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Gasifier crematorium in Perumbakkam all set for inauguration



The new crematorium in Perumbakkam cannot be missed even when blindfolded. It is situated prominently on Semmozhi Salai (also known as Perumbakkam Main Road). The crematorium has a gasifier. Gasifier crematoriums filters carbon and sends out only smoke. According to the rule book, a crematorium should cater to people within a 15 km radius. Accordingly, it should serve people from certain sections of Tamabaram and OMR regions. The crematorium would be functioning from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. In 12 hours, nine to ten bodies can be cremated. The facility is expected to be opened for the public's use soon. Photos & text: R. Ravindran

## Checkpost ends garbage dumping



KK Salai Cross Street in Akkarai.  
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**O**n Kalaignar Karunanidhi Salai Cross Street in Akkarai, human habitation is weighted on one side – in fact, concentrated entirely on that side. The other side is marked by a sprawl of vacant land, which is sufficiently boggy to draw water birds, their presence strikingly evident during winter.

Even on the side marked by human activity, houses are more in the making than inhabited. A couple of addresses are “functional”; one of them pertains to a villa enclave. A patch on the vacant side was being used by Urbaser Summet, of course with the blessings of Greater Chennai Corporation, to let garbage cool its grubby feet between collection and disposal. Though the garbage was being swiftly carted away in trucks, fresh garbage would roll in promptly to fill the void. The resultant picture was one of grubbiness.

But that patch was freed of garbage. It ceased to be a garbage transit point.

“After persistent follow-up for a year, the garbage dumping stopped four months ago and the place cleaned up,” says Srikrishnan Venkatachari, a resident of Akkarai.

However, private parties were dumping garbage, particularly construction debris, under the cover of darkness on Kalaignar Karunanidhi Salai Cross Street. Besides, there was disturbing movements of outsiders. Thanks to a police-citizen initiative, the street now has a police booth and checkpost, one manned by personnel of J8 Neelangarai station. Ever since this measure was clamped in place, clandestine night-time dumping of garbage has stopped. GCC has installed lamp posts on the street. And street also has new bitumen-topped road.

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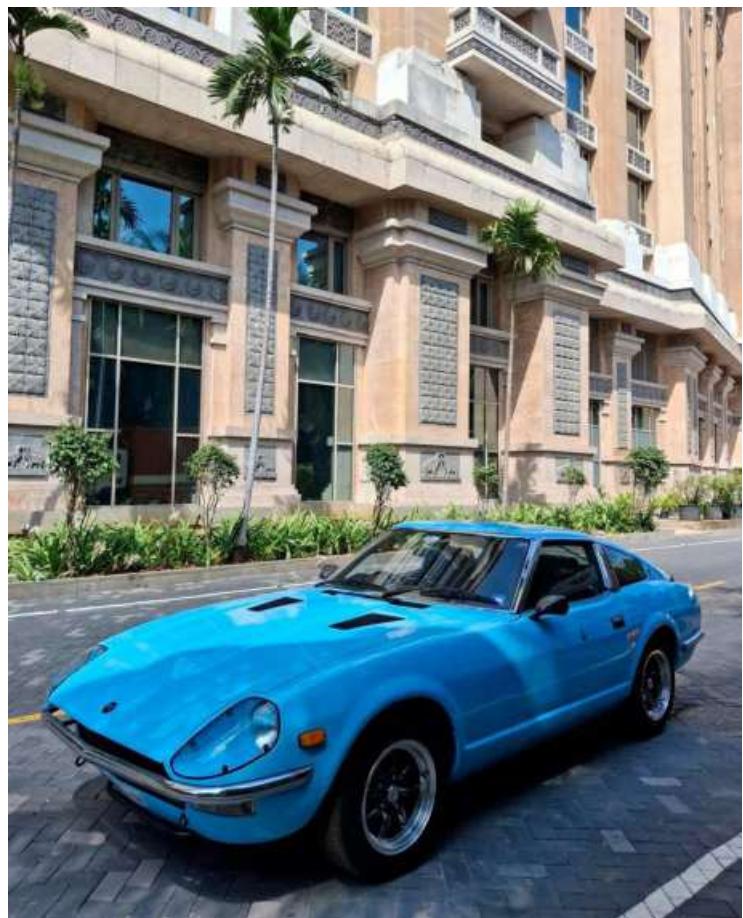
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Some of the cars that would be on display at Turyaa in Perungudi.  
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



## Heritage vehicle clubs show their mettle

Historical Cars Association of India has put up a grand stage in Chennai for illustrious collectors of vintage metal across India to display their precious possessions

**H**istorical Cars Association of India (HCAI) has laid out a grand platform in Chennai for heritage car clubs across India to show their mettle -- their precious metal on wheels -- in its glittering best.

