

ANNA NAGAR

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



A trap

Right in front of Aysha Hospitals on Millers Road is a drain whose usefulness in the civic ecosystem seems questionable. Open and often filled with trash, it puts motorists at risk. During rains, with water logging, it can be a danger to pedestrians as well.
Text & Photos: L. Balamurugan

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A trying drive



Kavitha Road in Arumbakkam on October 12, 2025.
PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

'Waterlogging on key road in Villivakkam'



Station Road in Villivakkam on October 17, 2025.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Every rainy season Station Road in Villivakkam witnesses waterlogging. This road connects Villivakkam railway station and MTC bus terminus. Also, a vegetable and fruits market is located on the road.

Therefore, it witnesses frequent movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic. A lasting solution is necessary.

*T. Gunsaseelan,
Ambattur*

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.



Amman Koil Street at Senneerkuppam in Thiruverkadu on October 16, 2025. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Road in school zone is unsafe'

The images show Amman Koil Street at Senneerkuppam in Thiruverkadu. For the past three years, the road is marked with potholes. It is an approach road to a school. There have been many instances of minor accidents as the road is in bad shape. Further, the stormwater drain on this road is of no use. Water keeps overflowing from the drain. Further it is not covered and that poses a risk.

*K. Soundarrajan,
Thiruverkadu*



Residents stage protest against pollution of Arafat lake



Puzhal Eri Arafat Eri Padhukappu Makkal Iyakkam, a citizens group, staged a demonstration on the bund of Arafat lake in Thirumullai-

voyal on CTH Road to express its displeasure about the pollution of Arafat lake. The protest is organised in response to large numbers

A mound of dead fish removed from Arafat lake; and the demonstration at the lake.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of dead fish found at Arafat lake a fortnight ago. Members of the group and residents of Thirumullaivoyal took part in the demonstration. "The area of the lake has shrunk due to encroachments. It is polluted due to discharge of sewage. Also, both the sewage treatment plants located near the lake are not functioning. Further, the lake is not deepened and desilted," says S. Sundaramoorthi, the president of the citizens group.



Renewing *memories and bonds*

Alumnae add a new layer to the centenary celebrations of Singaram Pillai Higher Secondary School in Villivakkam



On October 11, the campus of Singaram Pillai Girls' Higher Secondary School in Villivakkam came alive as nearly 800 alumnae from India and abroad walked once again through the familiar gates, reconnecting with beloved teachers and classmates.

As part of the centenary year of the school, old students had a reunion on the campus that was filled with nostalgia and joy. Alumnae visited classrooms, shared memories and explored stalls featuring artificial jewellery and commemorative t-shirts printed with the founder's signature – a symbolic keepsake of their cherished alma mater.

Prior to the event, a committee of eight members reached out to alumnae through social media platforms to attend the event and connect with lost friends. On Facebook, the alumnae shared class photos and messages asking long lost friends to identify themselves and be part of the reunion.

Each of them took up specific roles. Lalitha welcomed guests, Kalyani gave the vote of thanks, Vidya Sridhar anchored the programme, Uma united alumnae through social media, Geetha shared insights, Bhooma launched the t-shirt, Dhivya and Vidhya managed funds, and Padma offered virtual support with innovative ideas, said a release.

The team also raised funds to organise the event, provide refresh-



ments, and offer a small contribution to the school as a token of gratitude.

Headmistress S. Arul Anandhi welcomed everyone and highlighted the school's enduring legacy, built by generations of dedicated educators.

The celebration was graced by chief guest T. M. Suganthamala, Commissioner, Income Tax Department (Bangalore); and guests of honour Kalaimathi Ilamathi and Sheela Unnikrishnan, founder of Sridevi Nrithyalya, old students of the school.

The chief guest remembered her teachers, reserving special words of praise for N. L. Lakshmi and taking her blessings in the spirit of "Acharya Devo Bhava", and reminiscing how no one ever wanted to miss her classes. She spoke



Snapshots of the reunion on October 11.

PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

warmly of Kamala Srinivasan, the Maths teacher and remembered Shantha Ranjan, who led the Maths Club and nurtured her love for the subject.

Retired teachers including Padmalochani, Lakshmi, Kalyani, Sunethra Samuel, Portia Vasanthakumari, N. R. Muthulakshmi, Subathra, Sundharam, Neelavathy, Iyappasamy, Porkodi, Chithra Joice, and Kamala were also felicitated. Alumnae fondly recalled Ms.

Padmalochani, the brilliant Chemistry teacher admired for her leadership, discipline and elegance. R. Kavitha, assistant professor of Chemistry at MCC, shared how her class teacher Padmasini shaped her career and inspired her to ignite the same passion in her own students.

In the press note the committee thanked N. P. Prakash, correspondent, and Ragini Prakash, school administrator and founder of Singaram Pillai Girls' Vidyalaya (Nursery and Primary) for their support in making the celebration a success.

A school and its neighbourhood

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

One of the most sought-after educational institutions in Villivakkam, the Singaram Pillai Group of Schools is celebrating its centenary.

Started with one student and one teacher in 1925, the institution later branched out to have a separate schools for girls and boys.

Since 1967, it functions as Singaram Pillai Boys School and Singaram Pillai Girls School. When it was a co-educational institution, the school had a strength of more than 2,000 students. In 1972, Singaram Pillai Matriculation School was started in keeping with the growing demands of the neighbourhood.

According to *The Hindu Archives*, N. Singaram Pillai conceived the idea of starting a school to render selfless service; he was a gem among businessmen.

Artist S.V. Kumar, a long-time resident of Villivakkam, says the



school came as a big boon to the neighbourhood. "Even in the 1950s, many did not prefer moving beyond Ayanavaram as Villivakkam was isolated with incidents of robbery," says Kumar, treasurer of SIDCO Nagar Residents Welfare Association in Villivakkam. Singaram Pillai School and Integral Coach Factory changed the profile of the neighbourhood, one for education and the other for employment, says Kumar.

Its cluster of schools made education accessible to many. Many from the institute have

gone to become successful in their chosen field. "If there's one thing I will best associate the institution then it's for social service, especially in providing affordable education that empowered many to be independent," says Kumar, the septuagenarian presented a plaque of the founder as part of the centenary year.

The school has always had an impressive array of extra-curricular activities including Scouts and Guides, Road Safety Patrol and Junior Red Cross.

Lalitha Mahadevan, who graduated from the school in 1983, says leadership skills, discipline and the art of saving were inculcated early on. "I was responsible for collecting a fine when girls did not plait their hair to school. Likewise there was a saving scheme and I remember using the money I had saved through this scheme to buy my sister a plate," says Lalitha, a psychological counsellor and resident of Kolathur.



Knocking on their doors, pulling on their heartstrings

The Hindu Downtown Kolu Kondattam is more than a contest; it signifies a deep connection with Chennai and its people. Here are highlights from this year's edition of the event



Last Sunday, at P.T. Thyagaraya Auditorium in T. Nagar, the epilogue to *The Hindu Downtown* "Made of Chennai Kolu Kondattam 2025" was scripted and staged, and it turned out to be an event absolutely fitting for a contest that had attracted enthusiastic participation

from residents of Chennai, as in the previous years. At this event that felicitated those who made it to the podium as well as those who almost made it there, the joy was multifarious in its manifestation.

There was the gentle glow of satisfaction for members of The Hindu Group (THG) who worked indefatigably behind the scenes to make this happen. There was a sense of pride for those who partnered with THG to celebrate once again an event that has found a permanent space on the city's cultural calendar. *The Hindu Downtown* "Made of Chennai Kolu Kondattam 2025" ushered in a new category, "Corporate Kolu Contest" inviting corporate houses and institutions to enter the fray. The corporate kolu winners are: United India Insurance Co.; Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research; and Sindhi Model Matriculation Higher Secondary School.

