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Neelankarai » Sholinganallur » Thiruvannamiyur » Vijaya Nagar » Indira Nagar » Karapakkam » Kotturpuram » Padur » Thalambur » Pallikaranai

Fix the broken pavements on Rajiv Gandhi Salai



"Pitfalls" on service lane at Rajiv Gandhi Salai, in Sholinganallur and Semmancherry, on April 2, 2025. Due to lack of lighting on account of Metro rail work on this road, broken slabs on service lanes are a greater threat to safety of motorists and pedestrians at night. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



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▼ The meeting was hosted by Casagrand Amethyst in Sholinganallur

Gated communities on OMR receive guidance on solar installations

HARSHA KODA

The Federation of OMR Resident Associations (FOMRRA), in collaboration with the Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) and ASAR, hosted a consumer awareness workshop on Rooftop Solar PV Systems at Casagrand Amethyst in Sholinganallur recently.

Over 25 residents from Sholinganallur, Navalur, Siruseri, Pudupakkam, Kelambakkam and Thorai-pakkam attended the workshop, representing several large gated communities. The event focused on enlightening participants about the fundamentals of rooftop solar PV systems, highlighting their environmental, financial, and economic benefits. CAG researchers provided valuable insights, covering

key topics such as installation considerations, available subsidies, financial options such as bank loans, capacity determination, and return on investment (ROI) calculations based on electricity consumption.

Many attendees were eager to explore how solar installations could reduce common service electricity costs for their communities. Some residents had already considered solar solutions and

used the workshop as an opportunity to validate their understanding. Notably, those from gated communities with common service connections, which fall under commercial tariffs and are ineligible for certain subsidies and net metering, received specific guidance on net-feed-in mechanisms to optimise solar usage effectively.

The details of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana scheme, with on-

line application, offers on bank loans and subsidies for residential rooftop solar installations, supporting both domestic and common area service connections were discussed.

The session proved to be useful for a diverse range of apartment categories. It benefited those wanting to establish new solar panels as well as those who already have systems installed but are not fully utilising them in terms of efficiency and economics. CAG representatives even offered to conduct audits of existing systems to provide tailored options for better utilisation of solar power.

CAG and ASAR remain committed to promoting clean energy and sustainability through awareness workshops on rooftop solar PV systems for consumers across Chennai, in partnership with bodies such as FOMRRA.

Those interested in the OMR region can find answers by joining FOMRRA's groups (<https://join.fomrra.org>) or reach out to Subramani Muthukumar at 8807214008 or via email at subramani.muthukumar@cag.org.in for other parts of Chennai.

(Harsha Koda is co-founder of FOMRRA)

Prajnya 'leaves the scene', but promises continued support

Known for its work to sensitise people about gender-based violence, the non-profit had a 17-year run

LIFFY THOMAS

Prajnya Trust, a Chennai-based non-profit organisation working on issues related to peace, justice and security, has closed its operations and account. March 31, 2025 was its last day.

"Starting very small, everyday has been a surprise, every tomorrow has been a challenge and still, we have walked far enough that looking back fills us with pride," reads a note on its website prajnya.in.

For 17 years, Prajnya has been a go-to institution when it came to clarity on issues related to gender equality and peace education.

In Chennai, many will associate Prajnya with its annual 16-day campaign against gender violence held at various locations to raise awareness of the different ways in which women are vulnerable to violence, at home, at their place of work, on campuses and in public spaces.

Since 2008, Prajnya has also been documenting its "16 Days Campaign" where it encourages one to browse through its calendars, materials and campaign



File photo of a "16-day campaign against gender violence" organised by Prajnya Trust at Vidya Sagar in Kotturpuram

reports.

The Prajnya Resource Centre on Women in Politics and Policy charted its own path. From inviting photographs from users on several facets of a woman's life and reality to intercollegiate quiz contests on women in South Asia to its monthly talk series, each made a point to make the work of women more visible.

