

MYLAPORE

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ANNUAL BOOK OF PROBUS CLUB SEES THE LIGHT

Probus Recognition Awards and Probus Award of Excellence were presented to celebrate International Day of the Elderly **P4**



A VAGRANT AT ADYAR ESTUARY?

Immediately after the cyclone had eased up, a female red headed bunting was sighted. It was found on October 29, and missing the next day **P6**



The section of Luz Church Road near MCTM school; and the section near Luz Avenue First Street. PHOTOS: M. SRINATH



Parts of Luz Church Road unravelling again

Following the recent spell of rains, this busy road needs to be treated to another round of patchworks

M. SRINATH

Following the recent spell of rains, sections of Luz Church Road that were bad have deteriorated further, making for unpleasant motoring.

There are a couple of spots where the condition of Luz Church Road is deplorable.

Due to Metro Rail work, the junction of Luz Church Road and Luz Avenue First Street takes considerable traffic. Currently, it wears a battered look. MTC buses have to take a turn at this junction, one turning towards the Karpagambal Avenue and disappearing into the road.

Some buses turn left and head towards Al-



warpet, and this route of Luz Church Road leads to St. Isabelle's Hospital, Meenakshi Hospital and Kauvery Hospital. This section is also hit by people heading to what is known as Alwarpet temple.

At the point where MCTM school is located, the road has chipped considerably.

Patchworks had been done on the above-mentioned sections, but they have unra-

velled due to the recent showers.

They need to be treated to another round of patchworks. Till the time Metro Rail work is completed, Luz Church Road cannot be relaid. Till that time, periodic patchworks need to be carried out.

Kesavan, a motorcyclist notes that due to the condition of the road in these sections, vehicles take a battering.

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Madras Veterinary College alumni to meet on November 8

Hurricane Vets Charitable Trust, established by the 1988-94 batch alumni of Madras Veterinary College, is organising its 10th anniversary fete on November 8, 2025 (from 5 p.m. onwards) at the Tamil Virtual Academy Auditorium on Gandhi Mandapam Road in Kottur.

According to a press release, the trust has completed 144 projects in the areas of educational assistance, students empowerment, training and awareness

programme, livelihood empowerment, disaster mitigation, hunger reduction, professional development, Covid-19 response, veterinary, medical camps and tribal welfare.

The press release notes that the Trust welcomes philanthropists, educationalists, voluntary workers and students to the celebrations.

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Volunteers spruce up graveyard

St. Patrick's Cemetery on Pallavan Salai in Park Town now has a group that would carry out a monthly drive to keep the space sparkling clean

LIFFY THOMAS

People who would roll up their sleeves and tidy up a cemetery in a spirit of volunteerism are scarce. When those maintaining a graveyard find such people on the horizon they cannot be grateful enough for their good fortune.

Last month, those in charge of the 217-year-old St. Patrick's Cemetery on Pallavan Salai found reason for such gratitude. Around two dozen volunteers from parishes under the Archdiocese of Madras Mylapore hunkered down to a cleaning work at the cemetery, which is a vast expanse.

Chintadripet, Vepery and Park Town were among the parishes that contributed to this "workforce". Notably, this exercise is not a one-off thing: these volunteers have agreed to meet once a month for clean-up work at the cemetery.

The parish priest of Our Lady of Dolours Chapel Father Prakash, who is also responsible for maintaining the St. Patrick's Cemetery, which is attached to the chapel, notes that the most challenging work at the cemetery is checking the growth of weeds, especially when it rains. Even useful trees require pruning.



"Last month, volunteers pruned tree branches and also removed thorny bushes," says the priest adding that they also engage workers in keeping the nine-and-a-half-acre wide cemetery clean.

But many a time, that is just not enough.

"Unless we have a dedicated team of people who monitor the graveyard, managing its activities becomes difficult," he says.

R. Ranjith, a resident of Chintadripet who has family members buried in the cemetery, says he was motivated to sign up as a volunteer seeing the various measures being taken to improve the place. "When you visit a grave to pray and find the place overrun with bushes it leaves you disturbed; so I thought of doing my bit whenever I can," says Ranjith.

