

## TAMBARAM

Chromepet » Pallavaram » Tambaram West » Rajakilpakkam » Mannivakkam » Guindy » Keelkattalai » Nanganallur » Guduvanchery » Hasthinapuram » Pammal » Tambaram East

Medavakkam » Srinivasa Nagar » Kathipara Junction » Kovilambakkam » Sadasivam Nagar » Potheri » Selaiyur » Sembakkam » St.Thomas Mount » Madipakkam » Urappakkam » Paranur

## ‘Madambakkam project will have adverse impact’

A. KRISHNAN

**M**adambakkam Lake, spread over 240 acres, receives water (upstream) from Thiruvanchery Lake and delivers water (downstream) to Sithalapakam Lake.

The waterbodies form a part of the link that finally drains water to the Pallikaranai marshland, which is supposed to be the city’s lung space.

Of late, there has been a lot

### READERS WRITE

of pressure on the farmers with regard to the Madambakkam Land Pooling Area Development Scheme (LPADS) for acquiring their lands.

Approximately, 520 acres of land from Madambakkam village have been targeted for the above purpose, and nearly all of them lie in the lake’s ayacut area, where agriculture is a live-

lihood for most of the land owners.

The proposed development will destroy agriculturists.

Apart from putting farmers’ livelihoods at risk, this is indirectly going to impact the overall ecosystem as the connectivity of the Madambakkam lake, and the water flowing through the ayacut area to Sithalapakam lake are influencing factors for the marshland.

The impact of losing a large chunk of the ayacut area needs

consideration. With the proposed developments, the entire area is likely to be inhabited. It is unclear what kind of contingency plans have been implemented for the lake bund breach that will likely release a large volume of water into residential areas (proposed for development).

The areas under agriculture should never be considered for these developments.

A. Krishnan is a resident of Madambakkam

An agricultural land near Madambakkam Lake. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT





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P. THIAGARAJAN

**C**hitlapakkam Main Road is an important link road connecting Velachery Main Road and GST Road. A great number of motorists hit this road every day to reach Tambaram Sanatorium and Mahalakshmi Nagar.

At the junction of Babu Street, Chitlapakkam Main Road and Balaji Avenue, the traffic thickens considerably from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Despite the huge volume of vehicles during these hours, motorists speed while crossing over from Babu Street to Chitlapakkam Main Road or from Balaji Avenue to Babu Street.

With the schools having reopened, students would be taking chaotic junction once again.

The Tambaram City Police Commissionerate's traffic wing should deploy personnel at the junction to regulate rush-hour traffic.

*P. Thiagarajan is a retired Economics professor*

## 'Regulate rush hour traffic at Babu Street junction'



## A snapshot of Ponmar on Environment Day

At Moolacheri in Ponmar, garbage has been set on fire on June 5, 2025, which happens to be World Environment Day. Ponmar comes under Ottiyambakkam Panchayat. The text and photo have been provided by Bernice Jacinth, a resident of that region.



## Irate travellers stage protest near Kilambakkam terminus

C.R. BALAJI

**I**n the wee hours of June 5 (01.05 a.m.) when I reached Kilambakkam from an outstation trip, I saw thousands of people, who wanted to go outstation, blocking GST Road. They were protesting the lack of any late-night outstation services (regular).

They were miffed with the authorities for not plying any special buses.

The authorities had failed to antici-

pate the rush ahead of marriage season. Agitators were dispersed after 03.00 a.m. Traffic slowly cleared.

There were other people who were shouting why there were no local buses. These were people returning to their homes in Chennai after an outstation trip.

Buses started slowly going out. I boarded a 2IG at 3.30 am and reached home by 04.30 a.m.

