

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



CHEMBARAMBAKKAM LAKE HAS A RARE VISITOR

The previous documented sighting of a dollarbird in Chennai was at Guindy National Park in 2016; as far as the city goes, this species is among the rarest of rare passage migrants. **P4**



SITTING IN STYLE ON 'LANDFILL WASTE'

The agency hired by Greater Chennai Corporation is expected to extend this initiative to the Kodungaiyur dumpyard. **P6**



Snapshots of the fountain park at Kilambakkam.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT

A recreational park has come up adjacent to Kalaingar Centenary Bus Terminus in Kilambakkam



curity and maintenance staff at periodic intervals.

Other facilities at the park include an artificial riverway, a tiled and elevated chess square, three elevated bridges across the riverway for walkers and a rock garden.

The park is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and entry is free. In the evenings, the park witnesses a footfall of around 400 people. In the mornings, close to 100 people come for walks, says a staff of the private company entrusted with maintenance and security operations by the CMDA.

Next to the terminus is a climate interpretation park, also opened recently. The park features a sculpture garden, a play area, yoga and meditation space, and an archaeological interpretation zone.

The park has been designed as 'a carbon and heat sink' with native plant species and efficient rainwater reuse. An Archaeological Interpretation Centre and a museum are other highlights.



The recreational facility has come as a boon to residents of Urappakkam, Vandalur and adjoining regions, says S. Poorni Srinivasan, a resident of Urappakkam.

The park is guarded by se-

A welcome break while waiting for the bus

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

The next time you have a bus to take from Kalaingar Centenary Bus Terminus in Kilambakkam and have plenty of time in hand, make sure to visit the 'fountain park' adjacent to the facility.

The park sports a variety of fountains: one shaped like a

boat, another in a dancing pose and a six-layered one, all along a pine garden.

Spread over six acres, the garden is bedecked with ornamental and flowering plants, and visitors can take a refreshing walk on the pebble walkway.

Benches have been installed in the garden for commuters to rest.

Be our chronicler



It is the fag end of the year, a time to look back on the year that is ebbing away, and greet the one that is looking at us fresh-faced, a smile of optimism glittering in its eyes. At *The Hindu Downtown*, this sense of reflection and expectation is further amplified by the fact that the hyperlocal supplement crosses another milestone: it celebrates its twenty-sixth anniversary. On this occasion, it urges residents welfare associations across Chennai, many of which stand for the values *The Hindu Downtown* espouses and promotes, to chronicle their achievements in the year that went by and their expectations for the approaching year. The write-ups will be carried in the December 29 year-end issue. They can send the write-ups to downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in



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Chromepet residents want Periya Eri to be desilted



▼ The rainwater canal is used to dump trash and discharge sewage along Lakshmi Nagar Extension and Srinivasapuram.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Blocks in the network contribute to flooding

Residents of Radha Nagar, Lakshmi Nagar and Srinivasapuram in Chromepet have requested the Water Resources Department to desilt the Pallavaram Periya Eri rainwater canal that passes through Radha Nagar.

Located along Naidu Shop Road in Radha Nagar, the canal has not been desilted for years, which results in flooding of many areas including Lakshmi Nagar and Srinivasapuram every monsoon, says K. Sivakumar, a resident of Lakshmi Nagar.

Structures having usurped parts of canal, its width varies greatly from place to place. The canal width is 8 to 15 feet at these localities.

The canal is filled with trash, construction debris and sewage. The channel receives rainwater from the stormwater drain network at Radha Nagar, Lakshmi Nagar and Shanthi Nagar.

N. Saraswathi Nagarajan, a resident of Radha Nagar, says: "Though the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation cleans the canal, people dump trash in it. The trash blocks the water flow towards Lakshmi Nagar." M. Hussain, a resident, says the canal should be desilted and deepened and encroachments removed. "The illegal inlets to the canal and stormwater drain networks should be plugged. The canal should be covered with slabs, and handles should be facilitated to remove the slabs whenever there is a need to clear the blocks," says Hussain.

