

## T. NAGAR

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



### DRIVING IT 'SAFE'

With public charging infrastructure in Chennai failing to keep pace with manufacture and sale of electric autorickshaws, drivers are plagued by 'range anxiety' and forced to settle for lower daily earnings **P4**



### BLOOMING WHERE SHE IS PLANTED

Shanthi set foot in Ceebros Boulevard at Thoraipakkam as a flower seller and ended up putting down unshakeable roots as a vendor of vegetables and fruits **P5**

The images were taken on June 13, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



## Major work at busy junction

With deep machine hole work being carried out by CMWSSB at the GN Chetty Road-Dr. Nair Road junction, vehicular movement is strained during rush hour

### A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**A**t the GN Chetty Road-Dr. Nair Road junction, there is currently one thing that is as striking as a giant exoplanet seen through the view finder of an advanced telescope — a massive CMWSSB work, one that is all over the place and cannot be missed.

It is a deep machine hole work, where the ma-

chine hole is being fashioned through casting.

The collapse of the existing sewage machine hole that necessitated this work is probably causing some challenges in terms of the delivery of swift sewage clearance services. But it certainly is making for great inconvenience on the road, at the junction to be precise, contributing to sluggish traffic movement during rush hour.

According to those with

an ear down to the ground, the casting work is not too far from completion. At the time of this article going to press, the machine hole casting work was going on.

Machine holes can be built from the ground up right at the place they have to be situated or done outside through pre-casting if there is water flow at the site or any other factor exists that might prevent in-situ construction.

## Vadapalani terminus: all set for renovation



The Vadapalani bus terminus is all set to undergo a renovation. According to a press release, the project will be carried out by Chennai Metro Asset Management Limited, a joint venture of Chennai Metro Rail Limited and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation at a cost of ₹481.3 crore excluding GST. As part of the project, the terminus will get an additional entrance which can be accessed from Kumaran Colony Main Road. Other features include provision of commercial buildings and office spaces. The image was taken on June 13, 2025. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B



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Glimpses of performances at IDAM.



## A 'place' under the sun for folk arts

Located in Kodambakkam, IDAM holds out an invitation to both exponents and students of folk art forms such as Thappattam, Devarattam, Oyilattam and Bomallattam. In addition, it hosts general open mics and theatre workshops



SAHANA MIRA S

When you step inside IDAM, an art and cultural space in the middle of busy Kodambakkam, you will find out it is more than just a place, even though 'Idam' literally means place when translated. Inside, rural Tamil Nadu comes alive with folk art forms from Thappattam, Devarattam, Oyilattam, Bomallattam to Tholpavakoothu, apart from general open mics and theatre workshops. But what makes the space stand out is that it does not stop at showcasing these performances but invites Chennaiites to step into the venue as students of the traditional arts.

Founded by actor Vetri MV, IDAM is the result of years of

groundwork. Since 2017, Vetri has been conducting acting, theatre and art workshops across colleges. But a couple of years ago, he felt the need for a dedicated space for the urban crowd to get in touch with folk heritage. It is not necessarily folk instrument classes, children who attend events here often leave with folk tales and stories from traditional storytellers. "The main purpose of starting our art and cultural space was simple. It is to connect the folk artists and general public," says Vetri. "Most people who live in the city are not always aware of the folk art instruments or dances. So, IDAM became a space for education as much as celebration."

Interestingly, it was not cine-

ma that introduced the actor to folk art, it was theatre. His journey as a theatre artist performing and directing across Tamil Nadu made him give importance to folk forms and their unsung masters, many of whom now take the stage at IDAM.

One such artist is Gramiya Kalamani Nellai Manikandan, a recipient of the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar. A passionate teacher, he lights up as he talks about training young, urban audiences in forms such as Devarattam.

