29-year-old cleared the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission Group II



M. Lakshmi, Director for Welfare of Differently Abled Persons, greets Abilash (second from right). PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

examination and recently got the letter stating that he is selected for "appointment" to the post of assistant in the School Education Department.

Abilash has come a long way

since his kindergarten days when he was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder and autism. At age five, he was enrolled into Maruti Seva School for Special Education in Kolathur and given a separate curriculum one that included speech therapy, basic education and behaviour skills.

"His IQ was 62 when he joined us and thanks to an individualised programme, the score went to 86 in a year," says S. Ramalingam, director of the special school that has been mentoring Abilash since then.

Despite challenges, the boy went on to study in a regular school and later complete BA in English and MBA with good scores. Abilash was not good in mathematics but his reading skills were very good and his well-wishers encouraged him. He translates and grasps topics in English fast. He would often visit the library at British Council and Connemara Library to pick up

books. His mother, V. Shanthi, says Abilash has an extraordinary memory that helped him in his studies. "In college, we appointed a teacher to help him after classes with accounts. Abilash is hard-working and for the last two years he has been solely preparing for various competitive examinations," says Shanthi, a resident of GKM Colony.

"With the right method and regular assessment one can help those with disabilities to shine and Abilash has proved that. He has cleared TNPSC Group 2 in the first attempt under the Specific Learning Disability quota," says Ramalingam, whose wife Visalakshmi has also been a great source of support.

Ask Abilash what reforms he would like to bring in the education department, he replies that more activity-oriented learning is needed for the holistic development of students.



Baya weavers 'own' palm tree in Ottiyambakkam again

There was a sneaking fear they had deserted their 'old home', but the birds have quelled it, as proved by the new nests on the tree

PRINCE FREDERICK

Everything about baya weavers has to do with detail and care. The choice of a partner by an individual bird and the choice of a nesting tree collectively by the group are never made flippantly. Baya weavers are finicky about location (a tree 'teetering' on the edge of a waterbody and providing in-built protection against predators) and finickier still about supportive infrastructure. They value quick access to nesting material. They tend to shack up for the night in the reeds, their much preferred roosting environment. They seek grassy patches for grass seeds to feed on. A palm tree in Ottiyambakkam

opposite a gated community (Jones Cassia) had planted its feet in just the kind of environment described above. Access to nesting material and food and roosting sites has the assurance of a gilt-edged security. One just has to look around to realise it. A water channel is near-by. Despite the march of "civilisation", Nature still has a degree of unfettered run in these parts. And unsurprisingly, the baya weavers "owned" the palm tree, and their nests, in use or out of use, would be hanging from the fronds much like decorative baubles from a

Despite the march of "civilisation", Nature still has a degree of unfettered run in these parts

Christmas tree. But a few months ago, the palm tree was divested of baya weaver nests and one could not help wonder if the birds had checked out of the location due to environmental stressors. One was proved pleasantly wrong when the nests reappeared, the baya weavers responding to the SW monsoon in customary fashion. Like many other avian species, the baya weavers synchronise the breeding schedule with the monsoons, south-west and north-east.

With nests – the majority of them at the early and middle stages of weaving – hanging once again, and the sight of male baya weavers developing these nests in an air of hope and expectation, the tree has come alive once again.



In Ottiyambakkam, the tree, the nests and two male Baya weavers in attendance on June 28, 2024. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Bronze-winged jacanas: now living almost next-door to humans



From a *rara avis* only a couple decades ago even in the known wetlands in southern Chennai and beyond, the bronze-winged jacana has become a pleasantly common sight now in these parts, helping itself even to boggy, hyacinth-overrun patches in residential areas. With reasonable quiet, they raise families in these patches. Juvenile bronze-winged jacanas in Semmancherry on June 29, 2024. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

STATUS REPORT

Vacant land near Korattur railway station is unkempt



A parcel of land near the main entrance of Korattur railway station is overrun with vegetation, and all kinds of waste.