Text: T.S. Atul Swaminathan

Students honoured at graduation day

Saveetha Engineering College celebrated its 19th Graduation Day "Levita" with 1100 graduates being honoured. The ceremony was presided over by S. Rajesh.

Principal V. Vijaya Chamundeswari presented the annual report, highlighting the institu-

tion's academic and placement achievements, including a remarkable 97% placement success rate, said a release. Balaji Ramakrishnan, director of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), motivated graduates to embrace innovation and entrepreneurship.

Institute sets a new record

The National Institute of Siddha has set a Guinness World Record by simultaneously providing Varmam therapy to 555 individuals at the same time, with 555 Varmanis (Varmam healers) performing the therapy, said a release.

The event was graced by Vaidya

Rajesh Kotecha, secretary, Ministry of AYUSH alongside prof. Dr. R. Meenakumari, director of NIS.

National Institute of Siddha is an institute for study and research of Siddha medicine.

It was established in 2005 at Tambaram.

'Extend S94 service all the way to Tambaram'



▼ Commuters waiting to board S94 at Durga Nagar in Tambaram Sanatorium.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tambaram railway station and Chennai International Airport in Tirusulam.

R. Lakshmi, a resident of Durga Nagar, says the frequency of the bus route is low. "Sometimes you see it once in two hours," she says.

B. Saravanan, a resident of Thiruneermalai, says, "There is no direct bus service from Nagalkeni and Thiruneermalai to Tambaram and Tirusulam regions."

Commuters walk to Chromepet or use private modes of transport. Another option is to board share autos and buses to Pallavaram.

Introducing services on both routes will help commuters travelling to various pockets of the city as there are many offices along GST Road and the IT Corridor.

Bus commuters from Nagalkeni and Thiruneermalai regions have requested Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) to increase the coverage of small bus route S94 plying between

Thirumudivakkam SIDCO and Durga Nagar in Tambaram Sanatorium.

They also want MTC to divert the route number through Thiruneermalai Road and extend it to

READERS WRITE

‘Operate 118 with greater frequency’



Metropolitan Transport Corporation needs to increase the number of routes of 118, which plies between Tambaram (West) and Maraimalai Nagar.

As most of the buses run packed, commuters are dependent on route numbers 500 or 500P (Tambaram-Pallavaram-Chengalpattu) to get down at M. M. Nagar railway station and walk a good distance.

There are also no share autos from GST Road to the terminus. I request MTC to also increase 500 and 500P services in the evening hours; the former is patronised by a large number of working people and college students.

S. Subramanian
M. M. Nagar

‘Regulate Thirutheri junction’



The intersection opposite Mahindra World City around Thirutheri Reserve Forest is rife with violations. When motorists from the tech park navigate the junction (towards GST Road, Singaperumal Kovil and Jubilee Road), motorists from GST Road and Jubilee Road, they jump signals and drive towards the city and Paranur. There is no pedestrian signal at this junction.

‘Take action against residents discharging sewage in the open’

The Chengalpattu District Collectorate should take action against Mambakkam Village Panchayat and residents of an apartment in Kolathur, near Mambakkam, for discharging sewage in the open.

As per the rules, an apartment with four houses should have a common septic tank system and call the sewage sucker tankers for cleaning. The other option is to facilitate sewage treatment plants. Sewage and trash stagnate on Mettu Street, creating a foul smell, which is a health hazard. The open sewage discharge has contaminated the groundwater, forcing the residents to buy water cans for cooking and drinking.

R. Krishnan
Kolathur



‘Prevent sewage outflow into Chitlapakkam Lake’



Sampath Kumar Street at Sundaram Colony, East Tambaram.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sampath Kumar Street (Ward 47) in Sundaram Colony, Tambaram East needs to be relaid.

