

T. NAGAR

Saidapet » West Mambalam » Vadapalani » Porur » Kattupakkam » Irungattukottai » Nungambakkam » Manapakkam » Ashok Nagar » Valasaravakkam  
Gerugambakkam » Mangadu » Choolaimedu » Egmore » K K Nagar » Kodambakkam » Virugambakkam » Somangalam » Poonamallee » Chetpet

## READERS WRITE

### 'SWD near Vangaram toll gate should be closed'



R. MURUGESAN

**T**he stormwater drain in the service lane of Perungalathur - Puzhal Chennai Bypass, near Vangaram toll gate (also known as Porur toll gate) is open. Considering road users' safety, the drain should be closed.

Ever since Kilambakkam bus terminus commenced operations in December 2023, the section of Perungalathur-Puzhal Chennai Bypass at Vangaram toll gate has become a boarding and alighting point for passengers of private bus-



PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

es. As a result, this section draws a good number of taxis and autorickshaws. Eventually, the service lane also witnesses heavy traffic. Pedestrians find it unsafe to walk along the service lane. Further, the number of lights along the service lane

is inadequate.

Parking of autorickshaws near the toll gate adds to the traffic chaos. Driving on the wrong side of the road is also rampant here.

It should be noted that once metro railway services at the bypass

junction gets operational, traffic congestion will worsen. Hence appropriate measures should be taken now to ensure order and discipline near the Porur toll gate.

*R. Murugesan is a resident of Porur*

### 'GCC should restore garbage bins'

The two garbage bins at Rangan Street off Rameswaram Road in T Nagar were removed recently. And that spot occupied by the bins have now been encroached upon. The removal of the garbage bins has put residents to great inconvenience; Greater Chennai Corporation should restore them to the spot.

*Aswin Kumar Kasinathan, president, Rameswaram Road Residents Association, T Nagar*



### 'Pedestrian space usurped'

A section of the footpath, near BBC apartment, on K.K. Salai in Saligramam, is completely encroached upon. It is a bus route road. Considering the safety of pedestrians, Greater Chennai Corporation should take appropriate measures against the encroachments.

*N.S. Ramachandran, treasurer, Kaveri Rangan Nagar Residents Welfare Association, Saligramam.*



### Choked with water hyacinth

Due to an accumulation of water hyacinth, water flow in the Manapakkam section of the Adyar river is sluggish. Water hyacinth thrives in waterways plagued by sewage inflows. Manapakkam residents want the Water Resources Department to not only remove water hyacinth from this section but also plastic waste. Plastics have massed up in these waters due to years of dumping, done with impunity. Greater Chennai Corporation, which undertakes water hyacinth removal work even in waterways not under its watch keeping civic wellness in mind, could also chip in, bringing its amphibian vehicles into the picture.

*Photos & Text: Raghunathan S.R.*

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As single-use plastics abound despite laws to check their manufacture, sale and use, one need not look far for an excuse to persist with them. Look sideways at the next shop or the next door, and there it is, the excuse plonked in a hideous plastic cover. Flower seller Jagadeesh, caterer Sasikala and a resident of Chromepet Radhika Premkumar avoided taking that convenient sideward glance. They instead looked straight at what ought to be done

# Three mascots for Plastic Free July

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

In a world where every personal plan and public policy clicked neatly into its intended place, Plastic Free July would be a superfluous. But with laws to eliminate single-use plastics having the biting force of the Etruscan pygmy shrew with its almost-invisible teeth, this awareness month is a necessity in our world. It challenges people to avoid banned plastics and minimise the use of legal and unavoidable plastics, to start with, for a month. These three individuals did not need the prodding of a Plastic Free July to free themselves from the entanglements of single-use plastics. They simply emerged as tiny pockets of resistance in a vast landscape of capitulation. Here are their stories.

## Flowers wrapped in a cause

In Adambakkam, Jagadeesh plies his trade near Sri Subramaniya Swamy Temple on Brindavan Nagar Main Road. From a shop that can be slipped into a vest-pocket, he sells flowers, making a quiet but firm statement – no plastic covers, only paper wrapping and paper bags. For the past 2.5 years, the 56-year-old has wrapped every garland and bunch of flowers in newspapers, refusing to use plastic covers. He stands his ground when a customer would wince at the sight of flowers being wrapped in paper.