"When I train people living in the city in folk art forms such as Devarattam, they should first know about the art form, so that is how I start. They are really interested in knowing it, but they

do not know where to learn it from," says Nellai Manikandan, commenting on how a lot of them are glued to screens all day, phones, laptops, TV, you name it! And now, they are hungry for something rooted and old-school. "Every time I teach a class at IDAM, it turns into a new experience for me itself. On one hand, there are students who come with no prior exposure to dance or any art form, just curiosity and eagerness to learn. On the other, in a group of 20, you might find 15 trained classical dancers looking to explore folk dance and music," says the folk art teacher. Vetri says the undertones of inquisitiveness has been pulling urban crowds towards folk art as there is an increased turnout. He admits it

would not have been the same a decade ago. "Initially, creating the space exclusively for artforms was a challenge in the city, but we have been successfully sustaining it," says the founder. In 2025, engineers, designers, copywriters and other professionals are travelling to cultural centres of this kind located as far away as Coimbatore to attend the three-hour or day-long workshops. The space is also gearing up for something new. "We are starting a full-time three-month course consisting of Thappattam, Devarattam and Oyilattam taught by three different masters which is starting from July," shares Vetri. Alongside, a theatre and acting course is also in the works, which is open to anyone with curiosity!



## Deepening of Nandanam Canal under way



As part of Greater Chennai Corporation's effort to increase its rainwater-carrying capacity, the Nandanam canal finds JCBs and concrete mixers parked in its space as guests, as these images from June 13, 2025 show. The canal is being deepened. Nandanam Canal is in a relay race together with the Mambalam canal to beat monsoonal flooding in these parts with T Nagar being in the epicentre of it. The exercise to deepen Nandanam canal is integral to prevention of flooding in these parts. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK





## STATUS REPORT

# Stuck in Nandanam and screaming



R. RAVINDRAN

**T**he section of Anna Salai starting from Nandanam signal and extending up to Teynampet KB Dasan Salai signal is supposed to have unfettered, free-flowing, unidirectional traffic. This is the putative characteristic of this section ever since it was made a one-

way to facilitate a flyover construction. However, during rush hour, traffic flow on this section is anything but free-flowing. Though the entire road (except for the strip earmarked for flyover work) is available for unidirectional traffic, traffic logjams happen with disturbing frequency. On June 11, 2025, around 5.30 p.m., traffic had come to a standstill, and this situation continued 20 minutes. Among the

vehicles that cooled their tyres was a screaming ambulance. When the traffic started moving, vehicles were lurching forward by inches, and another 25 minutes elapsed before the ambulance reached the Teynampet KB Dasan Salai junction signal. In normal circumstances, an ambulance should cover this ground in two to three minutes.

Photos: R. Ravindran

## READERS WRITE

### ‘Provide a dedicated pedestrian walkway with safety railings’



Due to flyover work and one-way traffic on a section of Anna Salai, from Nandanam signal to Teynampet KB Dasan Salai signal, pedestrians are cramped for space

On Anna Salai, movement of pedestrians from Nandanam Metro Rail station to Apollo Hospitals, Prestige Polygon building, and other establishments nearby is huge. A flyover being under construction on this section, it has been made one-way. A significant portion of the road is occupied by the ongoing construction, and all vehicular movement is restricted to the remaining two sides of the road.

Due to this traffic arrangement, the situation has become highly unsafe for pedestrians. Vehicles frequently overtake one another, creating a serious risk for those walking along the road. Therefore, we request the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of pedestrians. A dedicated pedestrian walkway, protected with safety railings, would be needed on this section.

Jayaprakash PS



## SWD manholes restored in Duraiarasan Street

They were under the road, illegal ramps and construction debris

**A**t Duraiarasan Street in Kaveri Rangan Nagar, Saligramam, on June 13, 2025, Greater Chennai Corporation restored eight stormwater drain manholes (with perforations for rainwater to flow in) that had gone under the road and illegal ramps.

The exercise was a result of complaints raised by Kaveri Rangan Nagar Residents Welfare Association.

