

IT CORRIDOR

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

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



'MANUFACTURING' A CYCLING MOVEMENT IN MANALI

Kothari Petrochemicals in Manali did not just tell its employees to cycle to work; it enabled them to do so. **P4**



AN INVITATION TO ANOTHER WAVE OF STUDENTS

As RYA Book Bank invites new students to register with it, the window of opportunity open this year till August 31, one cannot help notice what made this long-standing charity a synonym for free college textbooks. **P6**



These images were taken on May 25, 2025, before the spell of rains in more recent days, when the road would have looked and felt even more broken. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Veerathamman Koil Street: in a state of persistent brokenness

Located in Jalladianpet, this street is part of a grid of roads providing connectivity between the IT Corridor and Tambaram Velachery Main Road

PRINCE FREDERICK

Veerathamman Koil Street which straddles Jalladianpet and Perumbakkam is persistently unmotorable, the road languishing in a state of brokenness due to successive waves of Chennai Metrowater-related work – installation of sewage lines first and then drinking water pipelines. And there is ongoing work.

John Paul, a resident of Casagrand Tranquil, points out that ever since his family moved into the community – which was one and half years ago – the road has been in this state, more muddy than bitumen-topped.

M. Mani, president, Casagrand Tranquil Owners Association, understands the limits to what could be done.

"As the work is still progressing, we cannot expect a proper

bitumen-topped road right now; but it should be possible to level the road and make it reasonably motorable," says Mani.

"We have made a representation about this to elected representatives, and are still waiting for some redemptive work to be carried out."

Mani points out that the road falls in ward 191, Zone 14 of Greater Chennai Corporation.

A raft of gated communities are located on this road, and Mani notes the collective sigh of despair at the state of the road comes from Ram Sarovar Apartments, Isha Signature Villa, Ozone Green Apartments and India Bulls Apartments.

Mani also draws attention to the presence of St. John's Public School on the street, and when the new academic year begins, students and parents would be put to great inconvenience navigating this street.

Veerathamman Koil Street is

part of a grid of roads that provide connectivity between the IT Corridor and Tambaram Velachery Main Road. Software professionals travelling from sleeper towns to the IT Corridor take this road.

With Metro Rail work chugging through Perumbakkam Main road, Veerathamman Koil Street has emerged even more of a significant link road between those heading to parts of Velachery Main Road, particularly Jalladianpet and Pallikaranai from Perumbakkam, and in the light of this new reality, the road should not be allowed to continue in this tumbledown situation. Mani observes that as it is, Metro Rail work places immense stress on the motoring population and it has to be endured for the sake of necessary development.

And poorly managed interior roads only add to what has to be endured.

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kam peeta hai

'Expedite work on key link road'



SHINOJ G.K.

Pipeline-laying work on Nookampalayam Link Road in Semmancherry has shut off one side of the road for motorists. This disadvantage is felt keenly by

motorists during rush hour. The excavated section of the road is completely battered.

Nookampalayam Link Road provides connectivity to the busy Rajiv Gandhi, and it is a route taken by school and college goers.

There are no alternative routes.



Nookampalayam Link Road in Semmancherry on May 30.
PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN.

With schools and colleges scheduled to reopen in two weeks, this stretch will witness heavy traffic congestion and bottlenecks. The departments concerned must expedite the work.

Shinoj G.K. is a resident of Thazhambur



PRIYA DARSHINI TARAKKAD ARJUNAN

Ensuring the safety of cyclists

Ahead of International Bicycle Day, an appeal by a cyclist on steps that need to be taken to keep the roads safe for their tribe

ry and cognitive power diminished due to the head injuries she sustained. And it has taken a full four months for her to come back to

normality.

Likewise, two girls cycling to school on Theosophical Society Road in Besant Nagar met with an

A year ago, a young life was snuffed out on GST Road due to an accident involving a car and a cycle. Hit by the car, the young cyclist was thrown off the saddle. Earlier, a couple of years ago, another cyclist was fatally knocked down by a vehicle that was proceeding on the wrong side of the road.