Its research and public educational activities took shape with its strong network of partners and community support, evident

from the long list of names of alumni, interns and campaign coordinators it has mentioned on its platform.

Recalling her long association with Prajnya as a volunteer, Anupama Srinivasan says while everybody talks about gender violence here is one organisation that did more than that. "One of the first things that Prajnya did in Chennai and then showed the way for other cities is make people take action in small ways. Everyone need not work in terms of changing

policy or law but there are tangible actions that can be taken in our own families, communities and neighbourhoods to address gender based violence. This was a great takeaway for me and a lesson in civic engagement that local actions can actually make a difference. My favourite Prajnya programme that I did was when we went to apartments and had conversations about gender-based violence with men and women," says Anupama, deputy director at Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH). These are conversations that became crucial to raise awareness, challenge societal norms, and empower survivors.

In a LinkedIn post, founder Swarna Rajagopalan, shares that Prajnya's 17 years has been fun, challenging and painful. "But 17, with only the support of the community, and no corporate money, no government backing, no donor pressure and the freedom to try and fail, is still something to be proud of."

The Trust had earlier run a fundraiser campaign to raise funds for its work, where it mentioned

that the "shoestring budget" with which they take up work is not sustainable.

Swarna clarifies that money is not the only reason Prajnya closed. "Money is a facilitator for other things that were important. We did a lot of work without money in our early years, because people gave their time and talent *pro bono* but as the organisation was growing money did not grow. You cannot get people to work endlessly without pay," says Swarna.

She adds, "Civil society organisations or NGOs or social movements are the citizen's final guarantee of human, political, economic and social rights and the main defenders of those rights. If society does not support NGOs, who will stand up for society? We are closing the platform, not giving up on what brought us work and components of our work will continue."

"One of the best gifts that Prajnya leaves is its website and online resources, which will remain accessible for a year or two. We will not deactivate our social media accounts as yet but we will not post here," says the note.

The time is ripe for wearing a new set of colours



Whiskered terns are a sight to behold while they cool their feet on a perch: as streamlined as a McLaren Speedtail, their elongated bodies are displayed the best when their wings are folded and they are still, save the bobbing in the air that might be caused by a windy condition. Perched on a power wire, Whiskered terns were swaying in the breeze at Muttukadu, boats tethered in the quay at the Boat House making the backdrop, on the morning of April 2, 2025. Among the Whiskered terns parked on the power wire, some were arrayed in noticeable breeding plumage and some others, in a state of “partial dressing” that closely follows the dress code “specified” for their breeding grounds. In its breeding plumage, the Whiskered tern wears an ash-grey body, a black cap, red beak and legs. Among the terns that pop in on Chennai during winter, the Whiskered terns are the most spotted as they range over a wide terrain. They cannot be accused of the finicky obsession with coastal coordinates that a Caspian tern or a Common tern displays. The Whiskered tern would be at home hovering over Chitlapakkam lake (which is as inland as it can get) as it would be at a coastal wetland such as Perumbakkam wetland. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



Workshop on yoga therapy for Parkinson's Disorder

YogaVahini, a specialised yoga therapy, training and research institute, is organising a free workshop on April 12 on yoga therapy for Parkinson's Disorder (PD).

Parkinson's Disorder is globally the second most prevalent degenerative neurological disorder. Common motor symptoms include tremors, muscle stiffness, and loss of balance. In addition, PD can lead to depression, anxiety, hallucinations and cognitive challenges.

While its exact causes are still being studied, both genetic and environmental factors are believed to play a role, and its prevalence is on the rise, says a release.

The workshop aims to empower yoga therapists, physiotherapists, people with Parkinson's, caregivers and other healthcare professionals on the effectiveness of yoga for PD. Rooted in the teachings of T. Krishnamacharya and T.K.V. Desikachar, the workshop will offer simple, yet practical yoga techniques to address key challenges faced by

those with PD.

