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Stumbling blocks for motorists on OMR



▼ In Kumaran Nagar, Sholinganallur, on the service lane at Old Mahabalipuram Road, broken slabs in a drainage system lie helter-skelter, posing a threat to motorists' safety at night, when insufficient lighting can cause them to roll into this disorderly pile, which has been around for a long time. This section of the service lane is not too far from a Tata Consultancy Services' facility. The image was taken on November 25, 2025.

PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

A plea to Southern Railway

P. SATHYANARAYANAN

Near Guindy railway station (on the western side of Race View Colony, Guindy), the railway space is misused by the public to dump trash. The area along the tracks (between Guindy and Saint Thomas Mount railway stations) is overrun with bushes, posing a danger to residents. The Southern Railway must clear and remove the bushes and the trash and also the encroachments and facilitate a Railway Protection Force (RPF) Station.

Every night, on platforms 3 and 4, public engages in illegal activities, causing inconvenience for residents of Race View Colony, especially women and children.

P. Sathyanarayanan is a resident of Guindy

Old initiative puts out new verdant leaves

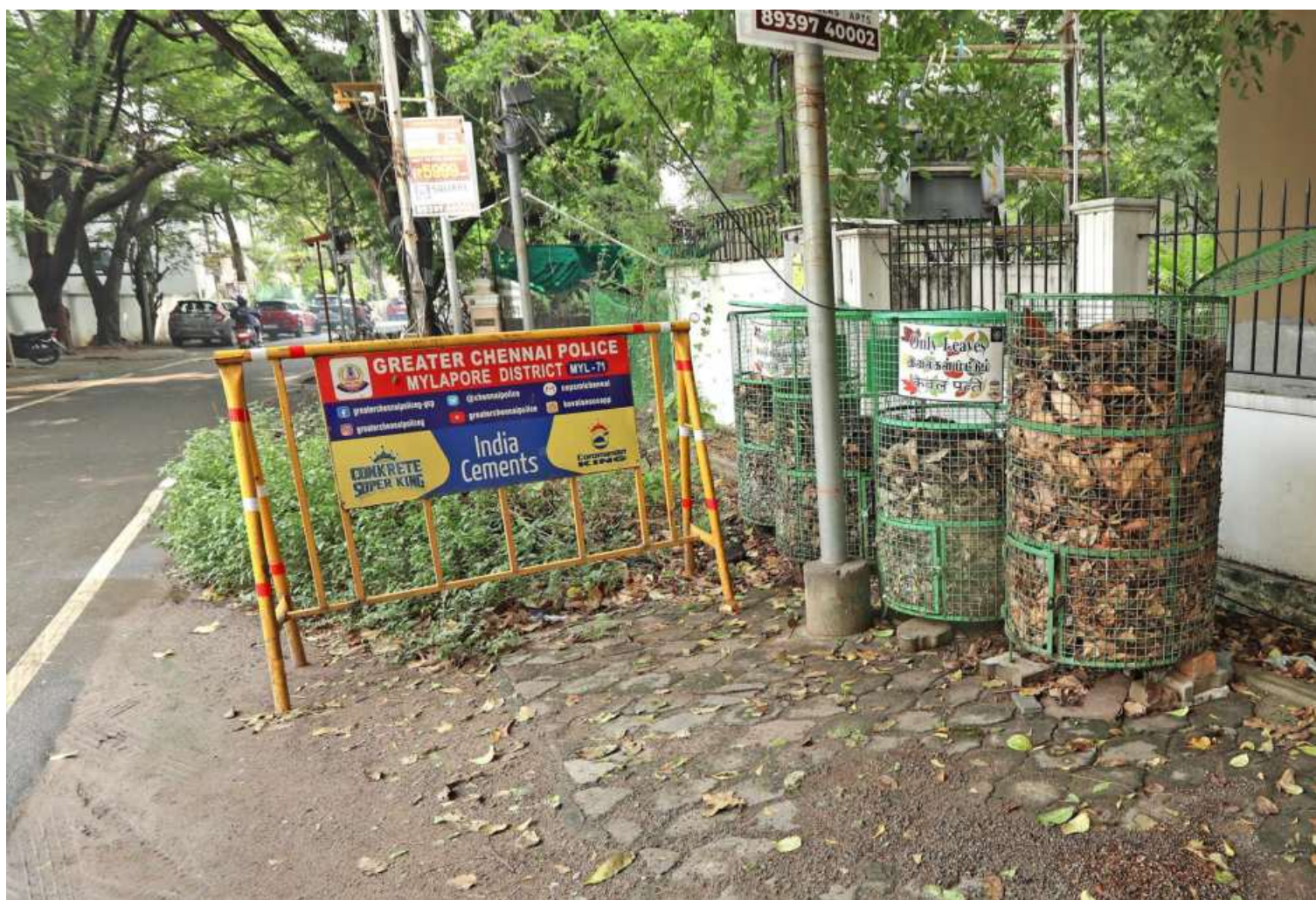
During cyclonic storms, when RWAs worry about leaf litter, this Association managing five streets in Kotturpuram has it sorted