*(C.R. Balaji is a resident of Norton First Street, Mandaveli)*



## 'Bus stops function without shelters for three decades'

▼ "The bus stops around Bharat Medical College on Agaram Main Road in Madambakkam have been operating without a shelter for over three decades. Rain or shine, commuters have to wait in the open for buses, says G. Sudhakar, a resident of Madambakkam.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Rotary Clubs to raise a forest in Medavakkam



Rotary Clubs have come together to restore the Vellakkal Periya Eri and cultivate an ecological forest in Medavakkam. This initiative was launched as part of World Environment Day.

Rotary Club of Chennai Capital, Rotary Club of Madras Midtown, Rotary Club of Chennai Central Elite and Rotary Club of Chennai Sneham will work to create a sustainable environmental model for urban neighborhoods.

The Medavakkam residents and social activists were battling to restore and protect the lake for over a decade. Sivabooshanam Ravi, president of

Medavakkam Village Panchayat, cine actor Arya, and Mahaveer Bothra, Rotary District Governor, District 3233, inaugurated the projects.

The dense forest project involves planting over 3,000 native saplings to increase groundwater level, encourage local flora and fauna, and reduce ambient temperatures in the vicinity by up to 4°C.

Together, the clubs have contributed a total of ₹25 lakh towards the project, said a release.

The Yatha Green Council of India is taking up the execution of the project.



## Park in Irumbuliyur is back to square one

The park was reopened last month following renovation; the play equipment are now broken

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

A broken swing, railing dumped near the play equipment and a profusion of unruly grass. These are what visitors to this park at Arul Nagar in Irumbuliyur are greeted with. Strangely, this park was renovated and opened only last month.

Months after the park's condition was highlighted in these pages, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation took up a renovation exercise.

M. Fathima Mohammed, a senior citizen who lives close to the park, says, "The children's play equipment were replaced in recent



weeks, but the chains attached to the swing have come off the hook."

P. Vijayasathy, a social activist and a long-time resident of Irumbuliyur, says, "The old park name-board and the rusted square jungle

play equipment iron and steel railings are dumped in the children's play equipment area."

Behind the seesaw, paint boxes, rusted electrical equipment, pipes, wires, and other maintenance ma-



These images were taken on May 28. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

terials are waiting to be cleared.

Vijayasathy points out that the children can trip over the rusted equipment and sustain injuries.

"The garden and the play equipment area are overrun with grass that has not been trimmed," he says.

The quality of improvement work in the park raises a lot of questions. The steel railings are shaky.

The stormwater drain network area (a path outside the park) is broken and open; children riding bicycles and playing on the path need to be careful.

### 'When will civic sense prevail at this railway station?'



The tracks of Tambaram Sanatorium railway station present a dirty picture as these images show. Due to accumulation of garbage, water cannot flow easily during heavy rains. Sometimes canines rummage through the trash on the tracks.

P. Viswanathan, convenor, Chitlapakkam Residents' Associations Coordination Committee, says, "Rainwater flows through a canal below the tracks to the Chitlapakkam lake, so the Southern Railway should clean the canal below the tracks to ensure smooth flow of rainwater." He suggests that the Chennai Division conduct cleaning drives and sensitise commuters and the public to avoid throwing trash on the railway tracks. The activity should start before the rains hit the city.

TEXT: T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

## Awareness campaign marks level crossing day

International Level Crossing Awareness Day was observed on June 5 by the Safety Department of the Southern Railway Chennai Division at various level crossing gates across the Chennai Division.

Tej Partap Singh, additional divisional railway manager, flagged off the awareness campaign at the divisional railway manager's office.

R. Sathya Seelan, Senior Divisional Safety Officer, Chennai division, presided over the campaign at Level Crossing (LC) gate number 26, between the Pallavaram and Tambaram sections.

A walkathon was organised, and informative placards highlighting the importance of LC safety were displayed.

The public were sensitised about the safety precautions to be



Motorcyclists on GST Road, Chromepet were given pamphlets.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

observed while crossing the LC gates. Road users were advised not to trespass when the gates are closed, to avoid using earphones and mobile phones while crossing the gates, and to be aware of the

consequences of negligence.