It has been more than a decade since the cement stretch was relaid. It is uneven, posing difficulties to road users.

The area also needs an underground drainage network running along Vaikom Veerar Street, Sampath Kumar Street, Peter Street and Kannagi Street up to LIC Colony.

Currently, the network drains sewage to

the canal at Kannagi Street and Periyar Street through a culvert at Thiruvalluvar Street and Kannagi Street.

Residents of Kannagi Street discharge sewage directly into the canal.

The lake water and groundwater are contaminated and unfit for drinking, forcing people to buy water cans for cooking and drinking.

N. Ramya Saravanan
Tambaram East



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▼ A dollarbird photographed from different angles by Saravanan Manian and S. Sivakumar at Chembarambakkam lake on December 15, 2024; and (below) the three birders (from left to right) S. Sivakumar, Saravanan Manian and S. Sathyakumar.



Chembarambakkam lake has a rare visitor

The previous documented sighting of a dollarbird in Chennai was at Guindy National Park in 2016; as far as the city goes, this species is among the rarest of rare passage migrants

PRINCE FREDERICK

The birding community's relationship with any rare passage migrant is best outlined by the connection with an estranged, implacably bitter friend. If a meeting happens, it would be unplanned and fleeting. Often, the chasm would have grown wider than a hippo's fully extended maw, the last interaction would be as removed from memory as the star Earendel from earth, that when a chance encounter does materialise, the person might go unrecognised at first sight.

On the morning of December 15, 2024, at the Chembarambakkam lake, an Oriental dollarbird (*Eurysotomus orientalis*), at first clap of a pair of eyes, did not cause a sharp intake of breath. Instead, it caused the viewer's brow to be knitted in mystified concentration.

Two brothers, S. Sathyakumar

and S. Sivakumar and their common friend Saravanan Manian had been poking around (as only birders can) in a moderately wooded section caressing the outer perimeter of the Chembarambakkam lake.

That is when this dollarbird fell on Sathyakumar's eyes, magnified by his binoculars. He saw the bird perched on a tree, but did not "see" it for what it was. He dismissed it as a parakeet explaining the bluish-green tint as a filter effect engineered by the early morning light. A doubt creeping closely on the heels of this judgement, he asked himself if he was missing something.

He sidestepped the idea of raising this question with the other two birders, fearing they would mock him with friendly laughter for failing to call a parakeet a parakeet. Derisive laughter gift-wrapped in friendliness can sometimes have the effect of friendly fire, unintended but still deadly.

"I came around to asking Saravanan to look at the bird through his camera viewfinder. He clicked it. It turned out to be a dollarbird," says Sathyakumar with a half-suppressed laugh.

Birds generally get identified much before they are fully seen. A cursory look at a part of the bird – a diagnostic feature in ornithology speak – is all it takes to realise what the rest of it looks like. And out pops the bird's name. They call it GISS. With rare passage migrants, GIFF hardly works, especially when the bird has not showed up for extended periods of time. These birders travel far to bird, and they have seen the dollarbird in its wintering ground in Kerala. Else, the identification would have been

The dollarbird was seen hanging around this place for around three hours

much delayed.

The last sighting of a dollarbird in Chennai was in 2016 at Guindy National Park: that is a long period of "estrangement" from the city.

As is the case with any active migrant, the dollarbird is a "polyglot", flexing diametrically polar linguistic muscles between its breeding and wintering grounds.

Its introduction to language is either in Australia or Japan – its prominent breeding grounds – and when it comes of age and can fly to escape inclement winter, it picks up Sinhalese and Malayalam in its wintering grounds.

Given the trajectory of its route from its breeding grounds to its wintering grounds, it has to veer really off course to end up at Chennai – which explains the scant records.

And local birders subconsciously train their brain not to look for this bird – which is not the case with the chestnut winged cuckoo

(CWC), also a passage migrant but one that clearly works Chennai into its winter tour diary. CWC has become a box waiting to be ticked every winter in Chennai.

