

T. NAGAR

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THE MAKING OF NEURODIVERGENT ARTISTS

Around the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, tracking the workaday trajectory of three organisations in Chennai that promote artistic creativity among children and young adults with special needs. **P4**



TWO BOYS DOCUMENT RARE BIRD

Madras Naturalists Society members and school-going children from Chennai, Amogh Vjay Chatty and Aaditya S Rajesh spot and photograph a Plative cuckoo, which is a vagrant in south India. **P6**

‘Potholes *crop up* again’



Kumaran Colony Second Street in Vadapalani on December 2, 2025. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B



S.N. RAJARAM

At Kumaran Colony Second Street in Vadapalani, potholes have cropped up again following the recent rains. Patchworks were carried out on this road three months ago. From time to time, only temporary measures are being taken. The road needs to be restored properly.

It is an important road as it connects Arcot Road in Vadapalani and Arunachalam Road in Saligramam. Besides, vehicular traffic has increased on this road as metro rail construction is going on at the nearby Arcot Road. Further, the stormwater drain serves no purpose.

S.N. Rajaram, Saligramam

‘Recent patchwork on Oil Mill Road undone’



PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

P. SENTHIL KUMAR

Iyyappanthangal Village Panchayat carried out a patchwork on Oil Mill Road on November 28, 2025. But the patchwork got eroded in less than a week due to the rains and the potholes have cropped up again. Such quick-fix measures will not help. A lasting solution is required.

P. Senthil Kumar is a resident of Iyyappanthangal



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‘A linking SWD needed’**P. SUDHAKAR**

The junction of Periyar Street, Nganaoli Street and Round Building Street at Thiru Nagar witnessed heavy waterlogging following the recent rains. It is a low-lying area and lacks a stormwater drain. It takes a day or two for the water to recede.

Construction of a stormwater drain from this spot to the existing SWD at Ganga Nagar Fourth Street (which lies along the banks of Adyar river) will solve the waterlogging issue at the junction.

P. Sudhakar, secretary, Federation of Residential Welfare Association - West Jhafferkhanpet



The junction on December 3, 2025. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

‘Veerabhadran Street waits to be mended’

Veerabhadran Street in Nungambakkam on December 4, 2025.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**N. RAVIKKUMAR**

Veerabhadran Street in Nungambakkam was waterlogged during last week's rain. Motors pumped out the water. The road is low-lying when compared with its adjacent roads and it lacks stormwater drains. Further, the road is battered. All these cause waterlogging. This is an interior road but witnesses heavy traffic as it provides connectivity to Uttamar Gandhi Salai and Nungambakkam High Road.

N. Ravikkumar is a resident of Nungambakkam

‘No provision at park for water to drain’**C. SIVA KUMAR**

The park at Third Cross Street at VGN Nagar in Iyyappanthangal is waterlogged following the recent rains. Going by past experience, this will be the status of the road for a week; there are no provisions for water to drain.

Iyyappanthangal Village Panchayat should make provision to channel the water to the stormwater drain at First Cross Street. Or rainwater harvesting structures should be constructed at the park. This will help in replenishing the groundwater level. The park is under water during every rainy season. A lasting solution is needed.

C. Siva Kumar is a resident of Iyyappanthangal



The park at VGN Nagar in Iyyappanthangal. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

‘Nelson Manickam Road subway is unsafe’**KAMAL JOSHUA**

The subway in Nungambakkam on Nelson Manickam Road was waterlogged following the recent rains. However, water seepage from the walls will continue even after the rains. This is the status any time of the year, including summer. Further, the road is battered. All these make the subway unsafe for motorcyclists. Therefore, Greater Chennai Corporation should carry out a proper repair work aimed at providing a last solution. If feasible, the subway should be widened. Because this subway witnesses heavy traffic as it provides connectivity to Anna Nagar and T Nagar.

