

TAMBARAM

Chromepet » Pallavaram » Tambaram West » Rajakilpakkam » Mannivakkam » Guindy » Keelkattalai » Nanganallur » Guduvanchery » Hasthinapuram » Pammal » Tambaram East
Medavakkam » Srinivasa Nagar » Kathipara Junction » Kovilambakkam » Sadasivam Nagar » Potheri » Selaiyur » Sembakkam » St.Thomas Mount » Madipakkam » Urappakkam » Paranur

Outside Perungalathur station, squalor reigns

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Perungalathur Railway Station is an important network on the Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu - Kancheepuram - Thirumalpur line as it serves commuters from Peerankaranai, Old and New Perungalathur, but the precincts of the station present a picture of neglect.

The walkway is dirty and stinks. Many a time, pedestrians are forced to share space with motorcyclists on the Perungalathur flyover service lane as they negotiate their

way to GST Road and Perungalathur (East).

D. Divyadharshini, a pedestrian, says, "The public is unmindful of pedestrians and two-wheeler traffic. No action has been taken either by Southern Railway or State Highways Department.

The Highway and Railway authorities should inspect the area and take necessary steps to alleviate our woes, say pedestrians.

The tiled lane is broken in places, causing inconvenience to motorcyclists.



The walkway outside Perungalathur railway station.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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STATUS REPORT

Nanganallur residents irked over power cuts

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Residents of Nanganallur are plagued by frequent power cuts and voltage fluctuations, the reason being that the houses have increased but the capacity of the substation has not.

This is one of the issues raised by residents at a grievance meeting organised by the Federation of Nanganallur Residents Welfare Associations.

State Minister for Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises T. M. Anbarasan, along with officials from various departments, including Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribu-



At the grievance meet. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tion Corporation Limited, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and Metropolitan Transport Corporation, attended

the meeting.

S. Chandrabose, president of the Federation, says the 33 kV substation located on 100-Feet Road is not sufficient to meet the increas-

ing population.

"The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) should upgrade the substation to 110 kV," says Chandrabose.

The old transformers near Arasandi Vinayagar Temple and near Viswanathapuram junction also need to be replaced. They also wanted work on installation of underground EB cables to be completed soon.

Another key issue discussed at the meeting was the encroachment of an Open Space Reservation Land near Dharmalingeshwar Temple. Although the former Alandur Municipality, now Zone 12

Alandur Zone of GCC, reclaimed it after a legal verdict, the encroacher has appealed further.

The Federation requested immediate legal steps to free the land for public use and to facilitate the establishment of a park.

The Federation thanked the State Government for allocating ₹ 29 crore to link Fifth Main Road and Pazhavanthalangal subway, a project the region's residents had long demanded.

V. Rama Rao, advisor to the Federation, says the link would reduce vehicular congestion and avoid accidents caused by left turns at College Road, Balusamy Street, and Krishnaswamy Street.

READERS WRITE

Toilets in Hasthinapuram terminus raise a stink



Public toilets at Hasthinapuram bus terminus are in a deplorable state. The unbearable stench and frequent closure due to lack of water supply are major concerns. The absence of regular cleaning and disinfection using phenyl or chlorine is evident. The maintenance of the toilet facilities is woefully inadequate, which can lead to the spread of diseases.

I urge the Commissioner of

Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to consider appointing a full-time worker sourced from a contract agency to ensure proper maintenance.

Implementing a pay-and-use toilet system could be a viable solution. I hope the Commissioner takes immediate steps to address this issue.

V. Santhanam is a resident of The New Colony, Chromepet

Street in Perumbakkam needs to be relaid

For years, VGP Prabhu Nagar First Street in Perumbakkam has not been relaid, causing inconvenience to road users.

Motorcyclists find it difficult to navigate this potholes-ridden battered road.

Garbage is also littered on the stretch, which could create health issues.

I request the Perumbakkam Village Panchayat and the Saint Thomas Mount Panchayat Union to look into this issue and take necessary action.

Ann Merin Reji is a resident of Perumbakkam



'Commission Perur plant at the earliest'

Currently, more than 30 percent of the residential population in Perumbakkam receive drinking water supplied through pipes. The water is supplied from the wells dug near Perumbakkam Periya Eri.

