

T. NAGAR

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



ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER

Meet the conservancy workers who endeared themselves to residents through their acts of honesty **P4&5**



LIKE OWNER, LIKE DOG

G.K.M. Kabbir has donated blood 35 times so far, and he has drawn up an uncompromising blood-donation schedule for his canine pets too **P3**

READERS WRITE

Road leading to wetland park in Porur in a shambles

R. MURUGESHAN

Chettiar Agaram Main Road, which runs along Mount Poonamallee Road and Tamabaram - Maduravoyal Bypass Service Road, is in a rundown state. The road has gone from bad to worse over the last two years.

We residents thought that the road would be repaired after the city's Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Wetland Park opened during the first week of March.

Even before the park's opening, the road was used as a two-way, though it does not have the width to accommodate vehicles from both directions.

Now with the park open to the pu-

blic and the park's main gate close to Mount Poonamallee Road, motorists criss-cross in all directions.

The road is an essential link for those who travel from Anna Nagar, Ambattur and Maduravoyal regions to reach Iyyappanthangal, Kattupakkam, Karayanchavadi and Kumananchavadi. Residential homes have come up, and many office-goers from these four regions cross Agaram Chettiar Road.

I request that the authorities concerned to widen and improve the road for smooth traffic movement and for an accident-free travel.

(R. Murugesan
is a resident of Porur)

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 postal address and contact number.

An extended weekend and the rush at Koyambedu



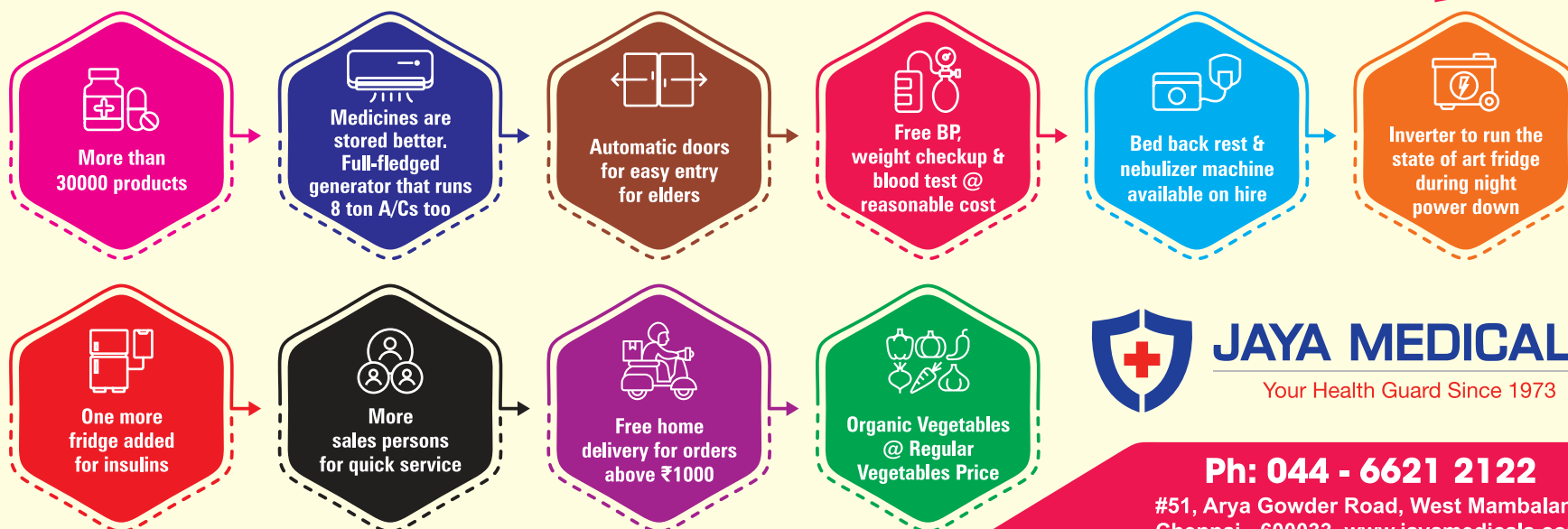
PH Road in Koyambedu near Rohini Theatre chock-a-block with omnibuses on May 2. PHOTO: VEDHAN M

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READERS WRITE

‘A strong case for police patrolling’

A gang of boys attacked another boy a couple of weeks ago in Iyypanthangal. The passers-by who stepped in to prevent the assault learnt that it had something to do with drugs.

