

ANNA NAGAR

Purasawalkam » Villivakkam » Kolathur » Nazarathpettai » Pattabiram » Maduravoyal » Koyambedu » Tiruverkadu » Puzhal » Kilpauk » Perambur » Mogappair
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VELAMMAL IIT & NEET ACADEMY

MUGAPPAIR | MEL AYANAMBAKKAM | ANNEXURE | ALAPAKKAM | PARUTHIPATTU



100
PERCENTILE

IN
PHYSICS &
CHEMISTRY



VENISHA M



AKSHAY KIRAN V K



SUKIN VICKRAM A V



26 STUDENTS SECURED ABOVE 99 PERCENTILE
IN JEE MAIN 2025 (SESSION - 1)



ADITHYAA V S
99.97
PERCENTILE



OLIVE JERUSHA J
99.96
PERCENTILE



SUKIN VICKRAM A V
99.93
PERCENTILE



VISSHNU D
99.92
PERCENTILE



RUDRA K
99.91
PERCENTILE



VIGNESHWAR S K
99.91
PERCENTILE



GAUTAM K
99.84



YUVA BHARATHI A
99.75



RAHUL KANNAN K
99.66



SARWAJIT VENKAT S
99.65



ARVIND SRIDARSHAN
99.58



PRANAV SAI V S
99.54



PRANAV GUHAN S
99.52



SRI RAM KARTHICK S
99.51



SHIVANI S
99.51



KAVIN B
99.39



KRISHITHA B S
99.33



DANYASREE R
99.27



KEVIN SAMUEL
99.22



SIDDHARTH R
99.14



MUPPALLA RISHITHA
99.10



VENISHA M
99.10



PRAGATHISH MUTHUKUMAR G
99.08



RASWANTH V
99.03



RITHIK SARATHY
99.03



KEERTHANA D
99.00

Heartiest
Congratulations !!



03
STUDENTS
SECURED
100 PERCENTILE

26
STUDENTS
SECURED ABOVE
99 PERCENTILE

55
STUDENTS
SECURED ABOVE
98 PERCENTILE

89
STUDENTS
SECURED ABOVE
97 PERCENTILE

115
STUDENTS
SECURED ABOVE
96 PERCENTILE

142
STUDENTS
SECURED ABOVE
95 PERCENTILE

245
STUDENTS
SECURED ABOVE
90 PERCENTILE

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Listen to this: it is 'Truly Nazareth'

An initiative by the visual communication students of Nazareth College of Arts and Science in Avadi, this podcast has drawn avid listeners from various quarters

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The voice of podcast host Vinisha Suresh is booming as she explains the significance of World Soil Day observed on December 5 and how anyone can contribute to the cause it represents.

"A seed will not grow in every soil. We too as students bloom when we are planted in the right environment and we take advantage of the opportunities it offers. We need to make use of the opportunities provided by the institution and beneficial things around us," the host explains in a chatty tone. This one marks the 150th episode of the podcast.

For two years now, the Visual Communication students of Nazareth College of Arts and Science in Avadi have been running a podcast series titled "Truly Nazareth" sharing inspiring stories and starting engaging conversations by bringing



The team.

a variety of voices on board.

Predominantly in Tamil, the podcasts dwell on mindfulness, self-development and career advice. It also provides a peek into happenings in the neighbourhood.

The weekly podcast has so far not missed its deadline. Every Friday at 6 p.m., a new episode is released on www.trulynazareth.com and Spotify immediately after which the link to it is shared with heads of departments and promoted on the college's social media handles. This is in turn shared with

other WhatsApp groups including the other institutions run by the Nazareth Group. The content creation, voiceover and editing of Truly Nazareth is led by eight students, five from Visual Communication department and the rest drawn from other departments.

Curating content

Running for a duration of three to four minutes, some of the episodes talk about various initiatives run by the students. For instance, one episode discussed "Feed the needy",

an initiative started by the students during the pandemic where food is packed by students from their homes or prepared in the college canteen to feed the hungry and the homeless. The initiative is still going strong.