The division appeals to all rail and road users to exercise utmost care while using level crossings and join hands with the railways in reinforcing safety.

## A thousand saplings to mark environment day

The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) planted over 1,000 saplings across various plantation sites (drinking water board lands in Kodungaiyur and Koyambedu, which will not be used for future construction by the board) as part of World En-

vironment Day.

An in-house seminar on the impact of plastics on various ecosystems was also conducted to raise awareness.

CMRL continues to integrate sustainability into its operations through several green initiatives

such as all metro stations achieving Indian Green Building Council Platinum certification, solar panels across stations and encouraging digital practices including e-ticketing to reduce paper consumption, said a release.



# Hottest topic of the season

While everyone stresses about the soaring mercury, these three groups of researchers are studying heat stress in and around Chennai and how it impacts human health and the economy. They share the details of their work with *The Hindu Downtown*

LIFFY THOMAS



A man quenches his thirst with water from a sprinkler at Marina Beach.  
FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

## Collecting data

Professor Vignesh K.S. and his team of researchers from the Occupational Safety and Disaster Risk Management Department of SRM University are waiting for the sun to burn bright. The June 3, 2025 show-ers in the city forced them to postpone their plans to set up a camp at an industrial location in Thiruvottiyur where they will be collecting data about heat stress.

In April-May, the team completed the field study from Chengalpattu to Pallavaram. Industrial zones, in particular areas classified as “red” (in terms of contribution to global warming) by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board have been the focus of the team this year. They have set up camp near an industrial area with all their devices including an exclusive heat stress monitor.

“Heat stress is calculated based on relative humidity, wet-bulb temperature and globe temperature. Through geospatial technology, we cover areas within a one to three kilometre radius of an industry to understand how the community is getting affected. From that buffer we will access and locate a few sample

places where heat exposure is high,” says the assistant professor.

Once the field reports are completed, they work on presenting their studies and publishing them in leading science journals.

Vignesh says their reports played a crucial role in Tamil Nadu government formulating a Heat Action Plan (HAP).

“We are also in a capacity to give recommendations at a regional level on actions that need to be taken during heatwaves and other calamities,” says the professor.

Their role does not end with bringing out a report rather they engage with communities. “We do training programmes with local communities that are vulnerable to heat. Many people do not know what is dehydration, heat stroke, especially those working on the highways. We sensitise them as per public health standards,” he adds.

During the pandemic, the department studied air pollution levels in various neighbourhoods.

“As researchers, we generally focus on pre-disaster which is prevention, mitigation, preparedness and early warning.”

## Studying the vulnerable population

It is a hot and humid Friday in Chennai and beyond. A team of researchers from Chennai have headed to the Marakkanam salt pans in Villupuram district. Team members have fanned out to different sections of the salt pans.

One researcher is collecting urine sample of workers, another is collecting blood, a group is interviewing workers and another set of them is measuring heat with sophisticated instruments.

When the sun goes down they would return to their lab at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research to document their findings. Once the field evidence is consolidated, analysed, peer-reviewed, the team would work on advocacy. This research is needed to better understand the impact of heat and heatwaves on human health, especially the vulnerable population, to develop effective mitigation strategies and improve public health interventions.

Vidhya Venugopal, professor of Climate Change, Occupational and Environmental Health at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, who is leading this team of researchers, says many lesser-known heat-related illnesses often go unrecognised.

As a global expert in heat and health, Vidhya has studied how high temperatures affect kidney, pregnant women and communities among others. While the direct affect of heat stroke is widely acknowledged, kidney ailments and cardiovascular diseases are not commonly associated with heat.

Having worked in the area for the last 16 years, she says they have rich data to show that heat stress poses significant health risks for vulnerable groups.

This summer, their outreach work extended to street vendors in the city. They like to focus more on women, especially as their working conditions are such that they avoid drinking water and this leads to dehydration and other issues, she says.