PRINCE FREDERICK

Around the time this article was being walked to the press, cyclonic storm Ditwah was still gentle on Chennai. It had conducted a dress rehearsal though, shaking the trees with mild intensity. Around that time, one knew what to expect, and the images paraded across the mind's eye. It would get windier, and under duress, the avenue trees would weep, shedding green tears. An out-of-season shedding – in Chennai, the dry season when deciduous trees get out of their old rags is still some distance away – it would cause streets to be matted with wet leaves. In the days immediately after the storm, the decaying vegetative matter will be felt by the nostrils of morning walkers. Conservancy workers would sweep in, gather the leaves in small heaps. In some neighbourhoods, the heaps would be promptly carted away in vehicles. In some others, the heaps would tarry a day or two longer, the vehicles not showing up. On five streets in Kotturpuram, one would expect the script to be different and refreshingly distinct. The leaves would not leave the streets. The heaps would be deposited inside 27 leaf litter bins, and allowed to turn into compost, with periodic watering by a gardener to aid the composting process. The compost, harvested in cycles, will be distributed to residents, who will use it for their plants.

The ready-made plan to deal with leaves that fall to the ground in this neighbourhood is years old, and it was scripted by Nawab Gardens Residents Welfare Association (NGRWA).

An initiative started by a resi-



▼ Leaf-litter bins on Ranjit Road in Kotturpuram. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

dent welfare association can wither away for want of sustained watering particularly when the RWA's reins have changed hands many a time. In a slightly better scenario, the initiative might be alive, but diseased displaying unmistakable signs of ill-health, as unmistakable as leaf spot disease. But at the five

streets in Kotturpuram, this initiative is putting out fresh verdant leaves. The bins stationed across these streets to gather leaf litter numbered 24 the day in 2019 *The Hindu Downtown* first visited this initiative. Three up since then, the bins now number 27.

The pattern of engagement un-

derpinning the initiative is simple but seems robust. Subhashini Raja, joint secretary, NGRWA, explains that conservancy workers (from Urbaser Sumeet) sweep the leaves and deposit them in the bins. As these workers have a deadline to meet, they will execute this work quickly, and a few plastic items are

likely to end up in the leaf litter bins.

The gardener employed by NGRWA will sift through the leaves and remove the plastics. Subhashini adds that she and another member of NGRWA, Chandra Prabhakar, are tasked with monitoring the leaf-litter management.

Registrations open for **Super Chennai Quiz 2025**

Super Chennai, the citizen-driven city branding movement, has opened registrations for the first edition of the Super Chennai Quiz 2025, set to take place on December 7, 2025, at the Lady Andal School Auditorium.

Led by quizmaster and Nawab of Arcot, Asif Ali, the event promises to bring together students, families and professionals for a celebration of knowledge, culture and city's spirit, says a press release.

Participants from schools, col-

leges and the general public can register and showcase their intellect and passion for all things Chennai. Registered participants will receive entry passes, quiz materials and Super Chennai merchandise on the day of the event.

Registration is priced at ₹199, and winners will receive prizes worth ₹1 lakh, recognising their knowledge, enthusiasm and love for the city.

To nominate or register for the Super Chennai Quiz 2025, visit www.superchennai.com or write to hello@superchennai.com for details.

Music concert

As part of 'Karthigai Ekadashi', Uma Kumar, a Carnatic singer from Switzerland, will perform an 'Abhang Mela', a music concert on November 30 at Kamakoti Hall, Krishna Gana Sabha, at 6 p.m..

