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PUTTING C&D WASTE IN ITS PLACE

Greater Chennai Corporation's new guidelines for managing construction and demolition waste comes into effect on April 21 **P4**



'TRAVEL' ON THESE MINI TRAINS

To celebrate World Heritage Day, Chennai Rail Museum in Villivakkam will play host to collectors and designers of scale-model trains and railroads from April 25 to 27 **P6**



'Say No to Plastic Bags' drive launched in RA Puram

Vendors outside the temple are provided with paper bags; devotees are urged to bring cloth bags

GANGA SRIDHAR

EcoKonnector Trust together with Raja Anna-malaipuram Residents Association (RAPRA) launched the "Say No To Plastic" campaign at the Sidhhi Buddhi Vinayakar temple in RA Puram recently.

Dr. Chandrashekhar and Ravi Kumar of RAPRA started the campaign by meeting the devotees outside the temple and requesting them to avoid accepting plastic bags for *archanai* and to bring their cloth bags.

The team from EcoKonnector trust KL Bala Balasubramanian, Sumithra and Ganga Sridhar met the

vendors outside the temple and created the awareness.

At the launch of the campaign, paper bags made by students of V-excel sponsored by RAPRA were distributed to the vendors to use instead of plastic bags with a humble request to devotees to bring their own bags when coming to the temple henceforth.

EcoKonnector also requests the temple management to whole-heartedly support this eco-friendly initiative by helping spread the message through posters and an advisory to the devotees visiting the temple.

All are requested to join the campaign and spread the message to a wider audience and motivate

people to bring their own bags when visiting their regular place of worship.

The ideal solution to this would be strong enforcement from Greater Chennai Corporation to stop the use of thin plastic bags by the vendors and stopping the manufacture of thin plastic products.

Meanwhile, public awareness is to be raised by such community initiatives so that they can avoid the use of plastic bags out of their own will.

Each plastic bag avoided is one step towards a safer and cleaner Earth.

(*Ganga Sridhar is a member of Mandaveli Raja Street Welfare Association*)



During the campaign. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earth Day fete next Sunday in Mandaveli

RK Nagar and EcoKonnector are celebrating International Earth Week on 27 April at OSR park, RK Nagar in Mandaveli (behind Raga Malika Apartment). The programme will unspool from 4.30 p.m. onwards. The bill of fare includes two workshops, one by Munnetram Trust on 'Bio-enzyme, Perfume Sachet and Sambrani making' and the other by Bisleri CSR on 'Plastic Recycling'.

A Greening Activity will be organised for participants. The programme would conclude with an awards presentation programme. Awards will be given on three categories: EK - Driving Forces, EK - HelpHER Energisers and Eco Warriors.

In situ composting having been integrated into the workaday life of this apartment community, it generates 100-150 kilos of compost every month



Snapshots of awareness drives at the community over the years.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"A section of residents complained about foul smell from the set-up and our analysis found that a certain kind of dung contributed to it. So we switched to native cow dung which made a big difference. We get this from Vriksha in RA Puram who has a few native cows at her home," says Usha, a member of Solid Waste Management Group of Chennai.

When the composting initiatives of many apartment complexes took a hiatus during the pandemic, Grayshott Apartment took a break by only for a couple of months.

Today the community has integrated *in situ* composting into its workaday life and it generates 100-150 kilos of compost every month, which is used for the garden needs of the society. The surplus is given to neighbouring apartments and those who seek compost.

Since the new committee took over, the compost tank has received a facelift. It was moved to a corner with design suggestions given by the GoGreen team.

"We also took the feedback of the housekeeping staff as they were the people responsible for managing the yard," says Rakesh Keswani, secretary, Greyshott Owners Association.

How does the society ensure compliance from every stakeholder in the community?

"We are planning awareness campaigns involving children. Many young mothers have been active and we are sure to get their support as well," says Rakesh.

Besides dry waste, the committee has also initiated e-waste collection. "The bins are located near the security gates and we have also asked the guards to make sure the house maids drop them in the correct bin," adds Rakesh.

