

T. NAGAR

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Gerugambakkam » Mangadu » Choolaimedu » Egmore » K K Nagar » Kodambakkam » Virugambakkam » Somangalam » Poonamallee » Chetpet

Future educators lead fight against drugs

Students at a teachers training college in Ashok Nagar are engaged with 45 schools across Chennai to educate children about drug addiction and its ramifications

LIFFY THOMAS

When the Tamil Nadu government made it mandatory that every educational institution have an Anti-Drug Club, Stella Matutina College of Education in Ashok Nagar already had an initiative that was aligned with the objectives of government-mandated club. Recently, the college's anti-drug committee received a cash prize of ₹5,000 and secured the third prize at the district level, as part of the Home, Prohibition, and Excise Department's campaign to honour institutions that have significantly contributed to drug-prevention efforts.

The 64-year-old institution offers B.Ed., M.Ed., M. Phil, and Ph.D. programmes and the teachers in the making were aware of the risk of school students getting hooked on drugs. In 2024, they conducted a survey among school children to understand how aware they were about drug abuse. The exercise also tested the effectiveness of a structured drug awareness programme designed for school children.

The programme's goal was to identify knowledge gaps in the drug education being

provided at schools.

A total of 108 secondary school students from multiple institutions in Chennai district were covered in this sample survey.

"Some of our recommendations included a uniform programme for all students regardless of gender or region; the need to have a special focus on low-income families and government schools; the importance of using engaging tools such as videos, street plays, posters and digital media," says C. Sasikala, assistant professor, Stella Matutina College of Education.

They also recommended parent involvement, especially in vulnerable communities, and the need to allocate dedicated funds for awareness campaigns in schools.

Since then, the institution has launched a variety of activities such as mime, skits and rallies at the schools they engage with.

"For instance, our second year students have to compulsorily go on an internship with a school, so we made it mandatory that they conduct an event in the assembly for at least a week to let students know why awareness on this topic is important," says Sasikala.

The students pursuing education programmes at the college are currently engaged with 45 schools in Chennai.

Sr. M. Irudhaya Mary, principal incharge, Stella Matutina College of Education, says the efforts by the institution stand out as they have been consistent.

"Two times in a month we conduct a programme, sometimes it extends to three. Once in three months, students take an oath. These are future teachers and getting them to work for the betterment of society is one of the gains from this initiative," says Sr. Mary.



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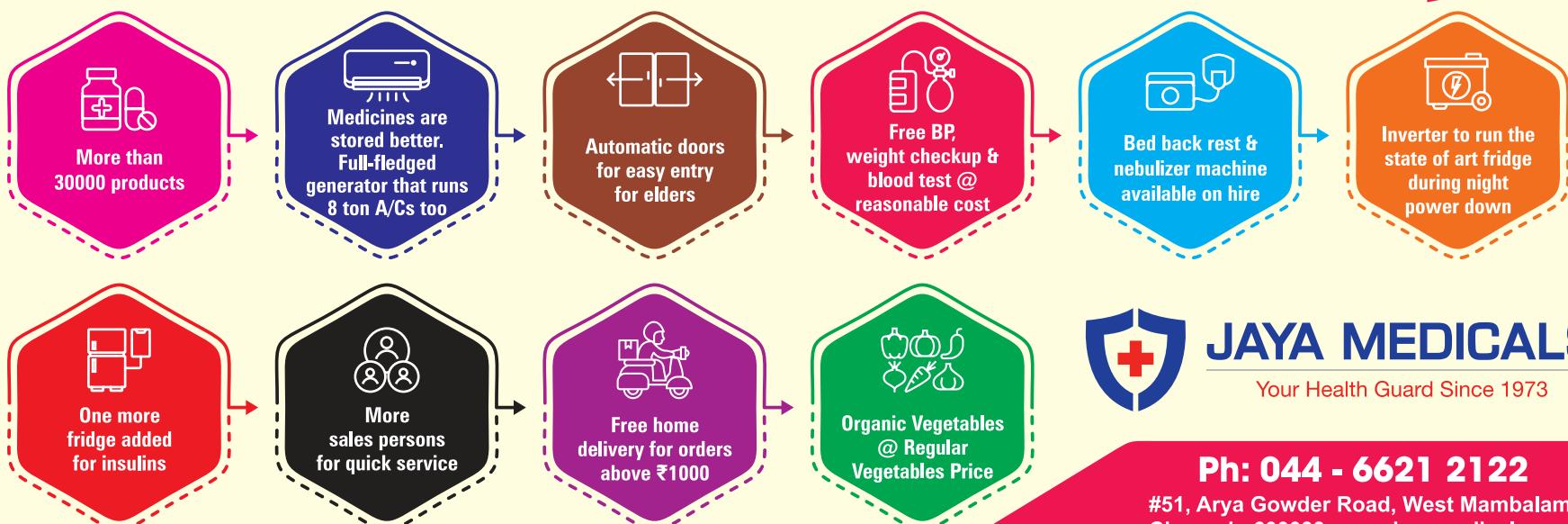
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'Traps' for pedestrians