Dance performance



Bharatanatyam dancer A. K. Aksharaa, a disciple of Lakshmi Ramaswamy, founder of Sri Mudhraalaya, gave a

dance performance on the theme 'Anusmarana' (remembrance through rhythm) on November 23, at Vani Mahal, T. Nagar. Chitra Visweswaran, a classical dancer and a Padmashree awardee, was the chief guest.

Aksharaa was accompanied by Preethi Sethuraman (vocal), Lakshmi Ramaswamy (nattuvangam), Vedhakarishnam (mridangam), Anantha Krishnan (violin) and Yakeshwaran (flute).

Fresh Millers comes to Thiruvannamiyur

Fresh Millers has opened a new outlet on East Mada Street in Thiruvannamiyur.

The store has millet dosa mixes, health drink preparations, baby nutrition blends, spice powders, roasted grain flours, herbal products, skin care products, oils, sweets, and daily-use flour varieties, according to a release from the store.

Every product adheres to a strict farm-to-home process, ensuring quality

from sourcing to packaging. Customers can also have their mixes made fresh and customised to their taste and nutritional needs, the release adds.

The store is open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., with phone and WhatsApp orders. Apart from that, courier service and home delivery are available.

Phone: 95667 71145, feedback: 93848 67711. Website- www.freshmillers.com

An evening of soulful compositions



As part of the Margazhi Music Festival at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, M. S. Martin and his disciples presented a Carnatic keyboard concert on November 23. The concert showcased both tradition and innovation and how the instrument can capture the nuance and discipline of Carnatic music. Carnatic music on the keyboard demands extraordinary precision. The students: Padmanabhan on mridangam, Vadivelu on tabla and Hariharan Babu on rhythm pad, trained under Martin, rose to this challenge gracefully, offering the audience an evening that celebrated classical purity through a modern sonic palette, a release said. The evening featured several classical masterpieces, including 'Parathpara Parameshwara', 'Aadamodi Galada', and 'Kamalaptagula'. A technically demanding highlight of the evening was 'Mari Mari Ninne', which the ensemble performed with notable maturity.

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WORLD DISABILITIES DAY: DECEMBER 3

A 2026 calendar *designed by the neurodivergent*

Thirteen young adults from Mirra Charitable Trust in Velachery are behind this initiative

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mirra Charitable Trust unveiled the sixth edition of its annual student-designed calendar at Gandhi Nagar Ladies Club on November 25, celebrating the march of neurodivergent young adults into pursuits largely viewed as the preserves of the neurotypical.

Thirteen final-year students in the age group of 15 to 30 years pursuing a digital literacy course, Unnati, were involved in this calendar project, giving inputs on the layout and design that shape each of the pages. Saritha PR, the special educator who drives the Unnati programme, guided the students.

Students worked with Photoshop, Illustrator, Canva and AI-enabled tools. This year's calendar theme, digitalisation, was brought to life through months of exploration, design and careful refinement, all done in the classroom in Velachery where the Trust offers classes to empower individuals with special needs.

Digitisation is one of the pillars of Mirra, so it was only natural that

a calendar project had this as the theme. Last year's theme was inclusion.

"What digitisation can do for individuals with disabilities is immense, especially for those who are non-verbal. It can be a big support system to them," says Lakshmi Satish, co-founder and trustee.

The calendar project is a big step for this 17-year-old NGO towards getting students to learn and create and live with dignity.

Selling calendars is not the ultimate aim of this initiative.

"The calendar project is a way of advocacy for us – it underlines



During the launch of the calendar.

who these students are, what they do and what should be the role of society in creating this ecosystem. Every page in the calendar is a reminder of the role each of us can play to make society more inclusive," says Lakshmi, adding that it is sent to the homes of people as a New Year gift.

Starting with wall calendars to desk calendar, this project has evolved based on the feedback of well-wishers. This year, it consists of a calendar-cum-organiser.

This annual project has seen many success stories as well.

A group of students and parents from the first batch of the calendar project got together and formed an enterprise in graphic designing.

"We incubated that company for a year, teaching them what a startup does; how to market their products; at what stage should parents step out of the way. Now for the last three years that company is running independently," says Lakshmi. Another batch also went on to start a similar enterprise and some even went in for open employment.