The green team acknowledges the guidance of P. Natarajan of Namma Ooru Foundation, Balasubramanian of Thiruvengadam Street and Chandrasekhar of Greyshott.

Major K.S. Mani, former president, says water conservation and waste management are a few challenges that apartment communities face and when residents come together to find solutions in the early stages it sets the ball rolling for other initiatives as well. "With the help of the Rain Centre we dug two open wells, which is a big boon for the community as it supplements the supply from the Metrowater. We do not buy water anymore," says Major Mani, acknowledging the support he received from residents.

From waste to compost: Community in Bishop Garden shows the way

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Here is an apartment that has taken a leaf out of other communities but adapted to suit its reality. That is the inspiring composting journey of Grayshott Apartment at Bishop Garden Extension in Raja Annamalai Puram. For close to a year, a group of green enthusiasts in this 110-flat society were studying different composting systems followed by other communities that had set benchmarks in this area.

"We visited Jains Saagarika in MRC Nagar, Ashiana Apartments in Venus Colony, Ceebros Boulevard in Thoraipakkam, Thiruvengadam Street in Mandaveli and IIT-Madras to study different models to finally settle for cement tank composting, which was both sustainable and economical," says Usha Kumar, an active member of GoGreen, the group started in 2017 that drives environment-friendly initiatives in the apartment.

While a small group of residents studied the pros and cons in vermicomposting, khamba composter and aerobic digester, they also started composting the waste generated from their kitchens in their homes.

"We started experimenting in our balconies. For instance, I bought a MyGreen bin to gain a firsthand experience of composting," says Usha.



Empowering housekeeping staff

While many communities insist on "two bin, one bag" waste segregation, Greyshott started by going for two-bin method: one for dry and another for wet waste. "This was based on feedback from housekeeping staff that having more bins added to the confusion and there was less compliance from residents," says Usha.

To incentivise the housekeeping staff who manage the compost yard, the money earned by selling non-biodegradable waste is given to them.

"More than Rs. 4000 is earned every month selling recyclables; the housekeeping staff share the amount among themselves," says Usha.

In 2019, the community spent ₹60,000 to invest in a cement tank, partitioned into four layers to accommodate bio-degradable waste with cow dung as the microbe.

The kitchen waste is dumped in the compost pit with thin layers of

cow dung and neem leaves on top. This process was repeated till the pit was filled up to three fourths of its capacity. After 45 days, they got compost, which was sieved to get fine "black gold".

The composting journey was not without its initial hiccups.



PANORAMA

READERS WRITE

A challenge to motorists



The pipeline work, which has remained incomplete for over a fortnight, has left Thiruvengadam Street and a part of Devanathan Street in a mess. Since this area is the entry point of Devanathan Street and is used in large numbers by motorists. The area was slushy following the April 16 downpour. TEXT AND PHOTOS: BASKAR SESHADRI

'Kannagi Statue subway is prone to inundation'



On April 16, following a brisk evening walk at the Marina beach, I was trying to loosen up tarrying for a while by the side of Kamarajar Salai at the point where Kannagi Statue is located. A policeman approached me and ordered me off the place as the CM's convoy was all set to pass by.

I decided to get to the other side using the subway. And I noticed the subway was waterlogged on account of the showers earlier that day. One had to wade through water.

The blocks in the drain need to be removed to ensure free movement of water. This photo was taken around 6 p.m. on April 16.

C. R. Sainathan,
Tiruvallikeni

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 postal address and contact number.

New academy in Mylapore to make chess accessible to all

The Clarke School for the Deaf will be training students in the 64-square game

TARUN SHASTRY

There is no higher calling than living a life rooted in empathy and a commitment to serving humanity. And true impact is made possible by a constant effort to uplift lives, especially those of individuals facing disabilities and challenges even in the mundane, everyday aspects of life.

The Clarke School for the Deaf in Mylapore is living this ideal.

Founded in 1970 by P. Leelavathy and S.K. Nagarajan, the school has spent the last 55 years not only serving individuals with hearing impairment and other disabilities, but also empowering them to lead fulfilling and successful lives.