This is the second event of the same magnitude being held in Chennai by HCAI.

The clubs that make common cause with HCAI by lending their lustre to the event are as follows: Madras Heritage Motoring Club; Vintage and Classic Cars of India, Mumbai; Eastern India Motor group; and Karnataka Vintage and CLASSIC Car Club. Eighty cars and 20 bikes and scooters are being lined up at various events in Chennai and finally beyond, in Puducherry, in this three-day event (February 1-3).

Among vehicles that are likely to have eyeballs rolling over them longer on account of their unique place in the heritage car firmament, wider popularity, immaculate restoration or all of these factors rolled into one, are: MG TD (nicknamed Lal Pari) owned by Damman Thakore. This car has been driven to notice, becoming known around the world for its singular trip around Europe on road.

This MG is known to be unfussy. No temper tantrums and willing to go the extra mile with just a gentle coaxing from a 14 inch spanner. Credit for Lal Pari being always road-



ready to go to its master for keeping an impeccable maintenance record.

This car would be among the other unique cars that will be held court at Turyaa hotel in Perungudi on OMR on February 2, 2025,

being there between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. for the public to view them in a show that will be opened by chief guest Arvind Swami, actor and entrepreneur.

Other unique cars on display include Chevrolet Fleetmaster, Rolls Royce Phantom III Landaulette, Datsun 240, Hudson, Alfa Romeo, 1979 Corvette C3, Morris Traveller (also called Morris Woody), Buick 8, Sunbeam Talbot, Peugeot 203, Ford Model A, Volkswagen Bus Beetle Ford Thunderbird and a variety of Jaguars. Bikes include Norton, Triumph, a range of Enfield models, BSA and Lambretta.

## A view from the window and a civic engagement

Two Class VIII students of The School - KFI study the Perumbakkam lake to assess its ecological health

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**D**uring their trips to and from school, two friends – Aadhiran N. A. and Caroline Zita Dias – would observe Asian Openbill storks around a section of Perumbakkam lake. They felt this species was dwindling in these parts. The two Class VIII students of The School KFI have witnessed the rain waters flood the localities around Perumbakkam lake. All these were good enough reasons for the two to take up a project that they presented at the recently concluded Children's Science Congress organised



Caroline Zita Dias and Aadhiran N. A. at the Perumbakkam lake.

by Tamil Nadu Science Forum and the Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

Under the theme "Water for sustainable management", they show

how ecological degradation is under way at the Perumbakkam lake and the socio-economic implications of this situation.

"During our field visits we col-

lected samples of the water and gave it to a lab and found out it was extremely polluted," say the two classmates who go on wetland tours.

To understand the socio-economic challenges, the two had the task of convincing families residing in the Perumbakkam settlement to talk about the struggles they face including the health-related concerns due to poor sanitation.

Started by the observations in their study, the two wrote a letter to the Chengalpattu Collector S.Arunraj suggesting that steps be taken to conserve the waterbody. This also includes taking action on illegal encroachments around the lake and penalising those not following Solid Waste Management Rules.

"We were also asked to send the project to the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board that oversees the settlement," says Aadhiran.

"We plan to present their findings to the member of parliament. We are a 14-member group in Class VIII called Blue Brigade and we will be creating awareness through art at the Perumbakkam housing board," says Caroline, adding that social media is another tool they will harness for the lake to get justice.

### A nesting Black kite

Grace has various facets to it, unhurried ease being among them. On the 22 yards, David Gower epitomised it, bringing a silken smoothness to strokeplay, even to slog-over pummeling. In the skies, the Black kite represents grace with its fluid glides, effortless change of direction. At the Marina, the Black kite flaunts its flying abilities. Even the crows that heckle them are impelled to do an impression of the Black kite's flowing flight. Watch closely, you would catch a few members of Corvus splendens attempting glides, revealing an unconscious admiration for the Black kite's flying skills.