It follows the configuration of a linear minefield where the mines are placed in a row. On the pavement of 100-feet Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road in Ekkatuthangal, metallic projections squat in a row. They are an unintentional snare for pedestrians; there is no mal-intent, but there is something just as bad, abject carelessness and disregard for public safety. These projections from the ground up are vestiges of a lengthy shelter at Ambal Nagar bus stand in Ekkatithangal on 100-feet Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road. They are metal stubs of the pillars that have been removed, improperly removed. In daylight, a pedestrian can walk past the sharp iron projections without snagging their foot on any of them. With reduced visibility after evenfall, the artificial lighting hardly offsetting it, any of these projections can trip a pedestrian. And if it is a senior citizen with weak bones, the damage to that person's well-being can be huge. When the bus stop was dismantled, care should have been taken not to leave anything as deadly as these on the ground. The unfinished job has to be completed. On November 24, 2025, a makeshift bus shelter without seats, one whose concrete base has just barely cured with wooden box yet to be removed, was being used by commuters. Those metal projections on the pavement should be yanked out so that commuters walking to the new bus shelter can do so safely.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



Free tickets to Junior Men's Hockey World Cup



Glimpses of the inaugural ceremony of the FIH Men's Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2025 that is under way in Chennai. The matches are on at SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium till December 10. According to a report in Sportstar, Hockey India has announced free tickets for fans to watch the matches. The virtual free tickets can be booked through ticketgenie website or the Hockey India app. PHOTOS: RAGU R

READERS WRITE

'Cattle menace on Mount Poonamallee Road'



A SANTHOSH

Movement of cattle is quite common on the Porur and Iyyappanthangal sections of Mount Poonamallee Road and it raises the risk of accidents. The issue is quite conspicuous from SRMC hospital to Iyyappanthangal bus terminus.

Though Mount Poonamallee Road comes under the purview of State Highways Department, issues like cattle movement on the highway have to be addressed by the local body. In this case, the stretch of the highway falls in the border of the Greater Chennai Corporation and Iyyappanthangal Village Panchayat.

Several complaints to both the local bodies have gone in vain.

A Santhosh is a resident of Iyyappanthangal



'Water wastage in West Mambalam'

V. RAVICHANDRAN

Water is leaking from a public tap at Ellaiamman Koil Street in West Mambalam which is opposite Nagathammam temple. Authorities concerned should do the needful and put an end to the wastage of water.

V. Ravichandran is a resident of West Mambalam



The tap at Ellaiamman Koil Street in West Mambalam.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'GN Road waits for mending exercise'



The battered stretch at the junction. The image was taken on November 27.

N. RAVIKKUMAR

The margins of Goppathy Narayana Road in T Nagar near the junction of Dr. Nair Road and Thirumalai Road is battered. To be precise, near Maniyavar & Mohey store and near The Residency hotel. This junction witnesses heavy traffic. Hence, it should be mended at the earliest.

N. Ravikkumar is a resident of Nungambakkam

No shelter at bus stop on Thanikachalam Road



In the absence of a shelter at Pondy Bazaar bus stop on Thanikachalam Road in T Nagar, commuters are exposed to the elements. This is a temporary bus stop set up on account of traffic diversion aimed at facilitating metro rail work at the nearby Panangal Park. There is not even one signboard to indicate the bus stop. This stop witnesses a good number of commuters as Pondy Bazaar is a shopping hub. Buses headed toward the following termini halt here: T Nagar, K.K. Nagar, and Iyyappanthangal. The images were taken on November 27, 2025.