It should be noted that a woman was gang-raped two years ago in this locality and it was learnt from the dailies that the crime was committed under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

From time to time, Confederation of Ayyapanthangal Residents Welfare Associations has been requesting T15 SRMC Pol-

ice Station to carry out patrolling in Iyypanthangal.

The last request was made during the last week of this February following a series of thefts involving motorcycles and a car.

However, our efforts were in vain.

It is five years since police patrolling was stopped in Iyypanthangal.

P Senthil Kumar,
coordinator, Confederation
of Ayyapanthangal Residents
Welfare Associations



MTC bus terminus in T Nagar. FILE PHOTO

‘No bus service to Egmore railway station from T. Nagar terminus’

There is no direct MTC bus service from T. Nagar terminus to Egmore railway station. Besides, there is no direct service from T. Nagar terminus to Vallalar Nagar (Mint). T. Nagar, Egmore and Vallalar Nagar – all the three are known for commerce. Hence, MTC should introduce new routes.

V. Johan Dhanakumar
Choolaimedu

‘Oil Mill Road speed breaker is unsafe’

The speed breaker on Oil Mill Road in Iyypanthangal (near Grace Supermarket) is not painted. It can be easily missed. That has caused many minor accidents. The latest one occurred on April 29 at night around eleven.

Dhayalan Pazhani,
Iyypanthangal



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The vacant land of HR&CE and (below) MTC buses parked along Kamarajar Salai in Saligramam.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Saligramam RWA seeks a proper bus terminus

Kaveri Rangan Nagar Narpani Mandram, a residents welfare association of Kaveri Rangan Nagar in Saligramam, has made a representation to the Secretary, Chief Minister's Special Cell requesting a bus terminus in Saligramam.

The representation dated April 30, 2025, suggests conversion of the vacant land at Kamarajar Salai into a bus terminus.

“The land belongs to the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. At present, buses are parked along Kamarajar Salai where a school is located. It should be noted that Madras High Court has permitted use of vacant temple lands for public purpose,” says S.N. Rajaram, the association's secretary.

The representation also raised the issue of lack of adequate bus services operated from Saligramam.

“Only two routes are available: 17 E (to Broadway) and 12 B (to Forshore Estate). The 17E service provides connectivity to Kodambakkam, Nungambakkam, and Egmore and Central railway stations. And 12B service helps to access Alwarpet and Mylapore. But there are no direct services to other parts of the city including Guindy, Velachery and Thiruvannamiyur. Given the importance of Tambaram railway station and Kilambakkam bus



terminus, there are no direct services from Saligramam. We have also sought buses to Madhavaram, Thiruvottiyur and Kuthambakkam. We need to go to Arcot Road and if required to Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road to avail bus services to other parts of the city. It should be noted that there are no direct services to

Vadapalani metro rail station. The frequency of bus services to Koyambedu should be increased. If more number of services are to be operated from Saligramam, a proper terminus is required,” adds Rajaram.

A copy of the representation has been sent to the Transport Commissioner of State Transport Authority; Managing Director of the Metropolitan Transport Corporation; Commissioner of HR & CE Department; Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation; South Chennai MP; and Virugambakkam Constituency MLA.

Residents seek direct services to Vadapalani metro railway station, Velachery and Madhavaram



G.K.M. Kabbir has donated blood 35 times so far, and he has drawn up an uncompromising blood-donation schedule for his canine pets too

Like owner, like dog

LIFFY THOMAS

Every blood donor is a hero and that includes the one with four legs. In G.K.M. Kabbir's home, there are currently four donors who move about on four legs – these are his canine pets, Rowdy, Cocoa, Racket (belonging to Kanni breed) and Rusty Kutti (Chippiparai).

Kabbir has drawn up an uncompromising blood-donation schedule for them – they experience the gentle piercing of a retractable needle every three months.

"All my dogs are donors," says Kabbir, a retired process audit consultant who lives in Chintadripet.

"I have had more than 30 dogs over the years with eight dogs at my home in one time," says Kabbir.

He began to get his dogs to support blood donation drives ten



G.K.M. Kabbir with his pets; and (below) Rusty with the medal received at an awards function organised by TANUVAS.

years ago.

A friend's dog had met with an accident and Kabbir received a frantic call seeking blood. The dog was in the emergency and Kabbir rushed with Rusty to the Department of Clinics at Madras Veterinary Hospital in Vepery.

Rusty, a Chippiparai breed had been adopted by Kabbir and his family and lived with them for 14 years until its death.

"I still remember the scene at the hospital ward. Family members were in tears as their dog was really serious. It was a miracle to see the dog being saved and a memorable one for me too," says Kabbir, who has himself donated blood (obviously, for human patients) 35 times.