Another episode discussed "Reformation" introduced by the college management, where students involved in malpractices or in unethical behaviour are sent to an NGO for rehabilitation.

How has Truly Nazareth evolved since it was launched on January

26, 2023?

Geetha Subbiah, head of digital media and communications, says when they started the series, the focus was on bringing out a new episode every Friday. They did not promote the content in a big way. "Based on feedback we started marketing Truly Nazareth at events where we put up a stand," says Geetha, who is mentoring the students.

As the college already has a news channel, the mandate of this podcast series is to take things beyond the college campus.

Vinisha Suresh, one of the podcast hosts, says when they started the series they used to read from a script. "Now, we have learnt to speak based on our experiences, which is like talking to a friend," she says. The feedback to every episode is taken seriously.

"The initiative is student-driven, the language is colloquial and we are happy that the series has engaged with the community of school and college students," says Geetha. The series has been drawing requests from the public that they be given a space in it.

"A woman entrepreneur from Avadi wanted to be part of the show, so we had a question and answer session with her in one episode. Likewise, another parent wanted to come and talk. We need content and we accommodate such requests as long as it meets the objectives of the show," she says, adding that the initiative has provided students hands-on training in content creation, audio production and digital storytelling.

Support for brick kiln workers

The 29th Mary Clubwala Jadhav Award for Humanitarian Service was presented recently to a Tiruvallur-based group that works towards the empowerment of brick kiln workers

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Many a brick kiln worker coming to Tiruvallur do not have or carry legal documents such as identity cards and birth certificates. Without a valid identity card they are denied basic social security benefits they are entitled to.

Tamilnadu Vidiyal Kattumannam Matturum Amaippusara Thozhilaiarga Munnetra Sangam has been trying to empower brick kiln workers with a host of initiatives. Their work was acknowledged when they received the 29th Mary Clubwala Jadhav



Award for Humanitarian Service at an event held recently at Madras School of Social Work in Eg-

more.

The award is given to organisations that have contributed to the

betterment of the weaker and vulnerable sections of society, and this year it was given for outstanding work in the field of unorganised sector workers with a cash prize of ₹1,00,000 and a citation, says a press release.

The Vidiyal Union is an outcome of the programme implemented by a Tiruvallur-based NGO Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDS) that works for migrant brick kiln workers. Formed and led by brick kiln workers, the union educates the workers on labour rights, duties and social security schemes and the working conditions that should be maintained for brick kiln workers. This union has promoted 63 branch unions at the village level for protecting the rights of brick kiln workers and to improve their working

conditions, says the press note.

P. Stephen, advisor to the Vidiyal, says the months from January to June mark the time when workers migrate from various districts to work in brick kiln factories with their children. "As this is a seasonal migration they find it difficult to avail various schemes, especially those offered by the State Government under TN Construction Workers Welfare Board. We act as a bridge educating them and helping them carry out the documentation process to avail these schemes," says Stephen.

IRCDS with the support of Azim Premji Foundation and in collaboration with the Labour Department, conducts a baseline study among brick kiln workers employed in Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu districts. In the last four years, Stephen says, the Union has helped more than 3,000 brick kiln workers.

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‘This road crossing in Nerkundram is unsafe’



Traffic chaos reigns supreme at the Nerkundram section of Poonamalle High Road; to be specific, the stretch near the pillars – numbered as 486 and 487 – of the under-construction flyover which aims to connect Chennai Port and Maduravoyal, a project of the National Highways Authority of India.

On account of the flyover construction, a section of Poonamalle High Road is barricaded and only select spots the motorists and pedestrians are permitted to cross the road. And one such spot is between pillars 486 and 487, which is near the intersection of Karuneegar Street. There are traffic signals here but none of them are in operation making it difficult for pedestrians to cross the road.