Perishable waste including vegetables and fruits are quite conspicuous as they are discarded in huge quantities. This decomposition of organic waste makes the place smelly. Auto-rickshaw drivers near the railway station say this is the handiwork of vendors coming from suburban areas to sell agricultural produce in the city.

They misuse this vacant land to dump rotten produce and this is a common sight here. Conservancy workers have told them time and again to make use of the bins but they pay no heed to it, say auto-rickshaw drivers.

They also suggested that the authorities concerned should take stringent measures to curb this practice and install a board cautioning the public from dumping waste here.

Text by L. Kanthimathi

Citizens forum raises safety concern at Tiruvallur railway station

Citing safety reasons, Thiruvallur Town Consumer Protection Association, a citizens forum, has made a representation to the Railway Manager - Chennai Division, Southern Railway seeking reduction of the speed of the trains entering the island platform two and three.

Platform two handles express trains, goods trains and suburban - fast local and three suburban trains and occasionally express trains.

The representation dated June 27 highlights the narrowing of the space at the platform on account of footpath construction (carried out under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme) and therefore commuters are pushed to the edge of the platform near the railway track.

"The construction occupies close to a 100 metre-length of the island platform. Commuters are pushed to the platform edge crossing the yellow line raising the risk of an accident. As the platform handles suburban trains also, it is crowded during rush hour. It should be noted Four Vande Bharat trains pass through the platform in addition to other express trains. Hence, we want Southern Railway to impose speed restrictions on trains as they enter the platform. Besides, we want a "caution order" to be passed. Because, a deadline committed in a "caution order" for completion of the work will be viewed seriously than the deadline committed in a contract. We are seeking a caution order because work that began a month ago moves at tardy pace," says Y Jayapaulraj, the Association's secretary.

Text by L. Kanthimathi



Tiruvallur station

Best Bargains

HEALTH INSURANCE

Age Entry 0 to 100
Now on Easy EMI / Loan

Cashless Mediclaim
Policy available for
Individual, Family,
Senior Citizen & Group

Daily Hospital Cash Policy
Outpatient Care Policy

Fresh / Portability Policy
72006 46544

SOFA SERVICE

ANY SOFA'S
RECLINER SOFAS
MASSAGE CHAIRS
CUSHIONS
REUPHOLSTERY
Reconditioning at Very
Moderate Charges
K.N.S.RAJAN SERVICES
76671 33233
93818 03956

MOSQUITO SCREEN

for DOORS / WINDOWS

- WINDOW / DOOR MODEL
- SLIDING / PLEATED TYPE MODEL
- VELCRO TYPE MODEL
- STAINLESS STEEL WIRE MESH
- SAINT GOBAIN FIBER MESH

SKYLINE
98413 31010
98415 56603

To advertise in
DOWNTOWN

Contact:
SATHIYAMORTHY
70927 03458

BUYING

WORKING AND NOT WORKING, A/C,
BRASS, STAINLESS STEEL, FRIDGE,
OLD COMPUTER, LAPTOP, UPS,
BATTERIES, MUSIC SYSTEM,
WATER HEATER, GYM ITEMS,
WOODEN FURNITURE, SOFA SET,
COT, BEERO, DINNING SET

ALL A TO Z SCRAPS
VANITHA TRADERS
9600101534

FOR LEASE

7000 - 8000 sq ft
for foundry shed plus
Open area for loading
and unloading.
Power - 150 HP
Approved/ Govt complied
industrial shed.
Any leads Please
Contact:Shreyansh
98400 77050

NKN TUTOR ACADEMY

TUITION FOR ACCOUNTANCY

+1, +2 (State/Cbse)
B.Com (All Discipline),
BBA, M.Com

Contact :

Prof. Dr. M. NALINI M.Com, M.Phil, Ph.D
KALLIKUPPAM, AMBATTUR
Cell 9710292227

BUYING

Old Antique & Collectable's
Vintage Furniture, Watches,
Pen's, Painting, Brass Miniatures
All Art Decorative Items