You can be our volunteer-writer

Dear readers, you can be our volunteer-writer by writing to us about issues and events in your neighbourhood. You should send the write-ups to downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in. Letters must carry the contact number.

'GCC should carry out a massive drive against telecommunication cables'

S.N. RAJARAM

Discarded telecommunication cables occupying roads and footpaths is a safety hazard. I fell from my motorcycle due to these cables a few months ago at Samiyar Madam in Kodambakkam. As I was driving at a very low speed and was well in control, I escaped without sustaining serious injuries.

Each time I come across such cables, I make a complaint to GCC and it is prompt in addressing it. But I request that GCC on its own should take stringent measures and carry out a mass drive against it.

S.N. Rajaram is a resident of Saligramam



Following are the cables that were cleared after complaints. The images show various spots in Vadapalani which include Arcot Road in front of a Forum mall, Somasundara Bharathi Nagar, and Kumaran Colony Main Road. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Motorcyclists on a *slippery slope* in Teynampet



work), the junction now takes a greater volume of vehicular traffic, hence a battered patch or two. The broken parts receive patchwork. But the greater concern lies next to these patchworks, slush resulting from a nexus between mud and rainwater. In recent days, efforts to clear the mud at this junction have played out regularly. It would be commendable to address the problem at its roots and not when it has taken on a gooey, dangerous form. The images were taken on November 29, 2025.

A worker clearing the mud at Anna Salai-Thyagaraya Road in Teynampet; and a view of the slushy part of Thyagaraya Road near the junction. Photos: Prince Frederick



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

If a motorcyclist were compelled to take a challenging course, and the only relief offered to them being the permission to choose between "bumpy" and "slippery", they would do

well to plump for the former. A bumpy surface is generally only uncomfortable; and dangerous only in extreme situations. A slippery surface has that order reversed. Danger usually strikes first, catching the motorcyclist by surprise; and the discomfort following that danger can be unbearable.

At the junction of Anna Salai and Thyagaraya Road in Teynampet, both 'bumpy' and 'slippery' are present side by side. With traffic from Anna Salai headed towards Gemini flyover being diverted through Thyagaraya Road (as part of the larger traffic diversions related to State Highways' flyover



GCC renovates bus terminus in West Saidapet

The work to set up a new shelter at Metropolitan Transport Corporation's bus terminus on Jones Road in West Saidapet is under way. The work is being executed by Greater Chennai Corporation.

While welcoming the revamping exercises, commuters are unhappy about their timing, the work having been taken up in the rainy season.

Further, commuters pointed out alternate seating arrangements are not adequate in number. Commuters also suggested that a counter to issue season tickets should be set up. Due to its absence, they go to any of these bus termini: Saidapet T Nagar or K.K. Nagar.

The following services are operated from West Saidapet bus ter-

minus to the following destinations: 18K (to Broadway); 88D (to Kundrathur); 10A (to Tollgate); 500W (to Chengalpattu).

Commuters feel the need for improving the bus services. "Only 18K is frequent. The frequency of the other services are very poor," says a commuter.

Text by L. Kanthimathi

Special buses for Sabarimala

The State Express Transport Corporation, Government of Tamil Nadu, is operating special buses to Sabarimala.

The SETC is operating non-air-conditioned seating and sleeper buses from Hosur, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, and Karur to Pamba till January 16.

The buses will not be operated from December 26 to 29. The Travancore Devaswom Board has announced that the Sabarimala Sree Ayyappan Temple will be closed from December 27 to 30 till 5 p.m.

For details, contact 9445014424, 9445014463.



From Chennai, the transport corporation, in view of 'Pournami', is operating more than 150 ultra-deluxe air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned sleeper and seating facility buses on December 03 and 04.

Passengers can book tickets on www.tnstc.in and the TNSTC official app.

For details, contact Madurai 9445014426; Tirunelveli 9445014428; Nagercoil 9445014432; Tuticorin 9445014430; Coimbatore 9445014435; Chennai 9445014463; and 9445014424.