“Traffic police regulate this section during peak hours. In their absence, it chaotic and dangerous. Close calls are common here. Police presence is required here round-the-clock because this stretch witnesses heavy traffic. Other-

wise, traffic signals should be set in function. Further, there are no pedestrian-signals here,” says a passer-by.

Residents also pointed out wrong-side driving add to the problem. “Being a construction site, the road width is reduced and both motorists and pedestrians jostle for space. As spots to cross the road are limited, wrong-side driving is rampant. This violation is quite common on the side of the road where traffic is towards Koyambedu and the violation is mostly committed by those motorists coming from Golden George Nagar and who want to cross the spot near the pillars: 486 and 487 by avoiding a detour,” says resident M. Dhandapani. He also suggested a pedestrian passage to cross the road near Golden George Nagar.

“Authorities should consider the possibility of removing a barricade and provide way for pedestrians to cross the road near Golden George Nagar. Because it is a big residential colony with a good number of commercial establishments. Considering this, a pedestrian-crossing is sought,” adds Dhandapani.

Text by L Kanthimathi

▼ Traffic congestion at Nerkundram on Poonamalle High Road, on February 21.
PHOTOS: VEDHAN M

Safety guards serve no purpose



▼ The images show a broken section of stormwater drain barricaded for safety reasons. Besides, another barricade has been placed over the open drain. These measures however do not serve the purpose as a large part of the drain is wide open posing a threat to safety. The images were taken on February 17.

READERS WRITE

‘Stone at the entrance of street raises risk of accident’

A big stone is placed at the intersection of an interior street with the service lane of Perungalathur - Puzhal Chennai Bypass in Vangaram. The aim is to prevent motorists from taking a close turn as the spot is a sharp V-shaped bend. However, the stone poses a danger during night as the place is not adequately lit.

*P Senthil Kumar,
Iyypanthangal*



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.

(Clockwise from top left) Then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran presents a Tanjavur plate to Mother Teresa on March 2, 1984; children parked on the elephant sculptures; a handicraft fair; and children participate in a drawing contest. PHOTOS: THE HINDU ARCHIVES



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Of protests, picnics and fairs

With Valluvar Kottam undergoing renovation, *The Hindu Downtown* walks down memory lane to take in the monument's early years

Valluvar Kottam in Nungambakkam saw the light on April 15, 1976 as a grand memorial to the Tamil sage-poet Thiruvalluvar. It was aimed at promoting the poet's monumental work *Tirukkural*. According to *The Hindu Archives*, when the construction of the memorial was under way, the auditorium was billed as one of the Asia's biggest measuring 7.05 metres long and 30.50 metres broad.

Designed without any intermediate support (pillar), Valluvar Kottam was capable of accommodating 4,000 people and was designed with the best acoustics and modern lighting techniques. The granite stone chariot was another attraction.

The report also makes a mention of the challenge the city administration faced while working on this project as the Valluvar Kottam was being built on an area that was formerly a swamp and subsequently filled with garbage. "On account of the loose layer of the ground, piles, reaching to

depths of 15 metres, had been driven to take the load," reads the report.

The auditorium was to be utilised for educational and cultural functions

In May 1976, Valluvar Kottam was opened to the public on the entry fee of 25 paise was levied.

Many associate Valluvar Kottam with protest meetings, exhibitions and expos. But in the early years many VIP events including State Government-organised events were hosted here. One such event reported by *The Hindu* is that of Mother Teresa being honoured by then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran in 1984. A Tanjavur plate was presented to Mother Teresa during that event, which was attended by many school students.



VOICES

Whenever we plan an event with an attendance of 500-1000 people then the choice is always between Valluvar Kottam and Kamaraj Arangam in Teynampet. I was personally involved in organising some events where Valluvar Kottam was chosen as the halls were spacious and it was centrally located. The District Navarathri festival which features cultural programmes was one event for which the place served as venue.