"I will give only paper. If you do not like it, no problem, you can leave" – that is Jagadeesh's response to any complaint from a customer.



Jagadeesh at work in his shop in Adambakkam.

He developed a distaste for plastic covers during the monsoon three years ago. Following a cloudburst, plastic covers had clogged the drains, resulting in a flooded street. Jagadeesh stepped out and cleared the plastic waste himself. "People laughed at me, but I knew I had to do something," he says.

Since then, plastic covers have been an anathema: he made them unwelcome where he could without anybody's permission – that is, in his shop. Unlike many others who choose to use old newspapers, Jagadeesh buys 40-50 fresh papers every week from a nearby shop to make clean paper bags. "Flowers are meant for puja. They should be

clean. How can I give something sacred in a dirty paper?" he asks.

For customers buying a bunch of garlands, he neatly packs them in white gunny bags.

Jagadeesh's daily sales is in the range of ₹900-1000, with flowers priced modestly between ₹20-30. He does not seem to attach an undue value to profits. Other things matter just as much, if not more. "One out of every 100 customers would get irritated, but most people appreciate it. Some bring their own jute bags now, and I am happy about that," he says.

Jagadeesh also gently explains to customers the harm plastic causes. He notes: "It is not just about business. We all have to take responsibility at some point in our lives."



## 'No plastic zone' in a residential pocket

**R**adhika Premkumar from Khivraj Mansarovar Second Street in Chromepet lets her life be steered by a sustainability philosophy. Trained in commerce through collegiate education, Radhika once had a corporate career. And the nine-to-five rigour allowed little time for mindfulness to the minutiae of everyday living. In December 2015, during the Chennai floods, she found herself facing a fork in the road, pointing her in a new direction. Struck by illness and unable to reach a doctor as the floods had disrupted life, she realised that healing should be built into daily living, various aspects of it being defined by health-promoting choices. Besides turning to natural remedies, including acupressure, Radhika rung in changes that turned her heart upside down, in a positive way. Her family being on the same page, she could implement these changes without any resistance. In 2016, she switched to biogas cooking. "By 2018, I began making bio enzymes," she says. Passion led her to wear a new professional identity as seller of bio-enzymes. Post-pandemic, she co-founded Arani Biotech with Kannabiran and Kumaran; the company manufactures bio

enzymes.

Of course, the plastic presence in her home did not escape Radhika's introspective look. Wherever possible, she has replaced plastic items with eco-friendly alternatives and single-use plastics do not have a toehold in her household.

Here are some of the replacements.

Bamboo brushes instead of plastic brushes.

Steel straws instead of plastic straws.

Vetti ver body brush instead of plastic loofah.

Steel water bottles instead of plastic water



Radhika Premkumar from Chromepet ensures that the plastic bottles that sneak into her house are recycled; Radhika during a bio-enzyme making session at a college.



bottles. Provisions are carried in cloth bags or steel vessels, and she never leaves home without her trusty water bottle. "Plastic sneaks in sometimes, such as through online food deliveries, but we can always

make sure it does not pile up on the planet," she says. She ensures plastic items that come home uninvited, but unavoidably (examples being plastic juice bottles and milk covers) are dispatched to the recycler or the local scrap dealer. She avoids polyester and steers clear of products with harmful chemicals.

Medical waste such as band-aids, adult diapers and needles is packed carefully before disposal. Nothing is tossed out mindlessly.

Through awareness sessions in schools via the Rotary Club, Radhika plants ideas of change in young minds. "My neighbours tell me they think of me when they carry water bottles or switch to cloth pads. That feels like a small win," she smiles.

Her advice is simple: conscious buying, gradual change, and less waste. She says: "We have to read labels, know the ingredients to know what we're buying. Every habit takes time, but the key is to start."



From a previous event.

## A novel recycling exercise coming soon to Chennai

Next Sunday in Mylapore, an event to dust old and unused religious items and give them away to those who might need it will be organised

The crux of this process is that through puja we remove the divinity and merge it with the panchoothas. This has been appreciated by many people as it gives a lot of solace to those wanting to give away sacred objects," says Vasudha Sundar, founding member, Shri Kamakshi Aarsha Samkskriti Trust.