Air-conditioned buses

The State Express Transport Corporation, Government of Tamil Nadu, will operate ultra-deluxe and air-conditioned seating and sleeper facility buses to Thiruvananthapuram in view of 'Karthiga Deepam' on December 02 and 03, from Nagercoil, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Senkottai, Madurai, and Coimbatore.

AWARENESS



One year gone; and it is time to take stock

Shining the spotlight on the clubs in schools and colleges across Chennai that have launched campaigns against drug addiction

LIFFY THOMAS

It is one year since the Tamil Nadu government mandated that educational institutions establish 'anti-drug clubs' and form 'volunteer teams' to create awareness, prevent drug abuse and promote a drug-free lifestyle.

As a result of this, over the last one year in Chennai, schools and colleges have come up with innovative campaign ideas to combat the scourge of drugs.

According to the office of the regional joint director, Directorate of Collegiate Education,

▼ Students in a mime show to raise awareness about the issue.
PHOTO: BASHKARAN N

each of the 64 arts and science and B.Ed colleges in Chennai under its jurisdiction has not only formed a club but taken proactive measure to ensure there is maximum reach both inside and outside the classroom.

Some of the institutions have more than one club, established in keeping with the strength of the college. "We get reports from colleges every month and we have a meeting in the Collectorate as well to discuss the activities under Drug Free Tamil Nadu. Due to regular follow-ups, these clubs are active," says K. Sudarkodi, regional joint director, Directorate of Collegiate Education.

Colleges run competitions and activities. The Government gets them to have an essay writing programme and a marathon to create more awareness about the issue.

Asking certain institutions to take up a survey in the neighbourhood with student volunteers to understand the prevalence of narcotics use has been another step in a data-based approach to tackling this issue.

Along with other law enforcement departments such as Greater Chennai City Police and the Excise Department, Chennai is fighting a smart and relentless war to eradicate drugs, say experts.

Anti-trafficking clubs
Involving the youth as allies in this war is a major step.

P.M. Nair, retired Director General of Police, NDRF, who has been working with educational institutions to set up Anti Human Trafficking Clubs, says investing in youth through such clubs is a good practice as they listen, take it forward and will become ambassadors of the initiative.

"We are creating a new generation of people who are aware of national security," says the retired IPS officer and an expert working against human trafficking.

He suggests that the State Government undertake both a qualitative and quantitative study to understand the impact of such clubs in fighting narcotics.

As an extension of the anti-drug clubs in educational institutions, Nair says anti-human trafficking clubs should also be brought into its fold. As per United Nations convention against transnational organised crime,

there are three types of organised trafficking – arms, drugs and humans. "Drug menace is a known problem while human trafficking is not as much of a known problem, but both are serious issues affecting youth. We should empower boys and girls on both issues," he says.

The Mizoram model of involving the community to fight drugs is also worth emulating. Here we can involve Panchayats who will spread it at the grassroots level.

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Enaku vendam namaku vendam pothai/ Enaku vendam namaku vendam!

Pothai oziyattum pathai melerattum/ Elanjargal valkai Olirattum!

V. Anbarasu, head of the department and assistant professor of economics at Annai Violet Arts and Science College in Ambattur, breaks into this jingle multiple times during a conversation with this journalist. This anti-drug song which presents the idea that "youth is the future, therefore celebrate life" is among the many initiatives taken by the college to get youngsters to address the dangers of substance abuse, which got the college first prize in the Chennai District Awards conducted by the State Government.

"If you have to get the attention of youngsters then music and arts should be the medium," says Anbarasu, who wrote the lyrics for the song and also sang it at the in-house studio in the college with the help of students from the Visual Communication Department.



A melody to inspire youngsters to say no to drugs

An economics professor at Annai Violet Arts and Science College uses a combination of creative tools to spread an anti-drugs message

The video shot at different locations in the college also has three NSS students garnering attention by tapping their feet to music. It was released by K. Shankar, Commissioner of Police, Avadi, last year and uploaded on YouTube.

During campaigns outside the

college, the song is played at busy junctions, bus stands and markets to get people's attention, after which students perform a mime or a skit to promote the idea of a drug-free society.

The college's FM channel also drums up support for the cam-

A street play by students aimed at creating awareness; and V. Anbarasu receives the award. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



paign. When Anbarasu visits neighbouring colleges, he makes sure the song is played.