The school recently celebrated Dr. Nagarajan's 97th birth anniversary with a special workshop on "Adapted Sports for Persons with Disabilities", emphasising



From (L to R) S. Ramakrishnan, managing director, Sports Mechanics India Pvt Ltd; Swaminathan, FIDE-rated Chess Player, and S.N. Srikanth, honorary secretary, The Clarke School along with the other dignitaries at the launch of the Clarke Chess Academy.

the role of sports in promoting wellness and employability.

The event also marked the launch of the Clarke Chess Academy, led by FIDE-rated chess champion N. Swaminathan and Deaflympics Tennis Gold Medalist Prithvi Sekhar.

Honorary secretary N. Srikanth spoke about carrying the legacy forward, "My parents founded this school with the mission of providing education to children with special needs. Their vision was to ensure these chil-

dren receive the same opportunities as their able-bodied peers. What began as a school for the deaf has now grown to include children with various disabilities."

"To pay a meaningful tribute to my father on his birth anniversary, we decided to focus on sports. Sports promote both physical wellness and career opportunities. Our goal is to highlight this to our children. Two of our own are shining examples: Swaminathan, a FIDE-rated chess

player with hearing impairment, is also an HR Manager at Coal India; and Prithvi Sekhar, a tennis gold medallist in the Deaflympics."

The Chess Academy will function on the school premises. "Chess, being a mind game, enhances cognitive abilities and concentration. Chennai has become the chess capital of India, home to a world champion, and we want our children to benefit from this momentum," says Srikanth.

The motto of the centre is

"Training for All Children." "We welcome children with all types of disabilities. We invite anyone interested to come to our school and train under qualified coaches. This is our mission—to provide equal opportunity, wellness, and success through education and sports," said Srikanth.

The Clarke Chess Academy will initially conduct evening classes at Clarke School with plans to expand into a full-fledged training centre. For details, call 9150334888.

Greater Chennai Corporation's new guidelines for managing construction and demolition waste comes into effect on April 21. Here are the salient features



Putting C&D waste in its place

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

From April 21, Greater Chennai Corporation will levy a fine of ₹ 5000 if one is found dumping construction and demolition waste on streets, pavements, drains, public spaces, vacant sites or any other unauthorised location.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste includes debris and rubble resulting from construction, re-modeling, repair and demolition operations. Steel, aluminium, wood and other components cur-

rently being salvaged for reuse or recycling are not included in this category.

GCC in its revised guidelines insists that "occupiers" generating small quantities of C&D waste during repair or minor renovation shall keep the waste within their own premises until collection by their own means or by GCC-authorised C&D waste transporters or empanelled vendors or lorry owners authorised by GCC to collect waste from door steps.

The occupiers can contact GCC's website for hiring services of

the C&D waste transporters or empanelled vendors or the authorised concessionaires and pay necessary collection and transportation charges to transporters and pay for processing fee, says the note.

What kind of a generator are you and where should you dump C&D waste?

Anyone generating less than 1 MT of waste generate from minor house repairs comes under the category of "micro generators". This waste can be disposed of in earmarked dumping sites or one can call GCC's toll free number 1913 for

a pick-up.

Those generating C&D waste during building renovation, remodelling or repairing where the total weight is more than 1 MT and less than 20 MT per day comes under "Small Generators". The two processing centres that will be taking such waste are at the dumpyards at Perungudi and Kodungaiyur.

A receipt has to be obtained for disposal from the transport service provider or the gate office of the disposal site where C&D waste is disposed of by the micro generators.

C&D waste collection centres in GCC limits

Zone 1 - Buckingham Canal Road, Sathangadu, Thiruvottiyur (Adjacent to lorry station, Zone-1)

Zone 2 - Kamaraj Salai (Near zonal office)

Zone 3 -CMDA Truck Terminal near Night Shelter (Behind Madhavaram Bus Terminus)

Zone 4 -Kodungaiyur Dumping ground, Tondiarpet High Road (3rd gate)

Zone 5 and 6 -Part of old Cattle depot, Avadhanam Pappier Road, Choolai (opposite Corporation School)