“We try to reach out to make sure vulnerable communities are not impacted so much by heat. If exposure is less the impact is less,” says the Velachery resident.

Towards the end of this month, the team will be visiting a research practice centre of the institute located on the outskirts of the city to study and sensitise those coming to the outpatient department. After all, heat preparedness should be a 365-day effort.

## Resettlement sites in sharp focus

Chennai resident Suchismita Goswami, who is currently pursuing her PhD in the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, is carrying out research on the new risks in resettlement sites in Chennai. This work brings her to the city.

Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board’s resettlement site in Perumbakkam and the AIR resettlement colony in Thiruvottiyur are where her field works are concentrated. These resettlement facilities had been planned to provide safe and secure housing for communities; however today, floods and heat have impacted them socially and economically.

With heatwaves being a big concern for the State Government, Suchismita thinks there should be a special focus on resettlement sites.

“The findings are very particular to the resettlement sites and as a researcher you cannot universalise that,” says Suchismita, who had a stint with the Madras School of Social Work as a faculty.

During fieldwork, she found it particularly challenging to initiate conversations with residents about heat-

related stress. “Given Chennai’s high temperatures, heat is often normalised and rarely discussed as a distinct concern

to resettlement sites,” she says.

The resettlement sites severely lack green cover and also experience long hours of power outage in comparison to the rest of the city during summer months.

The resettlement sites are spread across vast tracts of land, and residents have to walk long distances due to the absence of last mile connectivity. They are typically inhabited by the most marginalised groups who cannot afford alternative housing options within the city.

The only formal heat-relief measure mentioned by the administration was distribution of electrolyte water at health centres. Residents however have found their own coping mechanisms such as extending the building, closing shops during the afternoon, installing sheds and curtains, and investing in multiple cooling devices.

The closing of shops or covering store fronts to block heat can reduce business visibility and income. These are new forms of risks which affect their health and finances directly, she adds.



# A home production

What awaits gated communities that assume the responsibilities of facility management? There is the possibility of workers becoming trusted lieutenants

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

A facilities management agency is a cake ordered off the shelf. An in-house facilities management team is a cake baked at home. The latter obviously calls for a greater outlay of energy and time. But the icing on this cake is thicker, double-layered. Layer one: owners at a gated community that opts for this bold arrangement, actually begin to “own” the space, every jot of it. Layer two: the facilities management team they put together, hand-picking workers and assigning them to roles, can be won over in ways that a team sent in by an outside agency with a human resources roster, cannot be. The workers are likely to be in for the long haul. And as time rolls on, the possibility of workers rising to the status of trusted lieutenants increases.

One finds this possibility illustrated with arresting images from the flood experience of The Central Park South (TCPS) in Sholinganallur in 2015. The workers pitched tent at the gated community. If it were dry harbour they were looking for, these workers could have found it elsewhere. They stayed at the community – occupying vacant flats – in the days after the floods to ease the challenges it faced. Remember, there were places on earth drier than TCPS: at this community, vehicles were marooned, some gulping rainwater all the way into their engines.

The fact that even now workers are offered places downstairs where they can stay and cook, and an AC room for a dash of comfort, proves offering shelter to them during floods was not a calculated, self-serving move.

“They are not servants. They are helpers,” says Rakesh Ohri, president of the TCPS Owners’ Association, his conviction crystallised by the memory of many difficulties surmounted, and achievements scaled, all because these workers went the extra yard. Rakesh notes that when the managing committee is running the show, dignity of the workers can be safeguarded more easily. Residents are instructed not to scold workers; complaints are handled by the managing committee to maintain respect. He is of the view that a



From Bollineni Hillside.



facilities management agency would not give this instruction to residents with the same emphasis.