The historic cemetery, which



During the recent clean-up drive at St. Patrick's Cemetery; and a view of the chapel. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND B. VELANKANNI RAJ



has 3000 plots/graves, some dating back to the 1800s, has undergone a number of changes in the last one year ever since Father Prakash took charge of its maintenance. "All kinds of illegal activities were happening in this space; with the help of various groups including political leaders and police we fought and overturned this situation," he says.

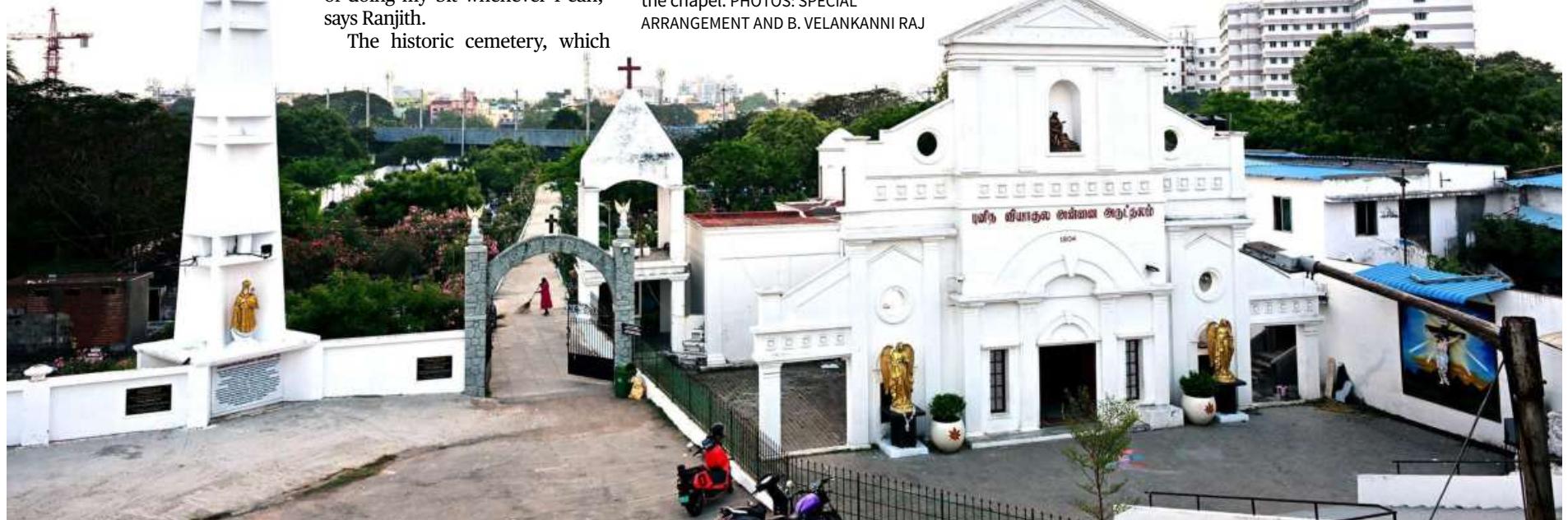
In April 2025, *The Hindu Downtown* carried a feature about the facelift the place received with a compound wall, solar-powered lights, concrete