A wooded patch

The dollarbird is a creature at home in wooded habitats and is associated with Western ghats, particularly Thattekad. This patch at Chembarambakkam lake is generously endowed with wood and, to state something as obvious as sunlight on a sunny day, has plenty of water to offer. The dollarbird was seen hanging around this place for around three hours, as Sathyakumar reports. "During winter, this patch offers many feathers, including the Indian pitta, orange-headed thrush, blue-throated flycatcher, forest wagtail and Asian paradise flycatcher. On that Sunday, we found none of these. But one sighting of the dollarbird made up for it."

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Kamarkat Srin. That name would likely spark a glint of recognition in the eyes, if the reader is from Chennai, salivates over traditional healthy sweets, is a card-carrying follower of veganism and pops in at organic food markets.

With a surfeit of traditional sweets on his food enterprise Kottivakkam-based Marabhu Suvai's *carte du jour*, R. Srinivasan – to whom that sweet-sounding moniker (pun intended) belongs – offers something beyond the norm for the sweet tooth.

And he also offers a novelty to the hand that wields cutlery – spoons and ladles finely crafted from coconut shells. This pursuit has in fact, put his sweets-making business in the shade – in the shade of coconut trees. His enterprise, SN Crafts makes spoons, ladles and customised teapots with coconut shells allied with handles made of teak and pine wood. Surveying these products, one is left in no doubt about which element has star billing: it is the humble coconut shell, with all the other elements smugly content playing a supportive role to it.

If the reader has not made the connection yet, Kamarkat candy, typically made from the rich, fragrant flesh of the coconut, led Srinivasan to appreciate everything associated with *cocos nucifera*, even what would qualify as chaff. The coconut shells left behind after the meat is grated for making Kamarkat and other coconut-based sweets, caught his fancy.

For nearly five years now, he has devoted himself to upcycling these shells, giving them a fresh start, a second career in kitchens and cafes; and also a place in homes. The coconuts are cherry-picked, with only mature, organic country-breed coconuts chosen for the candy, leaving the shells to be repurposed for his ladles and spoons. On the supply chain are farmers from Papanaiickenpalayam in Coimbatore and Uduimalpet in Tirupur, and at home, an organisation in Adyar with a sprawling campus dotted with 200 coconut trees.

Srinivasan's approach to sustainability, as exemplified by his enterprise, might hark back to the traditional homegrown wisdom of reusing and repurposing,



Kamarkat Srin and his team give out-of-work coconut shells a fresh new start in kitchens, cafes and restaurants



Sustainability in a nutshell



This section spotlights initiatives undertaken by residents of Chennai to minimise the waste that reaches landfills

but is driven by a fiercely modern sense of innovation.

Srinivasan's father-in-law, a skilled carpenter, was instrumental in helping him create customised machinery to carve the shapes of the ladles and spoons, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern innovation. Kamarkat Srin and his business partner Nagarajan Mani took it a couple of notches higher: spending one year in further customisation of the machinery.

The challenges

For Srinivasan, the production



Surveying these products, one is left in no doubt about which element has star billing: it is the humble coconut shell, with all the other elements smugly content playing a supportive role to it



A glimpse of the factory.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Moore Market, which is a part of Chennai's circular economy. When they receive large orders – such as the maximum of 300 ladles – they can make them in just eight hours if all the materials are at hand.