Kamal Joshua is resident of Chetpet



The subway in Nungambakkam on Nelson Manickam Road. PHOTO: PRABHU .M

You can be our volunteer-writer

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‘Guru’s legacy is unmatched’

M.S. Gurumurthy (in white hat)



M. S. Gurumurthy, who was instrumental in conducting the All-India YSCA cricket tournament, passed away last month

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In cricketing circles, M. S. Gurumurthy, affectionately called ‘Guru’, was as popular as any cricketer, past or present in and around the area of Moosa Street in T. Nagar.

For 55 years, he was instrumental in conducting the All-India YSCA cricket tournament with pinpoint precision. This was no child’s play, as anybody who is into organising an All-India sports event would tell you. Several cricketers have played in the YSCA tournament and former India and Tamil Nadu cricketers seldom failed to attend the YSCA

annual day.

Meticulous as he was, Guru (83 years) who was also a coach, was particular that there was no delay in conducting events. As a person too, he was liked by one and all for his genial nature.

Gurumurthy’s son Jayendra Gurumurthy has vowed to continue his father’s legacy.

At a condolence meeting held in Chennai recently, Kasi Viswanathan, CEO of Chennai Super Kings recalled his long association with Guru and the latter’s contribution to cricket. He also spoke about the regular supply of good talent from YSCA to Tamil Nadu cricket.

RWA to host **kolam** contest that is open to all



Mandaveli Raja Street Residents’ Welfare Association is gearing up to host its signature Pongal festival featuring a variety of cultural activities that celebrate Tamil heritage and community spirit.

The highlight of the event is the theme-based kolam (rangoli) competition, based on the theme “Media World”, which will be conducted at Raja Street in Mandaveli on January 11.

The Association welcomes teams from Raja Street as well as other neighbourhoods to join this vibrant celebration of tradition and creativity, says a press release. The theme-based com-

petition will be conducted under three categories. One, Raja Street residents; two, guest participants from other areas; and three, kids teams.

Following the competition, the street will come alive with traditional games and cultural performances, culminating in the decoration of a common ‘Pongal Paanai’. Kolams will be judged by a panel and sponsored prizes will be awarded to the most outstanding entries.

To register, visit <https://forms.gle/yg941eiHvDBiSiHA7>
Or call 9841033715 , 9940056069.

Global Alumni Meet of Vivekananda College on December 20



Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College Alumni Association is gearing up for its third Global Alumni Meet, scheduled to be held on December 20 (from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.) at the college campus in Mylapore.

The event would also celebrate 80 years of the educational institution, with a host of activities which include interactions with revered gurus, nostalgic visits to classrooms and opportunities for socialising among fellow alumni.

The first Global Alumni Meet was held in 2023 with 300 old students taking part in it. Since then the number of former students attending the meet has been on the rise.

This time, through a digital application one can confirm their participation and the organisers are

expecting at least 600 alumni to attend the event.

A governing board and an executive team are making all arrangements including connecting with old students, getting articles for a souvenir that will be released and for other activities on the D-Day. According to a press release, E. S. L. Narasimhan (alumnus, B.A. Physics, 1964 and Former Governor of Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Andhra-Telangana combined) will be the chief guest.

N. Hariharan (alumnus, B.Com., 1974; Chairman and CEO, NWI Management LP, New York, USA) will deliver the keynote address. Swami Dhyanaagamyanaanda, secretary, RKMVC will preside over the event.

Interested alumni can visit www.alumni.rkmvc.ac.in to register.

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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.

Around the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3), tracking the workaday trajectory of three organisations in Chennai, two of which foster artistic creativity among children and young adults with special needs. And the third one brings saleability to their artworks



The making of neurodivergent artists

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

The drip paint mug can walk straight into any upscale showroom that sells art-based utilitarian items, and plonk itself in the display. It would not be stopped at the door. It would make a great corporate gift. The design of paint frozen in an act of dripping underlines such meticulous calculation and skill that it can be the subject of a design lecture at a fine arts college. This artist had designed this mug exclusively for The Indian Twist which makes a variety of items that solemnise a marriage between artistic and utilitarian value. And there is a factor adding greater value to it. The artist is Rupak Munje. A name readily recognised, Rupak is a poster boy for art by the neurodivergent, art that can share display space with art of the highest water from the neurotypical. While in the business of making and selling these products, The Indian Twist is simultaneously in the process of making Rupaks. It supports art by the neurodivergent.

