

ANNA NAGAR

Purasawalkam » Villivakkam » Kolathur » Nazarathpettai » Pattabiram » Maduravoyal » Koyambedu » Tiruverkadu » Puzhal » Kilpauk » Perambur » Mogappair

Avadi » Ayyappakkam » Tiruninravur » Nerkundram » Moolakadai » Ayanavaram » Retteri » Padi » Ambattur » Tirumullaivoyal » Aminjikarai » Vysarpadi » Red Hills

‘Avadi Corporation should address the issue of unkempt plots’



D.SURESH

A good number of vacant plots remain poorly maintained at Manikandapuram in Thirumullaivoyal with Avadi Corporation limits.

They are misused as dumping grounds. As there are no garbage bins in the neighbourhood, the public cast the waste in these plots, which attracts stray cattle and dogs. The stench from these piles of waste is unbearable. And these plots are overrun with dense vegetation a conducive environment exists for venomous reptiles. The problem is aggravated by waterlogging during the rainy season. Following the rainy season, water remains stagnant for months at these plots paving way for vector-borne diseases. Residents are unable to keep their windows open. This is not just a cleanliness issue but a health hazard for the residents living nearby. This problem has been persisting for the several years now. I request Avadi Corporation to look into this issue and ensure that owners keep their property clean and tidy.

D.Suresh is a resident of Thirumullaivoyal



TEENS CHAMPION RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

A student from a private school and a resident of a home for children with intellectual disabilities collaborate to speak up at Inclusive United Nations **P3**

Job fair on December 20

Tiruvallur District Collectorate along with Tiruvallur District Employment & Career Guidance Centre is conducting a job fair on December 20 at Government Higher Secondary School at Sathymurthy Nagar in Avadi. Time: From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

According to a press release, it is a job fair

in which companies from private sector will take part. Over 150 companies will take part. Those who have completed class eight, ITI courses, diploma courses, nursing, and engineering can take part in it. No fee will be charged to attend the job fair, adds the release. Those interested, should register at the following portal: www.tnprivatejobs.tn.gov.in

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Cattle hinder traffic in Koyambedu



On the Koyambedu section of Poonamallee High Road, traffic sometimes moves with bovine lethargy. There is a literality to that. Here cattle movement in the middle of the road is a common sight. Needless to say this raises the risk of accidents; but considering the officials have not taken action against this: the danger needs to be spelt out loud and clear.

PHOTOS: M. PRABHU

‘Facility to issue season tickets needed at Vinayagapuram terminus’

V. VAIRAMUTHU

Metropolitan Transport Corporation’s bus terminus at Vinayagapuram on Perambur Redhills Road wears a new look following a renovation exercise carried out. Earlier, it was an open facility with no shelters and dedicated bays. All those amenities have been provided now. However, seats are not available. Commuters have to stand for long hours. Further, there is no time keeper office.

Regulars commuters also see the need for a facility to issue season tickets. Now, commuters have to go to Perambur or Anna Nagar West Depot to buy season tickets which is quite inconvenient.

V. Vairamuthu is a resident of Surapet



PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

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‘Power transformer at Golden George Nagar is unsafe’

VINANCHIARACHI EXPEDITH

The electricity transformer in front of the Holy Trinity Church at Joseph Street at Golden George Nagar in Mogappair East is unsafe due to poor maintenance. It is rusted and cables are exposed. Conservancy workers are at a higher risk as they go near the transformer to clean the spot. Hence, it is important that the transformer be fenced.

Vinanchiarachi Expeditth, senior advisor, Golden George Nagar Residents’ Welfare Association



‘Road near ICF bus terminus is uneven’

M. SENTHIL

The section of Konnur High Road, that is from ICF bus terminus to Kambar Arangam needs to be restored properly.

Following the recent completion of a stormwater drain work, the dug up road has been covered. It is a patchwork and that has made the stretch uneven. This is very much visible near the

junction of Konnur High Road with Ambedkar Salai and MTH Road. Motorcyclists need to exercise extreme caution.