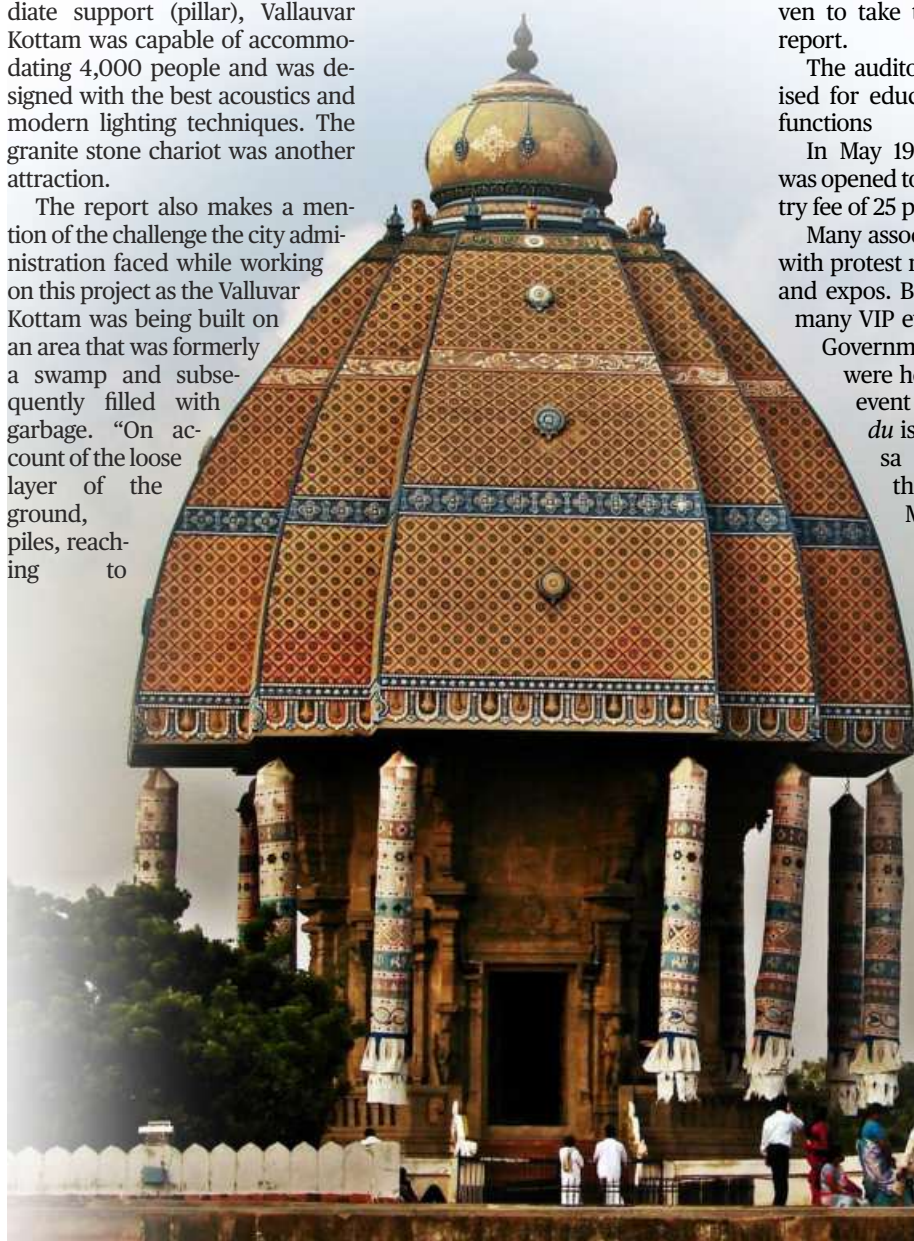
—Lion R. Murali
past president, Lions Club of
Madras Fort St. George

Valluvar Kottam was our first choice when it comes to conducting exhibitions. Since 2006, we would have conducted at least eight editions of Silk Mark Expo at this venue as it always has a good recall value among shoppers and artisans thanks to its proximity to T. Nagar which is the main shopping hub during the festival season. Apart from it being centrally located, the length and breath of the halls inside was a big advantage for exhibition organisers to customise stalls as per their requirements. There were no pillars, and the verandah was so big that customers could wait there at ease. Parking was another attraction.