In another novelty, actor Neelima Rani, who had been signed up for this event, set foot in the homes that housed five kulus that won prizes. It was a surprise the THG team had planned for top winners across the five zones of *The Hindu*

Downtown. It was unwrapped for the contestants only in the moment when Neelima and the THG team were at this doorstep. Until that moment, they did not know they were on their way to the podium. The look of bewilderment being replaced by beaming smiles was a treat for the eyes. That moment signified what *The Hindu Downtown* as well as its Kolu Kondattam is all about: being connected with the people of Chennai and participating in the details of their lives in a manner that makes them feel enriched and supported.

In an edition of the contest years ago, a group of influencers had been signed up to visit the kulus that were well put together by contestants. Reinstalling this feature in this year's contest proved to be a great decision.

Moment of glory

The felicitation ceremony on October 13 took an unhurried course, beginning with a captivating Bharatanatyam performance by students of Sri Kalakshi School of Dance.

Three winners and eleven consolation prize winners were selected from each of the five zones of

Glimpses of the felicitation ceremony; actor Neelima Rani at a contestant's home; and the first three winners from this zone.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



The Hindu Downtown.

The winners were felicitated by Sekar from Gopuram Products, Sri Ram Ramesh from ITC Mangaldeep, Bharath Vikram from Kaleesuwari Refineries, Manmohan Ram from Sundari Silks, Praveen Lalwani from Hi-Laptop.com, Aarthi from Naga Foods, and Vinod Balaji from Narpavi.

The Title Sponsor was Gopuram Products, Powered by ITC Mangaldeep and Dheepam Lamp Oil. Associate Sponsors were Sundari Silks, Aroma Ghee, and Hatsun Curd. Tech Partner, HiLaptop.com, Water Partner, Repute.

Gift sponsors were Medimix, Naga, P.S. Tamarind, Vivekananda Sarees, Narpavi, DIFA, RAS Chekku Oil, Maestro Electric Cooker and Cotton House.

Anna Nagar Zone results

Winner: Kala Nagarajan
First Runner-up: Mekalatha Vijayaraghavan

Second Runner-up: Karthic R
Consolation prizes: B.Jaisri; Prema Janardan; Rema Suresh; Chandrika; Chandhira Arunkumar; K Shanthi Kannan; Srimagal Rajkumar; S Kalyanaraman; Sathiya Narayanamurthy; V Gayathri; Shalini Rajasekar



Juwairiya during a painting session at home; some of the paintings created with paint made with natural pigments.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Colours of nature: straight to the palette

Royapuram resident Juwairiya H teaches children how to explore the outdoors and collect materials to create art that is natural and sustainable

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Imagine there is no curriculum; only curiosity driving the learning. Imagine there is no preset route; only exploration charting the course. Put those almost-Lennonesque ideas together and you get a programme that encourages children to explore nature and coax materials out of it to make natural paints and gum and create foraged art. As should be evident to anyone, this programme militates against the assembly line. There is no telling what natural colour would be turned out; the consistency with which the gum would trickle; or the shape the artwork from foraged items would take. All of these would take you to the doorsteps of a rather unusual (but not unlikely) world Juwairiya H has created for children. Moored in Royapuram, Juwairiya (a Montessori-trained teacher, Zentangle artist and biotechnology graduate) conducts this programme in person as well as remotely.

But first things first. The programme is structured in a manner

that breaks structured, predictable learning.

Each session begins with the children taking a silent nature walk with unplanned pauses to accommodate a scavenger hunt. “We do not buy anything,” explains Juwairiya. “Everything we use comes from nature. It is playful and unpredictable. Often, we do not know what colour will bloom and that uncertainty is part of the magic.” The children are encouraged to bring leaves, petals roots and seeds. Back in the workstation, they get to work with what they have collected. The paint-making

is supported by a simple base: maida flour whisked into a slurry and boiled into perfect paint-like consistency. Multiple roads to creativity, some predictable and others unpredictable, extend out of there.

“Turmeric gives yellow, limestone with turmeric makes red, and flowers or leaves produce unpredictable shades,” Juwairiya explains. Seasonal changes and availability of ingredients in a local environment influence paint colours, and experimentation is encouraged. Blue pea flowers and bougainvillea are frequently used in natural paint making.