M. Senthil is a resident of Villivakkam



Konnur High Road near ICF bus terminus on December 12. PHOTO: AKHILA EASWARAN

Teens champion rights of children with disabilities

A student of a private school and a resident of a home for children with intellectual disabilities, both from Chennai, team up at Inclusive United Nations in Delhi

LIFFY THOMAS

Two teenage girls from Chennai have forged a friendship, collaborating to advocate for the rights of children with special needs. Mahizh Arasi, a Class XI student of Good Shepherd Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Nungambakkam, and Shantha, a resident of Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust (a home for children with intellectual disabilities abandoned by their parents) recently attended a two-day 'Inclusive United Nations' (IN-UN) conference in New Delhi, hosted by PRATyEK and NINE IS MINE, where they gave inputs on what should be included in the post-2030 global development agenda.

Among what Shantha said she wants to see in the world are parents deeply sensitive to the needs of their child who has any form of disability; the right to education should be ensured for all irrespective of their financial status; and



Mahizh Arasi (right) and Shantha seen with a dignitary

absolute absence of gender discrimination. Shantha voiced her views in Tamil. Under the care of the NGO since 2011, the 17-year-old completed Class X from a government school in Kallikuppam and excels in academics and extra-curricular activities.

Sri Arunodayam Home is grateful to Good Shepherd School which brought this opportunity to them and also for empowering Shantha to speak about the challenges faced by children with intellectual and developmental dis-

abilities.

"We had to bring a student from a challenging background, so Sri Arunodayam was our first choice as we have a long association with it by virtue of the outreach programmes the school runs for its students," says Sashi Natarajan, vice-principal of Good Shepherd Centenary School who trains students across its institutions for advocacy programmes.

Mahizh got roped in as she has worked with children with special needs including volunteering as a

scribe.

For close to six weekends, Mahizh spent considerable time training Shantha how to speak before an audience, helping her understand her rights and working on what should go in the draft recommendations to the United Nations.

"Mahizh would attend online sessions and go to Sri Arunodayam Home to train her so that she could be adequately prepared for the programme," says Sashi.

The two-day-long event had various rounds of conversations, both of them speaking in Tamil and English. Shantha gave a moving speech about safety and the need for an inclusive environment for children with disabilities. She also showcased her talent by performing in a South Indian group cultural dance.

To build up the representations to be shared, more such meetups would happen. "Every three months the children will continue to be meeting online and adding to the recommendations," says Sashi.

An initiative driven by children

This first-ever INclusive United Nations (IN-U.N.) conference is an important step towards drafting the "Global Goals beyond 2030". Post 2030 Global Goals refers to the new framework that follows the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), which ends in 2030.

The event brought together more than 3,000 children from 28 States and Union Territories (online and onsite) to broader IN-U.N. activities, shaping recommendations grounded in reality, urgency, and hope, says a press note by PRATyEK.

Far removed from traditional MUN simulations, this IN-U.N. was rights-based, multilingual, inclusive, and born from children's lived experiences.

Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF Representative to India, accompanied by senior leaders from UNICEF's Communication, Advocacy and Partnerships division were among those who took part, adds the note.

Achievers honoured at 141st Rajendra Prasad jayanti



During the event held at DG Vaishnav College.

Deshratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Trust, in association with the Ektavasutra India Foundation and the Arya Samaj Foundation, celebrated the 141st birth anniversary of Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, on December 7 at DG Vaishnav College.

The function was graced by Shakeel Akhtar, IPS (Retd.), Chief Information Commissioner of the Government of Tamil Nadu, and Dr. H. V. Hande, former Health Minister of Tamil Nadu. Special invitees included N. Kumar, Chairman, Group Corporate Board, The Sanmar Group, and S. Raman, Arjuna and Dronacharya Award recipient.

Two prestigious recognitions were conferred upon eminent personalities for their contributions to society. N. Kumar received the Shobha Kant Das Lokseva Ratna Award, instituted in memory of Late Shri Shobha Kant Das, founder of the Deshratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Trust. S. Raman was honoured with the Pradeep Kumar Prerna Puraskar, established in memory of Late Pradeep Kumar, former Managing Trustee of the Trust, who dedicated his life to harmony, compassion, humanitarian values, and fos-

tering youth leadership, said a release.