Zone 7 -Vanagaram Road, Athipet dumping yard

Zone 8 -1st Main Road, Shenoy Nagar (Near Gajalakshmi Colony)

Zone 9 -Lloyds Colony (Near Corporation ITI Institute)

Zone 10 -Gurusiva Street, S.M Block, Jafferkhanpet, Kodambakkam (near R-10 MGR Nagar Police Station)

Zone 11 -Nolambur Phase II, 2nd main road (near Madhuravoyal Taluk office)

Zone 12 -Nandambakkam TPF near Adyar river bund in Division 158

Zone 13 -Arulampatti 2nd street (near SIDCO Electronics commercial complex)

Zone 14 -200 Ft Radial Road, Perungudi Dumping Ground

Zone 15 -Gangaiamman Kovil Street Extension, Karapakkam (near Tamil Nadu Teacher Education University)

Spotting an opportunity in the debris

LIFFY THOMAS

What becomes of the construction and demolition (C&D) waste dumped at the dumpyards in Perungudi and Kodungaiyur? They make a major source for C&D recycling companies, even for non-profits that are into constructing affordable houses.

In February 2024, Habitat for Humanity, a global non-profit organisation with an office at IIT-M Research Park, constructed a multi-purpose hall at a village school in Kancheepuram using C&D waste.

"We followed benchmarks and standards set by Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council of India. We used M-sand

along with C&D waste to make the concrete mix. The sand was first tested to make blocks out of it. Both the blocks and the concrete went into the construction of a multi-purpose hall within the school," says Deepak Visvanathan, senior technical advisor, Habitat for Humanity.

The company builds affordable homes and works with start-ups to see how this engineering technology can be promoted to construct resource and energy-efficient buildings.

C&D waste for the hall was sourced from the Perungudi dumpyard. "We have partnered with Greater Chennai Corporation to explore other products that can be made with such waste," says Visvanathan adding that they have also been conduct-

ing round tables to educate people about recycling C&D waste.

In various cities, experimental projects to rebuild homes for the underprivileged using construction debris and used materials have been taken up.

Surender Singh, associate professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras, says they have been working with government bodies to encourage use of different C&D waste fractions in road construction, especially for the upper pavement layers.

"Three to five layers are applied while constructing concrete roads in highways. In most cases, the contractor uses C&D waste for the lower layer, which we call non-structural application," says the professor.

Earlier, the Bureau of Indian

Standards allowed the usage of C&D waste in construction by up to 25%.

"Our studies at IIT Madras show that even 100% recycled aggregates from waste concrete chunks could be used for constructing concrete roads without affecting their performance in a significant manner. Subsequently, they proposed to increase their usage limit to at least 50%; and roads constructed with such materials are sustainable," he says.

Researchers from IIT-Madras (professors Manu Santhanam, Ravindra Gettu, and Surender Singh) are currently working on an international project sponsored by the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre to show how C&D waste can be

used in making roads on expressways and national highways.

"The pilot study of this project will be implemented in Chennai and Ladakh. In Chennai, we plan to take up a test-section that is exposed to a lot of wear and tear due to the movement of vehicles," says the professor.

Despite such initiatives contributing to a circular economy, recycling C&D waste is still not seen as a viable business opportunity.

Surender Singh says the cost of procuring construction waste is high. Deepak Visvanathan feels governments must offer more incentives to encourage private companies to find opportunities in this sector. "There must be some motivation for a real estate company to buy this waste," says Visvanathan.

COMPOSTING



Local connections matter in sustainability

Greater Chennai Corporation's micro composting centre in Pudupet maintains a "cordial" relationship with its neighbours



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The micro composting centre at Veerabadran Street in Pudupet is on "amicable" terms with its neighbours and that is what keeps it going.

From the horse stables at the Mounted Police facility on nearby Adithanar Salai (also known as Harris Road), it receives horse dung, on an average, 200 kg every day. And its immediate neighbour, the Greater Chennai Corporation's cow shed (one meant for keeping impounded stray cattle) provides it with cow dung.

This Greater Chennai Corporation micro composting centre, run by the voluntary organisation Namma Ooru Foundation and reportedly established with CSR funding from IOCL Southern Pipes Region, successfully looks around its immediate surroundings for material to feed the machines ahead of the composting process.