Unlike regular collection drives, the organisers point out that such events are labour-intensive.

"Typically, a frame will have the image, glass in front, nails and MDF board. All these have to be sorted," says Sowmya Raghavan, community services director, Rotary Club of Bangalore, RT Nagar.

The service charge is levied to meet various expenses including transportation, cost of labour, *dakshina* for the priest and rent for the venue.

Both Vasudha and Sowmya say finding material recovery facilities has been their biggest challenge while trying to expand the initiative to other cities. They welcome interested groups to carry forward the initiative in Chennai.

In Bengaluru, all the drives have taken place in temples. The drives also see a fair share of swapping of items happen, as there are people who would like to pick up something. A resale vendor is also on board to pick up gently used items that can be sold.

The organisers can be contacted through email on [cpt.hebbal@gmail.com](mailto:cpt.hebbal@gmail.com) and [sast.kast.trust@gmail.com](mailto:sast.kast.trust@gmail.com)

### The drive

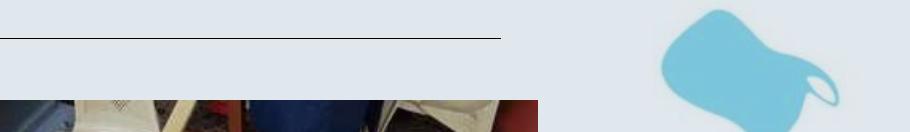
**When:** July 13; 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.  
**Where:** TVR Subbi Chetty Vasantha Mandapam in Mylapore  
**What to bring:** Old photos, idols of deities, puja articles, calendars  
**What not to bring:** Haldi, kum kum, threads



Sasikala from Velachery and a glimpse into her sustainability-driven catering service.

seeds of Nallaram, an initiative to provide nutritious kanji mixes to children with anaemia. Two years later, the impact is visible by the smiles on those children's faces, notes Sasikala.

Like a dress with two colour combinations that can be worn inside out, her kanji mixes – blends of two or three traditional rice varieties – can be turned into kichadi, upma, or even payasam.



LIFFY THOMAS

**E**very time 20-year-old Ahil Adithya drives from Mahindra World City in Chengalpattu where he lives, he has to pay up at Paranur toll plaza. The reluctance with which Ahil hands out the cash is understandable.

"Residents staying within a five-kilometre radius are eligible for exemption from toll fee payment and I live within a two-kilometre radius from the plaza," says Ahil, a student of a college in Potheri.

The youngster has also heard that the lease period of the toll plaza has run its course. Keen on getting the details about this, Ahil, who recently attended a Right to Information (RTI) workshop conducted by Tambaram Makkal Kuzhu, made a postal application with the Chengalpattu taluk office.

Though the digital native would have preferred to make the application online, the traditional snail mail is being used for various reasons including the lack of a mechanism at various government departments at the state and district level.

Although any digital submission is supposed to make things easier and faster, the State Government's RTI site would leave any user frustrated.

The home page of [rtionline.tn.gov.in](http://rtionline.tn.gov.in) constantly "alerts" users with a message that reads: "Petitions and First Appeals addressed to the departments of Secretariat may be entered here. Action is being taken to extend this facility to the Heads of Departments, District Offices and the offices down below, in a phased manner."

It further adds, "RTI petitions relating to the offices where the facility has been implemented can be sent through this portal and the petitions and appeals relating to the offices wherein this facility has not yet been implemented may be sent manually to those offices at present and not