For details, visit <http://www.mirra-trust.com>

The launch

The calendar was released by Dr. Nitin M. Nagarkar, Pro Vice-Chancellor (MHS), SRM Institute of Science and Technology and Prof. T. S. Veeragoudhaman, Dean, SRM College of Physiotherapy. Both guests described the launch as "a memorable day," acknowledging the dedication of students, facilitators and families, says a press release. Speaking about Mirra's digital literacy programme, Unnati, Dr. Nagarkar noted that "the structured programme has helped the students develop their skills, confidence and become employable." Each page reflects collaboration, attention to colour, layout, narrative and a joyful ownership of the creative process, the release adds.

Forty differently-abled students receive scholarships

For the fourth consecutive year, Cycle Pure Agarbathi has extended scholarships to 40 differently-abled students.

Launched in 2022, the initiative focuses on supporting differently-abled girls aged 12-17 from economically challenged backgrounds, enabling them to access quality education, life skills, and holistic growth. The initiative builds on the legacy of the Ranga Rao Memorial School for Differently Aabled (RMSD) in Mysuru, which has been transforming the lives of visually challenged girl children since 1988.

Blind man's buff on Medavakkam flyover



The Medavakkam flyover near Jeyachandran Textiles, Pallikaranai, on November 28. PHOTO : R RAVINDRAN

R. RAVINDRAN

Motorists taking the Medavakkam flyover on the way to Tambaram have to play blind man's buff while on the flyover, as lights on the lamp posts "strike work". Due to the lack of lighting, motorists miss the beginning of the wall that cleaves the flyover and the service lane. There have been instances of motorists hitting the wall due to this. As the lamp posts have two arms, one fitted with a lamp that lights up the service lane and the other the flyover, their non-functionality affects motorists taking the service lane as well. The best thing to do is have the lights on these lamp posts restored; in addition, a reflector pole should be installed at the start point to warn motorists.

Artworks that work for Nature

Young 'artpreneur', 12-year-old Smriti Krishnan creates works of art from discarded materials, ensuring she does not walk roughshod over planet earth



SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Smrithi Krishnan represents a rare category in "The Precocious Club". Hers is a precocity that combines domain knowledge with business acumen. Still months shy of teenhood, Smriti owns an art brand, Divine Art. And the 12-year-old knows how to hold a paintbrush and how not to. She repurposes used boards and old wedding invitations to make these paintings. Her artistic oeuvre includes corporate gift boards and wedding invitations and a fascicle of other art-based things in-between. The artworks transform the discarded materials they are born out of, so totally that all traces of their past lives are wiped out.

On how she discovered the potential for art hidden in discarded materials, Smriti recalls: "We got a very fancy circular invitation with a lot of holes and designs," she says. "We did not want to waste it, so I thought I could do something with it." She experimented, refined the idea, and gradually began converting discarded invita-

tions into a compact wall art.

Painting on boards, she notes, differs significantly from working on canvas. "Canvas is rough, so I have to apply gesso. But the MDF boards are already smooth." She also repurposes boards that arrive with corporate gifts her father receives. "I'm just using what I can find," says Smriti, a resident of Egattur, Old Mahabalipuram Road, and a student of PSBB Siruseri. Smriti does not shun canvas altogether.

She manages a WhatsApp group where she posts her artworks. Buyers can purchase the works on display or request customised pieces. Recently, her teacher requested her to paint on a sari and create a Ganesha artwork on canvas.

Her pricing system is structured and deliberate. She calculates the material cost, then adds her time, effort and a modest margin. Most acrylic works range from ₹200 to ₹500, with the lowest starting at ₹100. Her highest sale to date is



We got a very fancy circular invitation with a lot of holes and designs. We did not want to waste it, so I thought I could do something with it.

₹1,050 for a set of three paintings. Competitions form another track in her art journey. She has won multiple school-based and other awards. "Recently this year, in Shraddha Sangamam, I got the first prize," she says. She is also a regular at the art competitions at Babaji Vidyashram. For Smriti, the joy lies not just in the finished work but in everything that leads up to it. "Earlier, when I was smaller and did not know much, my mom would order everything on Amazon. But now, I prefer going to the shop," she says. Choosing the canvas, feeling the surface, settling on the size of the canvas, these small ri-

tuals matter to her. It is a process she values as much as the painting itself, and one she intends to keep refining as she grows.