The Chennai-based company (@theindiantwist) sells online thereby surmounting the geographical barrier to commerce. Here is a quick run of their product line – a variety of bags, cushion covers, coffee mugs, beer mugs, coasters, notebooks, artisanal fabric gift envelopes, calendars, mini photo albums, aprons, fridge magnets, paper weights, wine bags and so on. There is a quirkiness to how these everyday things are designed.

The design team at The Indian Twist works on the spontaneous artworks by children and young adults from A Brush With Art (@abwa_chennai) and The CanBridge Academy (@thecanbridgeacademy), works them into its product line, thereby transforms these artworks into a state of saleability. The CanBridge Academy provides life skill training to young adults with autism. And ABWA promotes “ex-



pression of natural art in children with special needs”.

At The Indian Twist, the production process also supports women in shelter homes who stitch bags, earning income and gaining confidence. The residents of The Banyan (India) have a hand in some of the products designed by The Indian Twist.

Shuba Kuila, founder of The Indian Twist, notes that the final product does not obfuscate the artist's authentic expression. For Shuba, a part of this creative work is the creation of joy. The fulfilment derives partly from the children's delight that is evident when they spot their creations on display at events, pressing them to their chests with pride.

Shuba observes that The Indian Twist's approach emphasises merit over charity, ensuring that neurodivergent artists are valued for their creativity and aesthetic con-



tribution, not their circumstances.

Here is a peek into how these artists are made at the organisations associated with The Indian twist.



A drip paint mug, a calendar and a bag made by The Indian Twist with the help of neurodivergent artists; from the 'drawing board' at A Brush With Art and The CanBridge Academy.



Mala Chinnappa, mother of a neurodivergent adult and a long time facilitator at A Brush With Art, begins “When a child first comes in, we begin with dry mediums like crayons. Fluid mediums can over-stimulate. We simply watch them. They realise this is not a class. They are free to do what they want.”

The art sessions are structured around agency. One child draws buses with architectural precision but omits the driver every time. “Human beings disrupt his grid,” she explains. “So he edits them out.” Another covers sheets with a single colour until the page becomes an uninterrupted field. Some cut paper with near mathematical accuracy. Others tear it rhythmically, almost as a form of sensory release. These are data points about how each child pro-

cesses the world. Over months, she observes measurable changes. Sitting tolerance expands from ten minutes to over forty. Colour choices shift from impulsive to deliberate. Compositions gain structure. Impulsivity reduces. Confidence becomes observable rather than assumed.

At The CanBridge Academy, co-founder Kavitha Krishnamoorthy has worked with many neurodivergent individuals across ages. Patterns, she says, are often their preferred language. Visual patterns, musical rhythms, repetitive motions are not signs of monotony but anchors for regulation.

“Even finger painting becomes movement,” she explains. “Sweeps, arcs, repetitions. Their body leads the art, not the other way around.”

She cautions against reading emotions through colour choices, an interpretation common in neurotypical frameworks but inaccurate here. Emotional communication is frequently physical rather than symbolic. A child who arrives distressed may pound clay until his system stabilises. A young adult plays a xylophone with rapid beats when excited and slow, spaced notes when low. Emotion is expressed through speed, pressure, repetition, and bodily rhythm.

Contrary to stereotypes, attention is rarely the concern. What disrupts focus is not the child but the instruction. “They focus intensely,” she says. “The problem begins only when adults impose structure or when the task becomes monotonous.”

Across weeks and months, the changes are consistent. Restlessness diminishes. Emotional regulation improves. Trust widens. Independence builds. Over time, a recognisable artistic identity emerges, not shaped by imitation but by sensory accuracy.