Over the years, Rusty has been a champion donor, donating blood for more than 10 times. For World Blood Donors Day in 2019, Rusty received the Best Blood Donor award from TANUVAS.

"Rusty's blood group is rare; he was a universal donor so it was much sought-after," says the proud owner.

Once a pet parent flew down from Mumbai to get Rusty's blood from Tamil Nadu Veterinary and

Animal Sciences (TANUVAS) University's Animal Blood Bank at Madras Veterinary Hospital.

Most of Kabbir's dogs are healthy so he makes it a point to get them into this habit after they turn one-and-a-half years old.

The only criterion Kabbir insists upon is that the doctor is well-trained in the job. "It pains me to see the dog getting multiple pricks to get the vein, so I am selective about the hospital," says Kabbir.

In most cases, donors arrange an auto or they come in their vehicle.

After every life-saving act, the pets are treated with food supplement or a medicine is given to help them recover quickly. Kabbir has made many friends over the years by volunteering for canine blood donation.

Says Kabbir: "One has become a close friend after one of my dogs saved theirs, so when I was abroad they took care of my dog for five days."

Donate blood, get incentives

"We need more pet owners to volunteer to get their dogs to donate blood and we are happy to give them a red carpet treatment for their gesture," says G. Bharanidharan of Chennai Small Animal Veterinarians Association (CSAVA).

Launched in 2022, the blood donors club brings together dog owners and veterinarians for medical assistance.

"Donors will be given annual vaccination and deworming coupons and other freebies from any of our 120 private clinics in Chennai that are registered with us. If a person from Ambattur needs blood for his pet, we will connect them to a clinic in the neighbourhood," says Dr Bharanidharan.

To sign up, call 73050 73050



A database of canine donors

If you are a pet parent and want your dog to become a blood donor to save their canine friends then register for this initiative by Hope for Critters.

The Chennai-based animal welfare organisation is running the "canine blood donor programme" to establish a registry of canine blood donors to address critical needs within the community.

Kirthana Raamsukaesh, founder, Hope for Critters, says they receive at least one call a day from a

pet parent. "The number of donors registered with us does not match the number of calls we get, so we invite pet parents to register with us even if they are not in need now," says Kirthana, a resident of R.A. Puram.

Like humans, dogs encounter severe injuries, need surgeries, and face other critical conditions that often require lifesaving blood transfusions. Currently, the availability of emergency blood for dogs is limited. "We cannot store blood

for more than 24 hours, so when there is an emergency need, we call interested volunteers from our database," says Kirthana.

As with humans, there must be a gap between every two blood donations. Canines have two major blood groups: DEA negative and DEA positive, the former is rare to find. "Of late, most of the requests that we have been getting are for DEA negative," says Kirthana.

A series of tests are done to

check if the dog is fit to donate blood. "Depending on the recipient's weight, the blood is collected. Around 350 ml is what is generally needed," says Kirthana. There is one requirement that this animal welfare organisation has for pet owners. "Please know your pet's blood group. We have saved many pets that were in a critical condition by just connecting with the right donor," she adds. Hope for Critters runs an animal shelter at Kannathur and a pet food bank in Thiruvanniyur.

Visit the Instagram page @hopeforcritters to fill the google form.

**S. Ravi:
a bond that got
stronger**

Even after scraping the bottom of his savings, S. Ravi found himself distressingly short of what it took to keep his grandson in college. The college fees had to be arranged; and it was, in the nick of time, with help pouring in from expected quarters. Residents of Mandaveli Raja Street stepped in with financial support towards payment of the grandson's fees.

Why would these residents be so generous in their offer of support to Ravi?

Let us set the clock back by 11 months, and replay a scene from Mandaveli Raja Street.

A late breakfast following an early shift has the desirability of an oasis discovered after a long trudge through a desert. S. Ravi, was settling in for that kind of a breakfast, when his hand was "stayed" mid-air between the plate and the palate. Homemakers from a nearby household had searched high and low for a five-sovereign gold chain in vain, and as a last resort, were now turning to the only place they had not brought under their dragnet – the garbage bin – and the only man who can turn hope into reality. Without a second thought, Ravi put his meal aside. Calmly and carefully, he began sorting through the waste pile he had just collected.

Bit by bit, layer by layer, he shifted through the mess – until a soft glint of gold shone from beneath the rubbish. He handed it to the family, their relief and gratitude knowing no bounds.

Moved by Ravi's honesty and effort, residents of Mandaveli Raja Street passed the hat around, collecting ₹8,000 to give away to Ravi as a token of appreciation.

