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An inter-school football tournament initiated by LatentView Analytics is encouraging girls to take up the sport

LIFFY THOMAS

When the new academic year began and there came a proposal by a corporate to start a girls football team at Jaigopal Garodia Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Saidapet, the institution had one challenge to overcome – getting parents' approval. The general perception around here is that football is too rough a sport for girls.

Physical education teacher S. Sripriya did not subscribe to the viewpoint.

"Our girls have excelled in athletics and kabadi and have won various tournaments at the district level, so initiating a new sport was not a challenge as many of them have the stamina to pull it off," says Sripriya.

Of the 30 students from Classes VI and VII who showed interest in being part of the school team, 15 were shortlisted. The next task was to persuade the parents of these students to allow them to play the sport and send them for coaching regularly.

"We had one-on-one discussions with parents, calling them to school and convincing them that the sport will benefit their ward in

Government girls school in Saidapet gets a *football team*



Kuthambakkam Government School (yellow) play against Chennai Higher Secondary School, Cooks Road in the finals of CKL. The former won the CKL championship; and (below) the team from Jaigopal Garodia School in Saidapet

many ways. This exercise went on for a week as most parents are daily-wage labourers and would not want to skip work for this interaction at school. The cost factor was also weighing down heavily on them," Sripriya elaborates.

Since then under the guidance of coach Deepika, the team have been learning new skills in football. In the last three months, classes were conducted twice a week in preparation for Chennai Kaalpandhu League (CKL), an inter-school

football tournament initiated by LatentView Analytics, a global digital analytics consulting and solutions firm with office in Taramani, as part of its corporate social responsibility.

CKL has seen five editions so far,

starting from 2019. Identifying budding players in the Under-14 category from less privileged communities including the formation of girls teams has been its key focus area.

Following the Chennai Kaalpandhu League, some players are identified to be given extensive training and nutrition for three years. They follow a football curriculum put together by India Khelo Football, a platform that connects grassroots talent with professional opportunities.

This year, 330 girls took part in the fifth edition of Chennai Kaalpandhu League, prioritising inclusivity and using sports as a great way to break stereotypes.

Poornima Shankar, CSR head, LatentView Analytics, says: "The number of girls participating in CKL has steadily increased. In co-ed schools, we insist on both girls' and boys' teams, and while some schools first sent only boys, the thrill of participation encouraged girls also to come forward the following year. This is proof that sport can lead to subtle shifts in mindsets and teach lessons for life. Even in another initiative of ours that had a kolam competition, we saw boys step into what is seen as a girls domain."



43 teams compete in fifth edition

The grand finale of the Chennai Kaalpandhu League – Season 5, LatentView's flagship CSR initiative nurturing football talent among Chennai's government school students, concluded recently at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The week-long tournament featured 43 teams and over 500 young players. Kuthambakkam Government School emerged as the double champions, winning both the boys' and girls' finals. In the girls' finals, Kuthambakkam Government School defeated Chennai Higher Secondary School, Cooks Road, Perambur. In the boys' finals, Kuthambakkam Government School defeated Chennai Higher Secondary School in Saidapet.

Automatic boom barriers at inundation-prone subways



Greater Chennai Corporation has installed sensor-driven automatic drop gates at Aranganathan subway which will block the subway in case of heavy inundation. This feature has been provided at Madley and Duraiswamy subways also.

PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

Art show for World Alzheimer's Day

Centre for Ageing, Madras School of Social Work in collaboration with Heritage Foundation celebrates World Alzheimer's Day on September 21 with a host of events. An art exhibition will feature works done by students from across city colleges on the theme 'Memory, Identity and Intergenerational difference between youth and elderly'.

Student of Madras School of Social Work will present a play on how elders deal with Alzheimer's. The programmes will be on from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the auditorium in Egmore. Entry is free and open to all, but one must register. For details, call 73582 81490.

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READERS WRITE

‘Potholes on key road in Iyyappanthangal’

The stretch of Mount Poonamallee High Road near Iyyappanthangal bus terminus is marked by potholes. Following the recent rains, the stretch had stagnant rainwater. From time to time, patchwork is carried out as a quick fix but this does not help. The road gets eroded during rains or it creates an uneven surface resulting in waterlogging. A lasting solution is needed.