When anyone has a hearth to defend, little ones to take care of, they can act out of character if the situation demands it. They would embrace effrontery, abandoning grace, if that would keep their homestead chirping peacefully.

On Perumbakkam Main Road, around two pylons by the side of a canal that begins a journey to



Okkiyam maduvu, Black kites occasionally speed up their flight. They have nests to defend. These are Black kites whose calling cards indicate locations in Chennai unlike a vast section of Black kites that head to Chennai from western India escaping the South West monsoon, and return home when that monsoon is past. These resident black kites build nests and raise their young in Chennai. The images show a Black kite carrying what looks like a small stone to its nest on a pylon on Perumbakkam Main Road. Raptors are known to build nests that are rugged — to put it mildly — building them with material that hardly mesh with the notion of cushioning. In characteristic style, this Black kite nest has rusty metal wires and a range of other hard objects. This Black kite was doing hurried sorties around the pylon holding its nest before settling in adding the new piece — likely a stone — to the nest bed and then sitting squat on the nest, probably incubating eggs.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



# CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 2, 2025  
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## Float festival in Mylapore ends today

**P**rocession of the utsavar deities of Sri Adhi Kesava Perumal, Andal and Peyazhwar were taken in the four Madaveethis of Sri Adhi Kesava Perumal Peyazhwar Devasthanam temple and were kept in the float car decorated by lights and flowers at the Chitrakulam. The trees and walls around Chitrakulam were decorated with lights and resultant look was delectable. Theppotsavam festival is held for five days, from January 29 to February 2.



On all these five days, the procession would start by 6.30 pm and reach the float by 8 pm. The float does three rounds around Chitrakulam and the deity is taken again in a procession to the *sanctum sanctorum* of the temple.

--Photos and text: M. Srinath



## A creative excursion for students



PHOTOS: RAGU R



**C**hennai Photo Biennale 4 at Egmore Museum provides a creative excursion for school students of all ages. Students will have the chance to see children's photography from around the world, says a press release from Chennai Photo Biennale.

Here is how they can experience it, choosing between two options.

(A) Get in touch with CPB to schedule a guided tour with activities and trails. (B) Drop in and see the exhibition from Monday to Sunday (except for Fridays) between 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

CPB art mediators are always present to make the experience engaging for all ages, says the release. Call Uday 9566066111 or Gayatri 9940046599 for details.

# EVENTS

## Free medical camps to create awareness about cancer

As part of World Cancer Day, Sringeri Sharada Equitas Hospital at Gowrivakkam will conduct a series of free medical camps at different venues. Screening for cancer will also be conducted for those who require. Camps will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Medavakkam Ruby Elite gated community on February 8; at Vyasarpadi on February 21 and at Ambattur on February 22.

Cancer awareness talks, camps and other activities will be conducted at DAV School in Pallikaranai on February 4; Madras Christian College on February 13 and at Venkateshwara Homeo College in Porur on February 18. These awareness activities and camps are intended at creating awareness among the public, emphasising the importance of identifying cancer at an early stage, said a press release.

Sringeri Sharada Equitas Hospital in Gowrivakkam is a 100-bed not-for-profit hospital inaugurated in 2023 that aims to provide affordable cancer care to patients from weaker sections of society. The hospital has been built and is operated as a joint initiative of Equitas Healthcare Foundation, an arm of Equitas Small Finance Bank's CSR programme and Sringeri Sri Sharada Math. For details, call 9841361018.

## Salute to Mothers programme held



Sri Krishna Sweets recently organised the 14th edition of Salute to Mothers programme at Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai. In this programme 14 celebrated Mothers were honoured. A snapshot of the programme in which Vasanthi Rajendran, mother of G.R. Ananthapadmanabhan and G.R. Radhakrishnan, managing directors of GRT Groups was honoured by writer Sivasankari. Also in the picture are M.Murali, MD of Sri Krishna Sweets and industrialist Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetti.