"It is not just about the money," Ravi says. "When people care, you feel like you belong. That is what matters. If I ever go hungry or need anything, I know they would be there for me."

Urbaser Sumeet conservancy workers.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Bomma Devi:
'adopted' by a
neighbourhood**

The day dawned in drab, customary colours for this conservancy worker, but ended with a lustre that has not dimmed to this day. Bomma Devi, posted at Srinivasapuram in Foreshore Estate, found herself face-to-face with a resident – a differently-abled woman beside herself with anxiety as only someone who has lost a one-sovereign gold chain can be. The resident surmised the chain got inadvertently swept into the garbage.

"We had just started our work," recalls Devi, "but I promised her I would keep an eye out for the chain." Devi went beyond the promise: she sorted out the garbage thoroughly, and found the valuable piece of yellow metal. When Devi took the one-sovereign gold chain to the resident, the latter was overwhelmed with gratitude and she could not stop proclaiming Devi's honesty to anyone with ears that crossed her path. As the day ended, Devi had a sense of being accepted by the residents as their own; she felt belonged. Displays of gratitude and admiration have not ceased: many a morning, after sweeping the streets near the beach, she would be greeted not with an empty hand, but one holding a warm cup of tea or a refreshing glass of juice. These gestures, though small, speak volumes of the bond she has forged with the community.

**Antony Samy:
being of help to
someone brings joy**

One morning in September 2024, while Antony Samy was at his stomping ground in KK Nagar, he found himself having to accommodate a special, unusual request in his workaday duties. A security guard from Windsor Park Apartments brought him news of a lost diamond necklace, worth ₹5 lakh, mistakenly thrown away with the trash. The owner, distraught, had turned to the guard for help, who in turn sought Antony's assistance.

With permission from his supervisor, Antony sifted through the discarded rubbish. And after a few minutes, his efforts fructified – there was the unmistakable glint of diamonds in the refuse. Antony says the act of retrieving the diamond necklace and giving it to the resident filled him with immense joy.

Antony, a BOV operator and on Urbaser Sumeet's payrolls for the last five years, notes that the episode remains one of his cherished memories.

**Brand ambassadors:
unappointed but unrivalled****Valuables:
RETRIEVED AND RETURNED**

Cash & cheques:

₹1,40,500

Gold items:

₹19,63,802.40

Mobile phones:

₹5,73,000

Bags:

₹70,600

Wallets:

₹1,200

Other electronics:

₹8,000

TOTAL

₹27,56,102.40

Urbaser Sumeet, employed by Greater Chennai Corporation to handle solid waste management operations in seven of its zones, has a list to flaunt: one that reels off the names of conservancy workers whose acts of honesty upended what seemed "loss", in some cases a huge loss, to residents.

The list spanning the period from October 2020 to now includes diamond necklaces, gold chains, smartphones, wallets filled with cash and so on that were lost in the garbage pile by residents, and then retrieved and returned by conservancy workers.

As these workers earn far less than the value of what they return, these acts are a reminder that honesty can grow in the harshest of soils. Such commendable acts by individuals has won respect for the entire community of conservancy workers. Urbaser Sumeet views these conservancy workers as brand ambassadors, unappointed to that role but equal to what it demands.

Hari Balaji, head - information, education and communication, Urbaser Sumeet notes that these acts have brought residents and conservancy workers closer in many neighbourhoods. There is many an instance of how residents – particularly, in areas such as Adyar and T. Nagar – offer tea and refreshments to these workers, allow them to use their restrooms and even invite them to dine at restaurants such as Adyar Anand Bhavan and Geetham with their families.

In Adyar, the residents' association invited a conservancy worker to hoist the national flag on Independence Day. "When RWAs do that - that is a revolution," says C. Namachivayam, a resident of Adyar.

Urbaser Sumeet runs internal recognition programmes such as "Everyday Heroes (honouring two workers per zone monthly with a dinner at a resort in ECR) and "Emerging Leaders" (identifies and places mid-level staff in management pipelines). It also bolsters the educational aspirations of workers' children.

"Many workers' children drop out after Class 12 due to financial constraints" says Hari Balaji, adding that the organisation steps in with counselling, admission support and help in exam preparation. Their annual talent show, judged by panels from Vijay TV and Adithya TV, showcases performances by conservancy workers' children.