It should be noted Mount Poonamallee High Road is a highway and witnesses heavy traffic. The road has become narrow on account of metro rail construction and therefore traffic moves at a slow pace. The deplorable condition of the road makes it worse. And it is the pedestrians who are badly affected.

*P. Senthil Kumar,
Iyyappanthangal*



The Iyyappanthangal stretch of Mount Poonamallee High Road on September 17, 2025 and (below) on September 19, 2025 following the recent rains.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A trying stretch



Water stagnation on School Road in Nungambakkam on September 16, 2025. Residents of the locality want the ongoing stormwater drain work to be completed at the earliest.

PHOTO: RAGU R

‘SWD construction makes slow progress’

Stormwater drain construction is progressing at a slow pace at Rayala Nagar in Ramapuram. The work which began two months ago is not yet complete. Greater Chennai Corporation should expedite the work as north-east monsoon will set in, in a couple of months.

*P. Kishore Kumar, president,
Rayala Nagar Residents
Welfare Association*



‘Inundation woes on Kumaran Colony Main Road’

Despite the presence of stormwater drain, Kumaran Colony Main Road in Vadapalani witnesses heavy waterlogging. This road is adjacent to the MTC bus terminus on Arcot Road. And in my view the main cause is water from the bus terminus flowing into Kumaran Colony Main Road. Appropriate rain water conservation measures at the bus terminus will mitigate waterlogging on Kumaran Colony Main Road.

*S.N. Rajaram,
Saligramam*



Kumaran Colony Main Road in Vadapalani on September 18, 2025.
PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

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

Letters must carry the contact number.



A small bus proves a *big help*

Following a representation made by a hostel management on behalf of female students of St. Louis College for the Deaf, MTC introduced a small bus service from Ashok Pillar to Adyar



The exclusive MTC service for these students. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

“Crossing the road is their biggest challenge, especially the busy 100-foot road. As the frequency of the buses on this route is low, students would rush to catch the bus that comes to the stop around 7 a.m. They cannot hear the honking of buses and the drivers do not know these students are hearing-impaired and they get scolded.

Very often they tell me their unpleasant experiences on the road,” says Sister Josephine, in-charge of the home.

The girls are advised to walk in groups, but sometimes in the rush to get the bus they split. The

hostel and college management say pressing this service ensures a hassle-free and safe commute for these students coming from the other districts of Tamil Nadu even from other states to pursue higher education.

Principal S. Pannerselvam says, “Currently, we have a strength of 258 students, a majority being boys,” says Pannerselvam, adding that the institution has a hostel for boys on the campus, and girls are faced with the challenge of a daily commute. After every trip, the MTC staff has to get a signature with seal from the college management.

An MTC staff confirmed that the small bus is exclusively made to ply for the benefit of these differently-abled students and cannot pick any other commuters en route. After picking and dropping the students, the bus operates between Ashok Pillar and Valsarvakkam as route number number S26.

LIFFY THOMAS

The commute to St. Louis College for the Deaf in Adyar does not leave a good number of its female students harried any more. Right at the doorsteps of their hostel near Ashok Pillar arrives a small bus service (S78) in the dot, at 7.15 a.m. At 2

p.m., when the college leaves, the bus picks up the same set of students from the campus to drop them back at their hostel.

From September 11, Metropolitan Transport Corporation started operating this service following a representation made by the hostel management. The hostel accommodates 20 speech-and hearing-

impaired students of the college.

Earlier, these students relied on route number 5E, a direct bus, which they had to board from a stop on 100 Feet Road in Ashok Nagar. They would alight at a stop in Gandhi Nagar.

5E's frequency being low, they would often have to look for an alternative, which would mean shut-

tling two buses and arriving late at college.

The management of Guidance Home for Adult Deaf Girls, a hostel for students and working professionals bordering Ashok Nagar and K.K. Nagar, made a representation to MTC Managing Director T. Prabhushankar, explaining the difficulty faced by the girls.

