

T. NAGAR

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'Key road in Virugambakkam lacks bus shelters'



S. ARUMAINATHAN

Metropolitan Transport Corporation bus commuters accessing bus stops in Kali Amman Kovil Street are irked by the lack of shelters at many of these halting facilities.

At present, Koyambedu market

and Chinmaya Nagar stops have got shelters on both sides of the road. At Elango Nagar, the stop meant for buses toward Koyambedu market has a shelter.

The remaining ones: Sayee Nagar, Natesan Nagar and Elango Nagar (toward Virugambakkam) lack this basic amenity.

Sayee Nagar bus stop meant for buses toward Virugambakkam.
PHOTO: UMESH KUMAR .V

At Sayee Nagar, the bus stop is located near a supermarket. Here, motorcycles are parked in front of the shop and commuters have no space for easy movement. In the case of Elango Nagar, commuters have to wait near garbage bins.

The shelters were removed a year ago to facilitate Metro rail construction on Kali Amman Kovil Street. At the least, makeshift arrangements should be made.

The ongoing Metro rail construction has further narrowed the road. This road witnesses heavy traffic. This includes buses of educational institutions. Vehicles come at a good speed and therefore commuters are at the risk of being hit by vehicles. Hence, appropriate safety measures are required.

S. Arumainathan is the president of Virugambakkam Residents Welfare Association



The junction of Fourth Avenue and Sixth Avenue in Ashok Nagar.
PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

'Traffic signal is needed at school zone in Ashok Nagar'

A S THIRUMALAI

A traffic signal is necessary at the junction at Fourth Avenue and Sixth Avenue in Ashok Nagar; because it gets chaotic during peak hours. A good number of schools are located in the vicinity. Children travel by cycles.

Close calls are common here. Hence, appropriate safety measures are needed.

This junction comes under the limits of R3 Ashok Nagar Police Station.

*A S Thirumalai
West Mambalam*

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.



Reservation office shifted to new building

The reservation office at Mambalam railway station has been shifted to a new building constructed within the station's premises. An additional ticket counter has also been set up within the new building. The new building is constructed under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. It is located at the Station Road entrance. Work under the scheme is going on at the station.

PHOTO: UMESH KUMAR. V

Teens champion rights of children with disabilities

A student of a private school in Nungambakkam and a resident of a home for children with intellectual disabilities in Ambattur team up at Inclusive United Nations in Delhi

LIFFY THOMAS

Two teenage girls from Chennai have forged a friendship, collaborating to advocate for the rights of children with special needs. Mahizh Arasi, a Class XI student of Good Shepherd Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Nungambakkam, and Shantha, a resident of Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust (a home for children with intellectual disabilities abandoned by their parents) recently attended a two-day 'Inclusive United Nations' (IN-UN) conference in New Delhi, hosted by PRATYeK and NINE IS MINE, where they gave inputs on what should be included in the post-2030 global development agenda.

Among what Shantha said she wants to see in the world are parents deeply sensitive to the needs of their child who has any form of disability; the right to education should be ensured for all irrespective of their financial status; and



Mahizh Arasi (right) and Shantha seen with a dignitary

absolute absence of gender discrimination. Shantha voiced her views in Tamil. Under the care of the NGO since 2011, the 17-year-old completed Class X from a government school in Kallikuppam and excels in academics and extra-curricular activities.

Sri Arunodayam Home is grateful to Good Shepherd School which brought this opportunity to them and also for empowering Shantha to speak about the challenges faced by children with intellectual and developmental dis-

abilities. "We had to bring a student from a challenging background, so Sri Arunodayam was our first choice as we have a long association with it by virtue of the outreach programmes the school runs for its students," says Sashi Natarajan, vice-principal of Good Shepherd Centenary School who trains students across its institutions for advocacy programmes.

Mahizh got roped in as she has worked with children with special needs including volunteering as a

scribe.

For close to six weekends, Mahizh spent considerable time training Shantha how to speak before an audience, helping her understand her rights and working on what should go in the draft recommendations to the United Nations.