Early this year, a young woman was hit by a speeding car near MEPZ Oragadam. Despite being rushed to the hospital, her memo-

ture of safe bicycling, to be run on a regular basis.

Our demands

- Every road in the city – arterial or otherwise – must have a lane for slow-moving traffic such as bicycles and be maintained well. Other motorists encroaching upon the lane should be penalised.
- Wrong side driving violations must be handled with an iron hand as these are big threats to cyclists.
- Safe parking spots must be made available for cyclists as most people avoid taking the cycle for short distance commutes for fear of losing their bicycle despite having it locked.
- A stronger enforcement of road rules and speed limits is needed, especially during the hours when school and college students need to use the road, so that children can take to the saddle safely.
- All roads that are not children-friendly must be explicitly marked.
- Provide better lighting.
- Stricter laws that treat the cyclist and pedestrian on par with other road users must be proposed to safeguard the interests of cyclists.
- Schools should inculcate a sense of vehicular equity in the minds of children so they learn and practise on-road etiquette early on.
- The Government must come forward for collaborative efforts with passionate organisations that are making concerted efforts to make people take up cycling and other non-motorised transportation forms.
- Bicycle tourism in the city could be promoted.

(Priya Darshini Tarakkad Arjunan is a member of Chennai Cyclists)

Every other day, we come across such instances of cyclists being hit by speeding cars, bikes, lorries and buses in Chennai. While some of these incidents have been recorded by the police, many go undocumented.

These incidents illustrate that despite following safety rules such as wearing safety gear, reflective clothes, having headlights and tail-lights and using hand signals, cyclists are vulnerable on our roads.

While International Bicycling Day (June 3) is more about advocating cycling for its positive impact, we want road safety to be the overarching message.

Many cities are making major changes to their infrastructure, urban development plans and policies to protect the interests of cyclists and other non-motorised transport users. Chennai must also take a leaf out of their books.

Currently, many of the city's roads are in a shambles due to Chennai Metro work. Owing to this and other reasons, the number of cyclists in Chennai has also dwindled.

Even on roads such as the ECR, GST Road and OMR where some demarcation was created for cyclists, these lines have disappeared with time.

The Greater Chennai Traffic Police ran a campaign "Zero is Good" appealing to people to be safe on roads to ensure there are zero accidents. However, its life and effects were short-lived.

We need many such initiatives, particularly those promoting a cul-

'High E Coli presence in water supplied by tankers'



A file photo of sewage being illegally released into a canal in suburban Chennai. The image is used for representational purpose only.

BHUVANA RAJ

Pathogen tests conducted on the tanker water supplied by four private water suppliers to Casagrand Elan, a gated community in

Thalambur, showed *E. coli* presence indicating sewage contamination in the source wells.

The tests were carried out this April in a private laboratory. In 100 ml of water from each supplier, the *E. coli* count was 140, 110, 90, and

85 colony-forming units (cfu), against the Bureau of Indian Standards limit of zero cfu. Even after chlorination by the community's treatment plant, the *E. coli* count remained at 30 cfu. The test results seem to support the notion that

sewage is being discharged into water bodies, vacant parcels of land and stormwater drains.

When SIMPLE, a citizens group, took up this issue with the public health officials in Kelambakkam, one got the sense that *E. coli* con-

tamination of tanker water supplied by private water suppliers was more prevalent than acknowledged. Government authorities need to check the source wells for pollution and take action against illegal sewage disposal.

Companies hired to manage the property, commonly known as "facility management services", are not treating the tanker-supplied water to the expected standards. While residents pay a handsome amount towards monthly maintenance, water they get is non-potable and hazardous. There have been a few cases of fever and typhoid and these should not be dismissed as "isolated cases." Residents associations should ensure chlorination is done properly.

Only a handful of people pursue such issues. If a large number of people come together and question such violations, it would make a world of a difference.