An artist's take

For G. Sooriyamoorthy, a sculptor and artist with over 25 years of experience, acrylics might remain the primary medium of artistic expression in painting, but that does not stop him from appreciating the raw character that natural pigments bring to a piece of art. “They give a beautiful, organic texture that is hard to replicate with synthetic paints,” he observes.

And one need not marvel that colour can be obtained directly from nature. He explains: “Take beetroot, for example; once the colour gets on your hand, it is hard to wash off. That kind of natural strength is remarkable.”

ing. She collects both used and unused paper, turning it into pulp for new paper or functional items like bowls to be used to keep natural paints. Children often paint with fingers or brushes made from twigs and fibres.

Gum making might seem like a simple process, but it teaches much more than just sticking things together. “It’s very basic, really—just maida and water but the technique matters,” explains Juwairiya, who guides students through the process. The flour is mixed with water until smooth, then gently boiled until it reaches the perfect gum-like consistency. “Continuous stirring is essential,” she adds, “otherwise lumps form, and the texture isn’t right.”

For her young students, understanding the correct consistency can be a challenge, especially in an online setting. “I give clear instructions and check their work step by step.

Sometimes, I ask them questions to help them adjust – adding a little more flour or water until it’s just right,” says Juwairiya. Safety is also a priority, as the process involves handling fire. “Adult supervision is crucial, but we also encourage independence without stepping in too much,” she notes.

Juwairiya manages to replicate the same processes in the online homeschooling support programme offered by the Dharmapuri-based alternative school Puvudham, which reaches children in various geographies including Dubai, Singapore and Delhi. Juwairiya is a facilitator for Puvudham’s online programme.

Parents accompany the youngest participants on their pre-session nature walks. “We begin with stories, questions and provocations,” she explains. “If a child asks a question, we respond with another question. It is not about answers; it is about sparking thought, letting imagination run the lesson plan.”

Beyond paint, the “curriculum” gets into composting, bio-enzyme making, cloth upcycling and paper recycling.

“Adults often worry it is messy, or a waste of time,” she admits. “But when a child sees colour emerge from something they picked themselves, their eyes light up. That is learning that cannot be measured.”

Unschooling philosophy

At home, Juwairiya, a mother of two, follows an unschooling philosophy, where the child’s curiosity leads. “Unschooling does not mean isolation,” she clarifies. “It is about letting interests flourish. Sometimes, the greatest lessons happen outdoors beyond four walls and schedules.”

Her quest for meaningful education had led her far from the hum of conventional classrooms and into Nagarkoodal village in Dharmapuri, home to Puvudham – an alternative school. Here, the philosophy is as earthy as the soil itself: children create what they consume.

“It was Puvudham that changed everything for me,” she recalls. “I learned how to upcycle paper, make natural gum, and create paints from nature. Their focus on sustainability wasn’t just a lesson; it was a lifestyle.”

Unable to place her children there due to distance, she enrolled in Puvudham’s Learning Facilitator Programme (LFP), a programme that would quietly overturn her understanding of teaching. “Children, especially in their early years, think and learn with their hands long before they engage with text. That insight reshaped my approach entirely,” she says.

The course immersed her in hands-on modules – from paper upcycling and foraged art to ink and gum making. On completion, she began co-learning with children, letting curiosity, rather than curriculum, chart the course. And she is continuing to learn along with the children she teaches.

INTERNATIONAL REPAIR DAY: OCTOBER 18

A 'repair station' for toilets

From deep cleaning to timely refurbishments, this initiative ensures toilets in Triplicane remain functional and hygienic

LIFFY THOMAS

Repairing and maintaining existing toilets is more sustainable than adding new ones. Design firm Recycle Bin (known for conducting the

International Toilet Fest) believes in it and Toilet Repair Cafe (TRC) has entered its second year since inception.