Srinivasan used to source coconut shells from Nagarajan Rao until the latter was operating a business named Farmcoop in Mandaveli. Nagarajan who turned his back on selling coconut-based discards for recycling and upcycling, sheds light on the challenges faced by such businesses:

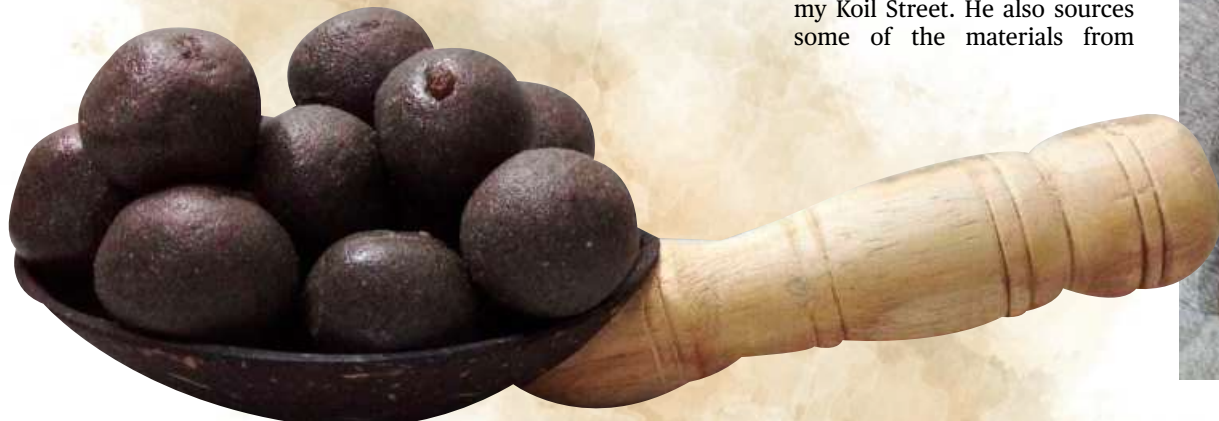
“We started collecting coconut shells during COVID-19, but practical issues, pests and lack of storage space made it difficult. With 100 to 300 houses involved, we could not find land for collection. Plus, not everyone had coconut shells to offer.”

The lack of processing facilities in Chennai also hindered progress. “Without proper infrastructure, making the initiative sustainable became tough,” he adds.

Nagarajan Rao hopes to make a comeback to the coconut-based sustainability business: “The dream is still alive, but it requires the right resources to thrive.”

process is efficient when all materials, which include wooden teak handles for the ladles, copper or aluminium rivet and wire brush are readily available.

For example, making 50 ladles in just half a day becomes possible when all the materials are sourced from wholesale traders in Parrys, particularly Kandaswamy Koil Street. He also sources some of the materials from



Sitting in style on 'landfill waste'

The agency hired by Greater Chennai Corporation is expected to extend this initiative to the Kodungaiyur dumpyard

LIFFY THOMAS

Sleek furniture out of garbage. That is a positive story from Perungudi dumpyard that was showcased when the South Asia Summit 2024 was conducted on the dumpyard near the Pallikaranai marshland. On display at the event were samples of chairs and tables that were made using landfill waste.

Nagesh Prabhu, co-founder, Zigma Global Environ Solutions, the private agencies that undertook the bio-mining project at Perungudi, says the samples showcased at

the event served as a perfect example of how upcycling can be done with products that cannot be recyclable. The furniture was made using non-recyclable plastics lying in the dumpyard.

"We shred it, wash it and then it goes through an extrusion process to make such furniture," says Nagesh adding that the R&D plant for this project was in Coimbatore.

Elaborating on the products, Nagesh says, the furniture does not look like it is made from recyclable material and can again be recycled.

"It ticks all boxes of sustainability and circular economy," he says.

Close to 96 acres of the dumpyard had been reclaimed following the processing of 1.73 million cubic metres of waste.

The contract with GCC at Perungudi dumpyard has ended but the company plans to continue making products from the Kodungaiyur dumpyard where it began its operation in September 2024.

"We will be spreading this initia-



A display of furniture made from Perungudi dumpyard's legacy waste at the South Asia Summit 2024.

PHOTO : B. VELANKANNI RAJ

tive. We have not started a full-fledged plant but as our R&D was a success wherever we get a biomin-

ing project we can implement this," says Nagesh.