“The stormwater drain, at Duraiarasan Street was not clearing rainwater even during light showers, as the manholes with perforations were ‘lost’ on account of road relaying and illegal ramps,” says association secretary S.N. Rajaram, while lauding GCC for prioritising the recovery of SWD manholes over a road relaying project planned for the street.



Duraiarasan Street in Kaveri Rangan, Saligramam on June 10, 2025. A manhole that was restored on June 13, 2025. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### You can be our volunteer-writer

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LIFFY THOMAS

**I**n the last seven months as an autorickshaw driver, Pavithra Prakash has learnt some hard lessons about driving an electric vehicle. “Once charged, my auto can run for 160 km and I make it a point not to cross 110 km,” says the 29-year-old mother, happy about the financial independence ushered in by her new job. She has “range anxiety” whenever the three-wheeler crosses that mark as it is usually difficult to find an EV charging station nearby. Even if she were to charge at a public charging point, it would require her to wait for a few hours.

“Once I was left with charge for just 30 km and the vehicle started making alarming sounds, I panicked as my house is located near Red Hills and I just wanted the charge to be sufficient for me to reach home,” says the autorickshaw driver who charges the vehicle at her home.

Pavithra’s husband, who has an auto running on compressed natural gas, encouraged her to opt for an electric vehicle for the ease it would offer the young driver who learnt driving skills from Association of Non-Traditional Employment of Women (ANEW) in Anna Nagar.

“On days when I get many rides I am forced to wind up by 2 p.m. as the vehicle does not have charge. I sometimes refuse long-distance trips fearing the situation that would manifest if I run out of charge,” says Pavithra.

Anxious if the battery will drain out, autorickshaw driver R. Shanthalakshmi only takes short trips in and around Palavakkam where she resides. “When I purchased the vehicle from a showroom in Tambaram, they told me there are public charging stations I could use, but in the five months since I have been driving

## Driving it ‘safe’

With public charging infrastructure in Chennai failing to keep pace with manufacture and sale of electric autorickshaws, drivers are plagued by ‘range anxiety’ and forced to settle for lower daily earnings. Months into driving e-autos, two women auto drivers share their angst

this vehicle I have not discovered even one, so I charge the vehicle every night at home,” says Shanthalakshmi, who is content earning ₹1000 to ₹1500 a day ferrying people. Her income as an auto driver is supplemented by earnings from petty shops she runs near her home.

Showrooms retailing three-wheelers say the demand for electric vehicles is noticeably greater than what it was last year. In March this year, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handed over 50 electric autos to women members of urban self-help groups under the Environment and Climate Change Department to empower them to be financially independent while promoting sustainable mobility.

“Unlike public charging stations for two-and-four-wheelers, there is no such facility for autorickshaws. Some showrooms selling the vehicles make provision for charging outside their store,” says R. Ashwanth, manager, Rag Motors. He says there are two

Pavithra Prakash and (below) R. Shanthalakshmi.  
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND PRINCE FREDERICK



### A crucial factor

A report by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on “Regulatory mechanism for three-wheelers” says that apart from regulations, charging infrastructure serves as a crucial factor impeding the growth of electric three-wheelers.

The project “Switching to a sustainable auto-rickshaw system” was a pilot study carried out to gauge the service of electric autos feeder (for first- and last-mile connectivity) in Chennai in collaboration with Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) from January 2019. One of the main objectives of the project was to promote a policy and regulatory framework in cities for sustainable mobility.

Though electric autos can have home-based charging infrastructure, dedicated public charging infrastructure needs to be developed to support charging needs of e-autorickshaw drivers, says the report.

Provision of charging points should also be made available at parking spots in places such as office campuses, malls and marketplaces. Pilot initiatives with public transport authorities to promote first- and last-mile connectivity can lead to growth of charging infrastructure.

variants in three-wheelers: one has 125 - 150 km range and the other 200-250 km, a majority go in for the latter and are happy as their everyday travel is usually covered by that range.