—Prabakara Rao,
deputy director, Silk Mark

In 1992, while studying at the Government College of Fine Arts, we chose Valluvar Kottam for our outdoor study where we spent the day sketching on the campus. The place was largely empty and peaceful. The structures of Valluvar Kottam packed a punch in terms of visual appeal, being easily seen from the road. Not so now, because the compound walls cover up the structures inside.

—Immanuel Jackson, art director



Don Bosco alumni 'gift' a STEM lab to a government school

With Grundfos India's support, they establish the facility at a girls school in Choolaimedu



A view of the STEM lab; and snapshots of the inauguration.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Learning at Jaigopal Garodia Government Girls' Higher Secondary School in Choolaimedu has been enhanced by a STEM lab that was unwrapped recently, a few days removed from International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The first classes pertaining to STEM lab teaching took place on February 21. Grundfos Pumps India Pvt Ltd., and Don Bosco Egmore 1997 batch alumni are the architects of this social initiative. Bringing LMES Foundation into the picture, they have designed a three-year hands-on programme for 50 students in Grades 6 and 7, focusing on basic to advanced STEM concepts including physics, electronics, robotics, AI and aerospace, says a communication from the DB 1997 alumni group. The communication further notes that the initiative was driven by Don Bosco 1997 batch alumnus and Thousand Lights MLA Dr. Ezhilan (who is also a member of the 1997 DB), as a step towards achieving the State Government's mission of bridging the gender ratio gap in the STEM workforce.

This intervention gives the DB 1997 batch a "fifer" – five social initiatives in as many years.

"In 2021, during the pandemic when education went online, the 1997 DB batch alumni mobilised 150 laptops for students of an Adi Dravidar school. When education returned to physical classrooms,



for three years on the trot, from 2022 to 2024, the batch came together to build classrooms in government schools. The batch aims at one social project every year. And every time, the natch has made a contribution, YRG Care would match that contribution. Dr. Sunil Suhas Solomon, chairman and managing trustee, YRG Care, is a member of the 1997 DB batch. Sunil is with Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA but heads the YRG Care foundation," elaborates Deepu Anthony, a member of the batch.

On why the batch steered away from what seemed to be a pattern of social intervention – establishing classrooms at a government school – Deepu says: "Ezhilan

called me one day and apprised me about how the government is trying to bridge the gender gap in the STEM workforce. He sought to find out if the DB 1997 batch could do something that would contribute to efforts in this direction by the government. We took the idea to the batch and formed a core team for this initiative; and we decided that the gender gap in STEM workforce should be addressed at the school level, and that too in a government school. Generally, students in government schools are not aware of the application of the courses they can take up. We decided we should set up a STEM lab and design a programme that would allow for specialised teams to step in and explain the applications of various

STEM-related courses. It had to be a long-term investment in these students. When we told Ezhilan about our plan, his team evaluated a few schools in his constituency and chose Jaigopal Garodia Government Girls' Higher Secondary School because of the enthusiasm towards the idea evinced by the HM and science teachers in the school." At the heart of the three-year application-oriented programme is an effort to make students curious about STEM concepts and provide them with the resources to master them, says Deepu. "This programme is an experiment we are carrying out with Jaigopal Garodia Government Girls' Higher Secondary School. Analysing the measurable outcomes, we

will see how this programme can be taken to other state government schools," notes Deepu. "We decided to bring LMES Foundation on board as the implementation partner, as its parent company LMES Academy is engaged in the work of establishing STEM labs in private schools. The Foundation has been conducting a one-day STEM education orientation visiting government schools."