We will start rolling out new pro-

ducts as our contract with the Kodungaiyur dumpyard is on for the next three years.



Street music festival: grand finale at Thiruvanmiyur beach today

Greater Chennai Corporation's (GCC) collaborative event with On the Streets of Chennai, a thriving music community, is in its second and final day. Awesome Weekend: Live Green, Love Blue (December 21-22), as the music festival is called, is aimed at addressing pressing

environmental issues of the times.

The festival is set to culminate with a breathtaking grand finale at Thiruvanmiyur Beach on December 22, 2024, at 7.30 p.m.. Students from The Chennai School, under the administration of Greater Chennai Corporation,

are set to perform a parade at the final showdown of the event.

Over the two days, the event seeks to celebrate urban greening and water conservation.

The festival has been designed to showcase 150 street music performances across the city, spanning over 150 hours, and trans-

Street music festival highlights environmental issues.



form Chennai's parks, beaches, streets, metro stations, and residential communities into vibrant music hubs.

To complement the music, GCC has organised innovative, hands-on activities to inspire collective action for sustainability:

Hug a Tree: Participants hug a tree, post a photo on social media with @chennaicorp, and receive a certificate.

Sow a Seed, Sing a Song: Get seed balls from music bands, sow them in parks or lakes, sing a song, and tag @chennaicorp to earn a certificate.

Music for Chennai's Green Future: A call for music bands to compose original Tamil songs on the theme "Live Green, Love

Blue." Winning compositions will be produced as an album.

Photo and Sketch Walk: Capture Chennai's natural beauty at Kotturpuram Park and MRC Pond through photography and sketches.

Eco-Themed Performances: Flash mobs and dance performances will be held to spread the festival's eco-conscious message.

Apartment Performances: Special musical acts in residential communities to promote rainwater harvesting and sustainable practices.

For more details, visit <https://www.chennaicorporation.gov.in/gcc/livegreen/loveblue.htm> or follow @chennaicorp on social media.

Founders Day celebrated



Be Well Founders Day, led by Dr. C.J. Vetriavel, celebrated unity and social welfare with impactful events: tree plantation at Dr. Natesan Park with dignitaries, a free health camp and lunch at Charu Old Age Home, a blood donation camp with VHS Blood Centre, and es-

sential item distribution to underprivileged families, says a press release.

Be Well Hospitals, established in 2011, delivers affordable, quality healthcare across 12 locations.

Learn more at www.bewell-hospitals.in.

17th Junior Sports Day held

Vidhya Sagar Golbal School (VSGS) organised 17th Junior Sports Day on December 20.

Dr. Giridharan, M.Ch (Neurosurgery), GH, Chengalpattu was the chief guest.

Sri Vikas Surana, correspondent, and V. C. Govindarajan, principal, VSGS graced the occasion.

The little stars mesmerised the spectators with scintillating performances in sports events such as obstacle race, mass drill, Yoga-chess-



board, aerobics, drill swimming, ball dance, ring dance and cricket, says a press release.

War of DJs 2024 held at lounge in Thoraipakkam

War of DJs 2024 - Epic Night was conducted at Zebra Crossing Lounge in Thoraipakkam recently by Chiroptera Events.

In a competition that showcased an array of talented DJs, DJ Loki emerged as the ultimate winner, captivating the crowd with a power-packed set that had everyone on their feet. His seamless transitions and energy-infused beats created an exhilarating ambience, showcasing his prowess in blending different genres.

The audience responded enthusiastically, highlighting his ability to read the crowd and maintain a high level of engagement throughout his performance, says a press release.

Runner-up DJ Desmo impressed attendees with his professional track selection and meticulous mixing skills. His commitment to delivering an immersive auditory experience was evident, as he expertly crafted a set that resonated with both seasoned fans and newcomers. The precision in his mixing and the overall flow of his performance solidified his reputation as a serious contender in the competitive DJ scene, the release adds.