Launched as a pilot programme in Triplicane with 23 public toilets, the initiative is gearing up to cover a new set of toilets in the Che-



▼ A vehicle that serves as an ally.

pauk constituency.

Under this initiative started in association with Cheer NGO, WASHlab and Greater Chennai Corporation, a centralised hub has been established for all toilet maintenance needs. A vehicle is pressed into service to carry out cleaning work at design-

nated toilets, and also attend to complaints raised by residents through a common helpline number.

"Instead of building new infrastructure every now and then, we should work on improving and empowering the human resources around the toilet. That think-

ing got us started on TRC," says Shebin George, an architect with Recycle Bin. The team is working on building a skill bank from the community. "These are people who are trained in various aspects of toilet maintenance so that it generates employment for them. For example, someone who has graduated from an ITI can be a toilet coordinator," says Shebin.

The SOPs each toilet has to follow include deep cleaning of toilets, wearing of safety gears, specifying the role of janitors, maintaining a checklist of items a toilet must be equipped with and classifying the nature of repairs.

Besides attending to complaints in a timely manner, deep cleaning of toilets is undertaken by a separate team once in 15 days. The janitor takes care of the day-to-day

cleanliness. In case addressing a complaint entails undertaking a major work then the local engineer and deputy commissioner works are informed.

The project has trained and employed local sanitation workers, offering them the tools and skills needed to maintain and repair public toilets.

Shebin says TRC is a model that empowers the community and is cost efficient with impact being visible on the ground.

"To build a TRC one needs a space that also fulfils the purpose of advocacy (TRC Nodal Hub- Advocacy platform)," he says adding that WASHlab works on eight verticals in the sanitation and toilet space, operation and maintenance being one (the others include design as a social tool, inclusivity and governance).

An elaborate mending exercise

In an event at Mandavelipakkam on October 25, Saahas will feature a range of skilled workers giving a variety of broken things a new run

Saahas, the Bengaluru-based non-profit working in the space of solid waste management and circular economy, is hosting its first repair event in Chennai as part of International Repair Day, observed on October 18.

The day-long event called "Repair Pannalama? - Chennai Edition" will be held on October 25 at the auditorium of St. Antony's Girls Higher Secondary School in Mandavelipakkam.

Through the event, Saahas aims to revive and popularise the repair culture, integrating it as a life skill amongst communities. In Bengaluru, Saahas has been hosting city-wide events to celebrate Repair since 2024, and Chennai is among cities to which it has extended this event, says a press release.

The event will have a 'Repair Arena' where vendors for shoe repair, bag repair, umbrella repair, clothes alterations, zip fixing, small appliances' repair and knife sharpening will be available. Residents can bring broken things from their homes and give them a new life.

Free workshops on sustaina-



ble living including home composting and cloth upcycling, a kids arena where games on sustainable living for children (examples: waste segregation and disposable v/s reusables car game will be conducted).

A corner featuring sustainable gifting will showcase earth-friendly products such as pre-loved clothes, chemical-free personal care products and up-cycled decorations.

For further details, contact Smita Kulkarni (9845832311)/ Shamini (9176561066)/ Senthil (90030 33460)



Putting abandoned electrical items back to work

Repair Cafe Chennai Initiative along with Wasted 360 Solutions will host a camp on October 25 in T. Nagar

Though abandoned, some electrical items can be given new spark of life. All it takes is a bit of tinkering; or the addition of a new component.

On October 25, a small group of troubleshooting experts from Re-

pair Cafe Chennai Initiative will be seen working on such electrical and electronic items received by Wasted 360 Solutions, an NGO working on creative waste management solutions, during its recent collection drives.

The team will figure out how many of these discarded items can be repaired and brought back to life. "Unlike our usual workshops, this one will not have any participants. We are planning to bring in just our mentors, experts who can together troubleshoot and fix these items. We have been inviting tinkerers whom we have worked with in the past and are known to our circles," says Meenalochani S. who leads the Chennai chapter.

Started in June 2024 as a home-based repair workshop, organised by homeschooling parents in collaboration with Repair Café Collective India, the chapter has held five events so far and plans to increase the count.