Thinking out of the box

A reel shared on Urbaser Sumeet's official Instagram page discusses how the conservancy staff attached to Urbaser Sumeet's Zone 11 (Valasaravakkam) operations thought out of box while planning this year's Labour Day celebration. The team comprising BOV (Battery-Operated Vehicle) operators deflected attention from themselves and made a cause the central theme of Labour Day. They donated a 43-inch Android television to the Adyar Cancer Hospital. Over time, the workers had been setting aside money earned from selling recyclable scrap they collected during their daily rounds.

When the idea first came up, the team approached their Zonal Manager, Mohanakrishnan Ethiraj, who offered guidance and support. With his help, the workers coordinated the purchase and planned the donation as a Labour Day contribution.

Around ten staff members visited the hospital in person to hand over the television.

A local scrap dealer, hearing about the initiative, offered his support too, donating two 240-litre and two 120-litre waste bins to the hospital.

**A street that adds invisible
homes to its address book**

Charity begins at home. And charity has an added, glittering ring of meaning to it when it is practised in the extended home, rewarding those one might be excused for not recognising, let alone rewarding. Acting on this thinking, Mandaveli Raja Street has ended up with more homes than are registered with a door number. These are the homes of the foot soldiers – the workers and their families – that keep residents' lives running smoothly like a well-oiled machine. These homes might be physically scattered, located across the metro, but have a soulful connection with Mandaveli Raja Street. Every Labour Day, says Ganga Sridhar (a committee member of Mandaveli Raja Street Residents Welfare Association), a gratitude that residents feel through the year is expressed in the full glare of public attention. This year, the association invited 50 workers – including conservancy staff, auto drivers, vendors, and household helpers – for a special Labour Day lunch. Buttermilk was served to anyone who dropped in at the event, even passersby.

"It is not just about conservancy workers," Ganga adds. "It is about every person who makes this community work – be it the Istri Kadai lady, the post-woman, or the street's regular auto driv-



er. These are the people who make our lives tension-free." Over the years, the Association has built meaningful relationships with many of these workers. When Ravi, their door-to-door waste collector, returned a resident's lost gold chain, he was honoured during their Independence Day celebration. Later, when his grandson needed financial help for his education, the residents helped with the fees. And during a cyclone, when the Istri Kadai woman's shop was damaged, the community rebuilt her shop, buying her a new ironing machine, and offering support through the Lions Club.

"Our efforts go beyond Labour Day," says Ganga. "We try to help whenever there is a need. We even conduct a free Women's Day health check-up in collaboration with Spectrum Clinic, where our conservancy workers receive full blood tests and consultations with a gynaecologist."

**Kendriya Vidyalaya
schools to take students
on a road safety trip**

From the coming academic year, an audio-visual programme will teach students how to be safe on the road



File photo used for representational purpose only

LIFFY THOMAS

Dressed up as a superhero, the road safety mascot SIAM (read as Safe I am) greets children of junior sections in schools in a video. It goes on to promise them that it would take them on an adventure about road safety. With jingles and animation stories, children listen to conversations between Chiku and Muski on pedestrian safety, the learn importance of wearing a helmet, the need to walk on the footpath and following rules while waiting for the bus.

The module gets more advanced for middle schoolers and high school students showing them traffic signs, cycling safety and safe driving practices. The rights of pedestrians and data on road safety are also in focus.

During the coming academic year, students of Kendriya Vidyalaya schools will have an online road safety programme in their curriculum that will nudge them towards following road rules. The programme was launched recently by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), in association with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), under the guidance of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

There are 1,253 Kendriya Vidyalayas, and the programme will offer six interactive, curriculum-integrated digital modules for

foundational, middle and senior secondary classes.

After teachers play the videos in the classroom, the programme requires students to take an online assessment to test their understanding. "It is an online quiz where those scoring more than 80% will get a certificate. Those who do not make that cut can repeat the test till they get that score," says Meenakshi Kukreja, director, SIAM.

The web-based Learning Management System (LMS) developed by SIAM has been integrated into KVS academic activities.

Depending on the age group, the interactive activities are aimed at helping students sharpen their decision-making skills and identify if a shown action is right or wrong.

Meenakshi says the MoU with KVS was signed two years ago and a lot of thought has gone into making the content engaging so as to inspire children to be responsible road users.

"India is among countries that are on the top of the table in terms of road-related fatalities. Education is one pillar of road safety. Through LMS system we will be awarding schools that have completed the six modules together with the assessment tests in the shortest time or got maximum number of students enrolled," says Meenakshi.

Twenty-five assistant commissioners have been trained on how to run this programme in their respective States.