## Graduation ceremony held

Seventy-five Bachelor of Dental Surgery and 28 Master of Dental Surgery students of Sree Balaji Dental College and Hospital received their degrees recently at the 31st graduation ceremony.

Besides, three university toppers were felicitated for their achievements.

The chief guest was Puneet Batra, PRO vice-chancellor Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies.

Puneet Batra said, "The students have the knowledge, skill and determination to make an impact in their field. I encourage them to continue learning, innovating, and serving with compassion and integrity".

Dr. J. Srinisha, chairperson of Sree Balaji Group of Medical College and Hospital, urged the students to positively impact the lives of others and use their knowledge and skills to create a brighter future for themselves and for generations to come.

The ceremony was presided over by J. Srinisha and ER. N. Elamaran, managing director of the college.



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## Inter-collegiate festival

The School of Commerce of Guru Nanak College, Velachery, organised an inter-collegiate fest called Zynora -25. According to a press release, 1,300 students from 55 colleges took part in the two-day event.

The overall trophy was bagged by Loyola College. Ethiraj College for Women was the runner-up, adds the press release.

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## Celebration time for old Bedeans

The Old Bedeans Association, the alumni of St. Bedes Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Santhome celebrated 100 years since the formation of its Old Boys Association in 1924-1925.

The occasion was marked with grandeur the school prestigious Centenary Auditorium. The chief guest for the occasion was one of its own Old Bedean

(1970 Batch) Antony Lobo, Honorary Consul General of the Kingdom of Spain and the Head of Consulate in Chennai.

Justice Mohammed Shafiq (Madras High Court), Dr. Edwin Fernando (Stanley Hospital), Dr. K.P. Kosygan (Apollo Hospital), Dr. K. Ganapathy (Retd Apollo Hospital) and actor George Anthony (all old Bedeans) were present.

The national president of

the Past Pupils of Don Bosco School J. Satish, the Province Delegate Rev. Fr. K.J. Arulraj, Province President, Secretary and committee Members, the Presidents of the Don Bosco Schools in Chennai also graced the occasion.

The occasion was blessed with the presence of the former Rectors, Headmasters, Asst. Headmasters, Teaching and non-Teaching staff, the present

staff of the institution and over 700 old boys from all parts of India, USA, Australia, Malaysia, Germany, Canada, UK, Philippines, Singapore.

Rev. Fr. D.J. Sagayaraj (Rector and Correspondent), Rev. Fr. Y.L. Irudayaraj (Headmaster), V. Kumaresan (President, OBA) and his team deserve a special word of appreciation for organising the same, the press release adds.



### Laundry startup uses plant-based chemicals

99 Mins Wash & Dry, a start-up in laundry industry, aims to promote eco-friendly practices. According to a press release, the firm uses plant-based chemicals. It offers a 99-minute wash and dry service.

Its outlet is at First Main Road, Adyar. For details, call 9176900098

### Humour club to meet today

Besant Nagar Humour Club is conducting its meet on February 2 at Sea View Apartments' (HB) Owners' Welfare Association Hall, First Seaward Road, Thiruvamalai-nur. Time: At 5 p.m.

According to a press release, artist C.V. Chandramohan is the chief guest.

### CMRL stops issuing monthly parking passes

In view of the increasing demand for parking space at metro stations, CMRL has decided to discontinue issuing monthly parking passes for vehicles with effect from February 1, 2025. The parking spaces are available to commuters on a first-come, first-serve basis at all metro stations. The monthly parking passes purchased in January shall be permitted until their validity expires. From April 1, CMRL plans to completely switch to the Signara Chennai Card - National Common Mobility Card issued by the State Bank of India, said a release. In the first phase, it is planned to discontinue the sale and top-up of travel cards at New Washermanpet, Kaladipet, Tiruvottiyur Theradi, Tiruvottiyur, Nandanam, Little Mount, Officers' Training Academy - Nanganallur Road, Meenambakkam, Egmore, Kilpauk and Shenoy Nagar.

#### CMRL dispenses with tourist card

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) tourist cards (one-day and 30-day) will no longer be available. Commuters can travel using other ticketing options, digital tickets, QR code-based tickets, single journey tokens, and the National Common Mobility Card, which has now been integrated with MTC buses for a seamless travel experience.

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