"Mahizh would attend online sessions and go to Sri Arunodayam Home to train her so that she could be adequately prepared for the programme," says Sashi.

The two-day-long event had various rounds of conversations, both of them speaking in Tamil and English. Shantha gave a moving speech about safety and the need for an inclusive environment for children with disabilities. She also showcased her talent by performing in a South Indian group cultural dance.

To build up the representations to be shared, more such meetups would happen. "Every three months the children will continue to be meeting online and adding to the recommendations," says Sashi.

An initiative driven by children

This first-ever INclusive United Nations (IN-U.N.) conference is an important step towards drafting the "Global Goals beyond 2030". Post 2030 Global Goals refers to the new framework that follows the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), which ends in 2030.

The event brought together more than 3,000 children from 28 States and Union Territories (online and onsite) to broader IN-U.N. activities, shaping recommendations grounded in reality, urgency, and hope, says a press note by PRATYeK.

Far removed from traditional MUN simulations, this IN-U.N. was rights-based, multilingual, inclusive, and born from children's lived experiences.

Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF Representative to India, accompanied by senior leaders from UNICEF's Communication, Advocacy and Partnerships division were among those who took part, adds the note.



Cattle hinder traffic in Koyambedu



On the Koyambedu section of Poonamallee High Road, traffic sometimes moves with bovine lethargy. There is a literalness to that. Here cattle movement in the middle of the road is a common sight. Needless to say this raises the risk of accidents; but considering the officials have not taken action against this: the danger needs to be spelt out loud and clear. PHOTOS: M. PRABHU

ENVIRONMENT

Greater Chennai Corporation notes a fine is being slapped on the violator; Chennai District Green Committee confirms permission for cutting the trees was not sought

Two trees in Egmore felled



PRINCE FREDERICK

A good number of us dream to live as long as Methuselah did. Trees live that dream, some even outliving that poster boy for longevity, if they are allowed to. Last week, two trees on PV Cherian Crescent Road in Egmore were denied that "permission". Count it among existential oddities that trees have to be permitted by an artificial human-made world to realise the potential for longevity received unconditionally from Nature.

At PV Cherian Crescent Road, which derives its quietude in no small measure from the trees lining it, the axe struck twice last week, the first time on December 7, reducing one massive tree to a stump. According to a resident who wants to stay anonymous, when the workers were questioned about it, pat came the reply that

the Corporation had ordered the hand that wielded the axe. With that explanation, residents who were disturbed by the cutting of the tree assumed there should be a justification for the act and let the matter rest. On December 12, the axe struck again, the Avenue's arboreal wealth down by one more tree.

"Two beautiful big trees with their canopy spreading from one side of the road to the other, were mercilessly felled. We now fear the other trees around here for years providing shade, will be soon gone too," says M. Deepika, a resident of PV Cherian Crescent Road.

The matter was now breathed to tree conservation NGO Nizhal and the Chennai District Green Committee. As it turned out, the cutting of the two trees had not been authorised by Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC).

At the time of this article going to press, a GCC official familiar with the developments said Corporation



staff from the GCC's parks department had gone to the site to collect the fine from the private entity who had had the trees cut.

T.D. Babu, a member of Chennai District Green Committee who is also associated with Nizhal, said the cutting of these two trees was news to the green committee.

"GCC had not given permission for the trees to be cut. GCC or any other local civic body or government agency managing a road (example: highways) cannot order the felling of a tree in its roads, no matter how justified the move might be, without first presenting the case to the district green committee and seeking its approval," explains Babu.

If this process is not followed, a line, a clearly etched green line, is crossed.

Babu continues: "The green committee had decided to penalise such violators with a fine of ₹ one lakh per tree. The way builders and other commercial establishments are violating the rule by bypassing the approval process and getting away with a penalty, I feel ₹ one lakh is too small. They, especially builders and commercial establishments, need temporary suspension of the building project and suspension of commercial license beside heavy penalty respectively. This will bring them in line. Similarly, private tree cutters need to be brought within a ring of accountability. Every district should identify tree cutters and have them registered and given licenses. Only these people can cut the tree upon approval. This will help in traceability, which is lacking."