P. Natarajan, founder of Namma Ooru Foundation, remarks that there is a profusion of tea shops, fresh fruit shops and fast food joints in this area, and the relevant refuse from these shops are taken in for composting.

"From 12 tea shops, we source tea powder waste. We get egg shells from the fast food shops and fruit waste from the fruit shops, coconut waste and sugarcane waste from vendors selling tender coconut and sugarcane juice – all from Harris Road and nearby areas."

With its thriving second-hand automobile spares market, this road bustles with movement of people and these shops thrive by catering to the floating population.

That is hardly an exhaustive list – there are other neighbours, only a



little removed in terms of geographical coordinates.

Natarajan notes that brown matter (garden waste) was being collected from WCC and DPI for two to three months; and as they are relatively further in distance, the switch was made to collecting the same from police quarters and police museum.

Green matter (vegetable waste) comes from a bunch of markets nearby: Pudupet market, Chinthathripet market, Zam bazaar market, Avai Shanmugam Salai market, Triplicane market and Fresh today supermarket.

Besides, apartments that want to manage their waste responsibly send their organic matter.

Natarajan says compost derived from various sources of organic matter is bound to have high nutrition.

He adds: "IIT Madras tests the compost produced at this micro composting centre and provides a report on the carbon nitrogen ratio and other nutrients in the compost. The compost is being sold to various districts of Tamil Nadu, including Thanjavur, Dindugal, Madurai, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur."



A tour of the processes at the micro composting centre in Pudupet.
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

'Travel' on these *mini trains*

To celebrate World Heritage Day, Chennai Rail Museum in Villivakkam will play host to collectors and designers of scale-model trains and railroads from April 25 to 27. On all three days, the event will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to some of the participants about this niche hobby

LIFFY THOMAS

An expensive hobby

For the first time, 72-year-old Sundaram Parthasarathi will be showcasing a running model of the Vande Bharat Express done to scale. An enthusiastic collector of train models, Sundaram is into this hobby for 35 years. Last year, he showcased the Chennai Metro Rail. A few years ago, Sterling Resorts commissioned a project, which he was on board; he partnered with another expert to design the Nilgiri Mountain Railway for one of their properties.

His railway exhibits are handmade. "I do not buy accessories such as signals and station buildings. I make them



myself," he says, adding that a few of the tracks are computerised.

His 20x10 feet, U-shaped room at his house in Abhiraj-

mapuram is his lab where he experiments with train scale models for hours.

During Navarathri, his train models are a showstopper. At

other times of the year, he welcomes schools to take a look at the railway exhibits.

A mechanical engineer by profession, Sundaram warmed up to the hobby during a visit to The United Kingdom.

"The company sent me to the U.K. in 1986 and that is when I seriously started collecting train models. During weekends, I used to buy second hand items," says Sundaram, who retired as special director from Ashok Leyland in 2013.

He agrees this is an "expensive hobby" but it is a special joy when you are in the company of 60 others (referring to the WhatsApp group with members spread across India and from a few other countries) exchanging notes on the finer aspects of this pursuit.

A lifetime pursuit



Technical but interesting". That is how K.R.S. Ganesan describes the model that he will be showcasing while takes this reporter on a virtual tour of his Ashok Nagar house to show what he is currently working on. The hall has been converted into a work station. The control system is in another room. Many other enabling items required to complete the exhibit are parked in other rooms.

The fully automated layout on a HO scale is being designed using Train-Controller software. "It is a totally hands free operation with automatic control. All scheduling and stops are set," says Ganesan, a civil engineer. He explains visitors will be shown how a slow train is stopped at a loop line and then a fast train overtakes it.

Due to limited space, the train enthusiast will be arranging his exhibit in a 24x8 space at the venue.

Although fascinated with trains from a young age, it was just before retirement that he got started with the hobby. "I had eight engines and 200 feet track in 2013," says Ganeshan, who retired as senior deputy general manager from L&T. Rolling stock like goods wagons and passenger coaches together added to more than 30 over the years.