The software professional turned homemaker initiated the chapter seeing the curiosity shown by her children in fixing things. Today, they have five members and many volunteers helping them.

They are looking for mentors and volunteers skilled in mending a wide range of things – electrical, carpentry, utensils, semi-precious jewellery, bicycles, laptops and mobiles.

"Whether you are a professional or a home-based repairer, we have plenty of gig opportunities. One must be passionate about sharing the knowledge they have," says Meena.

They are also looking for workshop managers to help coordinate events. Hosting DIY repair workshops across the city once in every three months is the plan.

Write to them at repaircafe.tiruandchennai@gmail.com

Follow them on Instagram: @repaircafe.tiruandchennai

Students of engineering college in Avadi win hackathon



Students of the Department of Information Technology, AMS College of Engineering emerged as winners of the IBM Naan Mudhalvan Grand Hackathon held at Capital Land, Tharamani on October 11. The team included H. Mohamed Hasim, A. Basil Ishaq, E. Idris Ahmed, I. Niyamathullah Sherrif and M. Mohamed Hanifa of III Year IT.

Their innovative project titled

“AI-Based Fraud Detection in Financial Transactions”, developed under the EBPL (IoT, Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence) domain, impressed the judges with its real-world applicability and technical excellence, said a release.

Of the 5000 participants that took part in the first round, 220 students were shortlisted for the next level, and finally, three teams

were selected as winners in the grand finale. The AMSCE IT team secured First Position and received a cash prize of ₹25,000/- from the event organisers.

In recognition of their achievement, secretary and correspondent H. Mohamed Salegh honoured the winning team with an additional cash award of ₹10,000 at his chamber to encourage and motivate the students.

Heart lessons for children



Heart Wise Quiz 2025, organised in commemoration of World Heart Day, concluded with enthusiasm on October 12, 2025 at Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals auditorium in Pallikaranai.

According to a press release, the quiz brought together students from classes V to IX across the city, aiming to create awareness about

heart health, nutrition and healthy living from a young age.

Dr. T.G. Sivaranjani, director, Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals, interacted with the semi-finalists in a light-hearted and interactive manner, emphasising the triad mantra for healthy living – food, exercise and sleep. She shared practical tips on balanced eating, simple

strength-training routines, and maintaining proper sleep in sync with the circadian rhythm, the release says.

Dr. Senthil Raj, consultant cardiologist, engaged the children in a gentle and friendly interaction that put them at ease, offering insights on heart health and lifestyle choices. The grand finale saw six finalists compete in a spirited battle of knowledge and quick thinking, impressing everyone with their awareness and enthusiasm.

Winners: 1st Prize: Nirighna Peetha, Sivananda Rajaram Senior School (Class 8); 2nd Prize: Navelen M. Sivakumaran, PSBB KK Nagar (Class 7); 3rd Prize: Srinand Suresh Kumar Warriar, Velammal Bodhi Campus, Kolapakkam (Class 8)

Runner-ups: Dhaksh A, Velammal Bodhi Campus, Kolapakkam (Class 8); Rakshita Krishnakumar, TIPS, Perungudi (Class 8); and Aarav Ramesh, Mount Litera Zee School, OMR (Class 5)

Open Para Chess Tournament conducted

The events celebrates the 25th anniversary of Jaigopal Garodia Memorial Chess Academy

A total of 102 contestants competed in five rounds of the chess tournament conducted by Jaigopal Garodia Memorial Chess Academy on October 11.

To commemorate its 25th anniversary, the academy hosted a state-level Open Para Chess Tournament by special invitation. The tournament featured events for

three categories: Vision impairment, Deaf and Dumb, and Physically Challenged.

Managing Trustee Ashok Kedia; secretary and trustee Era Meyappan; guest of honour V. Rajagopalan; president, Chennai District Physically Disabled Chess Association Senior National Arbitrator, The Chief Arbitrator R.R. Vasudevan; tournament director N.K. Nandakumar and principal J. Thanukrishnan were among those present for the inauguration.