Also deserving recognition was DJ Vasanth (Runner up), who entertained the crowd with a lineup of popular commercial tracks. His impressive technical skills and smooth mixing not only kept the audience engaged but also created an infectious energy that had everyone dancing. The positive reception to his set demonstrated his understanding of the audience's tastes and preferences, making him a crowd favourite.

DJ Sam rounded out the evening, showcasing a diverse range of

tracks that appealed to all. His ability to mix various styles seamlessly allowed the crowd to experience a little bit of everything, maintaining a laid-back yet festive atmosphere.

The camaraderie among the DJs and the exhilarating performances turned the event into a night to remember. Other finalists DJ Raan, DJ Kash, DJ KL did and amazing job and deserves applause, special thanks is due to DJ Elvin, DJ Ashish Nagpal and DJ Raw Z for being amazing judges for the event, the release says.

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Collection drive for people affected by Cyclone Fengal

It is the season of giving and sharing and in keeping with this spirit, The Little Caterpillar in partnership with Goonj is organising a collection drive.

One can drop clothes, vessels and toys that will be sent to people affected by Cyclone Fengal. Dry ration, gently used clothes, new undergarments, blankets, household essentials and hygiene products are some of the items urgently required, said a press release.

The collection centre is open till December 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Little Caterpillar is at # 66, Karpagam Avenue, 2nd Main Road, R A Puram. For details, call 72003 24361/ 92661 30020



The aftermath of Cyclone Fengal. PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

EFI hosts **kutcheri** at Besant Nagar

The Environment Foundation of India invites music enthusiasts and audiences to celebrate Margazhi at their office in Sri Shankara, 31st Cross Street, Besant Nagar. The initiative began on December 16

and will run till January 16, every Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and is open to all artistes and music lovers. The initiative aims to promote environment-themed music. For details, call 8925858068.

Session on using AI to **revive Tamil manuscripts**

A lecture on using AI to revive Tamil palm leaf manuscripts and the ancient Tamil music system will be held on December 23 at Roja Muthiah Research Library in Taramani. According to a press release, Balamurugan V T, professor and head of the Tamil Technology Research Centre, will handle the session.

Quiz at Velachery library

The State Government-run Full-Time Branch Library at Dhandeeshwaram in Velachery is conducting a general knowledge quiz and puzzle-solving on December 31. Also, fancy dress contest on the theme "Indian national leader" will be held. The event will begin at 3 p.m.

Hanuman Jayanthi celebration

Shri Varasidhi Vinayagar Shri Panchamugha Aanjaneyar Temple at Pazhaniappa Nagar in Gowrivakkam is celebrating its Hanuman Jayanthi from December 25 to 31. According to a press release, various special pujas will be performed. For details, call 94440 42055 / 98400 90457.

Blood donation camp

SG People Trust in association with Sanjeev Blood Donation Bank is conducting a blood donation camp on December 28 at Lovik Digital Famed, Krishna Nagar Main Road, Madhanapuram near Porur. Time: From 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. For details, call 7871170736. SG People Trust is a non-governmental organisation based in Velachery.

Eight-day **drama festival** from December 25

Dummies Drama, a Tamil theatre troupe, in association with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan - Chennai Kendra is presenting an eight-day drama festival from December 25 to January 1 at Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram School in Kilpauk. Time: At 7 p.m. Entry is free, says a press release. For details, call 9381422271.

The troupe which completed its silver jubilee in 2023 was founded by Sreevathson V, R Giridharan, and G Krishnamurthy. It has more than 50 productions to its credit which is spread across a variety of genres such as science and technology, docudramas, philosophy, comedy and family dramas. Some of its unique productions are *Prathibimbam*, a political thriller based on the Indo-China relationship; *Vaidyashala*, a play set in medical industry, *Valai*, a corporate espionage thriller; and *Hanuman*, a story set in ISRO.

For details, call 93814 22271.

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