"There are no metrics to measure how this campaign has touched people but to get a testimonial or when a student walks up to tell them that the skit was an eye opener we know there has been impact," says the 51-year-old faculty who is a resident of Puzhal.

Creating awareness through interactive mediums is not new to this economics faculty. As the former NSS programme officer in the college, he has composed songs to get students to pay their fees and be regular to classes and

also to wear a helmet while riding a two-wheeler.

"I love to write songs on the spot; and with a catchy tune, a song can draw students' attention," says Anbarasu, tuning in to a song he composed to encourage students to donate blood.

When a shop selling cigarettes within a 100-yard radius of an educational institution comes into view, the faculty and his team do not fail to point out that it is violating a rule. "When they do not heed, we place a complaint on the "Drug-Free Tamil Nadu" mobile app. Based on such complaints, the police have taken action," he adds.

Artworks that work for Nature

Young 'artpreneur', 12-year-old Smriti Krishnan creates works of art from discarded materials, ensuring she does not walk roughshod over planet earth



SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Smriti Krishnan represents a rare category in "The Precocious Club". Hers is a precocity that combines domain knowledge with business acumen. Still months shy of teenhood, Smriti owns an art brand, Divine Art. And the 12-year-old knows how to hold a paintbrush and how not to. She repurposes used boards and old wedding invitations to make these paintings. Her artistic oeuvre includes corporate gift boards and wedding invitations and a fascicle of other art-based things in-between. The artworks transform the discarded materials they are born out of, so totally that all traces of their past lives are wiped out.

On how she discovered the potential for art hidden in discarded materials, Smriti recalls: "We got a very fancy circular invitation with a lot of holes and designs," she says. "We did not want to waste it, so I thought I could do something with it." She experimented, refined the idea, and gradually began converting discarded invitations into a compact wall art.

Painting on boards, she notes, differs significantly from working on canvas. "Canvas is rough, so I

have to apply gesso. But the MDF boards are already smooth." She also repurposes boards that arrive with corporate gifts her father receives. "I'm just using what I can find," says Smriti, a resident of Egattur, Old Mahabalipuram Road, and a student of PSBB Siruseri. Smriti does not shun canvas altogether.

She manages a WhatsApp group where she posts her artworks. Buyers can purchase the works on display or request customised pieces. Recently, her teacher requested her to paint on a sari and create a Ganesha artwork on canvas.

Her pricing system is structured and deliberate. She calculates the material cost, then adds her time, effort and a modest margin. Most acrylic works range from ₹200 to ₹500, with the lowest starting at ₹100. Her highest sale to date is ₹1,050 for a set of three paintings. Competitions form another track in her art journey. She has won multiple school-based and other awards. "Recently this year, in Shraddha Sangamam, I got the first prize," she says. She is also a regular at the art competitions



Smriti Krishnan with her artworks. PHOTOS:
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



An early start

One could say the paintbrush picked Smriti and not the other way round. Smriti started painting at 2.5 years of age. "I think the first painting that I did, like an overall painting, was with my mom," she says. At the time, her parents introduced her to pre-painted children's canvases. "One of them was an underwater scenery, and I still have it," says Smriti her voice spiked with excitement at the memory.

"Smriti's love for colours began in her toddler years with crayons and soon blossomed into canvas, embroidery, and crochet. Her passion rekindled my own hobby, and together we spent countless weekends immersed in art," weighs in Mathangi, Smriti's mother. Her first independent work emerged during the COVID lockdowns. "That was a scenery of the night sky," she says. That early experiment led to a proper painting set, followed by a series of classes and workshops, and now structured lessons with a tutor from Ranjani's Art World. YouTube, she adds, continues to be a reliable source of ideas and techniques. Smriti paints as often as her schedule permits. "If it's not exam time, I paint every day," she says. Her themes are anchored in nature – sunsets, forests and waterfalls.

Nominations open for Alert Being Award

Alert, a voluntary non-profit organisation that empowers a common man to act in case of emergency and save lives, has invited nominations for the 9th edition of ALERT Being Award. The annual event honours individuals and organisations, and nominations are open from across India. The shortlisted awardees will be honoured at the Alert Being Awards ceremony scheduled in February 2026.