Additionally, case study presentations will provide real-world insights into the benefits of yoga therapy, added the release.

This free workshop is co-facilitated with Dementia Care Foundation (at Curi hospital) as the venue partners and in association with Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation, a non-profit working to improve the quality of life of people with PD.

The Dementia Care Foundation, Curi Hospital is at 148, 3rd Floor, Okkiyam Thorai-pakkam, OMR.

Time: 9:30am - 1:00 pm
For registrations call / WhatsApp 98846 42456

Organised by Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation at Dementia Care Foundation in Okkiyam Thoraipakkam on April 12

Inner Wheel Club of MRC Nagar gets a new team

The Inner Wheel Club of MRC Nagar was officially installed in a special ceremony led by district chairman Fathima Nasira. Sushma was installed as president and Kavitha as secretary along with other office bearers by District ESO PDC Usha Saraogi and the other members of the club.

The club marked the occasion with a charitable donation of a Chemoport machine to support a child battling cancer.



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Change begins on the terrace

Residents on the nitty-gritty of welcoming solar power into their homes and how different the EB bill looks now

LIFFY THOMAS

From the terrace of John Praveen's villa, one can see sloped panels stretch away, glinting in the sun. These are John's neighbours at a gated community in Sholinganallur; and they have gone solar just as John has.

Since June 2023, when he installed a 9.8 KW solar power plant, John has not paid anything towards electricity consumption except for the minimal network charges for a grid-tied solar power system. He is not practising austerity: he is generous with the use of his ACs and various other gadgets.

"Prior to switching to solar power, electricity bills in summer months would hover around ₹20,000 (bi-monthly). Now our bi-monthly bill ranges between ₹ 800 and ₹ 900, which is the basic network charge we are covered under," says John. The family was inspired to adopt solar power by a school project on affordable and clean energy their son was assigned.

John was also inspired by his father-in-law in Kerala who was an early adopter of solar technology with a solar inverter system.

Switching to solar power has been an immensely satisfying experience for this family of four. Here is the math of it. "Our solar plant has so far generated 27 KWh of electricity, equivalent to 27,000 units annually. The environmental impact, as per the solar inverter app, is significant: 15.4 trees planted (carbon offset equivalent), 27.7 tons of CO₂ reduction and 11.12 tons of coal saved," he explains.

The question of maintenance

Many houses that have invested in rooftop solar plants point out that the key to keeping the electricity bill to a minimal lies in how the panels are maintained.

Many service providers offer annual maintenance contract where the panels are cleaned periodically, and even warranty for five to eight years.

At John's home, the panels are washed every

fortnight with a hose pipe and spray gun to remove any dust and bird droppings. "The panels need to be kept clean for best efficiency," says John.

T.H. Jothi Kumar, who has a six panel 3 KV plant installed above the lift room of his apartment in Pallikaranai, says before zeroing in on the vendor he read reviews of them. "It is important to not just rely on recent feedback but those written more than five months ago," says Jothi Kumar. Hard objects such as stones could damage the solar panel and they need to be protected from such things. "Our solar panels come with a lighting arrestor, which safeguards the equipment from voltage spikes, so check if the vendor has provided one or ask for it," says Jothi Kumar.

R.Balaji, director, GESA Power, an authorised vendor, say they discourage consumers from investing in solar if their bi-monthly bill is less than 400 units.

"We require a minimum of 80-100 sq.ft. space on the terrace to install one kilowatt of solar. If the terrace is not able to accommodate that then we identify other spots where sunlight will be maximum," says Balaji, an authorised partner for Tata Power Solar.

Other nagging doubts from consumers have to do with metering and the functioning of the solar plant during monsoon. A 3KW solar plant is the basic one can go in for if 600 units is the bimonthly consumption.

"If one installs 1KW of solar it generates 4 units a day and between 5 and 6 units during peak season, which is good enough. Generation happens from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and increases during afternoons," says Balaji.