According to the communication the DB 1997 batch shared with *The Hindu Downtown*, as part of the three-year programme, the students would have sessions by industry experts, and participate in industry visits. They would also be given career guidance in the 10th and 12th grade and be eligible to apply to LMES Foundation's college education scholarship programme. The communication further adds that the project sponsors, Grundfos and the Don Bosco alumni and the implementation partner LMES Foundation, believe that this initiative would have measurable impact not just on the learning outcome dimension, but also on the number of girl students who enroll for the Science stream in the 11th grade, and thereafter when they need to choose a course in college.

Present at the inauguration of the STEM lab, Grundfos' Country President – India Usha Subramaniam and Manager – CSR Apoorva Manichandar remarked that this initiative is aligned with Grundfos' Social Impact mission, says the communication.

Student-volunteers in the *spotlight*

“Catalysts of Change” is an initiative by Chennai Volunteers to recognise and celebrate sterling efforts by college students and their institutions to make a difference through volunteering. The 2025 edition of this awards event is taking place on February 25 at Church Park on Anna Salai



“**C**atalysts of Change” is a platform that recognises college students who have volunteered with sincerity, compassion and commitment, impacting less privileged people, through Chennai Volunteers.

This event appreciates outstanding students and faculty from 13 colleges in Chennai, on February 24, 2025 (between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.) at the Sacred Heart Tamil Medium Girls School auditorium, on Church Park campus.

This youth service award was instituted in 2023 as a platform to inspire young student volunteers to become a better version of themselves and motivate many more students to start volunteering for causes, according to a communication from Chennai Volunteers.

It is hosted closer to the end of their annual term in college and is based on consistent and committed outreach or volunteering through the year. This year marks the third edition of this event.

The power of college students as a massive volunteering force stood out in bold relief on account of the pandemic. When the pandemic retreated, the systems it had augured in did not, immediately. Work from home continued.

The need for volunteering had

snapped back to pre-pandemic levels. The field had opened up, but the “labourers” were scarce.

Rinku Mecheri, founder of Chennai Volunteers, notes that corporate volunteers were not available in the same numbers as before as they had marched off to their native towns and were continue to work remotely. It was the college students who stepped into the breach.

Rinku continues: volunteering meant a lot to these college students; they were looking forward to it. While helping people through volunteering, these students were being helped by volunteering. Though they were college students, they were essentially children just out of school, as they had missed two years of in-person college education and the regular interactions that shape personality.

These students continue to make an impact in a variety of initiatives, those pertaining to education, library setup, special needs people, environment, climate change, health, disability, child and development, women empowerment, school painting and more.



In recognition of this contribution, this award was instituted.

The chief guest of this year’s awards function is Silai Zaki, Australia’s Consul General based in Chennai.

N, Ravi, Director, The Hindu will be the guest of honour.

Both of them will address the audience; and they will of

course, be handing over the awards as well, says the communication.

The award categories

Section 1: All the colleges that have partnered with Chennai Volunteers to volunteer through the year for various causes, will be

recognised for this contribution.

The 13 colleges that have been selected for honour in the 2025 edition of “Catalysts of Change” are as follows: Loyola College; Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women; Stella Maris College; Shri Shankarlal Sundarbai Shasun Jain College for Women; Women’s Christian College; Sathyabhama Institute of Science & technology; Madras School of Social Work; Anna Adarsh College for Women; Sri Krishnaswamy College for Women; MOP Vaishnav College; Madras Christian College; Shri Ramasamy Memorial Institute of Science and Technology; SA College.

Section 2: This section has two sub-categories, the team awards and the individual student awards that have been thoughtfully created, based on the exemplary work demonstrated on-field. Students who have shown leadership and empathy while volunteering will be awarded.

The venue for the awards event is: Auditorium at Sacred Heart Tamil Medium School, #216, Church Park, Anna Salai, Gopalapuram, Chennai - 600086.

For more details, call Chennai Volunteers at 9840182299.