The awards will be presented in different categories: Individual, Organization, Individual - Going Beyond Call of Duty and Organisation - Social Venture. ALERT also confers icon and lifetime achievement awards to individuals or organisations who have created impact at scale and have served humanity their entire life. This year the awards will be presented to 10 Good Samaritans nationally who have saved lives during emergencies, said a release.

Registration Link: www.aba.alert.ngo

Last date for submitting nominations: December 20, 2025

For more information, contact: 9941527838 or write to alertbeingawards@alert.ngo

Registrations open for Super Chennai Quiz 2025

Super Chennai, the citizen-driven city branding movement, has opened registrations for the first edition of the Super Chennai Quiz 2025, set to take place on December 7, 2025, at the Lady Andal School Auditorium.

Led by quizmaster and Nawab of Arcot, Asif Ali, the event promises to bring together students, families and professionals for a celebration of knowledge, culture and city's spirit, says a press release.

Participants from schools, colleges and the general public can register and showcase their intellect and passion for all things Chennai. Registered participants will receive entry passes, quiz materials and Super Chennai merchandise on the day of the event.

Registration is priced at ₹199, and winners will receive prizes worth ₹1 lakh, recognising their knowledge, enthusiasm and love for the city.

To nominate or register for the Super Chennai Quiz 2025, visit www.superchennai.com or write to hello@superchennai.com for details.

Budding artistes to take part in Margazhi event

Federation of Radial Road Residents Associations is organising its fifth annual music, dance and theatre festival as part of Margazhi celebration. According to a press release, registration is on to take part in the event, called "FORRRA Margazhi 2025." It will be held on December 21 at Surabhi Palace Mini Hall, 200 Feet Radial Road. Time: At 3.30 p.m. The association invites budding artistes to take part in the cultural event. For registrations and further details, call 98404 82337 / 82487 91953. The association represents 14 gated communities located along the Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Radial Road.

Music concert

As part of 'Karthigai Ekadashi', Uma Kumar, a Carnatic singer from Switzerland, will perform an 'Abhang Mela', a music concert on November 30 at Kamakoti Hall, Krishna Gana Sabha, at 6 p.m..

A fundraiser concert

Orchestra maestro UK Murali is celebrating his 40-year music journey with a concert on November 30 at Kamarajar Arangam; proceeds from the show will go towards establishment of Anandam Free Palliative Care Centre

Legendary orchestra maestro UK Murali is celebrating his 40 years of musical excellence on November 30 at Kamarajar Arangam. From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., three grand musical sessions (10 a.m.-1 p.m., 2 p.m.-5 p.m., 6 p.m.-10 p.m.) will feature performances by over 100 celebrated singers and artistes. UK Murali is dedicating this entire celebration as a fundraising initiative for the upcoming Anandam Free Palliative Care Centre at Kalikuppam in Ambattur, said a press release.

Twenty-two-years-old, the voluntary

organisation runs a free old age home since 2003. The home now has 110 senior citizens. Anandam Free Educational Assistance has been running since 2010, where over 270 students from Classes III to XII attend free evening tuitions; and over 250 college students and over 90 school students receive full financial support.

Anandam Free Medical Care Centre support underserved families. Anandam Special School for Children with Special Needs offers over 17 specialised therapies for children with autism, dyslexia, Down's Syndrome and multiple

learning difficulties.

Anandam goshala, located in Melkondaiyur near Tiruvallur, takes care of 122 cows, calves and bulls. Anandam also runs bakery, tailoring, computer and napkin units where single mothers and vocational-skills-training students work confidently, said the release. The Anandam Free Palliative Care Centre is a 50-bed facility that is being opened for terminal ill cancer patients to live their final days with dignity and comfort. The bhoombi pooja was performed on October 26, 2025, and construction has begun, added the release.

An evening of soulful, devotional compositions



As part of the Margazhi Music Festival at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, M. S. Martin and his disciples presented a Carnatic keyboard concert on November 23. The concert showcased both tradition and innovation and how the instrument can capture the nuance and discipline of Carnatic music. Carnatic music on the keyboard demands extraordinary precision. The students: Padmanabhan on mridangam, Vadivelu on tabla and Hariharan Babu on rhythm pad, trained under Martin, rose to this challenge gracefully, offering the audience an evening that celebrated classical purity through a modern sonic palette, a release said. The evening featured several classical masterpieces, including 'Parathpara Parameshwara', 'Aadamodi Gallada', and 'Kamalaptagula'. A technically demanding highlight of the evening was 'Mari Mari Ninne', which the ensemble performed with notable maturity.