Those in the industry say public charging infrastructure should keep pace with electric vehicle sales. Giving subsidy to vendors will also encourage establishment of more facilities.

#### No standardisation

Ragavendra Ravichandran, co-founder and chief operating officer, Plugzmart, agrees the charging infrastructure for three-wheelers is yet to pick up. The chargers currently used by electric autos have not been standardised.

“For electric four-wheelers, there is broad standardisation among major brands when it comes to charging interfaces. AC chargers typically use the Type 2

connector, and DC fast chargers commonly use the CCS2 (Combined Charging System) connector. This allows vehicle owners to access public charging infrastructure with a standardised plug wherever they go. However, this level of standardization does not yet exist for electric three-wheelers,” says Ragavendra.

Electric autos used for transporting goods go to warehouses for charging; and those used for ferrying people are dependent on public charging stations or homes, he says.

Is it okay to charge an electric vehicle at home? Yes, but it may not be as fast as a public infrastructure point. Many prefer to charge vehicles at home for the convenience it brings. A Tangedo official says so far there is no restriction on charging electric vehicles at home for domestic use, but if a petty shop is offering it at a fee to users then they must have a separate meter with commercial tariff.



Shanthi set foot in Ceebros Boulevard at Thoraipakkam as a flower seller and ended up putting down unshakeable roots as a vendor of vegetables and fruits. And she has blended in, residents accepting her as their own, rallying around her in her times of trouble and celebrating her personal victories

# Blooming where she is planted

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

**G**ated communities operate according to an entrenched pattern. Intrinsic to this pattern are faces that show up at the gates every morning – a flower seller, a vegetable vendor and anyone carting in an essential service. Over time, these local peripatetic traders become clued in, and with an accuracy equalling social-media algorithms, tailor their services to meet individual preferences, carrying the right wares before ringing a calling bell. Residents rely on them.

And the odd one manages a deeper connection. The transaction extends to squeeze in small talk. There is mutual sharing of personal updates. Somewhere between transactions and conversations, a comfortable familiarity builds. These traders may not live inside the community, but in every practical sense, belong to it. When the gates of Ceebros Boulevard in Thoraipakkam open to the outside world every morning, Shanthi walks in as an insider, a non-resident insider. She has been a regular at these gates since 2011 – once inside, she does not have to explain her presence. The residents know. Shanthi has blended in.

The memory of her first day at Ceebros Boulevard in Thoraipakkam, marked by an encouraging string of transactions, remains indelible. “I asked the security guard if I could go in to sell flowers and was directed to Flat 201,” she recalls. She knocked, sold a strand of flowers for ₹5, and moved on to Flats 212 and 222. Household chores came her way and she was grateful for the work. “I took whatever came my way,” she says. Soon, the demands shifted. Residents began asking for mint



Some are small-time vendors. Some do odd jobs for a living. But they have found an indispensable place in the communities they serve



**Another day in office:** Shanthi going about her work at the gated community.

The whole family, in fact, works within Ceebros Boulevard. Her mother helps from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., then joins her. During festivals, her daughters lend a hand. Both are now married, but the bond with Ceebros continues.

On a typical day, Shanthi sells flowers to five or six households and vegetables to anywhere between 20 and 30 homes. After paying for the hire of the mini-truck and assistance, she takes home around ₹500. “I never found selling here difficult,” she says. “Ceebros has always been good to me.”

Shanthi operates without a name board or price tags. If someone wants something specific, they show her a photo – she brings it the next day. From roses and jasmines to vase flowers, she remembers each household’s preference. “Sometimes I give flowers for free if someone buys vegetables,” she says with a shrug. In fact, she has never sold flowers outside Ceebros. “This is enough,” she says simply. “Everything I need is here.”