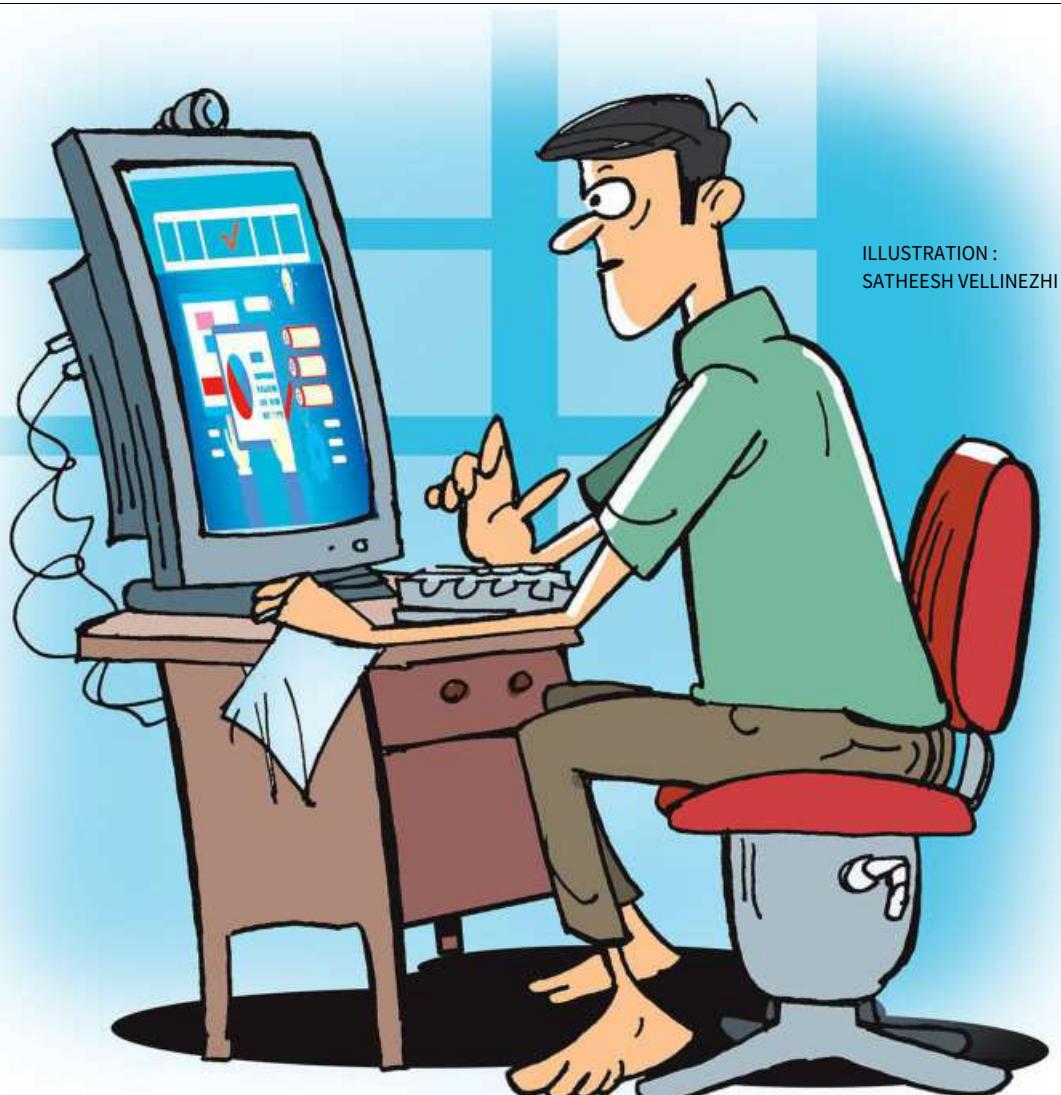


ILLUSTRATION : SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

## The challenges of filing RTI petitions online

to file those petitions in this web portal."

### Slow digital adoption

B. Savadamuthu, who conducts free online RTI workshops for Chennai-based Nallore Vattam every Monday, says digital plat-

form for RTI applications in Tamil Nadu has a long way to go.

"On July 4, 2024 based on many representations I made, the Commissioner of Revenue Administration communicated to all districts collectors to accept online applications and create "cre-

dentials" for the public information officer (PIO) handling the department," says Savadamuthu, who retired as an executive from a public sector bank and also served as PIO and appellate authority for RTI.

In the last one year, Savadamuthu has filed many RTIs to find the number of applications that were answered online and only four districts responded.

While no department will refuse to accept applications online, this process is complete only when a credential is also created for the PIO. "A government office may have at least 10 departments and for every PIO they need to create a user name and password so that a petitioner can address him/her directly. This ensures faster response," he says. Besides reduction in cost and time, the chances of digital submissions going missing are low. "We encourage citizens to opt for digital submission, but many departments are yet to make the process easy for citizens," he says.

### Experts on how to draft a compelling plea

Saroja Sundaram, executive director of the Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), says among what ought to be kept in mind while drafting an RTI application are specificity and conciseness.