The wells are located at Vadarhapuram, on Nookampal-

layam Road and Krishna Nagar.

The water supplied from these wells is not sufficient. The Perumbakkam Village Panchayat is doing its best to supply water from the available source, but it is insufficient for some residents.

Chennai Metropolitan Wa-

ter Supply and Sewerage Board should commission the Perur Desalination Plant as soon as possible to provide piped drinking water supply to residents of Perumbakkam and Medavakkam.

N. K. Raja is a resident of Nesamani Nagar in Perumbakkam

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 contact number.

Workshop on electric vehicle technology

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is conducting a training programme on electric vehicle technology and business opportunities in the 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 business models, guidance on government schemes and incentives in the sector will be dealt with, adds the release.

For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280

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."

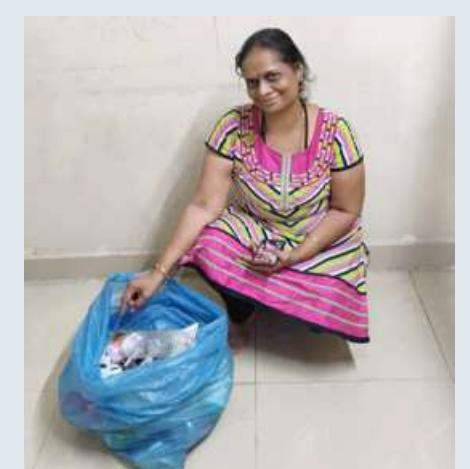


'No plastic zone' in a residential pocket

Radhika 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



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.

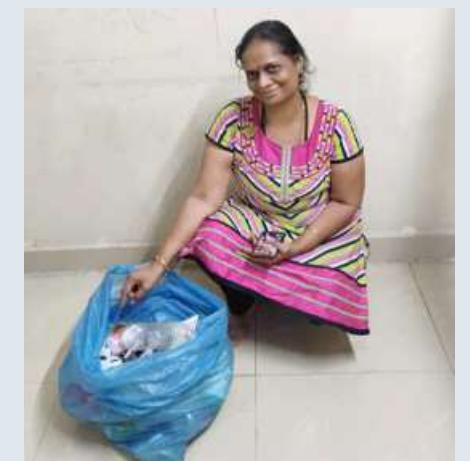
Medical waste such as band-aids, adult diapers and needles is packed carefully before disposal. Nothing is tossed out mindlessly.

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."



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.



Catering for the planet's needs

In a world hooked on fast food and faster packaging, Sasikala from Velachery "slows" things down on both fronts. Her homegrown venture, Safe Food Focus offers traditional dishes, neatly packed in butter sheets, cotton boxes or even banana leaves – never plastic. For courier orders, she uses ziplock paper covers. When she cooks for orphans or parties, she delivers the food in steel vessels. Transportation of steel containers demands the hire of a bigger vehicle adding to the logistics, but Sasikala has learnt to take this challenge in her stride.

In her cooking classes and through awareness drives, Sasikala urges people to carry their own plates, spoons, and bottles while travelling.

Sasikala prides herself on ensuring personal and planet health. Her first big order in 2023, feeding 100 children, sowed the



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.



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 panchaboothas. 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 Samksriti 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 and 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

LIFFY THOMAS

Every 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 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