Youngsters let their paint brushes do the talking



Young artists across the city came together to celebrate creativity and culture at The Hindu Made of Chennai Painting Competition, presented by Casagrand. The event was hosted across two venues on September 13 at SBOA School and Junior College, Anna Nagar, in association with venue partner State Bank of India Office

Association Educational Trust, and on September 14 at Shivalaya Auditorium, Vels Institute of Science, Technology & Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Pallavaram, with Vels Group of Institutions as the venue partner.

The competition drew enthusiastic participation from school students in both junior and senior categories, who expressed

their imagination and talent through vibrant artworks.

At the SBOA edition, the winners in the junior category were Darshan V. P. (SBOA Matriculation Higher Secondary School), Santhosh Sivan S. (Sri Chaitanya School), and P.L. Anna Poorani (SBOA Global School). In the senior category, Thiyaakshwa S. (SBOA Junior School), Kajol K.

(Godson Public School CBSE), and Divyadharshini (Chinmaya Vidyalaya) secured the top three spots.

At the VELS edition, the junior category winners were Maryam Fathima (Al-Hira Model School), Sara Athriya Dinesh (Christwood School), and V Akshith (PSBB, K.K. Nagar). In the senior category, Aaradhana Ann Ziona K.

(E.J.M.M Higher Secondary School), Nirmayee Nikhil Valsangikar (Vels Vidyashram, Thalambar), and A. Akshaya (Bharath Senior Secondary School) bagged the prizes.

The competition highlighted the city's young talent and their ability to portray Chennai's vibrancy, culture and heritage on canvas. With overwhelming participation and striking creativity on display, the event reinforced the spirit of Chennai as a city made of art, tradition and imagination.



It is not that **SIMPLE**, folks!

Community-led waste management in the outer patches of Chennai Metropolitan Area faces unique challenges. Here is a way out of that complicated situation

PRINCE FREDERICK

You have not failed until you have capitulated to a sense of failure. Shefali Ganesh, resident of Dinesh Vihar, a gated community in Thalambur, has come within a hair's breath of just that kind of capitulation, but held herself back with poise, and well, hope.

Her attempts to influence her neighbours to segregate waste, send different categories of it to their rightful places and not the dumping grounds, have met with resistance as impregnable as the walls of Gibraltar. It is a frustration of the stripe that can drive one to self-help paperbacks dispensing chicken soup for the soul persevering against all odds.

Shefali is still persevering: she was in attendance at the recent dry waste collection drive by Residents of Kasturbanagar Association (ROKA), as she has been in every other drive held by the group in preceding years. As usual, she carted her dry waste plus a few neighbours' as well her parents' dry waste (they live at Indira Nagar in Adyar) and dropped it at a venue in the Adyar area. One of

those days when her car agrees to take on the duties of a garbage pick-up truck.

She calls herself a hopeful apprentice of ROKA methods, hoping there would be ROKA-like, pan-Chennai drives originating in OMR.

Here are Shefali's peeves. Recyclers fight shy of coming to her neck of the woods. Nameplates at households change. Neighbours vacate, new neighbours move in – it is a revolving door that never stops, never goes out of order. Shefali finds herself having to start sensitisation training all over again.

Of the six towers in the community, she focuses on two with her "trash talk", and that is challenging enough. Bringing the apartment committee on board to have a well-rounded waste management system underpinned by sustainability goals is another struggle. The association committee changes, so does the composition of the housekeeping staff.

If she notices the systemic problems inherent in the situation, Shefali would go easy on herself. Those problems are as clear as a football to someone like Bhuvana

Raj, a Thalambur resident and co-founder of SIMPLE, which interestingly is not a simple acronym – it stands for Sustainability Improvement through Multiple Projects for a Lovelier Environment. But then, the obstacles green-conscious people in this region are up against are not simple either.

Bhuvana lists what makes the situation complicated.