"Questions should be targeted. One question could be broken into multiple ones to avoid ambiguity and make it easy for the department to respond. If you are asking information about an infrastructure try to give as many details as possible otherwise the answer would be yes/no. You can also give a table and list the details you need as some departments give information in the format that we ask for," says Saroja adding that CAG had conducted awareness workshops in the past.

V. Santhanam, who has filed close to 2000 RTI applications, says one must know the functions of the department before filing a petition. "If residents in a street want to get answers to an infrastructure work I ask a group of people from the area to file the RTI, so the department is forced to give answers," says Santhanam. Youngsters need to come forward to file RTIs and they could start with small issues concerning their neighbourhood.

"For instance, the ration shop in your neighbourhood is not stocking various items. One can file an RTI to understand how the system works, where the questions could range from the population the ration shop covers to how many kilos of certain items a household is entitled to," adds Saroja.

## They conduct free RTI workshops

**T**ambaram Makkal Kuzhu (Tambaram People's Forum), a civic organisation, conducted its first RTI workshop in June and plans to conduct them periodically. Two RTI activists addressed the participants on how to draft RTI questions. C.R. Bharathi Kannan of the Forum says a majority of the participants for the first workshop were students. He says they also plan to conduct follow-up meetings to help people with any nagging questions they might have.

The next workshop will be held on a weekend at Thagai Community Centre in Tambaram. Those keen on being part of the workshop can call 9498488645/ 9986316106.

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For close to a year now, Nalloorvattam has been conducting online sessions on RTI every Monday at 7.30 p.m. An average of 15-20 people attend these sessions conducted in Tamil and English for people from across Tamil Nadu. The main focus at these workshops is to train participants on submitting an application digitally. Interested participants are required to share details such as name, email ID and residential address to get the link to the meetings. Depending on requests, these workshops are sometimes conducted offline as well. For details, call 89034 32714.

\*\*\*

Over the last three years, Arapporiyakkam has conducted at least 100 workshops to educate people on how to file an RTI. The workshops cover aspects such as how to frame RTI questions, ways to address the authorities and how to go on an appeal. An extension of this initiative is the 'My vote Is Not For Sale' campaign; the pilot programme has spread to various districts in Tamil Nadu. Currently, in Chennai its workshops are held once in three months. Interested persons can either write to contact@arappor.org or call 7200020099 to know about the upcoming sessions.

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Chitlapakkam Rising conducts these awareness sessions periodically. The citizens group is planning one in September. In 2022, during one such workshop, they brought active RTI champions from Chennai to speak to the participants. They included social activist from Chromepet V. Santhanam; banker Perulli Viswanathan; activist Kasi Mayan; civil engineers R. Pandiraja and Dayanand Krishnan.

\*\*\*

Social activist and Chromepet resident V. Santhanam is invited by many institutions to conduct awareness workshops where he shares his experiences and the various battles won by filing an RTI. He also conducts them for small groups of two to five. Those who are interested may call 9444254850.

# EVENTS

## Inter-school debate title goes to PSBB

Fifteen schools from across Chennai took part in the ninth edition of Ampersand, an inter-school debating competition organised by Chettinad Vidyashram.

Ampersand 2025 featured five core events - 1. Parliamentary Debate; Stance Drafting - tested participants' ability to construct positions under time constraints. 3. Split Personality - required speakers to simultaneously advocate and oppose a stance. 4. Press Journalism - where budding reporters captured the spirit of the event in real time. 5. Photo-Journalism - where visuals met storytelling to document the debate's vibrant energy.

Each event gave students the chance to express themselves clearly, think quickly, and listen to different points of view.

PSBB K.K. Nagar won the finals, and Soumith from Chettinad Vidyashram was awarded best speaker for his clear and convincing arguments, said a release.

The event began with an inaugu-



ral ceremony led by principal Amudha Lakshmi, who spoke about how debates help young people become clear, confident thinkers with strong opinions.

Surendran from Success Gyan was the chief guest for day one. The senior parliamentary debate finals was judged by Jayashree from Freshworks.

## Rotary's tribute to doctors



The Community Service Health Team of Rotary International District 3233 under the governorship of Rtn. D. Devendran, organised Healers Harmony - Rotary's Tribute to Doctors on the occasion of National Doctor's Day on July 1 in Egmore.