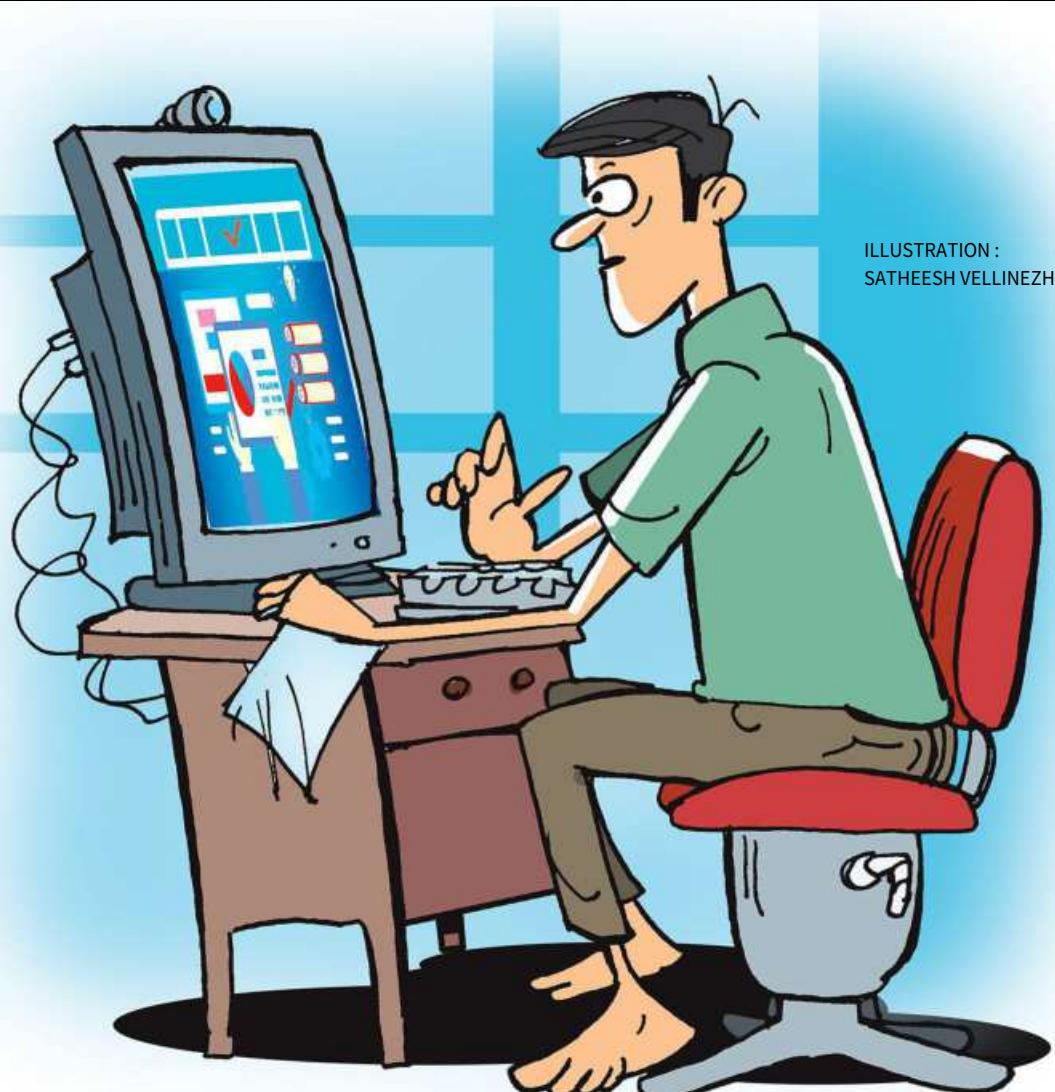


ILLUSTRATION : SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

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

Tambaram 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.

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.

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.



PHOTO: AKHILA EASWARAN

Awareness walk to protect Pachaimalai

An awareness rally was held recently to protect 'Pachaimalai', a hillock at Tambaram Sanatorium (West).

Close to 1000 people took part in the event organised by the Environment Awareness and Protection Association (EAPA), starting from Tamil Nadu Housing Board residential quarters in Tambaram Sanatorium (West) and proceeding through Durga Nagar in Tambaram Sanatorium (East) to the bottom of the hillock.

Participants raised slogans seeking that the lakes and Pachai Malai be saved, littering in the lake area stopped, and sewage discharge arrested. They also requested the public to use cloth bags.

The herbal water from the Hill's eastern side flows into Chitlapakkam,

Sembakkam, and Nanmangalam lakes, before culminating at Pallikaranai Marshland.

The Water Resources Department (WRD) should ensure that the water from the hillock flows into all the lakes to prevent flooding on the premises of the Government Hospital, Tambaram - Tambaram Taluk, and allow it to flow under GST Road through wide culvert, said P. Viswanathan, social activist and founding member of EAPA.

WRD and the Forest Department should restore the channel connecting the hillock and the lakes to prevent the latter from becoming dry.