An early start

One could say the paintbrush picked Smriti and not the other way round. Smriti started painting at 2.5 years of age. "I think the first painting that I did, like an overall painting, was with my mom," she says. At the time, her parents introduced her to pre-painted children's canvases. "One of them was an underwater scenery, and I still have it," says Smriti her voice spiked with excitement at the memory.

"Smriti's love for colours began in her toddler years with crayons and soon blossomed into canvas, embroidery, and crochet. Her passion rekindled my own hobby, and together we spent countless weekends immersed in art," weighs in Mathangi, Smriti's mother. Her first independent work emerged during the COVID lockdowns. "That was a scenery of the night sky," she says. That early experiment led to a proper painting set, followed by a series of classes and workshops, and now structured lessons with a tutor from Ranjani's Art World. YouTube, she adds, continues to be a reliable source of ideas and techniques. Smriti paints as often as her schedule permits. "If it's not exam time, I paint every day," she says. Her themes are anchored in nature — sunsets, forests and waterfalls.

OMR resident Smriti Krishnan with her artworks. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A giant's sigh on CPR Salai

Reportedly, the top portion of an Elephant earpod tree gave way, necessitating the use of the axe; tree conservationist T.D. Babu notes that many trees on this road suffer from cementing as well as tying of lights on their branches



PRINCE FREDERICK

At a rain-kissed, glistening CP Ramaswamy Salai on the morning of November 29, the tall stump of what would once have been an elegant Elephant earpod tree stood like a centurion-batter carrying the bat but defeated, hav-

ing run out of partners. The felled branches are piled neatly around the stump. The stump is stripped of its bark, except for a patch clinging on to it. It also displays scars and bulbous growths, suggesting a chequered life. There are no leaves in sight.

T.D. Babu, member of Chennai District Green committee and a key

member of tree conservation NGO Nizhal identifies this tree as an Elephant earpod tree, an exotic species that was introduced and naturalised in these parts much like the raintree. "The Elephant earpos tree makes a good avenue tree," Babu adds

When this journalist quizzed the people around about this particu-



The Elephant earpod tree on CPR Salai on November 29.
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

lar example of the Elephant earpod tree, one of them pointed out that the tree had given way in its upper parts which seemed set for a fall, and therefore, had to be cut keeping public safety in mind.

Babu remarks: "The trees on C.P. Ramaswamy Salai are subjected to great stress: the cementing around them makes them weak; and the lights placed on them to draw attention to commercial establishments do not contribute posi-

tively to their health either. On this road, sometime ago, a commercial establishment had to be pulled up for abusing a tree. This Elephant earpod tree looks diseased and could have suffered abuse too. What has befallen this tree should set off alarm bells loud enough for Greater Chennai Corporation to hear: regular monitoring of tree health matters. And GCC should be proactive and prevent damage to the trees on its roads."

LIFFY THOMAS

When the Tamil Nadu government made it mandatory that every educational institution have an Anti-Drug Club, Stella Matutina College of Education in Ashok Nagar already had an initiative that was aligned with the objectives of government-mandated club. Recently, the college's anti-drug committee received a cash prize of ₹5,000 and secured the third prize at the district level, as part of the Home, Prohibition, and Excise Department's campaign to honour institutions that have significantly contributed to drug-prevention efforts.

The 64-year-old institution offers B.Ed., M.Ed., M. Phil, and Ph.D. programmes and the teachers in the making were aware of the risk of school students getting hooked on drugs.

In 2024, they conducted a survey among school children to understand how aware they were about drug abuse. The exercise also tested the effectiveness of a structured drug awareness pro-



Future educators lead fight against drugs

Students at a teachers training college in Ashok Nagar are engaged with 45 schools across Chennai to educate children about drug addiction and its ramifications

gramme designed for school children.

The programme's goal was to identify knowledge gaps in the drug education being provided at

schools.

A total of 108 secondary school students from multiple institutions in Chennai district were covered in this sample survey.

Students of Stella Matutina College of Education take the pledge.

"Some of our recommendations included a uniform programme for all students regardless of gender or region; the need to have a special focus on low-income families and government schools; the importance of using engaging tools such as videos, street plays, posters and digital media," says C. Sasikala, assistant professor, Stella Matutina College of Education and one of the authors of the study, to be published soon on the college's website.