Over the years, her everyday vocabulary has broadened and it is multi-lingual. “Today, tomorrow, I will bring in the evening,” she says in English, and chuckles. “When someone speaks to me in Tamil, I reply in English – they all laugh.” She has even picked up a few Hindi words such as “palak.” While everything seems hunky-dory, there are regrets hidden away from public view by Shanthi’s natural cheerfulness. One major regret – time not spent with her daughters. “I was not there much when they were small,” she says. “I left early and came back late.” But Ceebros, she believes, helped raise them. “They helped with food. With weddings.”

When her son passed away, it was the residents who rallied around her. They pooled in money to cover funeral expenses. Later, when she was struggling to arrange her daughter’s wedding, the community stepped in. “They told me to be strong. Some gave money. Some gave furniture. They made sure the wedding happened.” The community’s acceptance of Shanthi seems total, as evidenced by the number of residents she strikes up a conversation with on a typical day. “The moment I enter the main gate, until I leave – everyone talks to me,” she says, her face lighting up. Some of those conversations now come from across the seas, from residents who have moved out of the community but stay connected.

For someone who once stepped into this community gingerly, and asked timidly if she could sell a few flowers, Shanthi now walks with ease and purpose – not just as a vendor, but as someone who belongs.

leaves, coriander, bananas and so on – and Shanthi had a stab at delivering grocery items on demand, still latching on to her other profiles as flower seller and an occasional helper in households. And she would soon ease into being the community’s unofficial but only vendor of vegetables, greens, fruits and flowers.

Five years into her Ceebros journey, she added festival essentials to her offerings – sugarcane, turmeric and Pongal pots. “Four days in advance,” she notes proudly. For residents, her arrival brought relief – they no longer had to step out or search for what they needed during festive times. Shanthi had them covered.

“For years, Shanthi has been the go-to delivery app for greens and flowers – always reliable and on time. I have personally seen her adapt, understand and cater to people’s demands seamlessly,” says Bharathi Hariharan, a resident.

“I cannot think of any major festival without Shanthi’s timely supply of Pooja items – I have never had to look beyond Ceebros. Her greens, though not on a fixed schedule, are essential to our well-being,” says Rajlakshmi Sashikanth, another resident. “And her personal touch – always checking on our well-being – makes her feel like family.” When she got started on this journey, Shanthi was a resident of Thiruverkadu. Today, she resides in Kannagi Nagar (a short jog away from Ceebros Boulevard) with her 70-year-old mother and two daughters, aged 22 and 20. She herself is 50 – and has walked a long road, quite literally. “Van drivers do not come into Kannagi Nagar,” she explains. “So I walked. Sometimes I came home only at midnight.” Carry-



ing huge flower bags filled to the brim, navigating late-night roads, and still appearing the next morning – that was her everyday life.

## A long day

Her day begins before sunrise. At 2 a.m., she leaves for Koyambedu market – a three-stop haul for flowers, fruits, greens and vegetables. She hires a mini-truck service along with ten other women (each of them paying ₹300 and carrying their trays of goods). By 7:30 a.m., she is stationed at the Ceebros gates. What follows is a frenetic dance of deliveries – mint leaves, vegetables, fruits and flowers – often done door-to-door. She returns in the evening for another round of commerce, with a new stock of fresh vegetables. Market days give her no breathing space. She boards the 4 a.m. bus to Parrys Corner (for its flower market) and returns just in time for the morning pooja. “At first, I did not even have a pushcart,” she shares. “I carried everything in hand.” Squirrelling away earnings over time, she bought one.

## Support from family

Her mother, though elderly, is a pillar of support. “When I am tired, she takes over the vegetable sales.”



# Assistance for deserving students

Non-profits offering scholarships seek applications for the coming academic year

Bharti Airtel Scholarship Programme, an initiative by Bharti Airtel Foundation launched in 2024, supports deserving students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, with a focus on girl students, to become future technology leaders. The scholarship programme has been designed for deserving students enrolled in technology-based engineering undergraduate and five-year integrated courses in the top 50 NIRF-ranked (Engineering) universities/institutes as per the latest NIRF ranking. It covers 100% annual fees, including meal and accommodation charges.