The hill area, which was densely populated with trees, is experiencing a decline in the number of trees.

Text: T.S. Atul Swaminathan

School students carry out cleaning drive at Chitlapakkam lake

Twenty five students of classes VIII to XI had the volunteering experience of cleaning the Chitlapakkam lake. Armed with gloves and other paraphernalia, these students of the Eco Club of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Millennium School in Thazhambur spent an hour picking up trash and planting saplings.

Sunil Jayaram, a core volunteer at Chitlapakkam Rising,

says the students cleaned the lake's west side bunds.

Along Periyar Street in Tambaram (East), a sewage deflection channel filled with garbage has been running for years. Recently, when removing the trash from the channel by the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, it fell on the lake's western bank.

Jayaram says the students, along with the Rising volun-

teers, cleaned the trash, making the bund area spic and span. "The energy and enthusiasm of these students inspired us. They quickly understood the difference between this and other urban lakes that are yet to be revived," says Jayaram. The students were taught about the importance of lakes, how they help mitigate floods, and how they contribute to water sufficiency.



Alumni meet marks college's 25th anniversary



Prince Shri Venkateshwara Padmavathy Engineering College, Ponmar, celebrated its 25th anniversary with an alumni reunion recently.

Titled "Momentiq-25" the reunion saw participation from former students across batches from across the globe, beginning with the founding

batch of 2001.

K. Vasudevan, chairman of the Prince Group of Institutions, delivered the inaugural address and reflected on the institution's journey over the past two and a half decades. He acknowledged the active role played by the alumni in the institution's growth

through guest lectures, mentorship, and other forms of engagement. Emphasising that age should not be a barrier to delivering excellence, Vasudevan encouraged continued collaboration between the alumni community and the institution, says a press release.

The event featured alumni sharing their memories from their college days, followed by the presentation of mementos by the chairman.

V. Vishnu Karthik, vice chairman; V. Prasanna Venkatesh, vice chairman; V. Mahalakshmi, dean, and other key functionaries of the college were also present on the occasion and interacted with the alumni.

Gujarat handloom mela

The Gujarat Artisans and Weavers Welfare Association is conducting an exhibition-cum-sale of handloom and handicrafts till the end of the month in Velachery.

Gujarat Handloom Mela is showcasing a variety of products including cotton sarees, churidars, shirts, bedspreads, furniture, wall hangings, paintings and handbags.

The exhibition is on at Kabali Kalyana Mandapam, Gandhi Road, Karunbigai Colony, Velachery, from 10.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call 99404 22426 or 96293 74196.



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 tnseva.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.

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Music school in Vandalur enters record books

Tantra Academy, a Vandalur-based music school, staged a music event titled "World's First 12-Hour, 12-Category Musical Tribute to 50 Iconic Tamil Musicians by 100 Performers Aged 5 to 50 plus."

Held on the school premises, the event featured over 140 songs and 10 instrumental performances spanning 12 curated categories, from clas-

sical to contemporary, says a press release. The participants were aged 5 to 85. The multi-generational concert brought together voices and instruments in a seamless 12-hour tribute to 50 iconic Tamil musicians that earned official recognition from the Lincoln Book of Records.

A special highlight of the evening was the appearance

of violin vidwan Embar S. Kannan, whose soulful rendition mesmerised the audience, the release says.

Founder and vocal trainer Sabari Dharshan quoted, "This was more than a record attempt—it was a heartfelt celebration of Tamil musical heritage, brought alive by the sincerity and spirit of every participant."

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, a ₹60 worth kit containing seeds of tomato, brinjal, chillies, cluster bean, lady's finger, and greens will be given for free from next week.

The kits are available at the following outlets: Semmozhi Poonga, Cathedral Road, Teynampet (PH: 6379700718); Senkanthal Poonga, Avvai Shanmugham Salai, Gopalapuram (PH: 9790042148); Madhavaram Botanical Garden, Madhavaram (PH: 9597418342); Thiruvannmiyur (PH: 9444805265); and at Anna Nagar (PH: 9790042148).

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10-20% DISCOUNT

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9940422426

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 tnurbanbase.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.

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