Back to PV Cherian Crescent Road, from whatever was left of one of the trees that was captured on camera, Babu identified it as a rain tree, probably 70 years old with considerably more years un-lived, never to be lived. In the arboreal world, its epitaph would read "struck down in its prime."

The stumps of the two trees that were cut on PV Cherian Crescent Road in Egmore; and the logs being carted away. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Young gated community bags composting project

RK Nagarra from Mandaveli made it to the short list, being one of the three finalists; Clover By The River in Kotturpuram was adjudged the winner

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes, work is rewarded with more work. Clover By The River (CBTR), a gated community in Kotturpuram, is the recipient of such a reward. It considers itself to be in an enviable situation, because 12 other communities were seeking that increase in their daily workload.

The seeds of this competition, certainly not a no-holds-barred one, but one involving like-minded green souls and therefore one assumes it to have been more of "cooperation" (competition ruled by a spirit of cooperation), was scattered when the brains behind "We Segregate Stewardship Program" wanted to take it beyond Kasturba Nagar. In Kasturba Nagar, the visible sign of the initiative is three lane composters, and bagfuls of compost every three months.

The idea behind the contest was to have lane composters parked in at least one more community in Chennai.

(We Segregate project is funded by the Urban Ocean program and nurtured by Okapi Research & Advisory, ROKA and Chennai Resilience Centre with the support of on-ground partners which include Greater Chennai Corporation and Urbaser Sumeet).

The exercise to find a new community that could be "saddled" with the responsibility of lane-composting in its environs, had 13 contestants.

In the first round, the contestants were quizzed by a panel, says Ayesha A., research associate, Okapi Research and Advisory. Their



Chennai Resilience Center and Urban Ocean teams."

Clover By The River will find two lane composters parked in its neck of the woods in January 2026, after Pongal, says Ayesha.

Here is a glimpse of the SWM ethos at this gated community in Kotturpuram through the eyes of inside volunteer. This is based on a document a resident-volunteer of the Green Team in the community shared with *The Hindu Downtown*.

"We are a young, three year old, 300 apartment, gated community in Kotturpuram. Once residents started moving in during 2022, we realised that we had a group of like-minded residents interested in activities relating to sustainable living. The Green Team was formed when barely 30 residents had moved in. Being a 300 apartment community we were categorised as bulk waste generators by the Greater Corporation of Chennai). We also understood that proper waste segregation was not just important for the community and the environment but also mandated by the GCC. After much discussion, observation, monitoring, testing and consulting subject matter experts we realised that the in-house composter we were using, produced output that was potentially harmful to the soil and plants in the long run.

With the support of our Association we were able to come up with an alternative method of green waste handling that was also acceptable to the GCC. We now have a GCC empanelled vendor who picks up our green waste and reject waste. Our recyclable plastics are collected by Bisleri as part of their CSR initiative."

SWM journeys were being tracked to see if the additional responsibility would have their current SWM programme enhanced or have it broken down the back.

Based on the study, three made it to the shortlist – RK Nagarra from Mandaveli, SIMPLE from Thalambur and Clover By The River from Kotturpuram.

"All the three were strong contestants, each of them having an unique and inspiring SWM track record," says Ayesha. "The winner was collectively chosen by Okapi Research and Advisory, ROKA,



'Birdman of Chennai' is no more

C. Sekar used to feed parakeets on the terrace of his house in Royapettah

BASKAR SESHADRI

C. Sekar, celebrated by many as the 'Birdman of Chennai', is no more. The bird lover, who used to feed hundreds of parakeets every day despite personal struggles, breathed his last on December 11. The camera technician was getting by on a modest income. When he had to vacate his rented house in Royapettah, which was not just home to him, but a "restaurant" to hundreds of para-

keets, he was sorry more for these winged creatures than for himself. He would feed them in the morning and evening with several bags of soaked rice kept on the parapet walls on the terrace; as well as on long wooden blocks that seemed to serve as a dining table. He was operating this 'food bank' at the terrace of his house in Pycrofts Road in Royapettah for close to two decades.