**Scholarship applications for the year 2025-26 are open. For details, visit**  
<https://bhartifoundation.org/bharti-airtel-scholarship/>

Kodambakkam-based Anandham Youth Foundation supports the higher education of underprivileged rural students. A five-step filtration process is followed before selecting deserving students. The selection criteria also includes students with the best marks, and from a poor economic background; orphaned students, those from single-parent households, those who study in Government or Government-aided schools and those who are first generation graduates in their family.

**For details, visit**  
<https://www.anandham.org/>

Dream India E&C Trust is inviting applications from students across Tamil Nadu who completed class X and XII for educational scholarships under the project "Education For All". Students from government schools, rural government schools, private schools with single parent or guardians would be given priority.

Based on the student's performance, the scholarship would be provided for each year of their academic course. Students selected for scholarship would be guided by a mentor. The applications would be analysed by the trustees of Dream India and processed within a time frame of three to four weeks. Scholarship for higher studies would be in the range of ₹15,000 to ₹25,000.

**For details and eligibility criteria visit**  
[www.dreamindia.org/scholarship](http://www.dreamindia.org/scholarship)  
WhatsApp 99406 75570

Maatram Foundation offers free higher education to deserving students from an economically deprived background. The non-profit has partnered with various educational institutions and supports students with their tuition fees, transportation charges and other expenses. Students who have scored more than 85% but cannot afford to buy even an application form are identified and given quality education, says a note on the website. Students are shortlisted after through scrutiny which includes a visit to their neighbourhood and an in-person interview.

The link to the scholarship application form for 2025 is available on  
<https://maatramfoundation.com/>  
The Foundation does not collect any application fee. In case one receives any such calls, please report it to the helpline number 9551014389.

Students on the first day of the new academic year at Presidency Girls Higher Secondary School in Egmore. PHOTO: RAGU R

## Libraries being renovated function from new addresses

L. KANTHIMATHI

Nine State government-run libraries in Chennai are operating from temporary addresses having been shifted out of their regular facilities which are being renovated by Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority.

They are among the twelve libraries that have come under the purview of this renovation exercise.

The library at Gandhi Nagar in Adyar has gone to Arignar Anna Government Higher Secondary School at Urur Adyar in Besant Nagar; the library at Eleventh Avenue in Ashok Nagar to the adjacent Government Girls Higher Secondary School; the one at Thanga Salai to a Greater Chennai Corporation-run school in the vicinity; the library at Bharathidhasan Salai in Alwarpet operates at library on Turnbolls Road in Nandanam near G.K. Mo-



panar flyover. The library at Indira Nagar in Adyar will function from a commercial complex of the Greater Chennai Corporation nearby; and the one at Bharathi Salai in Triplicane from a GCC-run Urban

Health & Wellness Centre at Dhevarajan Salai.

The library at Jani Basha Street in Royapettah has been shifted to a GCC building on Pycrofts Road in Triplicane. And the one at First Cir-

cular Road at Jawahar Nagar in Kolathur will be moved to the adjacent building which belongs to Perambur Cooperative Building Society.

The libraries at Anna Nagar, Ma-

The temporary library at Arignar Anna Government Higher Secondary School at Urur Adyar in Besant Nagar. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ha Kavi Bharathiyar Nagar in Vyasarpadi, and Periyar Nagar in Kolathur will be functioning from the annexe buildings on their premises.

"A good number of youngsters preparing for various competitive examinations use these libraries. Hence, they have been identified for CMDA's renovation project aimed at improving the ambience of these libraries. The shifting was done to ensure there is no disruption in these students' exam preparation. Being old, some library buildings will be demolished and new buildings constructed. Most of these libraries would get the co-working facility called Muthalvar Padaippagam," says District Library Officer M. Kavitha.