SIMPLE is waiting for a response to petitions sent a fortnight ago, to the following authorities: Chengalpattu District Collector; Deputy Director of Health Services - Chengalpattu; Block Medical Officer - Kelambakkam; Block Development Office - Thiruporur; and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

(SIMPLE is the acronym for Sustainability Improvement through Multiple Projects for a Lovelier Environment - an initiative led by a group of Thalambur residents who are conscious of environment conservation)

SIMPLE can be reached at simple.elan@gmail.com

Bhuvana Raj is the co-founder of SIMPLE

A knock-on effect



Slow-moving, bumper-to-bumper traffic during the morning rush hour on Perumbakkam Main Road having a knock-on effect on Radha Nagar Main Road. Vehicles on Radha Nagar Main Road were seen cooling their tyres for a long time in the morning of May 26, 2025. And this is hardly a rare occurrence. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

Dry waste collection drive today

Athulya Senior Care dry waste collection drive is taking place on June 1, 2025 (the timings: from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Pallavaram, Neelankarai and Maduravoyal at Athulya Senior Care centres located there).

Categories include all plastics, textiles/ fabrics and paper.

Items will be further segregated and sent for donation/ upcycling/ reselling or recycling, says a press release. For details, WhatsApp India Wasted at 97517 55522 or visit the Instagram page @indiawasted

Sustainability fair at Ampa Mall

On June 7 and 8, Ampa Skyone Mall will host Sustainability Fair 2025, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Madras and the Institute for Climate and Environment (ICE) with focus on energy, water, waste and forests/agriculture.

The fair will be a platform to check on how citizens, entrepreneurs and children are responding to the climate crisis with creativity, care, and community, said a release.

Live art and slogan competition for children and a waste management workshop are a

few activities that will be conducted. Ten changemakers will be showcasing their eco-friendly products at the event that will be held from 11 a.m. onwards.

This initiative started in January at a Pongal get-together hosted by Rotarians, where sustainability was the heart of the traditional celebration.

Later in March, ICE took the idea to SDNB Vaishnav College, where two workshops—one on sustainable practices and the other on water management—drew students from Rotaract colleges.

Revisiting two initiatives that are aimed at encouraging people to cycle to work

LIFFY THOMAS

Kothari Petrochemicals in Manali did not just tell its employees to cycle to work; it enabled them to do so.

It gifted Hercules cycles to over 140 employees on its rolls on National Safety Day in March 2022. The management's request to its staff: pedal to work at least once a week. Incentives nudging employees to take the eco-friendly route followed.

And that "route" is well-travelled. In addition, the company has been taking other routes to energy conservation and pollution control. All these efforts have resulted in a plethora of recognitions for Kothari Petrochemicals including the National Award for Excellence in Energy Management 2024 by the Confederation of Indian Industries. The biggest encouragement however comes from the fact that neighbouring companies in Manali emulate its example by gifting bicycles to their employees.

"Once a month, usually on the fourth Saturday, we observe "No Bike Day" encouraging employees

'Manufacturing' a cycling movement in Manali



Employees of Kothari Petrochemicals take part in an awareness rally.

to pedal to work or use public transport," says Premapiriyam P., vice-president, Kothari Petrochemicals.

Next, the company switched to vehicles running on liquefied natural gas (LNG) for employee transportation. Two electrical cars were added to the fleet, and a fork lift was converted from diesel to electrical.

Employees who bicycle to work the maximum number of days in a month are incentivised with cash awards and carbon offset certificates.

DOWNTOWN
SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

Company encourages employees to cycle to work

The Manali plant of Kothari Petrochemicals gifts its workforce a bicycle and wants them to pedal to work once a week.

LIFFY THOMAS

When fuel prices are on the rise, employees of the Manali plant of Kothari Petrochemicals could not have asked for a better gift than their employer. The company recently rewarded its workers by gifting them a bicycle each.

The message was loud and clear: stay fit and do your bit for the environment.

The plant has 142

employees on its rolls, and right from then at the beginning level to the highest level of the same: a bicycle.

"We have already distributed 80 bicycles and the remaining 60 will arrive in the next 15 to 20 days," says V. Mangayarkarai, senior manager (Human Resources) and HRBP, Kothari Petrochemicals, adding that the cycles were distributed at an event held to observe National Safety Day.

The company has been



promoting green modes of transport among its workforce for a few years now. Last year, in pursuit of the same, the company organised a cycle rally to encourage employees to pedal to work.