Grand Master Sundararajan Kidami 6th Grand Master from TN, Asian Gold Medalist-2005 was the chief guest for the valedictory function.

The tournament concluded with the prize distribution ceremony where cash awards, trophies and certificates were given. Cash awards were awarded till 9th place of all categories and the other participants received medal and certificates. A total of ₹42,000 was awarded as cash prizes, said a release.



Train services on Deepavali

The Chennai Division of the Southern Railway will operate suburban electric trains (in accordance with the Sunday pattern) on October 20 on the Chennai Central - Arakkonam, Gummidipoondi, Sullurpetta sections, as well as on the Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu section.

In a release, the Central transport body stated that the computerised passenger reservation centres in its Chennai Division will function for only one shift, similar to the Sunday pattern (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) on October 20.

Korean Coffee House comes to Chennai



Dot Korean Coffee House has opened two outlets in Chennai, one in Poonamallee and the other in Mylapore.

The outlet has a variety of coffees to choose from – Korean, Austrian, French and Canadian filter coffee, says a release.

The cream coffee varieties include maple cream, caramel, vanilla, and peanut cream. The specific cream gives each cup its unique flavour. Iced ball coffee is one of Dot Coffee's special varieties.

The special coffees are priced between ₹40 and ₹90, while the variety called real coffee costs between ₹20 and ₹40. Dot also has cold coffee cans, says a press release. The outlets are open every day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m..



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Helpline for Deepavali

Here are numbers and pointers that could ensure a safe, hassle-free and responsible celebration of the festival

Treatment for burn-related injuries

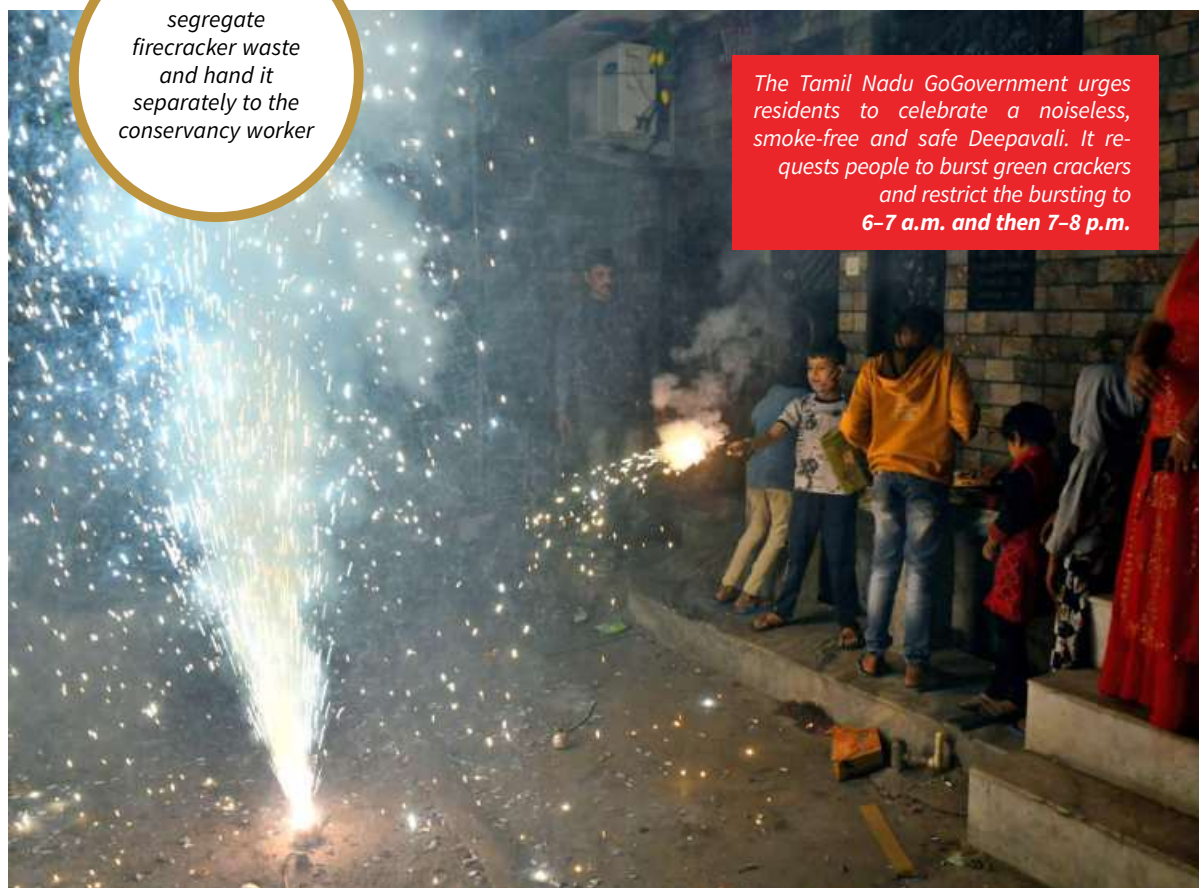
Hindu Mission Hospital, Grand Southern Trunk Road, Tambaram (West): 8754595044

Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital: 95949 24048
Ambulance: 108

Burns Ward, Kilpauk Medical College: 044 - 28364951

Commissionerate of Transport and Road Safety in Chennai invites complaints about excess bus fare to be registered on its toll-free number 1800-425-6151.
Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services : 112

Make sure to segregate firecracker waste and hand it separately to the conservancy worker



Eye care: Dos and Don'ts

- Do not rub your eyes or scratch your eyes.
- Wash your eyes and face properly.
- In case of any irritation or foreign body in the eye, hold the eyelids open and flush the eyes continuously with water.
- If a particle is large or stuck in the eye, do not attempt to remove it.
- If any chemical has entered the eyes, immediately irrigate the eyes and the space under the eyelids with water for 30 minutes. Seek an eye doctor immediately.

Source: S. Soundari, regional head, clinical services, Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital

Festival gift for conservancy workers in Nolambur



A special event was organised at Nolambur to honour the dedicated service of 143 ward conservancy workers on Ayudha Puja day. As part of the celebration, 143 gift hampers were distributed, which included 75 silver bowls. The event was jointly sponsored by

the Rotary Club of Chennai Mugapair. A total of 75 conservancy workers participated in the celebration and gift distribution programme. This initiative served as a gesture of gratitude and recognition for the tireless efforts of the conservancy workers who play

a crucial role in maintaining public health and cleanliness, said a release. The event not only brought joy and a sense of appreciation to the workers but also strengthened community bonds and encouraged continued support for frontline civic workers.

Book vending machine at Central railway station



An automated vending machine to sell books has been set up last week at Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station. It was inaugurated by Shailendra Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Chennai Division of Southern Railway.

According to a press release, it is located near the old concourse which is near the relaxation chair kiosk and the general waiting hall.

The machine has a good collection of books across various genres and witnesses an impressive sale on October 10, the first day of its installation and the machine had to be restocked, says the release.

Encouraged by the overwhelming response in a short span, the Chennai Division of Southern Railway has plans to install the book vending machine at Tambaram Railway Station and other major stations in the coming months, adds the release.

Over 15,000 receive degrees at convocation of SRMIST



As many as 15,105 students were given their degrees at the 21st Convocation of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) held recently. Among them were 5,779 women and

two transpersons, the university said.

The list included 299 rank holders, 224 of whom were women. As many as 388 students earned their PhD, while 7,938 students completed their

post-graduation. T.R. Paarivendhar, founder-chancellor, SRMIST, said that the University has a total of nearly one lakh students spread across its various campuses in the country and employs about 30,000 persons. He said that a total of 25,000 students would be getting their degrees across India this year.

C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice-Chancellor, SRMIST, highlighted the fact that two transpersons got their undergraduate degrees, which was a pointer to the inclusive environment at the University. While 62 per cent of those graduating were men, 55 per cent of the PhD holders were women.

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, delivered the convocation address.

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