A yard for a yard – that is how it works. Loyalty is earned and goodwill returned. Rakesh notes that one sign of a happy workplace and even loyalty is that on an average, a worker stays on the team for 10 to 11 years. If a worker hits a rough patch, the Association extends a financial lifeline – advances with a flexible repayment plan stretching up to a year. “Some repay earlier, some take the full period. And if they genuinely can’t pay for one month, we grant an extension,” explains Rakesh. Health insurance is another non-negotiable thread in this safety net. A group policy covers all workers. What is done for these workers in their darkest hour, returns as burnished loyalty.

“One of our plumbers lost his 25-year-old son recently to leukaemia” – when the youngster was battling the condition, the association had banded together to help the family with medical and other expenses.

Workers join residents in festivities, breaking bread and thereby, barriers. “We do Dandiya, and on May Day we arrange free food,” says Rakesh. “During Diwali, we arrange short eats and programmes. They are en-

couraged to participate in that.” In these shared moments, the line between “worker” and “resident” blurs into a sense of a joint family. Some communities grasp what a team formed and installed by them can do for them, but balk at taking the exercise all the way to the finish line.

Sujatha Y, secretary of the owners’ association at The Central Park East – a hop away from TCPS – says her community was the first in the area to have a home-grown team running the facility.

“We have seen the TCPS model – it is very structured and policy-driven,” says Sujatha Y, secretary of the owners’ association. Sujatha notes that “here at Central Park East, we are a bit more flexible” – some workers are hired directly; the community also goes to contractors to find

teams for certain functions.

Different strokes for different folks, indeed! East does have a group insurance option for workers it has appointed, but cares for the absolutely helpless through non-institutionalised aid.

“We have elderly gardeners with no bank accounts or family support,” Sujatha says. “We make sure they are looked after.” Financial help here is often personal and spontaneous, with residents stepping up to support the workers in paying their children’s education fees or medical bills. Some community members contribute to programs supporting children’s education, for example, treasurer’s family trust aiding economically weak children with a minimum of 60% marks.

At Navin’s Maris Dale in Semmancherry, Arokya Inian shares a unique way their community cultivates bonds. “We have garden spaces with fruit-bearing trees, and the harvest is shared with our workers,” he explains. This gesture isn’t just about food – it is about sharing the fruits of collective effort, fostering dignity and connection. They have also embraced sustainability: recyclable waste is collected and sold, and the proceeds distributed among workers to

cover minor expenses such as tea and refreshments. It is a small but meaningful way to say, “We are in this together.” At Bollineni Hillside in Arasankalani, the owners association has made arrangements for staff to live onsite in dorms. It is a win-win situation. The need for daily commuting has been struck off the list for the staff who avail this option. And for the residents, there is 24/7 availability of workers for urgent repairs. Staff receive group medical, life, and accident insurance. And the owners association has introduced a system of incentives to motivate the staff to do quality work.

Secretary K. Thirugnanam highlights another key aspect of this arrangement: easy knowledge transfer through mentorship. For example, experienced electricians train apprentices, creating a pipeline of talent that is clued into the unique power system within the community.

## The challenges

In this scenario, committee members do not just step into the shoes of a facility management services provider, but wear an additional pair of shoes over the ones they are already wearing. A majority of them do this work in the midst of another work, one that puts bread on their table. In some seasons, the added responsibility can get overwhelming.

At Bollineni Hillside, Thirugnanam explains: “For example, in May, despite my responsibilities as a government advocate, I dedicated all my time outside of court to association work – covering recurring maintenance, new developments, public relations and government liaison.”

He emphasised the workload intensifies during certain periods, such as the rainy season, which requires additional planning and precautionary measures. He adds the in-house management committee is sizeable and “collective effort by (treasurer Senthilkumar, president Sajeekumar, 23 EC members and Thirugnanam himself as secretary) makes things easy” At TCPS, Rakesh notes that while many members have day jobs, two or three of them from the core committee are involved in daily operations. “I do not have a day job. Two or three of us do not. One is a housewife who also has other commitments such as singing. So, these responsibilities are managed as and when required.”