The programme recognised Rotarian doctors of RID 3233, says a press release. The following eight eminent doctors were given various awards.

Prof. Mohammed Rela, chairman and managing director, Dr. Rela Institute of Medical Center and Dr. Ravi Kannan, director, Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Center, Silchar, Assam were given For the Sake of Honour Award.

Rtn. Dr. R. Sriram, emergency medicine consultant, RC Madras West, Rtn. Dr. Mo-

han Rajan, senior consultant ophthalmologist, RC Madras T. Nagar and Dr. T. S. Selvavinyagam, director of public health, Government of Tamilnadu were given Lifetime Achievement Award. Rtn. Dr. R. Prem Sekar, paediatric interventional cardiologist, RC Madras Temple City and Rtn. Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham, senior consultant ophthalmologist, RC Chennai Towers were given Distinguished Medical Service Award.

Dr. Karthik Balaji, founder, Zoriox Innovation Labs, Chennai was given Young Achiever Award.

On the same day, CSH Team's website <https://dhanvanthri3233.org> and "Rotarian's Privilege Health Card" (for the benefit of Rotarians and their families) were launched.

## Horticulture department to supply seed kits

Department of Horticulture & Plantation Crops will be supplying seeds under a State Government's programme called "Uttachathu Velanmai Iyakkam" (Nutritional Agricultural Mission). According to a senior official, ₹60 worth kit containing seeds of tomato, brinjal, chillies, cluster bean, lady's finger, and greens will be given for free from next week.

"This is an annual drive timed around the Tamil month, Aadi, as it is regarded as the best period for sowing seeds. This year 30,000 kits have been allocated for Chennai. The drive aims to encourage kitchen gardening among the city dwellers," says the official. The kits are available at the following outlets of the department: Semmozhi Poonga, Cathedral Road, Teynampet (PH: 6379700718); and Senkanthal Poonga, Avvai Shanmugham Salai, Gopalapuram (PH: 9790042148).

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## English grammar book released

A book release was the highlight of the 279th meeting of Shakespeare Millennium Club conducted recently. Essential English Grammar for Graduate Level Students, as the book is called, was released by the Honourable Justice M. Sundar of the Madras High Court in the presence of a distinguished gathering that included V. Selvaraj, K. Sundareswaran, Kalyani Anbucelvan, Ramesh Venketachalapathy, Janakan Paul and the members of the Bar Council, academicians and the authors G.K. Chithra and JKS.

Justice M. Sundar noted that the book's USP was its lucid and simple style, adding that it was an essential resource for every student especially those entering the law course, because for lawyers, language is not just for communication but is the very tool of their profession.

## Nungambakkam resident wins gold in sailing championship

Twelve-year-old Krishna Venkatchalam, representing Royal Madras Yacht Club, secured the overall gold medal in the Optimist class in the boys' section of the YAI Youth and Junior Multi Class Sailing championships held in Mandya recently. The Class VIII student of PSBB T. Nagar had secured a bronze medal in the same event last year. Krishna, a resident



of Nungambakkam, is one of the most talented sailors in the State, having won quite a few honours for Tamil Nadu. In fact, he had won a silver medal in the Monsoon Regatta held in Hyderabad last month. He has also represented India in various international regattas and is looking forward to represent India at the Olympics in the future.



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## Local body councils: applications sought from the differently-abled

Last date for submission of applications is July 17

**A**pplications are invited for the nomination of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) as members of the Councils of Town Panchayats, Municipalities, and Municipal Corporations in Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil Nadu Assembly recently amended the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, to allow PwDs to be nominated as members of these Councils. Nominations will be made by the Director of Municipal Administration, the Director of Town Panchayats, or the Director of Municipal Corporations, as the case may be. In cases where a Municipal Corporation does not have a Director, the nomination will be made by the State Government.

As per the eligibility criteria laid down in the Act, an applicant must be a resident of the respective Town Panchayat, Municipality, or Municipal Corporation, and must hold a valid disability certificate issued by authorities designated under the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018.

Application forms for nomination to the Greater Chennai Corporation Council are available at chennaicorporation.gov.in. Forms for other Municipalities and Corporations can be downloaded from tnurban-tree.tn.gov.in/whatsnew. Forms for Town Panchayat Councils are available at either tn.gov.in/dtp or dtp.tn.gov.in.