Tangedco replaces the main EB with bi-directional metres and also charges an amount for this. Stressing on the need to choose an approved vendor, Balaji says under the terms of agreement they are required to serve the customer for five years. "Tangedco can revoke us if a complaint is made by a consumer," he adds.

Basking in the sun

Help for RWAs to set up solar plants

Taking stock of a government scheme a year down the line

Until February 2025, a total of 26,755 domestic consumers in Tamil Nadu had installed solar rooftops availing the Prime Minister Surya Ghar subsidy scheme, launched during the same time last year.

Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) officials say more ground needs to be covered.

Prabhakaran Veeraarasu, environmental engineer and member Poovalagin Nanbargal, says solar rooftop is critical for energy transition and the state government should consider incentivising con-

sumers and also encourage more R&D in battery storage. "While there is some awareness on solar rooftop, there are hurdles that prevent people from switching to solar energy," says Prabhakaran. Currently, the Government is working on a tool that will simplify the process of installing a solar plant.

He says Tamil Nadu government plans to ensure 20,000 MW of solar power capacity and 10,000 MW of battery storage by 2030.

Many consumers and vendors *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to say wrinkles in the processes pertaining to submission of the application process and getting the reimburse-

ment have been ironed out in the last one year.

Tangedco's five zones have been initiating various activities to create awareness among people about solar energy.

In March 2025, the Chennai North Circle under Tangedco started a grievance meeting exclusively to address concerns of consumers and vendors regarding solar rooftop.

"After the regular grievance meeting that Tangedco organises, we have set aside time from 3 p.m. to meet domestic consumers and vendors," says Jayachandran, superintendent engineer (north circle),

adding that a separate WhatsApp group has also been formed with vendors.

Under the circle, the department has processed maximum applications from Perumbur area covering Agaram and Periyar Nagar.

Once an application is received in the portal, Tangedco has to submit a feasibility report where the capacity of the existing meter is also verified.

Besides all the documentation, a GPS-enabled photo of the consumer standing next to the solar panel, and an agreement with the vendor and the consumer are required to get the refund.

The scheme subsidises 60 per

Get help

www.pmsuryaghar.gov.in offers step-by-step guidance on how to submit an application. The site also lists registered vendors and financing options

Visit the local Tangedco office to seek clarity about solar power systems

Tangedco conducts grievance meetings in various zones with separate slots for consumers seeking information about solar rooftop installations

The challenge posed by a shared terrace

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Restrictive roof space, shared ownership of the terrace and lack of buy-in from residents make solar adoption in apartments a massive challenge.

For the last two months, N. Balakrishnan, a vendor listed in the PM Surya Ghar scheme, has been waiting to get the "no objection certificate" from a customer in T. Nagar who is keen on investing in a rooftop photovoltaic (RTPV) plant.

"The customer lives in a 14-unit apartment in T. Nagar; he had been inspired to switch to solar power by the example set by his father who has installed a 10 KV solar plant in his independent house. This apartment's terrace is not being used by residents to dry clothes but it has a water tank and cable lines run over it. Other residents are not ready to allow him to install the solar plant," says Balakrishnan of Shiva Shakti Solar.

A study says Chennai accounts for 25% of the electricity consumption in Tamil Nadu but its rooftop solar power contribution is on the lower side

For a basic 3 KV solar plant to be installed, the vendor has to study if the remaining space on the terrace will permit other residents to install a similar facility in the future if they desire. "At least five residents have to agree to it by signing on a form provided by TANGEDCO along with signatures on their Aadhar copy and electricity bill," says Balakrishnan, adding that he has been called for one more round of talks.

Bigger the number of units in an apartment, the more the challenge in getting personal solar connections installed on the rooftop.

Some years ago, Jeth Nagar Resident Welfare Association in Mandaveli tried installing an RTPV system for common ser-

vices and consumption but it did not work out for various reasons, one of them being persuading the eight households sharing the roof space to agree to have solar plants installed.