"We only had a few employees coming by bicycle, and thus is where we decided to gift all of them a bicycle," says Managerian.

Siddharth says that the company hopes that employees inspire each other to pedal to work.

"We slowly started asking employees to switch to bicycles, which may be on a road to success if they entered it in the days," says Managerian.

"Our aim is not to force the employees to make the switch to bicycles, evaluation should be mandatory."

How good is the infrastructure in the neighbourhood for cycling? "The roads are not very good, but the government has to make the infrastructure available," says Managerian.

Carbon dioxide emission has been reduced by 650 kilos on account of employees commuting by

bicycle, says data shared by the company.

With a good number of em-



ployees living within a five to seven km radius of the plant, the management had a solid reason to push for a bicycle commute.

Once an employee pedals to work for a minimum of 10 days, a carbon dioxide math is done and certificates and gifts are given accordingly.

M. Rajavel, whole time director, Kothari Petrochemicals, says currently 20-25% of employees bicycle to work on a regular basis and they want to raise this percentage by another 50% this year.

"It is also important to understand the bottlenecks that employees face while cycling, which could be due to bad roads or chaotic traffic in the city, so I have asked the team to study the reasons. If their concerns can be addressed by the company then we will take it up or we can represent it to the Corporation," says Rajavel.

The management will be purchasing another round of bicycles to be given to employees who have joined the organisation in the recent years.

A feeder service between a Metro station and a college

When the new academic year kicks off at M.O.P. Vaishnav College in June, the students and staff will have the advantage of taking a feeder service from the closest Metro Rail station to the college campus on Nungambakkam.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited is offering this service to support the college's "No Vehicle Day" launched in August 2024.

"CMRL authorities got in touch with us and wanted a schedule in advance for them to arrange a service for the benefit of students, which we plan to take up from June," says Archana Prasad, principal, M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women.

Currently, DMS or Thousand Lights are the closest metro stations accessed by a majority of the students. The shuttle

service, if implemented well, would encourage more students to ditch their vehicles on other days of the week as well to rely on public transport - which was also the larger goal of keeping vehicles off the campus every last Thursday of the month, later changed to any one day in the month, based on students' feedback.

The principal notes that students' comfort level had to take precedence: if No Vehicle Day fell on an exam day, students

would be handicapped by not using their own vehicle. There could be delay in reaching the college. So, the date and day of No Vehicle Day have been kept flexible.

The initiative runs on the steam of flash mobs and messages on social media earlier on. No campaigns are needed today: just an announcement a day before No Vehicle Day.

Archna says the initial two months the departments tried not to schedule visitors on the campus on the D-Day but now guests are also asked to switch to public transport.

The agenda for the coming academic year is to encourage students to pedal to college and also to get students and staff to switch to e-vehicles, says the principal, adding "on No Vehicle day, e-vehicles are allowed."



SUSTAINABILITY



Connecting the dots

Ahead of World Environment Day, here are two stories from Chennai that serve as a reminder that the circular economy thrives when organic linkages between stakeholders are noticed and then strengthened

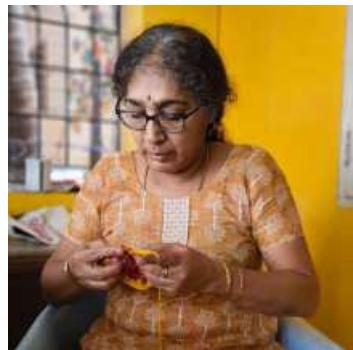
SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Sometimes, one discovers with amused wonder that someone integral to one's landscape and therefore inconspicuous, is pitted in the same battlefield as an ally by default. And the discovery extends to the fact that what they do can be a helpful tie-in to one's own work.

Kavitha Sivakumar, a resident of a gated community in Medavakkam, recently added this truth to her worldview, thanks to a casual conversation with a neighbourhood kabadiwallah, Suryagandhi Kumar. She found out he welcomes sirattai – coconut shell – into his storing house in Pallikaranai, and when a substantial amount of it is aggregated, sells the pile.