"I am keen on designing operational layouts to show signals and time of start/stop functions and schedules using Train Controller software," he says.

In 2018, he completed a large layout in a hall of 40 x 15 incorporating several operational features using this software. Model railroading is an activity of constant improvement and learning. "A hobby that can last a lifetime," he adds.

On the right track

Seventy-year-old C.B. Malhotra, known as Shyam in this hobby circle, is undecided what he will be showcasing in the upcoming exhibition.

Last year was the first time Shyam took part in the Heritage Train Model Exhibition, though he is into this hobby for two decades.

"That sparkle in the eyes of children when they see our trains running is more satisfying than collecting models or running them," says the resident of George Town.

Shyam's love for train models started during his childhood. His father had the habit of getting him a gift after the final examination. "I would ask for a train," says Shyam.

Later, he saw a working model and the bug bit him. Shyam started the hobby in 1999 when he was in his 40s.

"When I got started on the hobby, I would go to second hand markets and that is where I came across a few people and that bond grew," he says the hobby is addictive, often leading to spend continuous hours on it.

For parents trying to wean their children from gadgets, he offers wise counsel: "Make sure you provide your children with exposure to as many hobbies as possible," says the businessman, adding that a childhood hobby could be good company and a small source of income as well.



Full steam ahead



The shrill whistle, the fuming boilers and the billowing plumes of steam. Never mind if you and your generation have not seen steam locomotive engines, Mahendra Kumar (who is from a generation that has) can recreate them for you.

"My dad used to take me to railway stations just for me to watch the engines and during one such outing, I got to see a steam engine," recalls Mahendra, a HR manager.

His fascination for trains was further fuelled during annual visits to the Island Grounds where the trade fair was organised and Integral Coach Factory had a

stall where they would showcase running train models.

Many years later in 2018, a trip to Darjeeling reignited this fascination. Since then, Mahendra has been collecting scale models. Today "HO" "Double O" and "G" scale models top his collection followed by a small number of "N" scale models.

At the exhibition, the Anna Nagar resident will be showcasing his collection of steam-based locomotives and train buses.

A member of HO Scale Collectors Group, the HR professional, who also has a collection of automobile models, says invitation to the group is only through reference.

PANORAMA

Chennai doctor in 'The Ophthalmologist Power List 2025'

D r. Soosan Jacob, director and chief of Dr. Agarwal's Refractive and Cornea Foundation, has again earned a spot in 'The Ophthalmologist Power List 2025'.

She is one of the three Indians to find a spot in the list, an annual ranking that celebrates pioneers in the field of ophthalmology. The list represents excellence, dedication, and innovation in ophthalmology, said a release.



years of experience, specialising in refractive surgery, cutting-edge keratoconus management, advanced corneal transplants, glaucoma, and complex cataracts, added the release.

Published by The Ophthalmologist, one of the leading and respected international journals in the field, the list honors experts who have made a significant impact on the field and earned recognition from peers worldwide.

She was included in the list in the years 2021, 2022, and 2024

Dr. Soosan Jacob has over 25

Workshop on restoring stained glass windows

A workshop on conservation and restoration of stained glass windows will be conducted by Hepzibah Institute of Heritage Conservation and Research Academy from May 1 to 15 at St. George's Cathedral Church, Cathedral Road.

The workshop will comprise theory and practical lessons connected with stained glass windows. Subjects such as

design and pattern creation, creating patterns, material selection and glass cutting techniques will be taught. Only 20 participants will be admitted for this free workshop, and selection will be on first come first serve basis; some preference will be given to those with a knowledge of heritage conservation. For details, WhatsApp 9381008253.

Free screening for Deep Brain Stimulation

Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation is organising a screening camp to check for eligibility for Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) on April 20; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Spoorthi Neuro and Spine Centre, Kasturba Nagar, Adyar. This surgery is beneficial for people affected by Parkinson's Disorder. The screening camp is free-of-cost, interested individuals should only WhatsApp 9600052531. Screening will be on appointment basis and registration is mandatory.