## A go-to place for expertise on **autism spectrum** disorder

Besides engaging with parents of children with special needs, this exclusive centre in KK Nagar is working on a host of initiatives including creating a registry of those on the spectrum

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**T**he Centre for Excellence for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder, located on the premises of the Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine in K.K. Nagar, is aged six months, but it has taken strides belying its tender age.

Opened by the State Government to guide parents and guardians of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder as well as to offer a range of services, the Centre is working towards becoming a “go-to-place” for ASD.

“We have had an average of 70



people attending these sessions, with webinars on occupational therapy garnering maximum attendance,” says Rema Chandramohan, retired director, Institute Of Child Health, Madras Medical College, who oversees the centre’s functioning.

The high point of the 40-minute webinars are the question and answer sessions from parents.

“Everybody may not have ac-

cess to a speech or occupational therapist but one can make use of the environment at home to offer therapy, for which we offer guidance. We also provide info about other centres in the state where one can avail therapy,” says Dr. Rema, a Professor of Paediatrics.

Early intervention is the first help one can offer a child with ASD for which the Centre is creating awareness.

“Currently, the Centre receives



At the centre.

tions on ASD.

### Future plans

The Centre for Excellence wants to be the “go-to” centre for ASD. It wants to start research work and also move to a bigger space. “We want to start giving accreditation to other therapy centres, which will be based on space, safety aspects followed and qualification of people working at the unit,” says Dr. Rema.

A process to create a state-level registry for ASD is also being discussed, she says.

For details, call 9445535678.



## Listening to **rocks**

The Department of Geology at the University of Madras invites school and college students to take a look at the rocks and minerals parked in its museum

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**D**id you know the Department of Geology at the University of Madras welcomes school students to take a tour of the rocks at its museum? Various types of rock – metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rocks among them – gathered from various parts of India are on display. One can also get up close with a dinosaur fossil and ammonites. The museum also houses samples of semi-precious stones found naturally



Students go through the exhibits; and during a field visit.

PHOTOS:  
SPECIAL  
ARRANGEMENT

or mined.

“Discovering marine fossils is a special experience, many of them have been sourced from our field works at various sites in Tamil Nadu include the Ariyalur region,” says Suresh Gandhi, Professor and Head of the Department of Geology, University of Madras.

During special occasions such as Micropaleontology Day and Environment Day, the Department sends out invitations to neighbouring schools to visit the museum and have a first-hand experience of the geological treasures.

“Besides this museum by the Department of Geology, we also have the Department of Applied Geology where one can learn about geological evolution. Students are welcome through the year, they just need to notify us in

advance,” says the professor.

### Careers in geology

In Chennai, the University of Madras and Anna University are the only two institutions that offer a postgraduate programme in Geology.

This year, the entrance examination for M. Sc Geology by the University of Madras will be held on July 14. Professor Suresh says the number of opportunities in the field of geology has grown over the years. “One can appear for the UPSC examination with geology as an elective, which is preferred by many as it is easy to grasp. Most of the oil fields recruit geologists and they are also needed for ground water studies,” he says. For more details, call professor Suresh at 9443806534.



## Pond in Perumbakkam *needs help*



**R**esidents of Perumbakkam have requested that the Perumbakkam Village Panchayat restore the neglected Perumbakkam Pond. Located along Kulakarai Street and First Main Road, the pond has been languishing in a state of neglect for years.

A section of the pond's water-holding area is filled with garbage and overrun with water hyacinth. Seemai karuvellam trees can also be spotted.

Motorcyclists bring garbage in bags and fling them into the pond. The patches along Kulakarai Road are also littered with garbage.

The stormwater drain network discharges sewage into the pond. The struc-

tures in the pond have reduced the water-holding area.

M. Haseena, a senior citizen and a resident of Kulakarai Street, says: "The groundwater is contaminated and we are tired requesting this to the Panchayat."

Residents want the pond to be restored to store rainwater.

"If desilted and deepened, the groundwater table will be replenished. The condition of the has worsened and it is now a health hazard, with flies and mosquitoes swarming in large numbers," says Haseena.