Kavitha works with Namma Ooru Foundation (NOF), and she realised straightaway that Suryagandhi and his ilk could further a NOF initiative.

Ever since the team at NOF realised coconut shells go into the making of activated charcoal, useful in water purification, and that there are entities looking for sirattai for the same purpose, Sustainable Sirattai Campaign was born, its details spelt out by NOF founder Nat-arajan.



Recently, NOF notched up 150 kg of coconut shells, having aggregated it for a while, notes Kavitha. The source of coconut shells is currently "responsible citizens and green events". Kavitha now advocates empowering local scrap dealers as aggregators of coconut shells, educating residents on cleaning and storing the shells, and



tapping into apartments for them.

"The biggest hurdle is connecting the dots between households, collectors and buyers. Without proper segregation, most shells end up in dumping grounds."

Hygiene concerns such as mould and pests also deter scrap dealers from collecting shells, she adds. Collecting sirattai, Suryagandhi comes across as an outlier. He buys them at Rs 10 per kilogram and selling at a small profit. "Sirattai is used to make activated charcoal, which helps in melting gold," he explains. Though only a few households contribute regularly, the numbers are growing.

Every piece of fabric matters

A massive part of humanity would give the thumbs up to this observation. College education of the first

Fabric jewellery created by Vijayalakshmi; Suryagandhi Kumar at his scrap collection shop; and Vijayalakshmi at work.

adept in beaded jewellery, paper quilling, crochet, and finally fabric accessories, particularly fabric jewellery.

People who know Vijayalakshmi would use an epithet to describe her – "creative".

Fabric jewellery is closer to her heart as it is the ne plus ultra of creativity. Besides, it takes care of the smallest pieces of leftover fabric.

Enter Ganga Sridhar, a resident of Mandaveli, a sustainability campaigner and a connoisseur of upcycling-based fashion. An aficionada of Vijayalakshmi's delicate fabric accessories, Ganga was impressed with Vijayalakshmi's ability to turn small-sized fabric pieces into stunning fabric jewellery. Giving her leftover fabric pieces from

cloth that went into making customised kurtis, Ganga urged her, "Can you turn these into earrings or bangles?" During COVID, matching masks became the norm, and Ganga took it a notch higher. She would keep sending fabric to Vijayalakshmi to create accessories that perfectly matched her outfits (and of course, masks too). Making fabric jewellery for the last seven years, Vijayalakshmi now has a full accessory line – earrings, necklaces and bangles – all lightweight, affordable, and eco-friendly. "It is exciting to get exactly what you want by recycling fabric instead of settling for store-bought accessories," Ganga says. "I have recommended Viji's work to many. It is a simple idea with a big impact."

After years into it, Vijayalakshmi passes her verdict on fabric jewellery: "easy to make, profitable and loved by customers."



An annual books distribution event by RYA Book Bank in the past . FILE PHOTO

As RYA Book Bank invites new students to register with it, the window of opportunity open this year till August 31, one cannot help notice what made this long-standing charity a synonym for free college textbooks in the Chennai Metropolitan Area — digitalisation of its processes

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

If you popped by ryabookbank.com now, you would notice the home-page header has relinquished its top slot, offering it magnanimously to a tangerine-coloured panel. It is the season (one returning every year) when this transfer of power happens. Ensconced at the top, the panel "hollers" at you: "RYA Book Registration Open. New Application Registration Open from 12-05-2025."

An invitation to another wave of students

The announcement ends with a blinking imperative, one demanding a click of the mouse: the hyperlink leads you to a page where old members can check in with their credentials, and to-be members start the registration process with the Rajasthan Youth Association (RYA) Book Bank.

The student can check off the course and the year for which registrations are open. Proceeding infield, the student has to provide a wide range of details, the highlights being Aadhar card and 12th mark certificate and college details to establish the registrant is a *bona fide* college student seeking textbooks on loan. By the time they wrap up the process — either registering a new member or an old member looking for new textbooks — they have an inkling of what made RYA Book Bank a synonym for cost-free lending of college textbooks in the Chennai Metropolitan Area. Beyond the Rajasthani communi-

ty's commitment to social responsibility and the dedication of the book bank team, there is a clear and undeniable element — digitalisation of mundane processes.