A photojournalist who is acquainted with Sekar says he would



ask customers to avoid coming in the evening so that he could take care of the birds; such was the sacrifice he made for his winged friends. The feeding of the parakeets drew many visitors to his

home. During the pandemic he faced many setbacks in his life; and later, his health deteriorated due to lung cancer.

Baskar Seshadri is a resident of Mylapore



Learning how to multitask

This law student from SRM School of Law in Kattankulathur has left the stadium with crucial skills, those involving analysis and critical thinking, and they are going to help her in the classroom.

"In law, you learn to deploy various things and manage them with ease. Such were the practical lessons I learnt in the field working with various teams including media and technical for close to 10 days," says Bhagavathi Priyadarshini R, a third year student.

A volleyball player at school, Bhagavathi signed up as a volunteer for the love of hockey and the new skills she wanted to develop. For some days she juggled exams and matches, being in the field in the afternoon.

"Every day, we are either placed with a new team or given a new task. A conclave organised at Kalaivanar Arangam with top 20 hockey coaches as speakers threw up inspiring talks," she says.

The quarter-finals clash between India and Belgium was one of the best matches she has watched. She says, "The stadium was packed; the nail-biting finish made the match memorable. The best part of the whole event was watching the matches up close."



The recently concluded FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025 held at Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Egmore had dozens of students volunteering for it. *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to some of them on the unique opportunities for learning that this event threw up for them

LIFFY THOMAS

Spotlight on hockey

In sports, seeing is learning

R. Mumanja waited a full year to get selected into SDAT to pursue hockey. Currently pursuing second year Sociology at MOP Vaishnav College and staying at the SDAT hostel, Mumanja knows the importance of not missing any opportunity in the sport. Her fascination for the 'stick game' began after she accompanied her brother who used to be part of every match played in her hometown Kovilpatti.

Mumanja was among the volunteers during the flag-bearing ceremony all the days of the tournament. Her role would end after the nation-

al anthems of the two competing countries were played. From there, a self-imposed role as observer of the sights and sounds on and off the field would begin.

Every country had a different style, right from how they warm up to the food they eat before the match.

"I am greatly impressed with the French team. We cheer after we score a goal, but those standing outside the field would keep cheering every tackle of their players including a defence move, which is encouraging," says the 19-year-old who has captained the team at the sub junior

Tips and tricks for all seasons

V. Aravind is returning to his hometown with a wealth of tips, all jotted down in his pocket diary over the 10 days. "Journaling in my diary at the end of the day about the important hockey lessons I learnt is a practice I follow since enrolling with Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu. So when this opportunity to volunteer for FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup came up, I made sure I carried a small book in my pocket to take down important lessons learnt on the field which I discuss/ clarify with my coach," says Aravind.

The 23-year-old is a promising hockey player and was part of the core team in the Junior India team in 2022. He had seven of his friends playing for India this time and is hoping to get a chance next time. A native of Kovilpatti in Thoothukudi district which is a major hub for hockey in Tamil Nadu, Aravind got inspired to take up the sport seeing his uncle play for the state.

"If we had come as an audience, we would only watch the match and leave. As a volunteer, there are invaluable lessons we could pick up," he says, adding that 21 from SDAT - Kovilpatti were selected to volunteer for the World Cup in Chennai and 10 in Madurai.

The kind of warm-up international players go through before a match, planning and strategy and

the body language are some important lessons Aravind is taking back with him.

His fan moment arrived when he got to see Spain's coach Maximiliano Jorge Caldas. "I had goosebumps seeing him up close; he has been an inspiration for many hockey players because of the way he has groomed the team," says a thrilled Aravind.

Another key lesson for Aravind is the importance of speaking English. He elaborates: "Our coach N. Muthu Kumar would always ask us to pick up English skills but I did not take the advice seriously. Now I really understand why he would say that, because when you have international players and coaches coming to your country you have some deep questions on the sport to ask them; and language can be a stumbling block."