Along First Main Road, the bund is littered. The refuse consists of debris from the newly constructed stormwater drain network, stones and vegetation.

PHOTO: SPECIAL  
ARRANGEMENT

## Sluggish traffic



On Thiruneermalai Road in Pallavaram. PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

## Awareness drive



The Lions Club of Chennai Central Chitlapakkam, in association with the Tambaram Corporation, conducted an awareness drive among residents of Chitlapakkam about the need for segregation of solid waste in households. The President of The Lions Club of Chennai Central Chitlapakkam Baskar; secretary N. Babu; treasurer N. Manimaran, past district president Jagan Chittibabu and other members of the Club took part in the drive.

## Navin's Starwood Towers 3.0 bags PMAY award

Navin's has won the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) award third time in a row as a recognition for its contribution to housing sector, this time for Navin's Starwood Towers 3.0, says a press release.

The award was bestowed on Navin's by Tokhan Sahu, Minister of State for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India and was received by N. Kalyanaraman, COO, the release adds.

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## Stepping stones to danger



▼ The alertness with which dysfunctional systems are called out needs to be extended to functional systems that foment trouble on the side, often unseen, the process lying under the radar. Pedestrians have the advantage of a flight of concrete steps to access the service lane on Rajiv Gandhi Salai (also known as Old Mahabalipuram Road) along Parameshwaran Nagar in Sholinganallur. On this section, the service lane is at an elevation, hence this provision. How many people really use those concrete steps is a debatable question; there are other access points nearby. One certainty about those steps exists: they can be missed -- if a habitue of that patch were to be believed, not only at night but in broad daylight too. Motorists are known to have run their wheels into that drop. Those steps can be levelled and the provision done away with so that they do not lie in wait for motorists, particularly motorcyclists. The images were taken on June 7, 2025.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

### Session on social media marketing

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, Department of MSME, is conducting a workshop on creating a YouTube channel and social media marketing from June 11 to 13. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, call 9543773337

### Bio-enzyme soaps

The institution is also conducting another workshop on making bio-enzyme soaps on June 14. Time: From 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Those above 18 years of age with a minimum educational qualification of class 10 can apply. Hostel facility is available. For details, call 8668102600

### Puja products

Another training programme on production of Puja products will be held from June 10 to 12. The products include: incense sticks, camphor cakes, rose water, omam water, oil, herbal candles, sandalwood tablets. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, call 9360221280.

Prior registration is required. All the workshops will be held at the institute's premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate, EDII Office Road, Guindy.

## Workshop on entrepreneurial opportunities in solar energy sector



Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, Department of MSME, is conducting a training programme on installation of solar power from June 18 to 20 at the institute's premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate, EDII Office Road, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prior registration is required.

According to a press release, the following concepts will be covered: introduction to solar energy, entrepreneurial opportunities in solar energy sector; business models in this sector, relevant computer software, financial planning, regulations and subsidy schemes. Those above 18 years of age and who have completed Class 10 can take part. The institute offers hostel facility for the participants on first come, first serve basis. For details, call 8668102600.

### Culinary workshop on June 11



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on ready-to-cook food items on June 11. According to a press release, the session focuses on millets-based sweets and savouries and tea-time meals such as idli, adai and puttu. Another workshop on making soaps will be held on June 13. The session focuses on making soaps from herbs, leaves, flowers, and fruits.

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

### Job fair today in Thailavaram

Chengalpattu District Collectorate, District Employment & Career Guidance Centre, Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board are organising a job fair in on June 8 in which companies from private sector will take part.

It will be held at the premises of Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, Thailavaram Project Area, Thailavaram near Guduvanchery. Time: From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Candidates aged between 18 and 40 can attend, says a press release. They should bring relevant documents, identification proof, and passport-size photographs. Candidates should register on the website: <https://www.tnprivatejobs.tn.gov.in>.

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