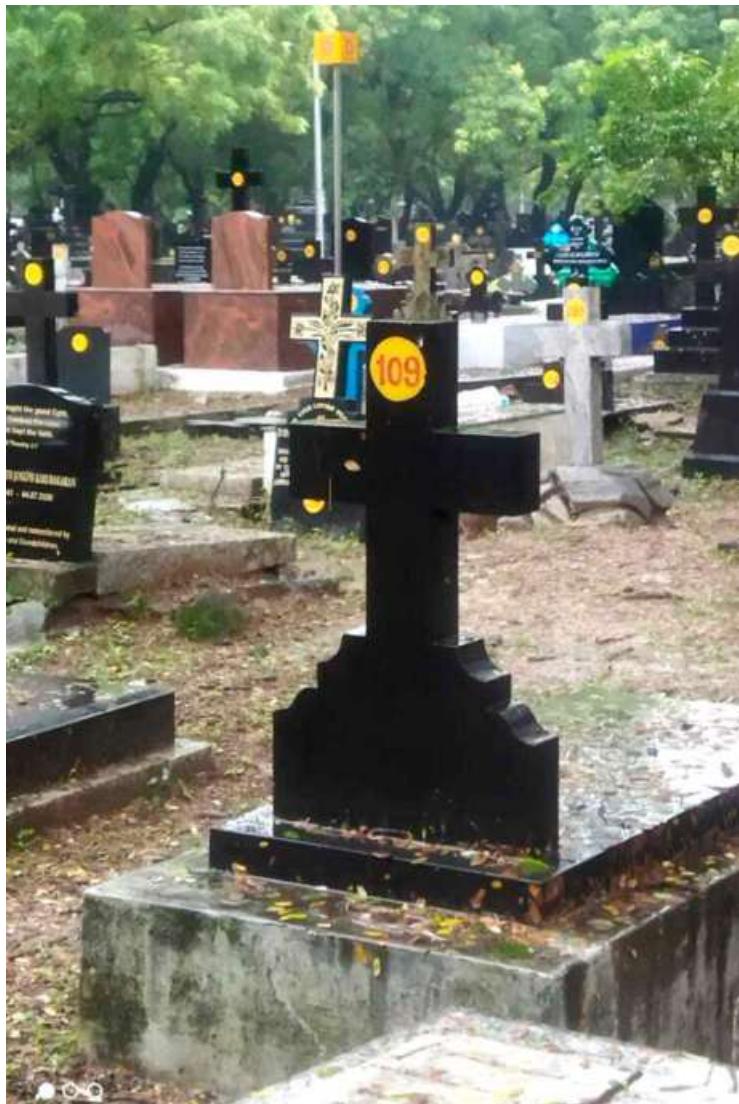
pathways, and new saplings. The local police now go on rounds at the cemetery twice a day to keep a vigil of the place.

"You need to keep the graveyard welcoming through the year. And with the support of many people who have joined the WhatsApp group we are hoping to keep these initiatives running," says Father Prakash.

The church has also introduced a cemetery card and requests relatives whose family members are buried in the cemetery to renew it every year with a fee of ₹ 800.

To volunteer, call 80560 55781





Look for the *number*

Madras Cemeteries Board Trust is completing an exercise to number the graves at the Kilpauk Cemetery; the initiative will be extended to the cemetery at Kasimedu

LIFFY THOMAS

Kilpauk Cemetery is numbering its graves. Started last year, the initiative is now on the home stretch. The exercise is aimed at helping people head to the graves of their dear departed without difficulty.

When a cemetery is bursting at the seams, clutter is inevitable, and locating a family grave can be a challenge.

One of the oldest and biggest in Chennai, Kilpauk Cemetery has been battling space crunch and resultant problems. It launched this initiative to mitigate the effect this situation can have on families maintaining a grave at the cemetery. It goes hand in hand with documenting and digitising records of families with a grave at the cemetery.

The 15-acre cemetery has been divided into 34 zones as part of the numbering exercise, with each section having 600 graves.

"Each of these graves is owned by a family and would have had five



▼ The cemetery has been divided into 34 zones.

to ten burials carried out in it," says S. Bosco Alangar Raj, treasurer of the Madras Cemeteries Board Trust, which maintains the Kilpauk Cemetery.

The exercise will help the Trust maintain records and also make it easy for people when they come in

search of their family tomb. Due to increasing space crunch, there is often confusion in identifying a tomb. The cemetery has graves starting from 1903 for Christian denominations such as Roman Catholic, Protestants and Church of South India, and is among the early movers in terms of adopting a multi-tier vault system and ash burials.

Digitising its records is an ongoing exercise, one that kickstarted in 2005-2006. Bosco Alangar Raj says the major challenge before the team was to cross-check details mentioned in the records before assigning a number on the grave. Because of the size of the graveyard, updating the records has been slow.

"In the future, when we issue a receipt as part of burial or grave maintenance, the number and zone will also be entered. It becomes a record for the future," he says.

In a month's time, we plan to extend this numbering exercise to the cemetery in Kasimedu, the other cemetery maintained by the Trust, adds Bosco.

Brothers donate mom's body for research

In 2017, they did the same for their father's body

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Rangasayee family in Saidapet has been setting an example for eye and body donation. On October 9, when 85-year-old Prema R died her three sons – Vasudevan, Ethirajan and Ranganathan – decided to hand over her body for anatomical studies and her eye for donation, a voluntary act they did even when their father died in 2017.

The joint family live in a 100-year-old house at Perumal Koil Street in Saidapet and have had conversations about pledging organs and seeking consent from family members well in advance.