The monsoon brings life to our gardens, but can also leave compost bins waterlogged and messy.
Residents on how not to compost during the monsoon

Rainy season demands smarter composting

LIFFY THOMAS

‘Do not give any chance for water to enter the bins’

The adoption of waste management initiatives in a community depends on how they are implemented, perceived and sustained. That is lesson from The Summit, a 30-flat apartment complex at 1st Avenue in Sastri Nagar, Adyar.

In 2019, Latha Mahalingam spearheaded an initiative to ensure no wet waste leaves the gates of the apartment by persuading the association to invest in *in-situ* composting.

“It was around the same time that Greater Chennai Corporation was insisting that communities (those that came under the bulk waste generator category) take care of the waste they generated, so that gave a huge impetus to my campaign,” says Latha, secretary of The Summit Apartment Owners Association.

After carrying out a study of apartments in Adyar where composting was adopted, two 800-litre My Green Bins were bought to the community. From flyers to messages on the WhatsApp group, segregation of waste was emphasised strongly. The housekeeping team was trained on steps they needed to take once waste was collected.

The community has been religiously composting waste; even during pandemic and heavy rains they never gave the bins a rest.

The apartment is at a higher level than the road, so even during floods they never faced an issue. The bins on wheels are kept at a height, ensuring no water enters them.

Latha says regular maintenance and follow-up are reasons the initiative is still going strong. The compost bins are cleaned after every cycle.

During monsoon, The Summit’s housekeeping team ensures the harvested compost is used. “Earlier we used to take it to the terrace and dry it. Now, we empty it directly on the ground or give it to the plants,” she says.

Another golden rule they follow is ensuring the lid is closed tight and giving no scope for water to enter. The bins do not even have a roof over their head.

“Now I have relinquished my position from this and the facility manager, Chenniagiri K takes care of everything. It about setting every in place for the right culture to set in,” she says.

‘Used mud pots can do wonders’



For Deephika S. and her extended family residing in Perambur, composting during monsoon does not pose any additional challenge due to various strategies they have adopted over the years.

Besides the kitchen waste that is generated from the independent house, the family composts dog poop from its two pets and vegetable waste received from two pushcart vendors who conduct business in the area.

A 4x2 feet pit dug on the ground and closed with a wooden plank serves as the bigger compost pit, but this is only put to use when the mud flower pots, six to seven of them, that are used as compost ‘bin’ are full.

“During rains, we ensure there is no soil erosion from the pots so an extra layer of soil is added,” says Deephika, a Chartered Accountant by profession.

The family’s experience from their own backyard shows that composting is quicker during monsoon as long as there is no water stagnation. “Moisture is a friend of compost-

ing, so the process happens as in other seasons; only that we need to ensure the right balance,” she says. On slightly sunny days, remove the cover to let the compost breathe. Proper aeration prevents the compost from becoming soggy and supports effective decomposition. The family members also ensure the drainage holes in the compost bin are clear to let excess water escape. This prevents the compost from becoming soggy. The pots are under a shade and layered with cocoa peat and kept for breakdown. “We did not find much success with readymade bins sold in the market, which sometimes leaves behind a smell. I find the red pot the best bet for composting as it has a lot of moisture content and air circulation is also good,” says Deephika adding that they grow a variety of greens, brinjal, tomatoes and lemon. The ‘black gold’ generated after a month goes back to their own plants. “We noticed the quality of compost being good when it is made with fruits and vegetable waste alone,” she says.

‘We make sure water does not stagnate in compost pits’

Water does not generally enter the compost pits kept in Greater Chennai Parks mainly because how they are placed.

In rare instances, water from these pits are diverted to sponge parks or outside.

We should monitor and prevent water stagnation in the compost pits, as it affects the composting process and may lead to anaerobic conditions, making for a foul smell.