## Smart ideas to save the planet



▼ Ideas around sustainability, innovation, and everyday climate action came to life at the Sustainability Fair 2025 held at Ampa Skyone Mall recently. Curated and executed by the Institute for Climate and Environment (ICE), the event brought together citizens, entrepreneurs and changemakers for two days of learning, engagement and community connection. The fair was inaugurated by rotarian Krishna Challa and Anuradha Ganesan. Ampa Palaniappan, who hosted the event at the zero-discharge commercial property, Ampa Skyone Mall, and Bakthavatsalam, chairman of the ICE Advisory Board were among those present.

## Three 'Unsung Heroes' felicitated



▼ The awardees along with the dignitaries.

**K**haalid Ahamed of The Uravugal Trust; K. Narasimhalu, a foot artist; and Palani Kumar, visual artist and photographer are the three recipients of the sixth edition of "Unsung Heroes" award 2025. The award was presented by the Rotary Club of Madras East and Congruent Solutions at an event held in the city.

Launched in 2016 to recognise individuals who have made significant, often overlooked contributions to the community, the Club has so far honoured 15 such individuals. Since the project's inception, Congruent Solutions has partnered with the Rotary Club, said a release. Khaalid Ahamed, founder of Uravugal Trust, was recognised for his extraordinary humanitarian work in Chennai. His journey began in 2015 after witnessing a homeless man die alone on the street – an experience that

inspired him to ensure dignity in death for the unclaimed and forgotten. In 2017, he established Uravugal Trust with a few close friends, committed to providing respectful burials and cremations for homeless individuals, the release added. K. Narasimhalu is a self-taught artist from Andhra Pradesh. He creates stunning artworks and intricate embroidery using his feet, despite living with cerebral palsy. M. Palani Kumar is a photojournalist and filmmaker who was honoured for his courageous and compassionate work in social justice. Since 2015, he has dedicated his career to exposing the harsh realities faced by marginalised communities, particularly manual scavengers across Tamil Nadu, through impactful visual storytelling. His recent work also highlights environmental injustices in Ennore.

## Music event for a cause

Gurukulam, a centre for children with special needs functioning in Anna Nagar, is organising a music-related fundraiser on June 21 at Sir Mutha Venkata Subba Rao Concert Hall, Lady Andal School, Harrington Road from 6 p.m. onwards. Prominent singers will be taking part in it.

Started with five children, the Centre now has 50 children and young adults whom they educate, train and expose to integrate them with the society. Gurukulam currently operates from a rented accommodation.

Ticket for the show are available at [www.district.in/events/akshayyam-jun21-2025-buy-tickets](http://www.district.in/events/akshayyam-jun21-2025-buy-tickets). Or contact 7305484110/ 9841318260

## Handwriting competition on June 22

Sportena Academy has partnered with Decathlon to conduct an arts and handwriting competition on June 22 in Nollambur.

School students from Pre-KG to Class VIII and other age groups are invited to showcase their drawing and handwriting skills. Participants will get an appreciation certificate.

Top five winners of each category will be awarded with trophies and gift vouchers, said a press release.

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# Temporary shifting of terminals

Due to station redevelopment work at Chennai Egmore, the Southern Railway has decided to originate and terminate the following trains from Tambaram and Chennai Beach from the dates below.

Train No: 16101 / 16102: Chennai Egmore - Kollam - Chennai Egmore Express will originate and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 18, and from June 19 to August 17.

Train No: 16101, Tambaram - Kollam Express will depart at 17.27, and 16102, Kollam - Tambaram Express will arrive at 02.45 a.m..

Train No: 22671 / 22672, Chennai Egmore - Madurai - Chennai Egmore Tejas Express will originate and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 18.

Train No: 22671 Tambaram - Madurai Tejas Express will depart at 06.22, and 22672, Madurai - Tambaram Tejas Express will arrive at 21.25.