The three brothers have read many news reports that highlighted the shortage of cadaver bodies for educational use.

Sankara Nethralaya thanked the brothers for informing them promptly even in their hour of grief and donating the eyes of their mother. The body was given to Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute.



State honour for organ donors

Tamil Nadu is among the few states in India leading in organ donations. A total of 479 people, including 268 in the last year, have donated their organs and helped save hundreds of lives, says a post on X shared by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. This was reported in *The Hindu*. In September 2023, the government made an announcement that it will accord State honours during the last rites of organ donors. The "state honour" at their funeral along with increased awareness are among reasons why more families of deceased are coming forward to donate the organs of their dear departed, say reports.



▼ Minister for Health M. Subramanian visits the family; and R. Prema and R. Kamalanabhan

Ranganathan says his paternal grandmother had also donated her eyes after her death.

"My mother had pledged to donate her eye in 2014 itself; it was important that family members agree to fulfil that wish in the midst of their grief," says Ethirajan, a certified coach with International Table Tennis Federation. The TT player is an active blood donor for three decades.

He says to encourage more people to donate bodies of their de-

ceased family members the procedure should be made easier; and as is done in the case of organ donation, their contribution must be acknowledged in some way. "We want to send out the message that more people should come forward to do this form of donation," says Ranganathan.

Minister for Health M. Subramanian paid last respects to the departed, visiting the family's house.

READERS WRITE**New Mandaveli depot needs a washroom**

BASKAR SESHADRI

Ever since the Mandaveli depot was shifted to Venkatakrishna Road, the MTC crew has been battling not just constricted space in terms of parking of buses but also the inconvenience arising from the lack of a restroom. At the old terminus there were a few restrooms but no such arrangement has been made here even after two months of the facility being made functional.

The MTC crew feel a bio toilet



near Canal Bank would be ideal for them.

Baskar Seshadri is a resident of Mylapore

Amma Unavagam functions from a new location in R.A. Puram

Amma Unavakam, which was functioning near Fourth Cross Street in R.A. Puram, was closed months ago for some development work. A new location was chosen at Third Cross Street near Aavin parlour and it was opened recently. Though reduced in dimensions, the new facility comes with better lighting arrangements.

Like other outlets, this one opens at 7 a.m. to serve idli and pongal. Idly per piece is one rupee and pongal is ₹5.

Around 12 types of variety rice are served for ₹5 each. After 6 p.m., it provides chapathi with dhal.

Since the new space is small



there is no kitchen and all the items are being delivered from the central kitchen at C.P. Ramaswamy Road.

*Baskar Seshadri
Mylapore*

School to honour 'super senior alumni'

P.S. Higher Secondary School Alumni Association is organising an event to honour its 'Super Senior Alumni' on November 2.

Being held for the first time, the programme will take place on the 120-year-old school campus from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The event begins at 9 a.m. with an alumni gathering and the school band performance, followed by honouring the super senior

alumni.

The alumni who are over 80 years old will be presented with 'Lifetime Achievement Award.'

As of October 31, approximately 150 former students (over 80 years old) have been informed about the event. More than 90 people have agreed to attend the event.

For details, call 7397 381 006.

Dronacharya award presented to Anil Srinivasan

Anil Srinivasan (second from right) receiving the award from Aruna Sairam

Anil Srinivasan, pianist, educator, entrepreneur, and professor at Krea University, was conferred the Dronacharya Award 2025 at an event held recently.

Founder of Rhapsody and KRUU, Anil has reached over 4.5 lakh students nationwide through innovative, project-based learning, says a press release.

Under his leadership, KRUU received the prestigious PiEoneer Award in Progressive Education (2025).

Deeply committed to philanthropy, Anil has donated his music-based earnings to charitable causes, including building a school for displaced children and supporting a home for visually impaired women, the release adds. Anil continues to bridge music, education and social change.

Instituted in 2008, the Dronacharya Award by the Rotary Club of Madras East honours exemplary teachers and mentors who have inspired, guided and shaped

generations of learners. Drawing inspiration from the legendary Guru Dronacharya of the Mahābhārata, this award celebrates the enduring bond between teacher and disciple and the transformative power of education. Sponsored by Saraswathi Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, the award has over the years, recognised outstanding educators who have made a lasting impact on society.

Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam was the chief guest for the event.

