

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

Railway Border Road in Chromepet is now a concrete road

T. ARVIND

Tambaram Corporation has laid a new concrete surface along the entire stretch of Railway Border Road, adjoining MIT in Radha Nagar, which had remained in a poor condition for several years.

The Hindu Downtown had highlighted the poor state of the road in its November 16 issue, drawing attention to the potholes and uneven patches that made daily movement

difficult for motorists and pedestrians.

Commuters now hope that adequate street lighting will also be provided along the stretch to improve safety, particularly for women and senior citizens who use the EMU services during early and late hours.

Civic activists said they were demanding this for years, and were happy that this has been done now. They thanked the Tambaram Corporation and elected representatives.



The concrete surface on Railway Border Road in Chromepet. PHOTO: T. ARVIND

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A list to save Nanmangalam Lake

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Members of the Saving Nanmangalam Lake Team met Chief Secretary, N. Muruganandham, on November 24 to submit a petition requesting the “redemption” of the heavily polluted and dying Nanmangalam lake.

Spread over 150 acres covering Nanmangalam, Pallavaram, Chromepet and Sembakkam, water from the lake was once used for cultivation and drinking purposes. Today, sewage, and excess water from Sembakkam lake and stormwater drain network runoffs from homes are discharged into the lake, contaminating it and the groundwater.

The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation has sent a plan for a sewage treatment plant to the State Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, requesting permission to commence construction of an underground drainage network.

The approval is pending, and the Chief Secretary urged the Department to give a green signal, said the members.

The members raised the issue of garbage dumping in the lake by the Nanmangalam Village Panchayat

and by fish and meat vendors.

R. Sathya, a core volunteer at SNLT, said, “The Panchayat is dumping trash in an area between the lake and the Nanmangalam Reserve Forest, which is on the banks of the lake.

This is being done because no alternate site is available within the Nanmangalam Village Panchayat.

Moreover, there is a thick growth of water hyacinth, and the waterbody will not be able to store rainwater, leading to flooding. The excess water channel from the lake to Keezhkattalai lake is there only for 500 metres, and the rest has been encroached upon.” Other demands include the inflow of sewage from localities around the lake may be channelised and diverted for treatment to prevent it from entering the lake, provide a Sewage Treatment Plant until an Underground Drainage Network is in place, demarcate the lake boundaries, desilt the lake to increase storage capacity, and fence the lake along Sembakkam - Nanmangalam Road to prevent garbage dumping. The team members also met J. Jayakanthan, Secretary, Water Resources Department (WRD), who asked the WRD officials to inspect the outlet channel.



▼ The Medavakkam flyover near Jeyachandran Textiles, Pallikaranai, on November 28.
PHOTO : R RAVINDRAN

Blind man's buff on Medavakkam flyover

R. RAVINDRAN

Motorists taking the Medavakkam flyover on the way to Tambaram have to play blind man's buff while on the flyover, as lights on the lamp posts “strike

work”. Due to the lack of lighting, motorists miss the beginning of the wall that cleaves the flyover and the service lane. There have been instances of motorists hitting the wall due to this. As the lamp posts have two arms, one fitted with lamp that lights up the service lane

and the other the flyover, their non-functionality affects motorists taking the service lane as well. The best thing to do is have the lights on these lamp posts restored; in addition, a reflector pole should be installed at the start point to warn motorists.

The access to the bunds along Periyar Street in Tambaram Sanatorium (East) has been blocked.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



HC orders Tambaram Corporation to install UV treatment plant

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

The Madras High Court has issued a directive to the Tamil Nadu State Government to take immediate steps to accord administrative and financial

sanction for an Ultra Violet (UV) treatment plant in Tambaram Corporation.

Immediately after the administrative and financial sanction, the civic body should ensure completion of the establishment of the UV

plant, the Court said.

The First bench of Chief Justice Manidra Mohan Shrivastava and Justice G. Arul Murugan issued the directive on a public interest litigation filed by Chitlapakkam Rising Charitable Trust, which highlighted the drinking water quality of water drawn from the Palar River, Chembarambakkam Lake and abandoned quarries.

Earlier, the Court directed the Corporation to prepare an action plan ensuring that the water drawn from the sources for drinking water supply is properly treated to minimise bacterial content, particularly

faecal coliform.

It also asked the Corporation to collect samples from these sources, conduct the test, and submit a fresh report to the court.

Following this, the civic body placed before the Court the various test reports as well as the action plan. The samples, as said by the civic body, shows very low or absence of unwanted bacteria like faecal coliforms and E.coli.

Meanwhile, the petitioner has taken samples and sent them for testing to private labs. There was a gross variation in the results shown in the two sets of reports.

The plan is to establish an ultra-violet treatment plant to treat water drawn from the Palar River. A proposal for financial and administrative sanctions has been forwarded to the State Government and the same is awaiting sanction, says the action plan note.