They also recommended parent involvement, especially in vulnerable communities, and the need to allocate dedicated funds for awareness campaigns in schools. Since then, the institution has launched a variety of activities such as mime, skits and rallies at the schools they engage with. "For instance, our second year students have to compulsorily go on an internship with a school, so we made it mandatory that they conduct an event in the

assembly for at least a week to let students know why awareness on this topic is important," says Sasikala.

The students pursuing education programmes at the college are currently engaged with 45 schools in Chennai. The teachers in the making also have to present a report on the activities they conducted in the schools.

The institution brings experts to talk to their students and have also invited schools they thought need some hand holding to their campus to offer workshops.

Sr. M. Irudhaya Mary, principal incharge, Stella Matutina College of Education, says the efforts by the institution stand out as they have been consistent. "Two times in a month we conduct a programme, sometimes it extends to three. Once in three months, students take an oath. These are future teachers and getting them to work for the betterment of society is one of the gains from this initiative," says Sr. Mary. She says they collect feedback to measure the success of these initiatives and to see how they can adapt.

A swift trip to **Adyar Estuary**

An Indian swiftlet has put in an appearance at this patch; previous records of the bird from Tamil Nadu have had to do with hilly or mountainous regions

PRINCE FREDERICK

The second look always uncovers more than what the opening gaze did in the first place. On rare occasions, the second look totally upends conclusions made from the initial glance. That is how a bird record from Adyar Estuary on October 26 underwent a revision.

The bird was first believed to be a Dusky Crag Martin, and the photos were squatting in the memory card largely unseen, even less examined. Around a month later, a study of the photos by an eBird reviewer demanded a re-identification of the bird. And as it turned out, what had been seen on the last Sunday of October in 2025 was an altogether different feather, one spiralling into Chennai for the first time. The visitor to the Adyar Estuary that day that was mistaken for a Dusky Crag Martin was actually an Indian edible nest swiftlet (*Aerodramus unicolor*), also known as the Indian swiftlet. The bird was photographed by Saravana Manian, the sighting taking place in the company of a clutch of other birders.

Saravana Manian points out that Adyar Estuary is an unlikely terrain for the Indian swiftlet. He elaborates: "Previous records of the Indian swiftlet from Tamil Nadu have been from hilly or mountainous patches – Palani Hills, Kodaikanal, Sirumalai and the Coimbatore and Kanyakumari



An Indian swiftlet photographed by birder Saravana Manian at Adyar Estuary on October 26, 2025.

ranges of the Western Ghats. The bird is also found in Sri Lanka."

The species is also known to be found in buildings abandoned for a long time. Habitats fitting these descriptions are a far cry from what exists in and around the Adyar Estuary, which makes this sighting baffling. From the viewpoint of probability, the unlikelihood of an Indian swiftlet "vacationing" around the broken bridge in the Adyar Estuary might be of astronomical proportions. In life, all sorts of unexpected events happen

and might come across as mysterious at first glance. With diligent study, the mystery behind such events could collapse, and be seen for what they are – the less-known extension of the natural. As in life, so in birding.

In this species, the male is the nest builder. And the nest is in the form of a cup, and it is licked into shape by the male bird using its saliva. In certain parts, these cups go into the making of gastronomic delicacies, earning the bird its name, Indian edible nest swiftlet.

Nominations open for Alert Being Award

Alert, a voluntary non-profit organisation that empowers a common man to act in case of emergency and save lives, has invited nominations for the 9th edition of ALERT Being Award. The annual event honours individuals and organisations, and nominations are open from across India. The shortlisted awardees will be honoured at the Alert Being Awards ceremony scheduled in February 2026.

The awards will be presented in different categories: Individual, Organization, Individual - Going Beyond Call of Duty and Organisation - Social Venture. ALERT also confers icon and lifetime achievement awards to individuals or organisations who have created impact at scale and have served humanity their entire life. This year the awards will be presented to 10 Good Samaritans nationally who have saved lives during emergencies, said a release.

Registration Link: www.aba.alert.ngo

Last date for submitting nominations: December 20, 2025

For more information, contact: 9941527838 or write to alertbeingawards@alert.ngo



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Digital monthly bus passes for MTC commuters

Commuters of Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses can purchase monthly season tickets from Chennai One App, an application of Chennai Unified Metropolitan Authority. It is a digital pass introduced by CUMTA and MTC, says a press release. The facility does away with paperwork and eliminates the need for physical visits to bus termini. A commuter can purchase it anytime, from anywhere.