32nd annual book of Probus Club sees the light

Probus Recognition Awards and Probus Award of Excellence were presented to celebrate International Day of the Elderly

The Probus Club of Chennai along with The Russian House celebrated the International Day of the Elderly on October 25, at the Russian Cultural Centre in Alwarpet.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Probus Club President M. Annadurai, who emphasised the importance of active ageing and the value of continued contribution



Members and dignitaries at the event

by senior citizens to society.

T. S. Sridhar, IAS (retd.), former Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, graced the occasion as chief guest and delivered an inspiring address highlighting the role of elders as pillars of wisdom, experience, and moral strength in every community.

The Probus Recognition

Awards were presented to distinguished personalities for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

They are: Ervadi S. Rathakrishnan, D. K. S. Kalaivanan, and K. Ranga Ramanujam.

The Probus Award of Excellence was conferred upon V. Santhanam, noted social activist, for his five decades of exemplary ser-

vice to the community.

Alexander Dodo, Vice Consul and Director of the Russian House, attended the event as the guest of honour and lauded the long-standing friendship between the Russian House and the Probus Club. Rotarian Prasanna Rajagopalan, secretary of the Rotary Club of Madras, also addressed the gathering.

The celebration also featured the presentation of mementos to senior members who had reached milestone ages of 75, 80 and 90 years, and to Probians who had completed 50 years of marital life.

A special highlight of the event was the release of the Club's 32nd Annual Book, titled "The Probus Way of Vibrant Ageing." The publication, reflecting the creativity and life experiences of senior members, is available for purchase at ₹120 plus postage. Interested readers may contact M. Annadurai at 80560 01101 or V. Ramaraj at 88259 81503 for copies.

Winners of the recent senior citizens sports and games competitions were also honoured with prizes during the function. Joint secretary S. Sappani Pillai gave the vote of thanks.

STATUS REPORT



A lesson on lack of civic sense

At a school zone in an interior section of McNichols Road, residents from near and far dump multiple categories of waste around the garbage bins, making for an unsavoury environment

PRINCE FREDERICK

In O. Henry's short story *Last Leaf*, a view from the window of a hospital room energises a pneumonic patient. The last leaf on an ivy telegraphs the idea of hope to the beleaguered patient. The tiny sliver of life on an otherwise denuded plant ends up causing a turnaround in her condition and leading to her full recovery. The view from the windows of a gated community on interior McNichols Road in Dasspuram, a whistling distance away from Pachaiyappa's College Hostel Road, has the opposite effect on those behind those windows. The squalor found around two garbage bins telegraph a sense of despondency to residents of the community, Dewside Manor. "Due to the nauseating pile of garbage, many, particularly seniors, have shut out this view, keeping the windows latched," says Haresh Malhotra, an EC member of Dewside Manor association.

The gated community is wedged into the intersection of McNichols Road and Nowroji Road East-West. Those in flats that afford a view of both roads are content keeping open the windows overlooking Nowroji Road East-West.



Haresh observes that people from elsewhere also dump garbage at this spot. It is a congregating point for litterbugs. The Association has reportedly complained to Greater Chennai Corporation times without number, but the stalemate continues. The dumping of garbage is so persistent that it outstrips the frequency with which it is cleared. In the afternoon of October 31, when *The Hindu Downtown* took a look at this patch, gar-

patch is found right outside the compound wall of a school, Auxilium Girls Higher Secondary School, and as one proceeds further, there are three other major schools tucked away in the interiors. He finds it mystifying that effective measures are not being taken to check garbage dumping of this scale in a school zone. He adds that this road is a route being taken to reach a few hospitals.

When *The Hindu Downtown* got

bage of various stripes were found, suggesting that it arrives from many coordinates.

The two garbage bins look battle-scarred with erosion of metal noticed at the bottom. They are "weakened" from age, not "over-work", as the dumping happens more around the garbage bins than in them.

'Lack of effective measures'

Haresh points out that the squalid

in touch with a Greater Chennai Corporation official familiar with the developments in that section on November 1 and apprised them about the issue, they said Corporation would have the issue addressed. According to a GCC official, in Zones four, seven and eight, transferring the management of conservancy operations to a private agency is likely to happen in January, 2026.

This section comes under Zone 8.