‘No blue metal sheet’

Residents of Chitlapakkam have requested the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to install grilled fences and to abandon the plan to install “blue metal sheet boards”.

Following the death of two school students and a woman in Chitlapakkam Lake in September, the public demanded that steps need to be taken to improve safety measures in the lake area and fence the water-holding area. Following this, the Corporation pro-

vided illumination, installed CCTV cameras, appointed security guards, and erected speakers to warn the public not to get onto the revetment wall.

L. Sundararaman, president of the Chitlapakkam Muthulakshmi Nagar Welfare Association, says the blue sheet-metal boards will block the view of the lake and the breeze.

Recently, the sheets and poles were stocked in the play area, and the sheets were being installed on the poles, indicating work on installing the sheets were to begin.

The civic body should replace the sheets with fences, and gates should be put up between the fences.

At present, the access to the bunds along Periyar Street, Tambaram Sanatorium (East), - Tambaram (East) is blocked by blue metal sheets.

P. Viswanathan, convenor of the Chitlapakkam Residents' Association Co-ordination Committee, says that in case of any untoward incident on the bund, the public will not be able to see.

“The danger is more after sunset, as there is no lighting and no CCTV cameras installed on the bund along Periyar Street. An over-bridge connecting the eastern bund of the Lake, along Chitlapakkam Third Main Road, and the western bund along Periyar Street should be provided,” says Viswanathan.

Toilet at MEPZ opened to public



Following a photo feature in *The Hindu Downtown* (Tambaram zone) on November 16 about a toilet complex at the Madras Export Processing Zone bus terminus in the Tambaram Sanatorium region being kept under lock and key for months after renovation, the authorities have reopened it. On November 22, officials in Tambaram City Municipal Corporation reopened the complex, providing much-needed relief to the public. From MEPZ terminus, the Tamil Nadu State Express Transport Corporation operates long-distance buses and the Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses also go via Velachery, Broadway, T. Nagar, Thiruvannamiyur, and Poonamallee. Text: R. Ravindran

‘Shoddy road mending exercise at key intersection’

P. VISWANATHAN

It has been only three months since the intersection of Thirumurugan Salai and Ramanar Salai in Chitlapakkam was relaid after years. The rains have damaged the intersection, slowing down traffic and causing water to stagnate after the rains. Some motorists fight among themselves when water is splashed on them. The stretch is a school zone and connects to the arterial Third Main Road in the region. The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation should do the needful at the earliest.

P. Viswanathan is a resident of Chitlapakkam



The intersection of Thirumurugan Salai and Ramanar Salai
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

‘Southern Railway must clear these bushes’

P. SATHYANARAYANAN

Near Guindy railway station (on the western side of Race View Colony, Guindy), the railway space is misused by the public to dump trash. The area along the tracks (between Guindy and Saint Thomas Mount railway stations) is overrun with bushes, posing a danger to residents. The Southern Railway must clear

and remove the bushes and the trash and also the encroachments and facilitate a Railway Protection Force (RPF) Station.

Every night, on platforms 3 and 4, public engages in illegal activities, causing inconvenience for residents of Race View Colony, especially women and children.

P. Sathyanarayanan is a resident of Guindy



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A 2026 calendar designed by the neurodivergent

Thirteen young adults from Mirra Charitable Trust in Velachery are behind this initiative

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mirra Charitable Trust unveiled the sixth edition of its annual student-designed calendar at Gandhi Nagar Ladies Club on November 25, celebrating the march of neurodivergent young adults into pursuits largely viewed as the preserves of the neurotypical.

Thirteen final-year students in the age group of 15 to 30 years pursuing a digital literacy course, Unnati, were involved in this calendar project, giving inputs on the layout and design that shape each of the pages. Saritha PR, the special educator who drives the Unnati programme, guided the students.

Students worked with Photoshop, Illustrator, Canva and AI-enabled tools. This year's calendar theme, digitalisation, was brought to life through months of exploration, design and careful refinement, all done in the classroom in Velachery where the Trust offers classes to empower individuals with special needs.

Digitisation is one of the pillars of Mirra, so it was only natural that

a calendar project had this as the theme. Last year's theme was inclusion.

"What digitisation can do for individuals with disabilities is immense, especially for those who are non-verbal. It can be a big support system to them," says Lakshmi Satish, co-founder and trustee.

The calendar project is a big step for this 17-year-old NGO towards getting students to learn and create and live with dignity.

Selling calendars is not the ultimate aim of this initiative.

"The calendar project is a way of advocacy for us – it underlines



During the launch of the calendar.

who these students are, what they do and what should be the role of society in creating this ecosystem. Every page in the calendar is a reminder of the role each of us can play to make society more inclusive," says Lakshmi, adding that it is sent to the homes of people as a New Year gift.