N. Nireshkumar
Superintendent of Park, GCC

‘Maintain the right ratio’

One key factor to keep in mind while composting this time of the year is to ensure carbon and nitrogen ratio is 30:1. Most of the waste that

we generate at home contains more of carbon, so add nitrogen supplement either through cow dung slurry or urea (depending on the kind of composting you are following). If your site is in an open space, ensure it is covered but do leave it open at times when it is slightly sunny. Smell is a challenge most people complain during monsoon, so make sure there is no water stagnation as leachate leaves a foul smell.

Having a compost heap of one metre height is ideal to kill pathogens and it helps in the decomposing process.

E. Parameswari
professor in
Environmental Science,
Tamil Nadu Agriculture
University



Madras Naturalists Society members and school-going children from Chennai, Amoggh Vjay Chatty and Aaditya S Rajesh spot and photograph a Plaintive cuckoo, which is a vagrant in south India



A Plaintive cuckoo in the shrubs near Odiyur lake on November 30.
PHOTOS: AMOGGH VJAY CHATTY & AADITYA S RAJESH

Two boys document rare bird

PRINCE FREDERICK

No rap on the knuckles probably for Amoggh Vjay Chatty if caught talking with his classmates while seated at his flip-top desk and the teacher is scrawling on the board. After all, he was born “Chatty”. The human world might be forgiving if Amoggh uttered a word where silence is demanded, his unmissable surname coming to his rescue, making light of the situation, but the wild would not. The Grade 10 student of PSBB Millennium school in Semmancherry obviously has to shush himself while in the bush looking for birds, which he does in his leisure with two other Chattys – parents Sriram Chatty and Radhika Chatty.

On November 30, the three Chattys were looking for birds far from their hearth. The destination was the sprawling Odiyur lake on East Coast Road (near Paramankeni) on the way to Puducherry. The birding group was actually larger

with a non-Chatty in it. And the day ended up belonging to one of the Chattys – Amoggh – and the non-Chatty, Aaditya S Rajesh. The senior Chattys had their wheels all to themselves. Being peers Amoggh (15) and Aaditya (16) had flocked together in another set of wheels, a car driven by Aaditya’s uncle. Aaditya wears uniform different from Amoggh’s to school, studying in Grade 11 at Maharishi Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary school in Chetpet. During weekends, the boys have a common uniform, birding camouflage fatigues. Both Aaditya are members of Madras Naturalists Society and introduced early to birding by their families.

The purpose of the visit to Odiyur lake was to watch pelagic birds. Amid the repeating patterns of life are plans re-scripting themselves, throwing up highlights diametrically opposite to what was foreseen. And one needs to be thankful for that. Amoggh and Aaditya are. There were sightings of pelagics, but what dominated the boys’ excited chatter on the way back to Chennai was a land-lubber of

a bird – a Plaintive cuckoo, which had no business poking around Odiyur lake, in fact, in any part of South India. In India, this bird is meant to be seen in its north-eastern parts, until a “Jonathan Livingstone Seagull” among them shows up in an unexpected patch.

It was a joint sighting with both boys documenting the female Plaintive cuckoo with their cameras. The bird was first seen through the window of a moving car. It was perched on a shrub by the Odiyur lake. With the car stopped and parked, the duo started clicking away, capturing it even as it shifted perches in the shrubs.

The feathers were unlike anything else they had seen before; and they did not have a name for it. Amoggh says it was ID-ed as Plaintive cuckoo through a couple of online birding groups. “The experts consulted are Sunil Kumar Unni from Chennai; Adesh Shivkar from Mumbai; and Ashwin V. from Bengaluru,” Amoggh notes. The record is up on eBird.