▼ Garbage being dumped with impunity on an interior section of McNichols Road in Dasspuram, Chetpet. Here is how the spot looked in the afternoon of October 31, 2025.
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

A vagrant at Adyar Estuary?

Immediately after the cyclone had eased up, a female red-headed bunting was sighted. It was found on October 29, and missing the next day



PRINCE FREDERICK

If a red-headed bunting had not shown up at the Adyar estuary on October 29, 2025, the following paragraph would have been unnecessary. And if nobody had seen the bird, that would have made the following paragraph unnecessary as well. It showed up and was seen; not just seen, but documented on citizen science platforms. Hence this paragraph, seemingly on a tangential course.

Here goes. At college, this writer

sat in the class of a German master who had a standard introductory remark for new learners of the language. "Bad English is good German." That statement was meant to ease the nerves of students still uncertain if signing up for German was a great idea. The master was obviously not entirely right, and not entirely wrong either. English and German are cousins, similar in structure and sharing linguistic roots. English words with forbears from old English and old German are aplenty. Bunting, the word germane to this report, is in that league.

Bunting is used in at least three contexts; and the one involving birds is based on two old root words, one from Old German and the other from Old English. Without getting bogged down in etymological details (as that is not the

Initially thought to be a female black-headed bunting, it was later re-identified as a female red-headed bunting, said to a first for Chennai.



A red headed bunting photographed by birder Kumaresan Chandrabose at Adyar Estuary on October 29, 2025.

purpose of this report), between them those two root words contribute the ideas of stout and colourful, which is what buntings are. They are stout; and the male birds among buntings (*Emberiza*) are colourful.

On October 29, at the Adyar estuary, a bunting was sighted by birder Kumaresan Chandrabose; as it was a female bunting, some confusion about its identify prevailed.

Initially thought to be a female black-headed bunting, it was later re-identified as red-headed bunting, said to a first for Chennai. The

corrected identification came from members of three groups focussed on bird identification. These three groups operating in Facebook are: Birds of India; Ask IDs of Indian birds; and Identification of Birds from Indian Subcontinent. This bird is likely a vagrant, having flown off course from its regular wintering patch due to cyclonic winds. Kumaresan explains: "I saw this female red-headed bunting at the Adyar Estuary in the morning and evening of October 29; and it was not to be found on October 30; nor on any of the other subsequent days."

The gift of a livelihood

Udavum Karangal gifts Y. Rajeswari a pushcart to go about doing her work with dignity

Gifting livelihood is the first step towards helping communities. Y. Rajeswari, a resident of a slum dwelling unit in Anna Sathy Nagar who makes her living by selling clothes on the pavement adjacent to Udavum Karangal in Anna Nagar office, recently received such a gift from the afore-mentioned NGO.

Rajeswari has been facing many hardships during rainy days and even otherwise. For some weeks, Vidyakar, social worker and founder of Udavum Karangal has been noticing her struggle. When he enquired

about her plight she divulged details about her living condition. Her husband was jobless and she is the only bread winner of the family; she sells clothes on the pavement.

Upon seeing her dedication, hard work, Vidyakar gifted a pushcart to Rajeswari as part of the NGO's women's empowerment and community development programme, says a press release. She thanked him for giving her hope to live with dignity.

Udavum Karangal is a 42-year old non-profit organisation with its office at NSK Nagar, Arumbakkam.





Tamil Nadu Political Cultural Movement launched

The Tamil Nadu Political Cultural Movement has been established with the objective of politically engaging and enlightening the youth of Tamil Nadu through art, culture, music, literature, books, theatre, cinema, and documentaries.

The movement seeks to promote awareness among today's generation about politics, political parties, elections, political leaders, and the enduring legacy of Tamil Nadu's political heritage, while also emphasising the significance of democracy and the noble ideals of people's

governance, said a release.

As its inaugural initiative, the movement organised an event in the form of a Halloween Party. The rationale behind this choice lies in the fact that this Western-origin cultural celebration has, in recent years, gained popularity among young people across India.

And by introducing political themes and personalities within the context of such a celebration, the movement aims to make political awareness more engaging and relatable for the Gen Z generation.

The movement will continue to spread through multiple public platforms such as book fairs and cultural happenings, added the release.

Ready Steady Go Kids launched in the city

Australia's multi-sport and early childhood physical development programme, Ready Steady Go Kids (RSGK), made its debut in Chennai with a Family Sports Carnival that brought together over 150 enthusiastic families for a day filled with fun, fitness and learning through play.