A silken touch to the landscape

It is the time of year when silk cotton trees draw attention with their seed pods. Recalling how these trees furthered a sustainability goal, tree conservationist T.D. Babu points out that their presence in Chennai is dwindling

PRINCE FREDERICK

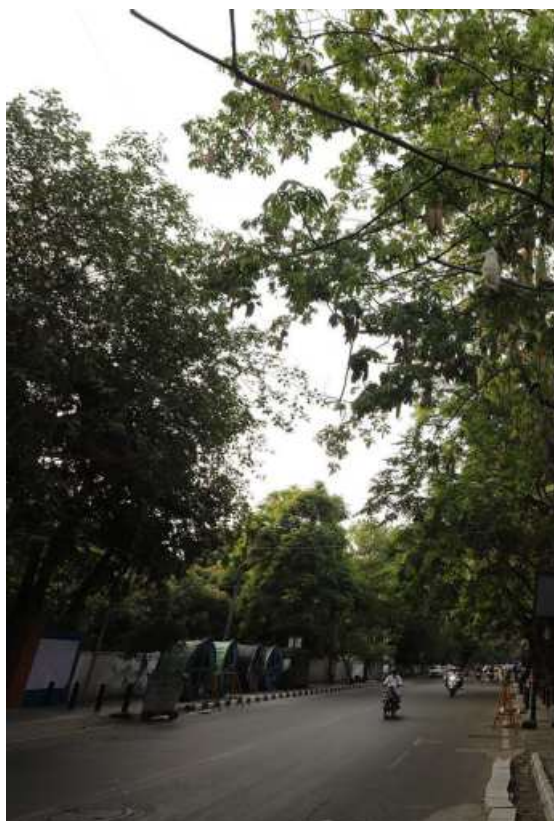
Silk cotton (*Ceiba pentandra*) trees are having a productive spell now in Chennai, and they better make the most of it, as they would soon slip into obscurity and that would be their lot when they are not sporting the eye-catching seed pods.

From lining avenues in Chennai, they have been reduced to scattered insignificance. On Anderson Road, one will come across a stand of three silk cotton trees, pointing to their preferred status in the past as avenue trees.

Now, they live unseen and are usually ignored except when they

put out their seed pods. The seed pods, elongated and oval-shaped, are green in the flush of youth, and turn brownish and open up exposing bright-white, extremely fibres when mature. Silk cotton trees can now be seen giving up their fibres, the brown-coloured pods breaking open. There are some trees that have a mix of mature and immature pods; and some, such as the one at a gated community on Santhome High Road, displays a profusion of still-young seed pods (they did on April 25, 2025). But they could have matured since the last time they were seen, the natural process being accelerated naturally.

T.D. Babu, tree conservationist



Silk cotton (*Ceiba pentandra*) trees with seed pods at Besant Avenue Road and Anderson Road.
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



and a member of the Chennai District Green Council, notes an unfounded argument placed against the tree led to its unpopularity.

“Word spread without any basis

that the fluffy fibres would aggravate respiratory problems,” says Babu, suggesting that it was a case of giving a dog a bad name and hanging him.

And some *Ceiba pentandra* trees have been lost on account of infrastructure work.

“We lost five trees along Royapettah High Road, near the Luz Church Road-Kutchery Road junction, due to Metro rail project,” says Babu.

He says the loss of *Ceiba pentandra* is not just loss of green cover, but a loss to sustainability. Silk cotton trees (also known as kapok trees) were intricately and inextricably tied to a mundane, everyday of life – sleep and rest.

Before the proliferation of foam-based mattresses and pillows, those made with *ilavam panju* (silk cotton) were ubiquitous.

“We are living in times when we hear of how mattresses, foam-based mattresses are among the major pollutants of marine waters, and we cannot help thinking of how easy the silk cotton mattresses were on the environment. A silk cotton mattress would never leave a home. When the silk cotton in a mattress has grown old, lost its suppleness and therefore its cushioning effect, it would be removed and dried and it would then go into making pillows. The mattress would be filled with fresh silk cotton. When a mattress has become irredeemable, the cloth would be stitched into pillow covers. Nothing ever left a home,” recalls Babu.

On Besant Avenue Road, at Rajaji Bhavan, maintained by Central Public Works Department and housing government offices, one finds tall *Ceiba pentandra* trees. The trees are reportedly around from the time the facility was established, which was in the late 1990s. According to someone who has seen these trees grow, they give up their branches in cyclone-induced gusty conditions. And he believes that this quality makes them an unfavourable choice as avenue trees.