PwDs seeking nomination to a Town Panchayat Council must submit their application to the Executive Officer of the respective Town Panchayat. Those seeking nomination to a Municipality Council must apply to the Municipal Commissioner, and those applying for nomination to a Corporation Council must submit their application to the Corporation Commissioner.

Applications may be submitted either in person or by post, and must reach the concerned authority by 3 p.m. on July 17, 2025.

The nominated member will have the duties and powers provided under Section 43 of the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.

## Training session on how to be a gold appraiser

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute of Department of MSME is conducting a training session on how to be a gold appraiser. It will be held from July 10 to 14 at its premises in SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the programme covers essential topics in metallurgy, focusing on gold and silver, difference between karat and carat, calculating gold purity, and jewel loan assessment. The session will also focus on Hallmarking procedures, assaying methods, and touchstone testing practices. Also, participants will learn about jewellery making techniques like casting, filigree, and stone setting (both open and closed). Further, there will be a session on establishing a gem and jewellery business. Prior registration is required.

For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280.

## Workshop on electric vehicle technology

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is conducting a training programme on electric vehicle technology and business opportunities electric vehicle sector from July 10 to 12 at its premises in Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session will focus on functioning of motor, battery, controller, and charging systems. The programme will also focus on identification of faults and servicing methods and safety procedures. Further, EV dealerships, setting up of repair centres, franchise bu-



A representational image only.

siness models, guidance on government schemes and incentives in the sector will be dealt with, adds the release.

For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280

## Session on understanding tenders

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute of Department of MSME is conducting a training programme on understanding tender procedure. The session will be held on July 11 at the institute's premises in Guindy.

Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. According to a press release, the session will focus on GeM (Go-

vernment e Marketplace); registration, listing of products and services; types of procurements, bidding procedure, essential of tender documentation. Those above 18 years of age may take part. Hostel facility is available at a nominal rate, adds the release.

For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280

## CMWSSB's Royapuram depot 58 gets new address

Royapuram depot 58 of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board which was functioning from No: 1, Whannels Road in Egmore has been shifted to a new address: No: 75A, E.V.K. Sampath Salai, Vepery.

According to a press release, the depot is functioning from the new address since July 2. This depot attends to complaints relating to water supply, sewage, and remittance of water tax, and water charges.

The depot can be reached at 8144930214 / 8144930058 / 7824890058.

## 'We need inclusive, community-driven strategies'

The first memorial oration in honour of Late Air Vice Marshal V. Krishnaswamy VSM and Late Jaya Krishnaswamy, founder directors, Bala Mandir Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children, was held on June 28 at its centre in T. Nagar.

The first memorial oration was delivered by Dr. Prithika Chary, renowned neurologist and neurosurgeon on "Neuro Developmental Challenges in Children with Intellectual Disability - and Empowering Families through Early Intervention"

Dr. Prithika Chary called for inclusive, community-driven strategies, including wider screening by frontline workers, early training for healthcare providers, stigma-reduction campaigns, and

stronger data systems, said a release.

She emphasised the urgent need to address late diagnoses, which affected more than half of children with mild to moderate intellectual disability in India – often not identified until ages 5 to 9. A workshop on "Multi-Sensory Teaching Methods for Parenting Children with Neurodevelopmental Challenges," led by V.R.P. Sheilaja Rao and Afshaan Jabeen from Hyderabad was also conducted.

Bala Mandir Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (BMMNC) was established in December 1989 with the support of the Chennai-based Sanmar Group of Companies, added the release.

## New portal for registration and renewal of licenses for hostels and homes

As part of the Government's SimpleGov initiative, which aims to reduce the compliance burden of regulations, the process for registration and obtaining licenses for women's hostels and homes and old age homes has been revised. Going forward, all applications shall be made through tnesevai.tn.gov.in.

Existing license holders are required to visit the above website and upload the necessary details and supporting documents.

Additionally, organizations already registered with the Social Welfare Department must also use the same portal to renew their licenses, says a press release.

## Craft workshop

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a craft workshop on making fabric ornaments on July 10. Another workshop on preparation of incense sticks will be held on July 11. Both the workshops will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. Prior registration is required. For details, call 044 - 2953 0048.

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