According to a press release, the event was inaugurated by Silai Zaki, Australian Consul General, Chennai, and Jay Shah, co-founder & director of Ready Steady Go Kids India, marking the official launch of Ready Steady Go Kids in the city. The celebration took place at Ready Steady Go Kids Chennai, located at the PMA School of Music Building in Besant Nagar.

The launch event featured a Free Kids Carnival where children aged 1.5 to 7

years participated in a variety of age-appropriate sports activities designed to promote physical literacy, coordination and social development. Parents and children engaged together in fun games, showcasing the spirit of family bonding, says the press release.

Silai Zaki congratulated the team and highlighted the importance of introducing structured play-based learning to young children. The release adds that Ready Steady Go Kids Chennai will now offer structured multi-sport programmes covering 13 different sports – including soccer, basketball, cricket, tennis, athletics, and more – for children aged 1.5 to 7 years, combining play-based learning with expert instruction to build physical and social skills in a safe, supportive environment.



Day care centre for people with Parkinson's

If you have someone at home who is affected with Parkinson's and are having trouble engaging them through the day, bring them to Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation's Day Care Centre in Arumbakkam. Individuals with Parkinson's can spend a few hours engaging in light activities and connecting with fellow community members. The initiative aims to support caregivers by giving them the flexibility to run errands or take a short break, knowing their loved ones are in a caring environment, says a press release.

Open five days a week (from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), the centre continues Parivarthan's mission to enhance the quality of life for people with Parkinson's through therapy, community and care.

For bookings or more information, call 96000 52531.

Individuals with Parkinson's can spend a few hours engaging in light activities and connecting with fellow community members.

Club distributes food at Egmore hospital

Lions Clubs International District 3241M is providing food for the poor and needy patients at the Institute Of Child Health & Hospital for Children, Egmore.

According to a press release, it is 365-day programme. Food will be distributed every day from noon to 1.30 p.m.

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Elders day celebrated at Kotturpuram



Federation of Senior Citizen Association of Tamil Nadu & HelpAge India organised observed International Day of Older Persons at Anna Centenary Library, Adyar. According to a press release, A. Kaliamurthy, a retired IPS official, was the chief guest. Around 300 elders participated.

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Thota Tharrani's works brings film memories to canvas

Experience the magic of film sets at this exhibition under way at Alliance Française of Madras in Nungambakkam



Snapshots of the inaugural event.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Celebrated artist and art director Thota Tharrani unveiled his latest art showcase, 'Footnotes on Cinema' ('Cahiers du Cinéma'), in collaboration with Alliance Française of Madras in Nungambakkam. T.K. Durgaprasad, president of Alliance Française Madras; Pravin Kannanur, Chevalier de l'Ordre

des Arts et Lettres; director Mani Ratnam; and actor Pasupathy were among those present at the inaugural event.

'Footnotes on Cinema' offers an intimate reflection on Thota Tharrani's memories and observations of cinema, shaped by his experiences on film sets as a young child accompanying his father, up until now, said a release. The art showcase houses over 25 paintings that evoke the magic of cinema from yesteryears, featuring film sets, lighting, and camera crews, all presented on frames made using repurposed materials such as old doors, window frames, chairs, and roofing elements. There are small sketches created decades ago, and now after 30-40 years, they have been reimagined and transformed into large-scale artworks.

The exhibition is open till November 14 at Alliance Française of Madras.

Art show



Sumathi Ravichandran, a resident of Kilpauk, is holding an exhibition showcasing her painting works at Lakshana Art Gallery, No.5/13, First Street, Abhiramapuram. According to a press release, the show will end on November 4. The artist is a retired Chief Postmaster General. For details, call 9884051620.

Session on making incense sticks

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop of making incense sticks and camphor on November 6. Another workshop on mushroom cultivation will be held on November 7. Both the sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044-29530048.

Additional ticket counter at Saidapet metro rail station



An additional ticket counter has been set up at Saidapet metro rail station. According to a press release it was inaugurated on October 27. The new ticket counter is near Todd Hunter Nagar entrance of the station where Saidapet MTC terminus is also located. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

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S.RAMALINGAM

NISM, LUTC Fellow, RVCC / IRDA Cert. Insurance Advisor,
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