Football club launched



SV High School, Vanagaram, has launched a football club. The FC Marina Academy club was inaugurated by Ramachandran, chairman of Sri Venkateshwaraa Group of Institutions. The academy will coach children between the ages of four and eleven. It is open to other school students in addition to those from SV High School and aims to coach them to compete in the Tamil Nadu Youth League.



Graduation Ceremony at Loyola

Loyola College, Chennai hosted its 96th Graduation Ceremony coinciding with its centenary celebrations. Chief guest Satish Gupta,

Founder & CEO of SB International Inc., and a distinguished Loyola alumnus presided over the event held at the Open-Air Auditorium.

A total of 2,565 students received their degrees, including 2,013 undergraduates, 545 post-graduates, and 13 M.Phil. scholars. Additionally, 65 gold medalists were honored for academic excellence. The college also celebrated its notable achievements, including its A++ NAAC accreditation and an 8th-place ranking in the NIRF 2024 rankings.

Addressing the graduates, Satish Gupta inspired them with his words: "If I could do it, you can too. Rise like the sun, embrace the new, with courage, passion, and wisdom true, the world awaits the best in you."

Speaking on the occasion, Rev. A. Louis Arockiaraj, SJ, Principal of Loyola College, said, "Loyola takes great pride in shaping up the lives of young people."

As part of its centenary festivities, the college inaugurated the Loyola Centenary Park and will soon open a new Centenary Building.

Conference on media and social responsibility



Commemorating the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the college, the Department of Visual Communication at DG Vaishnav College hosted a two-day International Conference on Media and Social Responsibility, bringing together academicians, researchers and industry professionals to discuss critical issues related to media ethics, diversity and artificial intelligence.

The conference featured three thematic sessions. The session on Media Ethics and Standards, chaired by Sharmila Christy (Women's Christian College) Archana, IL-LASS college, Gujarat chaired the session on Media Diversity and Representation and Krishna Priya, SASTRA University chaired the session on Media and Artificial Intelligence.

A total of 51 research papers were presented during the conference, including 15 contributions from students, highlighting the growing interest of emerging scholars in media studies. Three outstanding research papers were recognised with Best Paper Awards for their insightful presentations.

The conference was inaugurated by senior journalist Prabhu Chawla, who underscored the importance of responsible media practices in addressing contemporary challenges. Dr. Kristen Rudisill, Ohio State University, USA delivered a compelling

keynote address, providing valuable insights into the role of media in shaping public discourse.

The sessions featured expert deliberations from distinguished scholars and professionals. Manjula Venkataraghavan, Manipal University and Bahiyah Omar, Saiins University, Malaysia spoke on journalistic integrity and regulatory frameworks, while Uma Vangal, Sai University and Manisha Shelat, Mudra Institute of Communication Arts highlighted the role of media in fostering inclusivity. A panel discussion on Media and AI, moderated by Manjula Venkataraghavan, featured contributions from Deborah Raj (Madras Christian College) Jayakrishnan (Amrita University) and industry experts Venkataraghavan and Iyaan Karthikeyan. The discussion explored AI-driven media innovations, ethical challenges, and the future of AI in journalism.

In his valedictory address, Secretary Ashok Kumar Mundhra emphasised the need for ongoing discussions on media accountability and ethics, acknowledging the rich exchange of ideas among academicians from around the world.

Principal Santhosh Baboo, addressed the gathering, emphasising the growing integration of media technology in education and its role in expanding opportunities for students nationwide.

VECP school students reunite after 60 years

Fifteen students of V. Ethirajulu Chetty Preparatory School had a reunion after sixty years at Hotel Abu Palace in Purasawalkam recently.

The VECP school, established by Mrs.V. Rajamanikkam, in memory of her husband late V.Cethirajulu Chetty, functioned from an imposing building called "Allathur Villa" on Poonamalle High Road from 1960 to 1983.

The former students of VECP School were joined by the family members of late V. Ethirajulu Chetty -Sujatha Ramguptha (granddaughter), V. Sairam and V.Sridhar (grandsons), and Dr. V. Akash (great grandson). They were all felicitated by the former students showing their gratitude to the founder's family.