Train No: 16179 / 16180 Chennai Egmore - Mannargudi - Chennai Egmore Mannai Express will originate from and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 18 and from June 19 to August 17.

Train No: 16179 Tambaram - Mannargudi Mannai Express will depart at 23.22, and 16180, Man-



nargudi - Tambaram Mannai Express will arrive at 5 a.m.

Train No: 20605 / 20606 Chennai Egmore - Tiruchendur - Chennai Egmore Superfast Express will originate from and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 18 and June 19 to August 17.

Train No: 20605 Tambaram - Tiruchendur will depart at 16.27, and 20606 Tiruchendur - Tambaram will arrive at 10 a.m.

Train No: 16127 / 16128, Chennai Egmore - Guruvayur - Chennai Egmore Express will originate from and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 19, and from June to August 18.

Train No: 16127 Tambaram - Guruvayur Express will depart at 10.47, and 16128, Guruvayur -

Tambaram Express will arrive at 19.45.

Train No : 12759 and 12760, Tambaram - Hyderabad - Tambaram Express will originate from and terminate at Chennai Beach from June 20 to August 18 and from June 19 to August 17.

According to a release issued by the Southern Railway, Train No 12759, Chennai Beach - Hyderabad Express, will depart at 18.20, and Train No 12760, Hyderabad - Chennai Beach Express, will arrive at 07.15.

Train No: 12759, Chennai Beach - Hyderabad Express will depart at 18.20 and 12760, Hyderabad - Chennai Beach Express will arrive at 07.15, according to a release issued by the Southern Railway.

## Yoga for Parkinson's at Anna Nagar Tower Park

In celebration of International Yoga Day, Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation is organising a special community event, Yoga for Parkinson's, on June 21 at Tower Park in Anna Nagar. The session will begin at 7:30 a.m. and is open to all, free of charge, with prior registration.

Led by trained yoga therapists from YogaVahini, Besant Nagar, who are experienced in Parkinson's care. The session offers a welcoming introduction to yoga for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers.

While Parkinson's requires medical attention, many studies show that regular yoga practice



can help improve flexibility, balance, and mental well-being, said a release. This initiative aims to raise awareness about the role of yoga as a supportive, alternative therapy in managing Parkinson's disease.

To participate, interested individuals are encouraged to register in advance.

Contact: 96000 52531

## Two-day culinary workshop



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a culinary workshop

on June 18. According to a press release, the session will focus on vegetarian gravies such as *paneer butter masala*, *malai kofta*, and *dhaal makkani*.

Another culinary session on soups and salads will be held on June 19. Both the sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044-29530048.



## Club donates mammography device to hospital in Ramapuram

Rotary Club Of Madras East and Rotary Club Of Irvine have donated a digital mammography equipment to St. Thomas Hospital at Defence Colony in Ramapuram. According to a press release, the device is valued at ₹52 lakh. The donation is made under a project of Rotary Club called "Global Grant - Project Raksha."

## Free tailoring class for single mothers

Yaksha, a store specialising in tailoring clothes for women in Anna Nagar, is starting free training for single mothers. The six-month programme in tailoring and design will enable the participants to make a career, said a release. They will also get a certification on completion of the programme.

The store is also offering training for bridal makeup with scholarships for young, qualified and economically disadvantaged girls. For details, WhatsApp 9940408866.

## Applications invited to receive free sewing machines

The Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, will be distributing sewing machines under the "Sathyavani Muthu Ammai-Nainaivu Free Supply of Sewing Machine Scheme". Women from economically weaker sections, widows, and differently-abled men and women, and socially affected

women are eligible. The beneficiaries should be aged between 20 and 40, know sewing, and their yearly income should not be more than ₹ 1.2 lakh, according to a release issued by the Tamil Nadu Department of Information and Public Relations. The release added that the public is requested to approach the nearest E-Seva centres.



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