MTC digital pass comes with two options: "Gold" pass priced at ₹1,000 which allows unlimited travel for a month on ordinary, deluxe, and express services. The other is "Diamond" pass priced at ₹2,000 which allows unlimited travel for a month on all MTC buses, including AC services.

How it works

Download the Chennai One app → select the pass → click a selfie → pay digitally.

While boarding the bus, commuters can simply enter the bus OTP or scan the QR code displayed inside the bus to activate the pass and show it to the conductor for every travel.

Introductory offer

Users can avail a flat ₹50 assured cash-back when purchasing the bus pass using the BHIM app.

About Chennai One app

It is an integrated commute app launched by CUMTA this September. It allows booking and payment for travel in buses, metro trains, suburban trains, auto rickshaws, and cabs in one digital platform and the travel can be tracked with a single QR. The motto of the app is "One City. One App. One Ticket," add the press release.

Horticulture department sets up nursery in Guindy



The nursery at Guindy. PHOTOS: R RAVINDRAN

Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency, a wing of the Department of Horticulture & Plantation Crops, has set up a nursery in Guindy, near the railway station.

According to officials, it was inaugurated during the first week of November. Here, ornamental plants including indoor ones, saplings of trees, seeds, manure including vermi-compost, and pots are sold. This sales outlet is in addition to the ones at Madhavaram and Teynampet (Semmozhi Poonga), add officials.

The nursery functions on all days of a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, call 98400 72385 / 99402 45997.

Bed linen service for non-AC sleeper class passengers from January 1

The Chennai Division of Southern Railway will be introducing a service wherein bed linen will be provided on an "on-demand, on-payment" basis for passengers of non-AC sleeper class from January 1, 2026.

According to a press release, non-AC sleeper class passengers are not provided with sanitized bed linen during their journey. To address this, the new service is implemented under the New Innovative Non-Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme. Following the overwhelming response a pilot project of the service (conducted during the financial year 2023-2024) witnessed, it has been regularised.

Under this initiative, a licensee will manage the entire process, including procurement, mechanized washing, packing, loading, distribution, and storage of bed linen. The service will initially be implemented on ten trains maintained by the Chennai Division for a period of three years, generating an annual license fee of ₹28,27,653, adds the release.

The service is provided in three packages: one bedsheet, one pillow and one pillow cover is priced at ₹50; one pillow and one pillow cover is priced at ₹30; and one bed sheet is priced at ₹20.

The following are the trains covered under this service: Nilgiri Superfast Express; Mangalore Superfast Express; Mannargudi Express; Tiruchendur Superfast Express; Palghat Express; Silambu Superfast Express; Tambaram-Nagercoil Superfast Express; Trivandrum Superfast Express; Alleppey Superfast Express; and Mangalore Express.

Children's Day celebration



Madipakkam Ram Nagar South Residents Welfare Association organised various competitions to mark Children's Day.

According to a press release, a total of 69 children took part. The events were held at Narayana Olympiad School, Madipakkam

Awareness session for jewellers



Bureau of Indian Standards - Chennai, Taramani, organised an awareness programme for jewellers in Kancheepuram on hallmarking standards for gold and silver articles.

In his welcome address, S. D. Dayanand who heads BIS - Chennai, emphasised the importance of adhering to quality and purity standards.

In the technical session, Gowtham BJ, Scientist-D, ex-

plained the key provisions of the hallmarking scheme and hallmarking process. He also elaborated on the importance of Hallmark Unique Identification compliance and the dos and don'ts for jewellers to ensure error-free operations.

Gowtham also demonstrated BIS's digital services including the e-BIS portal, which enables online applications.

Budding artists invited to participate in Margazhi event

Federation of Radial Road Residents Associations is organising its fifth annual music, dance and theatre festival as part of Margazhi celebration. According to a press release, registration is on to take part in the event, called "FORRR Margazhi 2025." It will be held on December 21 at Surabhi Palace Mini Hall, 200 Feet Radial Road. Time: At 3.30 p.m. The association invites budding artists to take part in the cultural event. For registrations and further details, call 98404 82337 / 82487 91953. The association represents 14 gated communities located along the Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Radial Road.

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