A twirl from the past



The green artificial turf of the hockey ground at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium; and during the men's hockey final against Pakistan in the SAF Games on December 26, 1995. PHOTOS: THE HINDU ARCHIVES



Decking the halls without wrecking the planet

School student Anu Elizabeth Alexander makes origami-based Yuletide decorative items with a process shaped by sustainable practices. And Infanta Leon began to crochet safe Christmas theme-based toys for children, initially for her own; and the pursuit has now evolved into Christmas ornaments



SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

A student at Shishya in Adyar who lives in Besant Nagar, Anu Elizabeth Alexander fashions paper and jute into ornaments and this artistry is manifested in decorative products she sells through her brand, Folded Flourish.

"I first got interested in origami when I was maybe seven or eight," she recalls. "I found a book and I started trying out different designs. I really liked it." Her fascination matured into a deliberate practice: selecting designs she loved and imagining how they could adorn Christmas trees. "I thought they would look great on a tree," she says.

Her speciality is modular origami, a technique where multiple folded units coalesce into a single, intricate form. Her festive repertoire includes eight-pointed stars that gleam under tree lights, paper

wreaths, modular diamonds and Kusudama, a spherical, multi-petaled centrepiece that commands attention. "My favourite part of the process arrives while making more complex folds and adding details," she says. "I like to make it look a little more complex than it already is."

Depending on the design, creation can take 15 minutes to an hour. "The sheets of paper I use are rarely the same size," she admits. "The biggest challenge is making the units stick together perfectly." For this Christmas, Anu offers both single ornaments priced at ₹150, and sets of four stars, four diamonds, or four wreaths, each set priced at ₹500.

Sustainability is not an add-on, but stamped firmly into the process: every piece is biodegradable, waste-free and unembellished, free from glitter or beads. "Products should be sustainable and biodegradable so that our planet is not harmed," she emphasises.

At a recent exhibition, the stars she made sold the fastest, followed by the small diamonds. "I would like people to know about the process, how it is created, and that it is sustainable," she says.

Crocheting for the Tree

Infanta Leon from Kotturpuram developed an interest in crochet as a teenager. It was a hobbyhorse that evolved into a steed that would help her embark on a journey of identity-shaping creative engagement. She started making Christmas-themed decor two years ago, spurred by a desire to craft safe, eco-friendly toys for children. "With a toddler at home, and my elder child sensitive to synthetic materials, I wanted to create items that were gentle, durable and tactile," she explains. Her earliest creations were small amigurumi toys which gradually evolved into ornaments.



Infanta Leon and Anu Elizabeth Alexander at work; and glimpses of their creative expression.

ments that could adorn Christmas trees with warmth and charm.

Today, Infanta's repertoire is a festive menagerie: Santa Clauses, snowmen, miniature candies, mushrooms, bunny characters, Santa hats and bespoke nativity sets. Each piece is meticulously crafted from cotton-rich yarns sourced from trusted suppliers in Mumbai and Chennai, supplemented with some filling and safe embellishments obtained online. Sustainability and safety remain at the heart of her practice, ensuring every ornament is child-friendly yet enduring.

Creating a single piece is a labour of love, often taking three to four hours. Infanta visualises the design, selects harmonious colour palettes, calculates proportions, and imbues each character with personality. "The most challenging part is bringing out emotions in the face of a character," she says. "Even a slight tilt or curve can convey so much." This meticulous attention is particularly evident in complex nativity sets or unconventional pieces like the Grinch, which she recently introduced as a playful twist on traditional decor. Infanta begins accepting orders around mid-November, carefully balancing each request to ensure all pieces are completed and delivered by December 15, leaving homes adorned and ready for the holidays.

Orders are largely word-of-mouth, drawn from friends, neighbours, and local enthusiasts who value the authenticity of handcrafted work. Prices range from ₹100 to ₹500.

Yet for Infanta, the joy lies in creation rather than commerce. "I did not start this as a business," she reflects. "It was about making something meaningful. Seeing these ornaments bring a smile during the holidays – that is the greatest reward."