The Trust reaffirmed its commitment to community service through its ongoing initiatives, which include providing support to underprivileged individuals and families, offering medical assistance to economically challenged patients, extending educational support to deserving students, and providing affordable accommodation with food for patients and attendants who travel from various parts of India to Chennai for medical treatment, added the release.

Inter-school speech, singing and dance competitions were conducted ahead of the main event. In the junior speech category, Syed Mohammed Hasan from DAV School secured the first place, while Krithika from Bhavans Rajaji Vidyashram School won the first place in the senior category. In the junior singing category, Trishenti Iyer from PSBB School emerged as the winner, and in the senior singing category, Hithaa from DAV School won the top spot. In the dance category, Lokesh, Vishnu, Srihari, Raj, Subham, and Kartik from Motilal Fomra Sanatana Dharma Vidyalaya School secured the first prize.

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Greater Chennai Corporation notes a fine is being slapped on the violator; Chennai District Green Committee confirms permission for cutting the trees was not sought

Two trees in Egmore felled



PRINCE FREDERICK

A good number of us dream to live as long as Methuselah did. Trees live that dream, some even outliving that poster boy for longevity, if they are allowed to. Last week, two trees on PV Cheriaan Crescent Road in Egmore were denied that “permission”. Count it among existential oddities that trees have to be permitted by an artificial human-made world to realise the potential for longevity received unconditionally from Nature.

At PV Cheriaan Crescent Road, which derives its quietude in no small measure from the trees lining it, the axe struck twice last week, the first time on December 7, reducing one massive tree to a stump. According to a resident who wants to stay anonymous, when the workers were questioned about it, pat came the reply that

the Corporation had ordered the hand that wielded the axe. With that explanation, residents who were disturbed by the cutting of the tree assumed there should be a justification for the act and let the matter rest. On December 12, the axe struck again, the Avenue’s arboreal wealth down by one more tree.

“Two beautiful big trees with their canopy spreading from one side of the road to the other, were mercilessly felled. We now fear the other trees around here for years providing shade, will be soon gone too,” says M. Deepika, a resident of PV Cheriaan Crescent Road.

The matter was now breathed to tree conservation NGO Nizhal and the Chennai District Green Committee. As it turned out, the cutting of the two trees had not been authorised by Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC).

At the time of this article going to press, a GCC official familiar with the developments said Corporation



The stumps of the two trees that were cut on PV Cheriaan Crescent Road in Egmore; and the logs being carted away. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



staff from the GCC’s parks department had gone to the site to collect the fine from the private entity who had had the trees cut.

T.D. Babu, a member of Chennai District Green Committee who is also associated with Nizhal, said the cutting of these two trees was news to the green committee.

“GCC had not given permission for the trees to be cut. GCC or any other local civic body or government agency managing a road (example: highways) cannot order the felling of a tree in its roads, no matter how justified the move might be, without first presenting the case to the district green committee and seeking its approval,” explains Babu.

If this process is not followed, a line, a clearly etched green line, is crossed.

Babu continues: “The green committee had decided to penalise such violators with of fine of ₹ one lakh per tree. The way builders and other commercial establishments are violating the rule by bypassing the approval process and getting away with a penalty, I feel ₹ one lakh is too small. They, especially builders and commercial establishments, need temporary suspension of the building project and suspension of commercial license beside heavy penalty respectively. This will bring them in line. Similarly, private tree cutters need to be brought within a ring of accountability. Every district should identify tree cutters and have them registered and given licenses. Only these people can cut the tree upon approval. This will help in traceability, which is lacking.”

Back to PV Cheriaan Crescent Road, from whatever was left of one of the trees that was captured on camera, Babu identified it as a rain tree, probably 70 years old with considerably more years un-lived, never to be lived. In the arboreal world, its epitaph would read “struck down in its prime.”



Learning how to multitask

This law student from SRM School of Law in Kattankulathur has left the stadium with crucial skills, those involving analysis and critical thinking, and they are going to help her in the classroom.

"In law, you learn to deploy various things and manage them with ease. Such were the practical lessons I learnt in the field working with various teams including media and technical for close to 10 days," says Bhagavathi Priyadarshini R., a third year student.