Umesh Mani, a seasoned birder and a member of Madras Naturalists Society, on

the rarity of Plaintive cuckoo in these parts: “Plaintive cuckoo is a bird of the North-east, and rarely seen down South – the books show only occasional records. I have seen it just once earlier in Chennai, some 10-12 years back. It is definitely rare here, although I think that could partly be due to the fact that it may be easily confused with the hepatic morph of the Grey-bellied cuckoo (which is quite often seen here), especially if the underparts are not seen clearly.” There was a time when the Grey-bellied cuckoo was considered a Plaintive cuckoo’s “cousin”, being viewed as a subspecies. It is a long time since the Grey-bellied cuckoo was jettisoned from the Plaintive cuckoo family, and accorded separate family status.

In their identification notes, the experts pointedly discussed features differentiating this female Plaintive cuckoo from a female Grey-bellied cuckoo.

Ashwin observed: “The main thing is the barred tail. And generally stronger barring throughout, including on the throat and breast. Also more rufous on the throat and breast than Grey-bellied.”

Amoggh shares the observations made by Sunil and Adesh: “The tail has dark barrings and underparts less white, that points to a female (rufous) Plaintive Cuckoo. Grey-bellied has a cleaner tail and more white underparts. Also, grey bellied does not have the rufous wash on throat (above breast), whereas this bird does.”

A delicate *brain surgery*

The neurosurgical team at Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals recently carried out a complex emergency brain surgery on a young man.

The man arrived at the hospital with a screwdriver embedded deep inside his skull, which injury experts describe as “extremely rare and often fatal without immediate intervention.” A CT scan showed that the screwdriver had punctured a vital motor control area responsible for moving the left side of his body. It was also dangerously close to major blood vessels that, if damaged, could have caused severe bleeding, a release said. This was a race against time. Even a

slight delay could have caused permanent paralysis or devastating vascular damage, said Dr. Rahul Srinivasan, a neurosurgeon who performed the surgery. The patient was immediately transferred to the hospital’s advanced neurosurgical operating room. Dr. Srinivasan carefully removed the screwdriver and nearby bone fragments without harming vital structures. After surgery, the patient was kept on ventilator support for two days to manage brain swelling and stabilise vital functions. Initially, the patient experienced weakness on the left side of the face, arm and leg. Intensive physiotherapy and neuro-rehabilitation helped him steadily regain strength, the release adds.



Luxury boutique hotel ready for the festive season



The Palomar by Crossway, a luxury boutique hotel at Akkarai - Sholinganallur on East Coast Road, is designed for every kind of traveller.

Combined with stay, diverse dining, and a collection of spaces, the hotel offers rooms in superior, deluxe and twin categories.

Guests can enjoy a variety of amenities, including a swimming pool, fitness centre, atrium, rooftop and well-equipped meeting and conference facilities, said a release.

Cappella, its international cuisine restaurant, offers flavours from around the world.

The ‘Spotted Deer’ is famous for its musical evenings, offering a

space for both new and familiar artists.

For events, Zol Garden provides an intimate venue that easily accommodates weddings, receptions, baby showers and pop-up markets.

This festive season, The Palomar Cappella will host Christmas eve dinner and brunch, and New Year’s eve dinner, and brunch. The hotel will ring in 2026 at Spotted Deer with a night of live music and Palomar’s exclusive stay packages combine a dinner with a luxurious room experience, added the release.

For reservations and enquiries, call 89258 48868.

Photo exhibition at Art Houz

The valedictory function of the seventh edition of Chennai Photo-walk’s ‘Eye of Madras 7.0’ will be held on December 7 from 5.30 p.m. onwards at Art Houz Gallery, Sterling Road, Nungambakkam.

The photo exhibition features the spirit and stories of Chennai.

‘Refrain from lighting camphor in trains’

With the annual Sabarimala pilgrimage season seeing an increase in passenger traffic, the Chennai Division of the Southern Railway has requested Ayyappa devotees avoid lighting camphor on trains or at railway station premises.

Lighting camphor inside coaches poses a serious fire hazard, as even a small flame can ignite baggage or fittings, creating dangerous situations in the confined environment of a train, a release from the railways stated.

Violations may result in penalties under the relevant provisions of the Railway Act, the release said.