Teen from Triplicane paddles his way to fame

K. KEERTHIVASAN

An out-and-out Triplicane boy, Vishruth Ramakrishnan loves going to temples especially the Parthasarathy Swami Temple, which is close to his home. Not just that, he loves playing cricket and football on the bylanes of Triplicane with his friends and neighbours. But the 14-year-old is not your boy next door. He is a champion paddler. Recently, Vishruth won three titles in the South Asian youth table tennis championships in Kathmandu (Nepal). In a stellar show, he clinched the U-15 singles, doubles with Atharva Nawarange



Vishruth Ramakrishnan

and team titles in the regional tournament. The teenager picked the singles triumph over Pakistan's Ahmad Muhammad



Khan in the u-15 summit clash as quite special. His 11-9, 11-5, 11-4 triumph showcased the Indian's single-mindedness and

perseverance.

“Beating the Pakistan boy in the final was great as I played a good tactical game. Playing in the tournament and bagging three titles is definitely a stepping stone in my career,” said Vishruth.

Moreover, he won all his matches, remaining unbeaten. In fact, winning at the International level is not new for Vishruth as he had already won one in Tunisia in 2021 when he triumphed in the WTT Youth Contender in the U-11 section. Vishruth is exceptionally hard working as he trains five days a week in the mornings and evenings. “I do multiball training both in the morning and evening. I do breathing exercises in the

morning. I play pickleball at the TNCA Club and swimming at the Gymkhana Club, which helps me in my endurance,” said the the class X student of Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School in Mylapore.

He was featured in our pages as a four-year-old in the Sportstar-Mylapore Club non-ranking inter-school table tennis tournament. He received an award for ‘the youngest player of the tournament’. Coached by the Rao brothers, Srinivasa and Muralidhara and Meenakshi Ganesh at the Mylapore Sports Trust, Vishruth is now looking at doing well in the new domestic season beginning in June. “Having completed my U-15, I want to do well in U-17 category and win the National championships,” he said.



Probus Club gets a new team

The Probus Club of Chennai has elected a new team for the term 2025-2027. The team of 19 members were installed as the new office bearers at a ceremony held at the Russian Centre for Science and Culture on April 26.

Annadhurai.M was installed as the 18th president of the Probus Club of Chennai, with Ramaraj serving as the new secretary. The installation ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, including Rama Rao V, president of FOSCATAN; Edwin Babu, state head of HelpAge India, Tamil Nadu; Kalaimamani Ervadi Rathakrishnan S, editor of Kavithai Uravu; and Kalaimamani Kizhambur Sankara Subramanian, editor of Kalaimagal.

Other notable guests who attended the ceremony included

Dr. V. Chockalingam, Cardiologist; Punniakoti P, president of Cheyyar Probus Club; Badri C, president of Probus Club of Madras South; and Nagarajan TV, chairman of the Senior Citizens Bureau.

The Probus Club of Chennai is a senior citizens' association of retired professionals, businessmen, and government officials, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Madras. Founded in 1992, the club has completed 33 years of service, and its activities include awarding scholarships to deserving poor students, providing medical benefits to needy senior citizens and fostering fellowship among members through monthly breakfast meetings, tours, and cultural events, said a release.

Award for Valasaravakkam resident

Mandolin maestro U. Nagamani receives the Cultural Ambassador Award from Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna



The awardees with the guests at the event; (below) U.Nagamani
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna under Rotary International District 3234 conferred Vocational Excellence Awards on three individuals their outstanding contribution to society through their professions.

The chief traffic warden of Tamilnadu Azeem Ahmed was conferred with "Service above self" award, while Mandolin maestro, U.Nagamani was conferred the "Cultural Ambassador Award" and Social entrepreneur-inventor Chandrasekaran was conferred the "Trendsetter Award".

Mandolin maestro U.Nagamani, a resident of Valasaravakkam, has been performing from the age of nine and is the first female carnatic mandolin artist, says a press release. She won the "Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar" from Sangeet Natak Academy, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken about her achievements in an episode of Mann Ki Baat. She



made her international debut at Philharmonie de Paris, in France, where she received a standing ovation in an auditorium that packed 2500 people.

Nagamani has two sons (the elder son pursues final year B.Com and the younger one is in Standard 7) and both of them sing and play the mandolin, the press release adds.

She did her schooling in Chinmaya Vidyalaya Virugambakkam branch and B.Com & Master of Fine Arts from University of Madras.

Dr. Natraj I.P.S (Retd.), former DGP of Tamil Nadu Police was the chief guest, and Rotarian Sujatha Panju was the guest of honour.

Rotarian Karthikeyan S., president of the Club, secretary Rotarian Paresh P. Khatri and Director Vocational Service Rotarian Gourishankar spoke.