The reunion was wonderful as it turned out to be a memorable one for those who revisited their past by 60 years, according A.Sri-Ramachandra Murthy and T. Ramesh, former students who organised the event.

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Citizens group celebrates annual Korattur lake festival

Pamphlets on birds of Korattur lake distributed

Korattur Aeri Pathukappu Makkal Iyakkam (KAPMI), a registered citizens group that focuses on conservation of Korattur lake has released a booklet titled "Birds of Korattur Lake" at its seventh annual Korattur lake festival held recently.

According to a press release, a pamphlet lists the various birds in the following categories: resident birds, migratory birds, rare birds according to ebird.org, and the ones listed as threatened species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



tival," says KAPMI's secretary S. Sekaran.

It was launched by R. Frank D Ruban, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ambattur Range.

Cultural events

Various cultural events including games and competitions were part of the lake festival. Members of a women self-help group prepared and offered pongal, adds the press release.

Also, S. Aravazhi, honorary president of another registered citizens group called Puzhal Eri, Arafat Eri Paathukaappu Makkal Iyakkam (based in Thirumullai-voyal the group focuses on conservation of Puzhal and Arafat lakes) was honoured on the occasion in recognition of his service towards waterbody conservation.

The aim of the event is to create awareness among the public about the importance of the lake. Around 1500 people took part in the event, adds the release.

A WhatsApp bot for first aid

ALERT, a voluntary organisation engaged in creating awareness about first-aid, has launched its WhatsApp bot for providing first-aid assistance. Called ALERTAiD, it can be contacted through WhatsApp at 9944036929.

According to a press release, ALERTAiD can be used by anyone as a quick reckoner during real emergencies. It can also be used to learn about first aid. The organisation is also offering e-learning courses in first-aid in medical emergencies. To know more about the courses, visit www.academy.alert.ngo Both these initiatives were developed with support from Ford Motor Company, adds the press release.

Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Ma Subramanian, and Distinguished Scientist, ISRO and DRDO, A. Sivathanu Pillai, launched the WhatsApp bot at the eighth edition of Alert Being Award ceremony held recently in the city, says the press release.

Webinar on methanol industry

Nandini Consultancy Centre, a chemical engineering and chemical business consultancy organisation is conducting a webinar titled "Methanol - India's missed opportunity" on March 2. Time: From 11 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

The session will be handled by N.S. Venkataraman and Swaminathan. V, Directors, Nandini Consultancy Centre at Chennai and Singapore, respectively.

According to a press release, no fee will be charged but prior registration is necessary.

Those interested in attending the session should register by writing to nandinichemical@gmail.com/ nsvenkatchennai@gmail.com

Villivakkam RPF conducts safety awareness drives



The Railway Protection Force at Villivakkam railway station is organising awareness programmes for women passengers on safe journey following the recent incident wherein an expectant mother was pushed from a moving train by an intruder when she resisted a sexual attack by him.

An RPF official says "This incident occurred in the first week of February. Since then we are organising awareness drives. We advise women passengers to avoid ladies' compartment at night as it would be largely deserted. Next, they were asked to be mindful about wearing gold jewellery as it



might invite trouble. Also they were advised to stay alert and not to get engrossed in mobile phones. Further, awareness was created about the helpline numbers: RPF - 139 and Tamil Nadu Government Railway Police - 1512."

The Villivakkam RPF team is conducting this drive in the trains and also at the following railway stations: Villivakkam, Korattur, Patravakkam, Perambur Loco Works and Perambur Carriageworks.



Health camp conducted

In commemoration of International Women's Day, Jeevan Bhima Nagar Welfare Association and Rotary Club of Chennai Mugappair conducted a two-day mobile health camp for women.

According to a press release, a bus equipped with mammography machine donated by Rotary International Global Fund covered around 100 women.

A team from ACS Medical College conducted the camp, adds the release.

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