Recycling solutions for waste we ignore

A series of events in Chennai would bring various stakeholders working in the waste management sector to invest in revenue-generating projects where underprivileged women could be upskilled and made part of the circular economy

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The next time a plastic food container needs to be disposed of, make sure it is rinsed a sufficient number of times before being "offloaded" responsibly. Recycling items with food residue poses a challenge, they often end up in a dumping ground.

Two Chennai-based women entrepreneurs Desika Prabakar and Obulaxmi S., who run the non-profit DPurpose Foundation, have started conducting a series of events focussed on waste that nobody cares about.

Titled 'Waste2Purpose', the first in this 10-part series delved into the subject of non-recyclable plastic waste. Some of the other non-recyclable wastes include thermoset



plastics used in packaging crockery, doors and floorings; multi-layered plastics; sanitary plastics, foam plastics and composite plastics

"Waste2Purpose aims to convert some of the most challenging waste streams into scalable, revenue-generating waste-to-value pro-

jects, with a strong focus on upskilling women and involving them in the circular economy," says Desika Prabakar, founder and director, DPurpose Foundation.

Designed as a closed round table, the event has conservancy workers as chief guests along with Government, industry leaders, cor-

Rajeshwari, a battery-fitted vehicle operator from Urbaser Sumeet, speaks at the round table. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

porate CSR and investors coming together to analyse and establish projects that can resolve issues such as non-recyclable plastic waste with advanced technologies, says a release.

"We need advanced technology to recycle such hard plastics but there are not many who are willing to invest, so our event was aimed at bringing all stakeholders to one table and finding solutions including bringing investors," says Desika that Krystal Venture Studios supported them as investor partner.

One of the first events was held at Startup TN Headquarters at Nan-

danam. Rajeshwari, a conservancy worker with Urbaser Sumeet, spoke about the realities of handling non-recyclable plastics, especially talking about the challenges faced by ground-level women waste workers every day.

Desika says there are gaps not only in technology but also in implementation. "Several such project machines get installed and due to lack of technical teams and consistent investments the machines gather dust. So the primary goal in this whole initiative is to employ women and upskill them in the whole value chain," she says.

Technology solutions such as advanced pyrolysis, multi-layer plastic recycling, chemical recycling and refuse-derived fuel were presented before expert teams for end-to-end execution. The top two shortlisted finalists are now in stages for further funding. The best startup pitch was recognised as Thaal Innovations for its breakthrough solution converting PU foam waste into polyol through chemical recycling, enabling direct reintegration into the manufacturing supply chain, says the note.

When numbers and equations took centre stage

75 mathematics teachers from 20 schools participated in the conference organised by Mission Guru Devo Bhava



Mission Guru Devo Bhava organised the 'first math teachers' conference at Kolla Saraswathi Vaishnav Senior Secondary School in Kilpauk. The event was aimed at sharing best practices in mathematics teaching and strengthen joyful, concept-based classroom learning.

Principal Meena Mehta welcomed all participants. Chief Guest Sadagopan Rajesh, director, Aryabhata

Institute of Mathematical Sciences, and the keynote speaker, CA Govindaraj Upadhyaya, author of 'Breaking the Rote', were welcomed by CA Anil Khicha, founder, Mission Guru Devo Bhava.

The launch of book 'Breaking the ROTE' of CA Govindaraj Upadhyaya also took place, with the first copy presented to Ashok Kedia, managing trustee, Jaigopal Garodia Schools.

The idea for the confe-

rence was conceived by Uma Maheshwari, dean, Akshaya Vidyalaya. Around 75 maths teachers from 20 schools participated. Eight schools presented their best teaching practices. The sessions focused on concept-based learning, joyful pedagogy, and classroom innovations, said the release.

At the valedictory session, CA Anil Khicha announced that this conference marks the beginning of a series of subject-specific teacher conferences. He shared plans to conduct similar conferences in Science and English. He also invited teachers to recommend resource persons in maths and other subjects to build a state-wide shared resource pool for Tamil Nadu.