Spot Cash K. Mani Raj
98408 20587

LASHCART

EXCLUSIVE SHOP FOR REFILLING & PRINTER SERVICE
PRINTER SERVICE
INKJET & TONER REFILLING
We REPAIR all
inkjet & toner printers
ON SPOT
DOOR STEP SERVICE
NOW AVAILABLE
98946 55595

Thirukkural elocution, drawing and essay contests

Shriram Ilakkiya Kazhagam, the literary wing of Shriram group, is organising Thirukkural elocution, drawing and essay contests from July 20 to July 25 for school and college students across 12 centres covering Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The competitions for Chennai zone will be held at CSI Jessie Moses Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Anna Nagar on July 20 and at Christ King Girls Higher Secondary School in East Tambaram on July 27.

Application forms can be collected from the nearest Shriram Chits branche or by visiting www.shriramchits.com.

Last date for submitting the filled-in application form is July 13.

The contestants will be divided into three groups - juniors (class-



es 6-8), seniors (classes 9-12) and college (engineering, medical and polytechnic students), said a release.

Shriram Ilakkiya Kazhagam has been conducting this competition since 1988 to create awareness on the teachings of Thirukkural, added the release.

Short-term courses in music and dance for NRI children

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Fine Arts Wing is starting short-term music and dance courses designed for NRI children visiting Chennai. The certification courses lasting anywhere from one to four weeks will be an opportunity to improve their music and dance skills within a short period under the guidance of talented and experienced teachers, said a release. The courses offered are Vocal (Carnatic, Semi-Classical/Light mus-

ic), Violin, Mridangam, Keyboard, Dance (Bharatnatyam, Mohiniyattam, folk and contemporary) and Yoga. The workshop includes a personalised training, curriculum with a certificate of completion and recorded material after the training programme.

The sessions will take place at Bhavan's Chennai Kendra, East Mada Street, Mylapore from July 1.

For details contact: 98843 64700 / 9884366700.

Four women honoured with Carnatic Award



The awardees and the dignitaries.

Five personalities were honoured at the 8th edition of Carnatic Awards 2024 organised by Rotary Club of Chennai Carnatic. They are Indra Narayan, author and 'Millet Queen'; Dr. Meenakshi Bajaj, author, columnist, dietician; Priya Bhargav, CEO - Calidai Motor Works; Jaya Devi, founder - Jullaaha; R.K.Raghavan, former Director CBI and High Commissioner of India to Cyprus.

In the last seven years, 35 eminent individuals received Carnatic Awards. At this function held on June 27, Sam Paul, Director of Paulsons group and Nina Reddy, Managing Director of Savera Hotels were inducted as honorary members of Rotary Club of Chennai Carnatic.

Rotary Club of Chennai Carnatic is part of the Rotary International District 3232.

A visit to the Secretariat



▼ Students from various schools and colleges got to witness the Assembly session at the Secretariat recently.
PHOTO: PRABHU M

LEARN
KATHAK
FOLK DANCE
RABINDRA NRITYA
Online & Offline
ONLY FOR
LADIES & CHILDREN
For more details call
99621-53403

APPROVED LAND FOR SALE @ AYAPAKKAM 1800 sq.ft. 2 Plots No Mediators
94449-06878

2 DAYS WORKSHOPS ON
Bottle Art
Block Printing
Bag Designing
Glass Painting
For more details call
89396-02761

The Orange Silks
AADI ATHIRADI OFFER

1+1
Buy 1 Get 1 Free All Sarees

1+1
Buy 1 Get 1 Free Nighty & Tops

Buy 1 Get 1
On All Pattu Sarees

10% Discount On Branded Cloths

சீதாக்கம் Stock உள்ளவரை மட்டுமே. அனைவரும் வந்து துணிகளை அள்ளிச் செல்லுங்கள்..

No: 1824 / 1, 18th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Ch - 40. Ph: +91 97909 05844 | +91 98849 01291