A few years ago, Balakrishnan says, a dealer had to remove the solar plant in a new project as others in the complex objected to having such a facility. In another case in Nanganallur, an owner had a private terrace so it was easy to install the solar plant.

However, he says, in a few cases installing solar plant for one owner has also turned advantageous as other flats in the street wanted to go in for a similar facility.

"Getting consensus from all residents in apartment complexes over adopting rooftop solar power is a tedious process," agrees Hari Subbush Kumar, senior programme manager, Asar Social Impact Advisors Pvt. Ltd., a partner company in a report prepared by C40 on implementation of solar rooftop in Chennai.

The study says that Chennai accounts for 25% of the electricity consumption in Tamil Nadu but its rooftop solar power contribution is on the lower side. Due to high prevalence of multi-storey buildings and multiple electricity connections in the same building, the progress in rooftop photo voltaic adoption has been slow, says the report.

Absence of a "group net metering regime" in the state was also cited as a hurdle. For tenants, persuading landlords to let them to install rooftop solar plant is often a massive challenge.

Hari says they are working with large apartment communities and developers to resolve various teething issues in green energy adoption. Asar along with its partners has also been encouraging RWAs to adopt rooftop solar power for common amenities so that it brings down the maintenance charges for all residents.

Hari adds that many resident welfare associations are not registered under the TN Apartment Ownership Act, preventing them from availing subsidies for rooftop solar plants in common areas.

The other side of the hill

At Mamallapuram, there are rock-cut monuments — some of them unfinished — that lie on the leeward side of the tourist wind



▼
Snapshots of the tour.



As East Coast Road (ECR) does something of a quarter turn at the threshold of Mamallapuram and clambers on to a flyover, a motorist is likely to catch a glimpse of a rocky mound, smooth and glistening when the sun beats down upon it. It might come across as a standalone rocky outcrop and pique curiosity. In reality, it is intrinsic to the famed hill of Mamallapuram with its sculptures that are a big tourist draw. Only that it unfortunately lies on the leeward side of this tourist wind. It marks the rear side of the famed hill and stands in relative obscurity together with a handful of less-known Pallava rock-cut temples.

These rock-cut temples are at different stages of completion — they are essentially unfinished bu-



usiness, but the dilettante eye will never guess that. A recent ride organised by the cycling group ECR Riders culminated in the exploration of these less-seen works of sculpture. While discussing one of the unfinished rock-cut temples — “Koneri & Unfinished Mandapam”

— Sivasankar Babu, an “Incredible India” guide and speaker for Tamil Heritage Trust, pointed out that when a work of sculpture could have gone through a variety of states — a temporary lull, repurposing and unfinished state — between commissioning of the work then



and its present reality. “When there is a change in the occupancy of the throne, there could be abandoning of a work. These works are also driven by passion; and as any hobbyist with multiple interests would admit, one hobby would be abandoned when another beckons,” he remarked.

Sivasankar made an observation about the dwarapalakas at “Koneri & Unfinished Mandapam”.

“Dwarapalakas usually stand facing the people or the entrance with a menacing mien. Here, they are standing at a 45 degree angle — to use a sculptural terminology, in a three-quarters posture — due to the lack of space,” he said.

The other works on this side include two small monolith temples called Pidari Ratha (with “both Vimanas completed only up to the prasada level”) and another unfinished monolithic called Valian Kuttai Ratha.

All these works of Pallava sculpture are maintained by ASI and are part of the ticketed tour. Only that a majority of the tourists skip this leg of the tour.

Says Sivasankar: “This side of the hill is secluded and that could be a reason for tourists not exploring them. They should visit this side as a group.”