A volleyball player at school, Bhagavathi signed up as a volunteer for the love of hockey and the new skills she wanted to develop. For some days she juggled exams and matches, being in the field in the afternoon.

"Every day, we are either placed with a new team or given a new task. A conclave organised at Kalaivanar Arangam with top 20 hockey coaches as speakers threw up inspiring talks," she says.

The quarter-finals clash between India and Belgium was one of the best matches she has watched. She says, "The stadium was packed; the nail-biting finish made the match memorable. The best part of the whole event was watching the matches up close."

The recently concluded FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025 held at Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Egmore had dozens of students volunteering for it. *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to some of them on the unique opportunities for learning that this event threw up for them

LIFFY THOMAS

Spotlight on hockey



In sports, seeing is learning

R. Mumanja waited a full year to get selected into SDAT to pursue hockey. Currently pursuing second year Sociology at MOP Vaishnav College and staying at the SDAT hostel, Mumanja knows the importance of not missing any opportunity in the sport. Her fascination for the 'stick game' began after she accompanied her brother who used to be part of every match played in her hometown Kovilpatti.

Mumanja was among the volunteers during the flag-bearing ceremony all the days of the tournament. Her role would end after the nation-

al anthems of the two competing countries were played. From there, a self-imposed role as observer of the sights and sounds on and off the field would begin.

Every country had a different style, right from how they warm up to the food they eat before the match.

"I am greatly impressed with the French team. We cheer after we score a goal, but those standing outside the field would keep cheering every tackle of their players including a defence move, which is encouraging," says the 19-year-old who has captained the team at the sub junior

the body language are some important lessons Aravind is taking back with him.

His fan moment arrived when he got to see Spain's coach Maximiliano Jorge Caldas. "I had goosebumps seeing him up close; he has been an inspiration for many hockey players because of the way he has groomed the team," says a thrilled Aravind.

Another key lesson for Aravind is the importance of speaking English. He elaborates: "Our coach N. Muthu Kumar would always ask us to pick up English skills but I did not take the advice seriously. Now I really understand why he would say that, because when you have international players and coaches coming to your country you have some deep questions on the sport to ask then; and language can be a stumbling block."



A twirl from the past



The green artificial turf of the hockey ground at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium; and during the men's hockey final against Pakistan in the SAF Games on December 26, 1995. PHOTOS: THE HINDU ARCHIVES



Decking the halls without wrecking the planet

School student Anu Elizabeth Alexander makes origami-based Yuletide decorative items with a process shaped by sustainable practices. And Infanta Leon began to crochet safe Christmas theme-based toys for children, initially for her own; and the pursuit has now evolved into Christmas ornaments



SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

A student at Shishya in Adyar who lives in Besant Nagar, Anu Elizabeth Alexander fashions paper and jute into ornaments and this artistry is manifested in decorative products she sells through her brand, Folded Flourish.

"I first got interested in origami when I was maybe seven or eight," she recalls. "I found a book and I started trying out different designs. I really liked it." Her fascination matured into a deliberate practice: selecting designs she loved and imagining how they could adorn Christmas trees. "I thought they would look great on a tree," she says.

Her speciality is modular origami, a technique where multiple folded units coalesce into a single, intricate form. Her festive repertoire includes eight-pointed stars that gleam under tree lights, paper

wreaths, modular diamonds and Kusudama, a spherical, multi-petalled centrepiece that commands attention. "My favourite part of the process arrives while making more complex folds and adding details," she says. "I like to make it look a little more complex than it already is." Depending on the design, creation can take 15 minutes to an hour. "The sheets of paper I use are rarely the same size," she admits. "The biggest challenge is making the units stick together perfectly." For this Christmas, Anu offers both single ornaments priced at ₹150, and sets of four stars, four diamonds, or four wreaths, each set priced at ₹500.

Sustainability is not an add-on, but stamped firmly into the process: every piece is biodegradable, waste-free and unembellished, free from glitter or beads. "Products should be sustainable and biodegradable so that our planet is not harmed," she emphasises.

At a recent exhibition, the stars she made sold the fastest, followed by the small diamonds. "I would like people to know about the process, how it is created, and that it is sustainable," she says.