The Railway Protection Force teams are maintaining enhanced



An illustration shared by the Southern Railway.

vigilance inside trains to prevent unsafe practices. Escort teams have been deployed in select ser-

vices to ensure compliance with safety regulations and assist passengers.

Agni college signs pact for an AI center

Agni College of Technology in Thalambur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MiPhi Semiconductors Private Limited to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence and Semiconductor Technologies on its campus. The collaboration includes the development of a 30-seat MiPhi Operations Center and a cutting-edge AI Laboratory, providing students and faculty with opportunities for advanced research, long-term internships, placements, and exposure to industry-focused projects, said a release.

Prasad Balakrishnan, chief executive officer of MiPhi Semiconductor Private Limited, stated that this partnership provides a strong talent pipeline and supports the development of highly skilled engineers trained in real-world AI and semiconductor applications, which are critical to India’s growing technological ecosystem. “The CoE will strive to attract students, research collaborators, and the community by enhancing our dedication to forward-looking engineering education.” The initiative aims to enhance students’ technical competencies and open new avenues for research and innovation, the release added.

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Photo used for representational purpose only.

Workshop on opportunities in solar energy sector

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME, is conducting a training programme on installation of solar power system from December 9 to 11 at its premises on EDII Office Roa, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the following concepts will be covered: introduction to solar ener-

gy, entrepreneurial opportunities in solar energy sector, business models in this sector, relevant computer software, financial planning, government regulations and subsidy schemes.

Those above 18 years of age and who have completed class 10 can take part. The institute offers hostel facility for the participants on first come, first serve basis. For details, call 8668102600.



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Gold appraisal training

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is organising a workshop on gold appraisal from December 15 to 19 at its premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate in Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session covers the following: concepts in metallurgy with focus on gold and silver, difference between karat and carat, methods for calculating gold purity, and jewel loan assessment procedures.

Hands-on training in jewellery making is also part of the programme. Hall-marking procedures and standards will be covered.

The programme aims to prepare the participants to set up an enterprise in gem and jewellery sector. Further, they will find part-time job opportunities in banks as gold assayer, adds the press release.

Those aged 18 years and above with a minimum qualification of class 10 can apply. Hostel facility is available at first-come, first-served basis. Prior registration is mandatory.

For details, call 9360221280 / 98401 14680.

Music contest held

Nalaiya Sigarantal, a centre for music based in Adambakkam, conducted a music competition recently at RKM Boys' School, Dhandapani Street in T.Nagar. According to press release, the event witnessed 50 contestants. The centre can be reached at 9444421264.



Hospital raises fund to support underprivileged families



Dr. Mehta's Hospitals raised a fund of ₹15 lakh by organising a musical event called Early Birds which was held recently at Vani Mahal, T. Nagar.

According to a press release, the event was held to observe World Prematurity Day 2025. The aim of the annual event is to

raise awareness on preterm birth and mobilise financial support for underprivileged families requiring advanced neonatal intensive care. Each year, the fund enables around seven premature infants to complete their NICU treatment at Dr. Mehta's Hospitals, adds the release.

Session on women empowerment

Rotary Club of Silk City and Udayan, a non-governmental organisation conducted a programme on women empowerment programme at Kesari Higher Secondary School in T Nagar.

According to a press release, around 250 students from various colleges and their parents participated. The session focussed on setting up an enterprise and various government schemes aimed at helping entrepreneurs. Also, the essential features of POCSO Act and POSH Act were explained, adds the release.



Awareness session on AIDS

In observance of World AIDS Awareness Day, Rotary Club of Chennai Port City organised an awareness programme at Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Burkit Road, T Nagar.

According to a press release, the session focussed on the cause and prevention of AIDS. Around 250 students took part.



Workshop on mushroom cultivation

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on mushroom cultivation on December 11. Another workshop on making camphor and incense sticks will be held on December 12. The sessions will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. Prior registration is required. For details, call 044 - 29530048



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