Photos: & Text: Prince Frederick

Brochure on ‘hidden’ monuments of Mamallapuram released

On March 30, 2025, ECR Riders organised a ride to Mamallapuram, and the ride culminated in the release of a brochure “Lesser Known Monuments of Mamallapuram” and an exploration of these monuments. Brought out by ECR Riders, this brochure was curated by Ramanujar Moulana, founder of Cycling Yogis. ECR Riders is a cycling group led and supported by Sholinganallur MLA S. Aravind Ramesh. On the occasion, ECR Riders launched a new jersey for its members. The less known

monuments that are discussed in the brochure include Mukundanayanar Temple, Adi Varaha Cave Temple, Pidari Ratha, Valian Kuttai Ratha, Koneri & Unfinished Mandapam and Unfinished Rock Sculptures. The locations of these monuments can be found by scanning the QR code attached to this report. Copies of this brochure are available at Probikers, OMR and anyone who wants the brochure can have it in soft copy or hard copy, for free, by emailing ramanujar4u@gmail.com





Ambedkar Law College students *win moot court contest*

Students from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Government Law College, Pattaraiperumbudur, emerged as the winners at the Seventh Isari Velan Memorial Moot Court Competition.

The competition was organised by The School of Law, Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Pallavaram.

Students from the Government Law College, Coimbatore, secured the runner-up position.

Justice Bhavani Subbarayan, Judge, High Court of Madras, inaugurated the competition and emphasised the importance of developing essential legal skills for effective advocacy practice, said a release.

The moot court proposition focused on constitutional law and Artificial Intelligence, providing a unique challenge for students.

Twenty-two law colleges from across

India competed in the event, which featured four rounds: preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final, and final.

Justice Ananya Bandyopadhyay, Calcutta High Court, along with N. Kayalvizhi, and G. Jaya Gowry, principals of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Government Law Colleges, Pattaraiperumbudur, Pudupakkam, chaired the finals.

Ananya Bandyopadhyay highlighted the significance of courtroom manners and etiquette, which can only be honed through such moot court competitions.

Besides, Saveetha School of Law, Chennai, received the Best Memorial award, and Papathi, a student of MGR Educational and Research Institute, Chennai, was honoured with the Best Speaker award.

The competition successfully provided a platform for law students to showcase their legal knowledge and advocacy skills.

Silk expo at Thiruvanniyur

The Rajasthan Artisans and Weavers Welfare Trust is organising a silk expo, 'Kala Silk Expo', at Thiruvanniyur.

Held at Jayashri Kalyana Mandapam, Kalakshetra Road, Thiruvanniyur, until April 13, the expo showcases Orissa sarees, Rajasthan Gagra Choli, Jaipur churidar, Rajasthan bedsheets, door curtain, Chennapatna wooden toys,

Madurai sarees, readymade shirts, leather bags, wallets, and belts, and shoes and sandals for children, men and women.

The expo is offering a 20 percent discount and a 10 percent discount on handlooms and handicrafts, and is open from 10.30 a.m. to 9 p.m..

For details, call 99404 22426, 9884446747.

Workshop on organic farming

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a culinary workshop on April 9. According to a press release, preparation of various flavours of jam and squash will demonstrated during the session. Another workshop on organic farming of vegetables crops will be held on April 11. This session includes chemical-free methods of soil nourishment and pests and disease management.

Both the workshops will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044-29530048

Humour club to meet today

Besant Nagar Humour Club is conducting its meeting on April 6 at Sea View Apartments' (HB) Owners' Welfare Association Hall, First Seaward Road, Thiruvanniyur. Time: At 5 p.m. According to a press release, cardiologist Dr. G. Deepak will be chief guest. For details, call 9444755430.



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Posters were displayed on autos.

No Spitting campaign launched

The exercise has hit Mylapore and would be extended to other parts of the city with the help of citizen groups

Chennai streets can expect an explosion of 'No Spitting' signboards now.

StopIndiaSpitting, the movement launched during the pandemic in March 2020, is back in Chennai. To start with, they are making their presence felt in Mylapore.