Crocheting for the Tree

Infanta Leon from Kotturpuram developed an interest in crochet as a teenager. It was a hobbyhorse that evolved into a steed that would help her embark on a journey of identity-shaping creative engagement. She started making Christmas-themed decor two years ago, spurred by a desire to craft safe, eco-friendly toys for children. "With a toddler at home, and my elder child sensitive to synthetic materials, I wanted to create items that were gentle, durable and tactile," she explains. Her earliest creations were small amigurumi toys which gradually evolved into orna-



Infanta Leon and Anu Elizabeth Alexander at work; and glimpses of their creative expression.



ments that could adorn Christmas trees with warmth and charm.

Today, Infanta's repertoire is a festive menagerie: Santa Clauses, snowmen, miniature candies, mushrooms, bunny characters, Santa hats and bespoke nativity sets. Each piece is meticulously crafted from cotton-rich yarns sourced from trusted suppliers in Mumbai and Chennai, supplemented with some filling and safe embellishments obtained online. Sustainability and safety remain at the heart of her practice, ensuring every ornament is child-friendly yet enduring.

Creating a single piece is a labour of love, often taking three to four hours. Infanta visualises the design, selects harmonious colour palettes, calculates proportions, and imbues each character with personality. "The most challenging part is bringing out emotions in the face of a character," she says. "Even a slight tilt or curve can convey so much." This meticulous attention is particularly evident in complex nativity sets or unconventional pieces like the Grinch, which she recently introduced as a playful twist on traditional decor. Infanta begins accepting orders around mid-November, carefully balancing each request to ensure all pieces are completed and delivered by December 15, leaving homes adorned and ready for the holidays. Orders are largely word-of-mouth, drawn from friends, neighbours, and local enthusiasts who value the authenticity of handcrafted work. Prices range from ₹100 to ₹500.

Yet for Infanta, the joy lies in creation rather than commerce. "I did not start this as a business," she reflects. "It was about making something meaningful. Seeing these ornaments bring a smile during the holidays – that is the greatest reward."



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The next time a plastic food container needs to be disposed of, make sure it is rinsed a sufficient number of times before being “offloaded” responsibly. Recycling items with food residue poses a challenge, they often end up in a dumping ground.

Two Chennai-based women entrepreneurs Desika Prabakar and Obulaxmi S., who run the non-profit DPurpose Foundation, have started conducting a series of events focussed on waste that nobody cares about.

Titled ‘Waste2Purpose’, the first in this 10-part series delved into the subject of non-recyclable plastic waste. Some of the other non-recyclable wastes include thermoset plastics used in packaging crockery, doors and floorings; multi-layered plastics; sanitary plastics, foam plastics and composite plastics

“Waste2Purpose aims to convert some of the most challenging waste streams into scalable, revenue-generating waste-to-value projects, with a strong focus on upskilling women and involving them in the circular economy,” says Desika Prabakar, founder and director, DPurpose Foundation.

Designed as a closed round table, the event has conservancy workers as chief guests along with Government, industry leaders, corporate CSR and investors coming together to analyse and establish projects that can resolve issues such as non-recyclable plastic

A series of events in Chennai would bring various stakeholders working in the waste management sector to invest in revenue-generating projects where underprivileged women could be upskilled and made part of the circular economy

Recycling solutions for waste we ignore



Rajeshwari, a battery-fitted vehicle operator from Urbaser Sumeet, speaks at the round table.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

waste with advanced technologies, says a release.

“We need advanced technology

to recycle such hard plastics but there are not many who are willing to invest, so our event was aimed at

bringing all stakeholders to one table and finding solutions including bringing investors,” says Desika

that Krystal Venture Studios supported them as investor partner.

One of the first events was held at Startup TN Headquarters at Nandanam. Rajeshwari, a conservancy worker with Urbaser Sumeet, spoke about the realities of handling non-recyclable plastics, especially talking about the challenges faced by ground-level women waste workers every day.

Desika says there are gaps not only in technology but also in implementation. “Several such project machines get installed and due to lack of technical teams and consistent investments the machines gather dust. So the primary goal in this whole initiative is to employ women and upskill them in the whole value chain,” she says.