Starting with wall calendars to desk calendar, this project has evolved based on the feedback of well-wishers. This year, it consists of a calendar-cum-organiser.

This annual project has seen many success stories as well.

A group of students and parents from the first batch of the calendar project got together and formed an enterprise in graphic designing.

"We incubated that company for a year, teaching them what a startup does; how to market their products; at what stage should parents step out of the way. Now for the last three years that company is running independently," says Lakshmi. Another batch also went on to start a similar enterprise and some even went in for open employment.

For details, visit <http://www.mirra-ract.com>

The launch

The calendar was released by Dr. Nitin M. Nagarkar, Pro Vice-Chancellor (MHS), SRM Institute of Science and Technology and Prof. T. S. Veeragoudhaman, Dean, SRM College of Physiotherapy. Both guests described the launch as "a memorable day," acknowledging the dedication of students, facilitators and families, says a press release. Speaking about Mirra's digital literacy programme, Unnati, Dr. Nagarkar noted that "the structured programme has helped the students develop their skills, confidence and become employable." Each page reflects collaboration, attention to colour, layout, narrative and a joyful ownership of the creative process, the release adds.

A big relief for cardholders



On November 25, E. Karunanidhi, MLA for Pallavaram assembly constituency, opened a PDS outlet, much to the relief of cardholders.

This outlet was opened following a report in *The Hindu Downtown* (Tambaram region), dated November 2 urging the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to open the newly constructed Public Distribution System (PDS) outlet at Thiruneermalai Road in the Thiruneermalai.

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.

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.



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.tnsc.in and the TNSTC official app.

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



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.

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,

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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.



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

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 un-

derstand 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

Students of Stella Matutina College of Education take the pledge.

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 and one of the authors of the study, to be published soon on the college's website.

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 compulsori-

ly 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. The teachers in the making also have to present a report on the activities they conducted in the schools.

The institution brings experts to talk to their students and have also invited schools they thought need some hand holding to their campus to offer workshops.

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. She says they collect feedback to measure the success of these initiatives and to see how they can adapt.



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



We got a very fancy circular invitation with a lot of holes and designs. We did not want to waste it, so I thought I could do something with it.

at Babaji Vidyashram. For Smriti, the joy lies not just in the finished work but in everything that leads up to it. "Earlier, when I was smaller and did not know much, my mom would order everything on Amazon. But now, I prefer going to the shop," she says. Choosing the canvas, feeling the surface, settling on the size of the canvas, these small rituals matter to her. It is a process she values as much as the painting itself, and one she intends to keep refining as she grows.

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.

A swift trip to **Adyar Estuary**

An Indian swiftlet has put in an appearance at this patch; previous records of the bird from Tamil Nadu have had to do with hilly or mountainous regions

PRINCE FREDERICK

The second look always uncovers more than what the opening gaze did in the first place. On rare occasions, the second look totally upends conclusions made from the initial glance. That is how a bird record from Adyar Estuary on October 26 underwent a revision.

The bird was first believed to be a Dusky Crag Martin, and the photos were squatting in the memory card largely unseen, even less examined. Around a month later, a study of the photos by an eBird reviewer demanded a re-identification of the bird. And as it turned out, what had been seen on the last Sunday of October in 2025 was an altogether different feather, one spiralling into Chennai for the first time. The visitor to the Adyar Estuary that day that was mistaken for a Dusky Crag Martin was actually an Indian edible nest swiftlet (*Aerodramus unicolor*), also known as the Indian swiftlet. The bird was photographed by Saravana Manian, the sighting taking place in the company of a clutch of other birders.

Saravana Manian points out that Adyar Estuary is an unlikely terrain for the Indian swiftlet. He elaborates: "Previous records of the Indian swiftlet from Tamil Nadu have been from hilly or mountainous patches – Palani Hills, Kodaikanal, Sirumalai and the Coimbatore and Kanyakumari



An Indian swiftlet photographed by birder Saravana Manian at Adyar Estuary on October 26, 2025.

ranges of the Western Ghats. The bird is also found in Sri Lanka."

The species is also known to be found in buildings abandoned for a long time. Habitats fitting these descriptions are a far cry from what exists in and around the Adyar Estuary, which makes this sighting baffling. From the viewpoint of probability, the unlikelihood of an Indian swiftlet "vacationing" around the broken bridge in the Adyar Estuary might be of astronomical proportions. In life, all sorts of unexpected events happen

and might come across as mysterious at first glance. With diligent study, the mystery behind such events could collapse, and be seen for what they are – the less-known extension of the natural. As in life, so in birding.

In this species, the male is the nest builder. And the nest is in the form of a cup, and it is licked into shape by the male bird using its saliva. In certain parts, these cups go into the making of gastronomic delicacies, earning the bird its name, Indian edible nest swiftlet.

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.

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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.



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

The service is available in select trains under 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.

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.

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 profes-

sionals 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.

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.

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

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