On April 3, in partnership with Ecoconnectors group of Mylapore and Beautiful Bharat, 10 volunteers set out to kickstart the campaign against public spitting on the streets across Mylapore.

Their goal: making it clear that public spitting is unacceptable by putting up 'No Spitting' signs in prominent spots.

Joined by local residents, the group had conversations with the public, especially security guards, auto drivers and shopkeepers, about the ill effects of spitting. Besides being a source of diseases, spitting can make for the filth on streets, a factor that can impact swachh city rankings, said a press release.

Odette Katrak, co-founder of

volunteer group Beautiful Bharat, who is driving this movement, is reactivating the campaign in Chennai with the support of residents. She says that five years after COVID, it is as important to address the scourge of public as spitting can cause TB the same way it enabled the spread of COVID.

Ganga Sridhar of Ecoconnectors and a resident of Raja Street in Mandaveli says they plan to put up signs across Mylapore to start with, to reinforce no-spitting behaviour.

Among places that this volunteer group has so far put up no-spitting signboards are a primary health centre, apartments, shops and auto rickshaws. This will continue in the coming weeks to deter those habituated to spit anywhere without a second thought from doing so, says the press release.

Odette highlights that no spitting signs are not seen, and in the absence of signs or bystanders stepping in with a word of awareness, those with the habit of spit-

ting would continue with the practice.

"We need to change this with more signs and more conversations on the ground; and every person can play a role with polite requests."

K.L. Balasubramanian chose the park at R.K.Nagar to put No Spitting signs apart from other locations and even autos. "More people tend to spit in open spaces, but spitting in a park where people of all ages come for health reasons, is also a habit to be changed. Children play on the grass unaware that others have spat in the same place. We hope to bring change with signs and conversations," he says.

Public spitting incidentally is one of four criteria in Swachh Surveshan ratings impacting visual cleanliness, the other three being litter, urination and open defecation, added the release.

To activate the campaign in your locality and get signs in specific languages, write to stopindiaspitting@gmail.com. Follow them on Instagram at stopindiaspitting

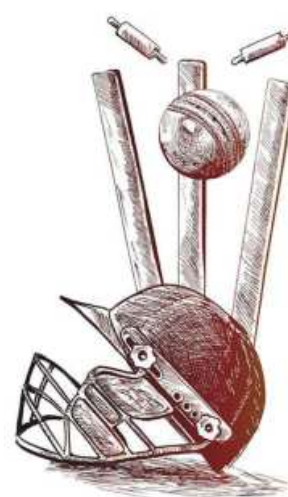


Air-conditioned restroom at the Central depot

Metropolitan Transport Corporation has opened an air-conditioned restroom for its bus drivers and conductors.

State Transport Minister S. S. Sivasankar recently opened an air-conditioned restroom at the MTC Central Bus Depot. This will enable them to rest comfortably during their break time in the summer, said a release.

Electric fans have been installed for the bus drivers. In addition, the conductors and drivers will receive butter-milk, ORS, and RO drinking water daily to keep them hydrated.



Cricket camp at Gandhi Nagar Sports Club from April 6

The Gandhi Nagar Cricket and Sports Club is conducting summer coaching camp at the Club's grounds at 4th Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar for boys and girls in the age group 6 to 19, from April 6 to May 23.

The coaching sessions will be from 6.15 a.m. to 8.15 a.m. on each of these days.

The Club has practice nets and match facilities.

For details, call C.S. Ravi, honorary secretary at 8754407654 / K.Balakrishnan, honorary joint secretary at 9444824838.

Applications invited

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation has invited applications for its one-year apprentice training. Those who have completed B.E., Diploma and Non-Technical Stream (Undergraduate, Mechanical Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, B.A., B.Sc., B.Com, BBA, BBM and B CM) Tamil students in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 can apply.

The students should apply online (<https://nats.education.gov.in>) National Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, before April 22.

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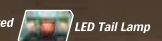
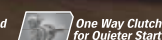
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