Technology solutions such as advanced pyrolysis, multi-layer plastic recycling, chemical recycling and refuse-derived fuel were presented before expert teams for end-to-end execution. The top two shortlisted finalists are now in stages for further funding. The best startup pitch was recognised as Thaal Innovations for its breakthrough solution converting PU foam waste into polyol through chemical recycling, enabling direct reintegration into the manufacturing supply chain, says the note.

“These two projects will now move into structured implementation under the Waste2Purpose framework. Next in line in the 10-part series is solutions for textile waste followed by hazardous, construction, mining, foundry, effluent, agri, paper and organic wastes,” says Desika.

Christmas celebrations begin at Phoenix

Phoenix Marketcity in Velachery ushered in the festive season by setting up a Christmas tree.

Actress Sreeleela lit the Christmas tree. Cine buffs got a chance to meet the actress during a ‘Meet and Greet’ event.

This was followed by disc jockey Suketu’s signature chart-topping remixes, which sent the visitors into a frenzy and had them shaking their legs, said a release.

Adding grandeur to the celebrations were the snowfall, festive décor reveals, captivating holiday installations, and photo-worthy setups.



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When numbers and equations took centre stage

75 mathematics teachers from 20 schools participated in the conference organised by Mission Guru Devo Bhava



During the launch of the book 'Breaking the ROTE'

Mission Guru Devo Bhava organised the 'first math teachers' conference at Kola Saraswathi Vaishnav Senior Secondary School in Kilpauk. The event was aimed at sharing best practices in mathematics teaching and strengthen joyful, concept-based classroom learning.

Principal Meena Mehta welcomed all participants. Chief Guest Sadagopan Rajesh, director, Aryabhatta Institute of Mathematical Sciences, and the keynote speaker, CA Govindaraj Upadhyaya, author of 'Breaking the Rote', were welcomed by CA Anil Khicha, founder, Mission Guru Devo Bhava.

The launch of book 'Breaking the ROTE' of CA Govindaraj Upadhyaya also took place, with the first copy presented to Ashok Kedia, managing trustee, Jaigopal Garodia

Schools.

The idea for the conference was conceived by Uma Maheshwari, dean, Akshaya Vidyalaya. Around 75 maths teachers from 20 schools participated. Eight schools presented their best teaching practices. The sessions focused on concept-based learning, joyful pedagogy, and classroom innovations, said the release.

At the valedictory session, CA Anil Khicha announced that this conference marks the beginning of a series of subject-specific teacher conferences. He shared plans to conduct similar conferences in Science and English. He also invited teachers to recommend resource persons in maths and other subjects to build a statewide shared resource pool for Tamil Nadu.



Newgen Nandavanam Charitable Trust along with Madras School of Social Work organised an art event for persons with disabilities. It was held to observe the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. Called Inclusive Art Fest, the event witnessed over 500 participants from 30 organisations, says a press release.

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Anna Nagar Humour Club meets today

The monthly meeting of Anna Nagar Humour Club will be held on December 14 at Shri Krishnaswamy Vidhyashram, Vaigai Colony, Anna Nagar West, near West Bus Depot at 4 p.m. N. Jayaraman of Chromepet club will be the guest of honour. Dr A. Anantharamakrishnan, chairman, will talk on 'December Dhamaka'. Other members will be jesting on diverse topics on significant events of the month.

All are welcome. Audience are welcome to tell jokes. For details, contact Sankar at 98405 18335/ Karthikeyan at 98400 76022

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Dr. K. C. Jyothish
 MBBS, MDRT.,
 Consultant Radiation Oncologist



Dr. Jyothish is a distinguished Radiation Oncologist at VS Hospitals, Chetpet, Chennai, known for precision in cancer care and compassionate patient support. An alumnus of Madras Medical College (M.D. Radiation Oncology). He has earned recognition for award-winning research on photobiomodulation and head & neck cancers, and has published widely in national and international journals with a special focus on Neuro and Pelvic Oncology. With teaching experience at Madras Medical College and Government Royapettah Hospital, and fluency in Tamil, Malayalam, English, and Hindi, he combines clinical expertise with clear communication to deliver personalized treatment.

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