Rotarian Rajasriram coordinated the event.

Over a hundred invited guests and club members were present at the event which was held on April 26, 2025 at Savera Hotel on R.K.Salai, Mylapore.

Chennai Super Mom contest on May 11



Iris Events, in association with Mom Junction, presents the 12th edition of Chennai Super Mom 2025 on May 11 at Ampa SkyOne Mall, Aminjikarai; 2 p.m. onwards. The event celebrates the beautiful bond between mothers and their little ones.

The contest is open to mothers with babies of two years and less and expecting moms. Mom and Me fashion show, cookery contest, debate on parenting and Instagram reel challenges are some highlights of the event, said a release.

Participants also get exciting awards and prizes, added the release.

For registration, call 9884783510/ 9841206506



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At Anna Swimming Pool on May 1.
PHOTO: SRINATH M

Time to take a dip

SDAT's swimming camp at Anna Swimming Pool during summer is usually a big draw

SRINATH M

There cannot be a better time than summer to learn swimming. Besides learning a skill that is going to stand you in good stead through a lifetime, you also address an immediate

concern: the scorching summer heat.

Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu has started a swimming camp, one lasting from April to June, at Anna Swimming Pool. The first batch took its lessons from April 1 to 13. The current batch,

which started having its classes on April 29 will complete the learning programme on May 11.

The next batch has its classes from May 13 to 25; and the last batch would attend classes from May 27 to June 6.

Every session lasts an hour and the timings of the sessions during the day are: session one – 6 am to 7 am; session two – 7.15 am to 8.15 am; session three – 8.30am to 9.30 am; and evening sessions (also one hour each) start from 3 pm and end at 6.30 pm.

Eligibility criteria: children aged above 7 years with a height of 129 cm or more.

The course fee is ₹ 2360/ for 13 days. The contact numbers are 044-25390119/ 8660229506

Swimming Coach Tamilvanan says during summer vacation many children join the camp and those who excel in the classes invariably take up competitive swimming.

The Anna Swimming Pool is open through the week, except for Monday, which is set aside for maintenance of the pool as Sunday registers a great footfall, says Tamilvanan, adding that as the pool is well-maintained, even international swimmers come here for practice.

Workshop on Bonsai



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on chocolate making on May 8. According to a press release, preparation of chocolates of various flavours including mango, pineapple, and dry fruits will be demonstrated.

Another session on Bonsai, the art of growing trees in pots and containers, will be held on May 9. Both the workshops will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 29530048.

Rotary Club donates generator to school



Rotary Club of Madras T. Nagar donated a 62 KVA generator to Smt. Krishna Moolchand Maheshwari Vivekananda Vidyalaya at Nachiar

Chatram in Thiruninravur. According to a press release, the initiative was supported by Rotary Foundation and Aravind Laboratories.

Academy honours IAS achievers



The KingMakers IAS Academy recently held a felicitation ceremony to honour the 2024 Indian Civil Services Examination winners. The annual examination by the

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) determines candidates for various elite government positions, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service. More than 130 students from the academy cleared the examination. The candidates who were felicitated include S. Saranya, who secured 125th rank; Harikrishnan K (784); Thanigai Arasan (259); S. Sai Kiran (298); Kavin Mozhi M V (546); Arun Prakash M (639); Karan Ayyappa (691); and Kiran P (862). Keerthika, who secured the 21st rank in the TNPSC Group 1 examination, was also recognised. The candidates were presented with commemorative mementos, said a release. Several distinguished retired officials and civil servants graced the event. They offered guidance to the aspiring officers about the responsibilities and opportunities that come with a career in the civil services. The next batch of training are scheduled to begin in May, June and July. Graduates and those pursuing higher studies are welcome. For details, call 94442 27273.



College Day celebration

Annai Veilankanni's College for Women, Saidapet, celebrated its 25th College Day recently. According to a press release, Dr Venugopalan Nair, IRS, Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Customs was the chief guest. He advised students to excel in their studies and become confident and released the college magazine. Various cultural events also marked the day, adds the release.

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GRT opens in Guduvancheri

GRT Jewellers has opened its 63rd branch in Guduvancheri. Located on GST Road, Nandivaram, near Guduvancheri bus terminus, the showroom offers customers various benefits.

Customers can avail of ₹250 less per gram on gold jewellery, ₹ 75 extra per gram on old gold exchanges, and ₹12,500 off per carat on diamond value, said a release. Additional offers include 25 percent off on making charges on silver articles and anklets, 10 percent off on the uncut diamond value, added the release.

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