Technology has reduced the workload on the team at RYA Book Bank, which largely consists of volunteers whose time is a freewill gift, and cannot be coaxed out of them, even less demanded.

Casting his mind back to the time when a truckload of processes were carried out manually, Raj Kumar Dugar, past chairman of RYA Book Bank, presents the contrast ushered in by technology: "Students' records are now better maintained, and caution deposit payments (just ₹ 500) have become more convenient. Earlier, payments were made in cash at the office, which was difficult when staff were unavailable. Now, all transactions are processed smoothly through banking channels, eliminating cash handling."

Non-profits struggle with marshalling human resources, and RYA Book bank has demonstrated how technology brings a shedload of invisible hands to the deck. Interactions between the staff and students happen more online than at Atkinson Street in Vepery, where RYA Book Bank is located.

RYA Book bank has impressive numbers to bear this out — be it the number of colleges, beneficiary-students or the textbooks distributed — and much of it was racked up in the last 10-12 years through digital processes.

On the e-registration form, the dropbox for colleges seems to list every college in the Greater Chennai, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu districts, displaying RYA Book Bank's immense reach.

The years behind RYA Book Bank, born in 1963 — do the math and know the distance of this charity run. At any given time, more than 9,000 students are in possession of books provided by the project, says Raj Kumar. He continues: more than 1.45 lakh students have benefited from the project since its

inception, and each year, over 1,500 sets of books are distributed.

Initially, the book bank built the girth of its books inventory by collecting old textbooks from outgoing students, and as this approach was riddled with "if's" (the major 'if' having to do with the willingness of the students who have bought textbooks from the market to part with them), the switch was made to purchasing new textbooks under various disciplines and loaning, collecting and reloaning them till the book displays the effects of age and sustained use and, of course, slips out of the curriculum on account of a syllabus rethink.

Donors are encouraged to support the initiative in any of two ways: Gyan Deep (a donation of ₹11,000 to cover the textbook costs for the entire course of a student in the arts, science and commerce streams) and Vidya Deep (a donation of ₹21,000 for a deserving engineering student for the entire eighth semester).

On the future trajectory of this RYA Book Bank, Raj Kumar notes the project is considering the integration of e-books into its offerings. He is quick to qualify it: "However, it presents certain challenges, especially since students still prefer reading from physical books. The effectiveness of building a robust e-book section is yet to be determined."

For this year, RYA Book Bank registrations close on August 31, 2025.



Students' records are now better maintained, and caution deposit payments have become more convenient

New academy in Velachery for Heyball

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former international cue sports player Neena Praveen has always dreamt of producing many world class players from her state of Tamil Nadu.

The 42-year-old made the first step recently by starting an academy called 'Chennai 147 Sports Academy' in Velachery.

A total of seven tables have been constructed in 3,000

square feet, including three standard tables, two Heyball (a hybrid of snooker & pool) tables and two American pool tables.

In a press release, Neena said that this is the first place in Tamil Nadu where a table is being set up and training given for the game of Heyball, which is rapidly becoming popular all over the world, attracting many players and offering a lot of prize money.

Neena further said that her goal is to have someone from Tamil Nadu win a medal in the Hey-

ball game, which is expected to be included in the Olympics.

J. Meghanatha Reddy, Member Secretary of Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, said: "It is very rare that sportspersons who excel in sports and achieve achievements work in a way that helps the sports sector again. In that regard, it is commendable that Neena Praveen, who excels in the game of snooker, has started this academy to train this sport and produce excellent players."



Meghanatha Reddy, member secretary, SDAT, inaugurated the Chennai 147 Sports Academy; and Neena Praveen (in blue coat).

Pickle-making workshop

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting culinary workshops on June 4 and 5. The sessions focus on preparation of chaat-based items and pickles respectively.

According to a press release, the chat items include *pavbhaji*, *kachoris*, *panipoori*, *sevpoori*, samosas and *bhelpoori*.