Handlooms mela

The Gujarat Artisans and Weavers Welfare Trust is hosting a handicraft fair until December 25.

Held at Multi Hall, P.T. Rajan Salai, K.K. Nagar, the expo features Orissa sarees, Jaipur churidhars, Rajasthan bedsheets, door curtains, Chennapat-

na wooden toys, Madurai sarees, shirts, bags, belts, wall hangings, kalamkari sarees, wallets, and many more.

The fair is held from 10.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call 99404 22426, 96293 74196.

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Culinary workshop on December 18

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a culinary workshop on making soups on December 18. According to a press release, the session will focus on making soups from greens, vegetables, mushrooms, and tubers.

Another workshop on making incense sticks and camphor will be held on December 19.

Both 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.

Workshop on entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is conducting a programme on entrepreneurship development from December 15 to 19 at its premises at EDII Institute Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate in Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the following subjects will be covered during the session: basics of entrepreneurship, business ethics, marketing and branding, digital marketing, market survey, project report preparation, financial management, basis of accounts book-keeping using Tally, laws relating to small-scale business, GST, understanding State industrial policy, and MSME registration.

Those 18 years of age and above and with a minimum educational qualification of class 10 can take part, adds the release. Hostel facility is available on first come, first serve basis. Prior registration is required.

For details, call 8668102600.



Art festival held

Newgen Nandavanam Charitable Trust along with Madras School of Social Work organised an art event for persons with disabilities. It was held to observe the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. Called Inclusive Art Fest, the event witnessed over 500 participants from 30 organisations, says a press release.

Social activists honoured

In observance of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, Lions Club of Chennai Wisdom honoured social activists – Dr. Sai Sankara Panchapakesan, founder of Chennai Sai Thunai Matrimonials, and K. Gopinath, State General Secretary of Tamilnadu Udavikkaram Association for the Welfare of Differently-abled. They were recognised for their services rendered to the cause of the differently-abled persons for more than 25 years.

According to a press release,



Sai Thunai Matrimonials offers service exclusive for the differently-abled persons without charging any fee.

The awards were presented to

them by T.N. Vallinayagam, former justice of Madras High Court and D. Kalpana Nayak, Additional Director General of Police - Idol Wing.

Christmas celebrations begin at Phoenix

Phoenix Marketcity in Velachery ushered in the festive season by setting up a Christmas tree.

Actress Sreeleela lit the Christmas tree. Cine buffs got a chance to meet the actress during a 'Meet and Greet' event.

This was followed by disc jockey Suketu's signature chart-topping remixes, which sent the visitors into a frenzy and had them shaking their legs, said a release.

Adding grandeur to the celebrations were the snowfall, festive décor reveals, captivating holiday installations, and photo-worthy setups.



Study circle for competitive exams

Annai Veilankanni's Academy for Skill Development & Competitive Studies has set up Annai Veilankanni's IAS Study Circle recently. According to a press release, it was inaugurated on the 144th birth anniversary of poet Mahakavi Bharathiyan as he is a champion of women empowerment.

S. Sangeetha, IDAS, Deputy Controller of Defence Accounts, Office of the Controller of Defence Accounts and A. Arlius Rebon, IPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tamil Nadu Police were the guests.

In their address, they emphasised on goal-setting and also explained the structured approach for clearing the exam, adds the release.

Signature campaign to reduce plastic waste

Centre for Environmental Studies & Eco Club of Women's Christian College is organised a signature campaign which aimed to reduce generation of single-use plastic products' waste. The campaign persuaded students to get into the habit of using reusable products.

Around 500 signatures were collected from students and faculty, says a press release.



Planetarium to remain closed on Dec. 16 and 17

On account of the periodic general maintenance of the projector and its accessories, the B.M. Birla Planetarium at the Periyar Science & Technology Centre on Gandhi Mandapam Road in Kotturpuram will remain closed for the public on December 16 and 17.

However, the other facilities: science exhibition, science on a sphere, and 3D science theatre will function as usual, says a press release.

For details, call 044-24410025

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