Oratorical competition conducted for college students

Tamil Nadu Minorities Commission, Chennai District, conducted an oratorical competition for college students at New College in Royapettah. The event was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Minister for Dairy Development Raj Kannappan. Special Guests including the chairman of the State Minorities Commission Joe Arun; State Coordinators Constantine Ravindran and J. Hajakani; and New College principal M. Asrar Sheriff took part. A total of 79 students from various arts and science colleges, law colleges, and teacher training institutes in Chennai District participated. The event was organised by Sulaiman, professor at New College and Chennai District Coordinator. Winners will receive prizes from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at a grand ceremony to be held in June, said a release.

Inviting nominations for Nursing Excellence Award

Ahead of International Nurses Day, observed on May 12 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, TwinTech Healthcare Academy invites nominations for the Nursing Excellence Award 2025.

This award seeks to recognise the dedication, compassion, and service of nursing professionals across government and private hospitals in Tamil Nadu who are at the forefront of patient care, said a release. To participate one should not have received this award in any of the previous editions, should have a minimum of 10 years of continuous experience in direct patient care and must be currently employed in a hospital (government or private) in Tamil Nadu.

Nomination forms and other details can be downloaded from www.chennaitwintech.com Alternatively, to receive the nomination link, send a WhatsApp message to: +91 97104 85295

List of air-conditioned EMU trains

On Saturday, the Chennai Division of the Southern Railway introduced six air-conditioned electric trains between Chennai Beach and Chengalpattu and vice versa.

Here is a list of air-conditioned train services and their timings.

Trains No: 49001 and 49002 will be operated from Chennai Beach to Tambaram and vice-versa.

Train No: 49001 will leave Beach at 19.35 p.m., and arrive at Tambaram at 20.30 p.m.

Train No: 49002 will leave Tambaram at 05.45 a.m., and arrive at the Beach at 06.45 a.m..

The trains will stop at Chennai Fort, Chennai Park, Chennai Egmore, Mambalam, Guindy, St. Thomas Mount, Tirusulam, Tambaram, Perungalathur, Guduvancherry, Potheri, Singapore-rumal Kovil, and Paranur.

Pallavaram, Chromepet, and Tambaram Sanatorium.

Train No: 49003, Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu will leave at 7 a.m., and reach Chengalpattu at 08.35 a.m..

Train No: 49004, Chengalpattu-Chennai Beach, will depart at 9 a.m. and arrive at Chennai Beach at 10.30 a.m.

Train No: 49005, Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu will leave at 15.45 p.m., and reach Chengalpattu at 17.25 p.m..

Train No : 49006, Chengalpattu - Chennai Beach will leave at 17.45 p.m., and reach Chennai Beach at 19.15 p.m.

The train will halt at Chennai Fort, Chennai Park, Chennai Egmore, Mambalam, Guindy, St. Thomas Mount, Tirusulam, Tambaram, Perungalathur, Guduvancherry, Potheri, Singapore-rumal Kovil, and Paranur.

For details, log on to <https://x.com/DrmChennai>

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Valluvar Kottam renovation: the final touches

Completion of embellishments on the arches at the three entrances is said to be around a week away; with that, the renovation would be complete, say PWD sources

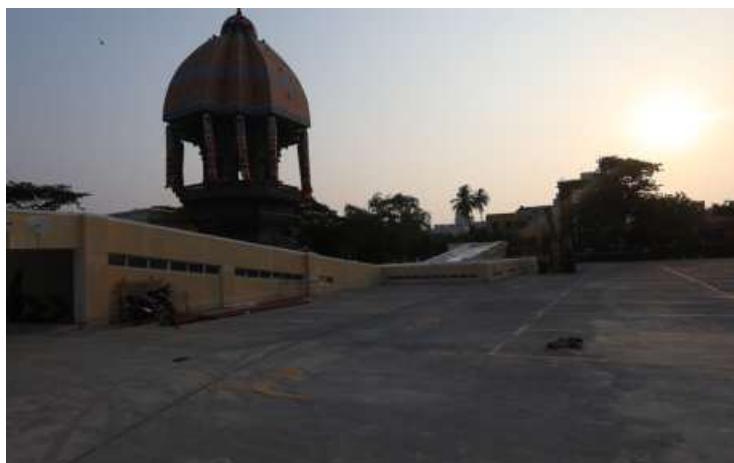
PRINCE FREDERICK

The wraps may not be off the Valluvar Kottam renovation yet, but the work has attained a level where the wraps cannot be kept clasped tight anymore.