In the other workshop, pickles will be made from tomatoes, mint, coriander, ginger and a few more.

Also, another workshop on organic farming of vegetable crops will be held on June 6.

The session will focus on chemical-free ways of pest management and soil nourishment.

All the sessions 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

Telugu classes

World Telugu Federation is conducting Telugu classes from June 7 at its premises at Ankur Plaza, T. Nagar. For details, call 9841616465/ 7305557322

Hospital holds drill to assess emergency management systems

On World Emergency Medicine Day, Iswarya Hospital, a super-speciality healthcare on IT Corridor, conducted a comprehensive mock drill to assess the hospital's readiness, response coordination, triage efficiency, and critical care capabilities during a mass casualty incident.

According to a press release, the victims were brought to the hospital in ambulances for the mock drill simulation. The drill brought together around 40 hospital staff, including a multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support staff, demonstrating coordinated actions in response to a hypothetical emergency.

The simulation included patient stabilisation, trauma care, disaster management, ventilator facilities, and emergency evacuation, aiming to evaluate response times, resource mobilisation, and interdepartmental coordination, the release adds.

World Emergency Medicine Day, observed on May 27, aims to raise awareness about the importance of timely, efficient emergency medical care and the dedication of emergency department professionals worldwide.

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Tree near Saidapet Metro subway crashes, traffic police personnel swing into action



Chennai City Traffic Police personnel were clearing a massive Sterculia tree near the Saidapet Metro Rail subway on Anna Salai on May 27, 2025. It was a major crash, the tree having fallen on a few bikes. Fortunately, no one was injured. To avoid a rush-hour logjam, the traffic police personnel waded into the scene close to 5 p.m. with chainsaws and started cutting the fallen tree into easily portable logs. They made the work easier for Corporation workers who arrived on the scene later, a JCB in tow. This incident highlights the need to check the strength of trees in public places to avoid untoward incidents. PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN.



Inviting residents to help clean Nanmangalam lake



Ahead of World Environment Day, the Save Nanmangalam Lake Forum is conducting a mass lake clean-up on June 1 from 7 to 8.30 a.m.

The Forum's members have cleaned the lake for 49 weeks.

The public is requested to assemble under the Banyan tree (near Jayendra Nagar) at 7 a.m. For details, call 90038 35423.

Humour club meet

Besant Nagar Humour Club & Sea view Apartments Owner's Welfare Association is conducting a storytelling session on June 1 at Sea View Apartments' (HB) Owners' Welfare Association Hall, First Seaward Road, Thiruvanmiyur. Time: 5 p.m. For details, call 9444755430

READERS WRITE

A neglected section of Medavakkam Road

R. SARAVANAN RAMANATHAN

Chennai Metro Rail Limited should pay special attention to this section of Medavakkam Main Road where it is executing the work along Eechangadu - Keezhkattalai - Nanganallur - Vanuvampet regions.

For a four-kilometre stretch, the road is in a sorry state, leaving pedestrians and motorists to navigate perilous conditions daily.

The stretch is too narrow, marked by potholes and uneven surfaces, worsening during rainy season. The absence of footpaths forces walkers to share space with speeding motorists.

R. Saravanan Ramanathan is a resident of Keezhkattalai



MTC introduces a new route number

Metropolitan Transport Corporation has introduced a new route number: 51C - travelling via Saidapet, Velachery, Pudupakkam and Vandalur Koot Road.

From Saidapet, the route number will leave at 05.05, 05.55, 06.30, 06.55, and 11.50 a.m., and 12.55, 13.20, and 13.55 p.m..

From Velachery, the route number will leave at 08.25, 09.20, 09.55, and 10.20 a.m., 15.10, 15.55, 16.30, 17.05, 18, 18.45, 19.15, and 19.50 p.m..

From Pudupakkam and Vandalur Koot Road, the route number will leave at 07, 07.50, 08.25, 08.50, 10, 10.50, 11.20, and 11.55 a.m., and 13.45, 14.30, 15.05, 15.40, 16.35, 17.20, 17.55, 18.30, 19.30, 20.15, 20.50, and 21.15 p.m..

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