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The nursery at Guindy. PHOTOS: R RAVINDRAN

Horticulture department sets up nursery in Guindy

Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency, a wing of the Department of Horticulture & Plantation Crops, has set up a nursery in Guindy, near the railway station.

According to officials, it was inaugurated during the first week of November. Here, ornamental plants including indoor ones, saplings of trees, seeds, manure including vermi-compost, and pots are sold. This sales outlet is in addition to the ones at Madhavaram and Teynampet (Semmozhi Poonga), add officials.

The nursery functions on all days of a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For details, call 98400 72385 / 99402 45997.



Koyambedu Aadhaar centre to be shifted

Unique Identification Authority of India-run Aadhaar Seva Kendra centre which was functioning from Ten Square Mall on Jawaharlal Nehru Road in Koyambedu has stopped its operations from November 28. The centre will resume its operations from December 15 from the following address: TNUIFS Towers, First Floor (Left Wing), Block H1, Third Avenue, Anna Nagar - East.

Workshop on making incense sticks

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on making incense sticks and incense cones using benzoin resin. The session will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For registration and other details, call 044 - 29530048.

Digital monthly bus passes for MTC commuters

It can be purchased from Chennai One App, an application of Chennai Unified Metropolitan Authority

Commuters of Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses can purchase monthly season tickets from Chennai One App, an application of Chennai Unified Metropolitan Authority. It is a digital pass introduced by CUMTA and MTC, says a press release. The facility does away with paperwork and eliminates the need for physical visits to bus termini. A commuter can purchase it anytime from anywhere.

MTC digital pass comes with two options: "Gold" pass priced at ₹1,000 which allows unlimited travel for a month on ordinary, deluxe, and express services. The other is "Diamond" pass priced at ₹2,000 which allows unlimited travel for a month on all MTC buses, including AC services.

How it works

Download the Chennai One app → se-

lect the pass → click a selfie → pay digitally. While boarding the bus, commuters can simply enter the bus OTP or scan the QR code displayed inside the bus to activate the pass and show it to the conductor for every travel.

Introductory offer

Users can avail a flat ₹50 assured cash-back when purchasing the bus pass using the BHIM app.

About Chennai One app

It is an integrated commute app launched by CUMTA this September. It allows booking and payment for travel in buses, metro trains, suburban trains, auto rickshaws, and cabs in one digital platform and the travel can be tracked with a single QR. The motto of the app is "One City. One App. One Ticket," add the press release.

Bed linen service for non-AC sleeper class passengers from January 1

The service is available in select trains of Chennai Division of Southern Railway

The Chennai Division of Southern Railway will be introducing a service wherein bed linen will be provided on an "on-demand, on-payment" basis for passengers of non-AC sleeper class from January 1, 2026.

According to a press release, non-AC sleeper class passengers are not provided with sanitized bed linen during their journey. To address this, the new service is implemented under the New Innovative Non-Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme. Following the overwhelming response a pilot project of the service (conducted during the financial year 2023-2024) witnessed, it has been regularised.

Under this initiative, a licensee will manage the entire process, including procurement, mechanized washing, packing, loading, distribution, and storage of bed linen. The service will initially be implemented on ten trains maintained by the Chennai Division for a period of three years, generating an annual license fee of ₹28,27,653, adds the release.



An illustration shared by the Chennai Division of Southern Railway

The service is provided in three packages: one bedsheet, one pillow and one pillow cover is priced at ₹50; one pillow and one pillow cover is priced at ₹30; and one bed sheet is priced at ₹20.

The following are the trains covered under this service: Nilgiri Superfast Express; Mangalore Superfast Express; Mannargudi Express; Tiruchendur Superfast Express; Palghat Express; Silambu Superfast Express; Tambaram-Nagercoil Superfast Express; Trivandrum Superfast Express; Alleppey Superfast Express; and Mangalore Express.

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