The unveiling is not too far from the horizon; at the time of this writeup going to press, the work seemed set to be almost wrapped up, the finishing touches being rendered to it.

On April 18, 2025, painting of the compound wall, the one lining Valluvar Kottam High Road, was under way. And work on an entrance being on, a part of the renovation was exposed for the public gaze.

With backlighting, there was atmosphere to the scene. From Valluvar Kottam High Road, one gains a glimpse into what appears to be an expansive parking area, neatly concreted and marked. The car parking area is said to be able to accommodate 168 cars.



A glimpse into the renovation work on April 18, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

According to PWD sources connected with the work, an elaborate assignment to embellish the three entrances to Valluvar Kottam – on the eastern, western and southern sides – is on the last leg. Stapati works to beautify the three arches at the

entrances are nearing completion. They should finish running the course in a week's time, say PWD sources.

On the inauguration of the renovated monument, sources note that the date is yet to be marked, and PWD is in touch with the



Chief Minister's Office on this matter.

The public can expect some days to elapse before they can take in the features of the renovation. Until then, they can probably hope for sneak peeks, from Valluvar Kottam High Road.

Here is an observation based on a glimpse from this road: the look of the compound wall has gone up several notches, particularly since Michaud when part of it had crashed along with the steel fencing that cordoned off the garden lining it.

A 'longing' on Langs Garden Road



Langs Garden Road in Pudupet has a safe beginning; and also ends without any "incident", its name fully intact no typos creeping it and making it a spectacle. Only midway through its journey, it is mauled, leaving it hoping -- nay, "longing" -- that vinyl signboard printing services have a proof reader in the ranks. In the nameboard displayed at the midway point, the printed material -- which obviously has eluded the notice of the Greater Chennai Corporation team --

has substituted "Longs" for "Langs". In fact, even in the accepted name, a grammatical propriety has been missed. It should be Lang's Garden Road in the place of the widely used and officially sanctioned Langs Garden Road. The image was taken on April 16, 2025. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

When the stints find the spotlight



When the wintering season kicks in, the stints would be as inconspicuous as stars on a night sky pregnant with rain clouds. They would look toned-down and in wetlands such as the one at Perumbakkam and Kelambakkam, they would be shoved further into obscurity on account of their immediate company, having been outsized by other waders. At the tail-end of the season, when the attendance of migratory birds at these wetlands thins, they find their spotlight. Without the distractions, they are now more easily noticed. Besides, the washed-out look at the start of the season disappears in parts -- particularly on the mantle that takes on a russet hue. The picture shows a Temminck's stint at the Kelambakkam backwaters at a low-tide hour on April 18, 2025. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

New clothes distributed to celebrate Tamil New Year

Rajasthan Cosmo Club Foundation celebrated Tamil New Year and Maaveer Jayanti with a charitable initiative at Geetham Banquets on Mount Road. The event marked a significant milestone in the foundations ongoing philanthropic efforts under the New Clothes Scheme (NCS), with the distribution of over 4,000 new clothes to 60 deserving organisations, says press release.

The event was graced by V. Nandakumar IRS, Commissioner of Income Tax, who was the chief guest. He lauded the foundation's relentless commitment to social welfare. Amit Jain of MHJ Group, Chennai, the donor for the initiative, was present as guest of honour and expressed his heartfelt support for the cause, the release says.

The event was spearheaded by

Manish Kumar Chowdhari, president of Rajasthan Cosmo Club Foundation, along with key office bearers including Yashpal Gulechaa (managing trustee), Yogesh Surana (secretary), Surender Kothari (treasurer), and Praveen Kumar Darda (chairman, NCS).

The event was also joined by honorary trustees Shri Praveen Tatia and Shri Subash Ranka.

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