One, the Chengalpattu district administration would want bulk waste generators (which would include the big gated communities) to manage their waste, which is fair enough, says Bhuvana. But there is the catch. "The administration does not offer a list of empanelled vendors with expertise in managing different kinds of waste. In the absence of this provision, these communities are driven to unauthorised aggregators without a track record for proper waste disposal."

Two, lack of buy-in from residents associations for sustainable waste management. Bhuvana illustrates it with a familiar experience. SIMPLE was born in Casagrand Elan, a gated community in Thalambur, five years ago – but it still represents only a section of the community (close to 100 households) as only they are willing to be involved in efforts to treat household waste responsibly. "When the Association of a gated community is averse to giving the rallying cry for source segregation and related best practices, it does not inspire confidence in a recycler to enter the picture, as they would not have the volume to sustain the business," she explains.

Where does the solution lie? What is the way forward for the Shefalis of the world to tread?

Bhuvana answers that: "After five years, SIMPLE is now working

▼ Shefali Ganesh with her son Harsha Prashanth (right) at a previous ROKA collection drive.

towards creating a 'green coalition' of like-minded people from various communities. We are about the work of creating a green team in each community to drive waste management there – it is all done *pro bono*. Every three months, we have a dry waste collection drive, essentially clothes and e-waste. These drives are not Elan-centric, touches other communities as well. We have there re-

cyclers on board to conduct our quarterly drives as well as the weekend drives where the regular dry waste such as plastic waste is covered."

Bhuvana goes on to offer a glimpse of what happens when "pockets of responsibility" from various communities come together.

"Our June 30th collection drive in Thalambur communities: Elan total – 1020 kg; Smart Town – 200kg; Jains Springs – 282 kg. KG Earth Homes also collected 921 kg on the same weekend. This was done in collaboration with an authorised aggregator."



ROKA's dry waste collection drive: the distance says it all

The effectiveness of ROKA's 11th dry waste collection drive should be gauged by two parameters – weight and distance with greater emphasis on the latter. At the end of the day, two days actually, 10.6 metric tonnes of dry waste was in the net and sent for processing. But the more encouraging indicator of success was the fact that ROKA managed to organise the drive from 10 centres, bringing the city as well as its outlying areas under the purview of the exercise.

"Close to 900 people from across Chennai dropped off their materials at ten different locations. We had student volunteers from Kumararani Meena Muthiah college, Stella maris, St. Peters, SPIHER (Avadi), SRM university and Loyola supporting us with their energy and enthusiasm on both days of the drive," observes Janani Venkitesh of ROKA.

She believes what these students did for the drive and what the drive did for them are of equal weightage, neither tipping the other on the scales.

"It was a whole new experience for them about waste and how conscious consumption is the need of the hour,"

says Janani. The repair workshops and thrift store grabbed a lot of attention this time. We thank our aggregators Wasted 360 and KRMM college."

The watch repair section was reportedly a big hit with participants – Lekha, a resident of Kasturba Nagar in Adyar, returned home to bring her non-functional watches.

A communication from ROKA, featuring testimonies of student participants, reads this:

Suhita from Stella Maris College: " 'Turning Waste into Useful Resource', where we collected a lot of waste including clothes and plastic, provided a different volunteering experience for me. I enjoyed helping ROKA's collection drive."

Najima from SRM University, Kattankulathur: " 'Turning Waste into Hope' where we collected reusable items to support underprivileged communities, emphasised sustainability and gave a second life to items while making a positive social impact. It was heartening to witness the generosity of donors and the impact collective action can have. The experience not only gave me a sense of purpose but also reinforced the importance of giving back."



▼ Jollie Abraham and various other singers from the film industry associated with the event over the years; and Good Samaritan Award being presented to Govindakrishnan of Nethrodaya.



Singing past a milestone

Since its debut in 2001, the annual Musi-care Concert has maintained a tradition of 12-hour, non-stop gospel singing. It recently turned 25, thanks to the latest edition that took place at MCC School Auditorium in Chetpet

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A 12-hour non-stop gospel music concert, conducted without a hiatus over the last 25 years, staged its silver jubilee edition at the MCC School Auditorium at Harrington Road in Chetpet on September 13 (from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.).

Called “Musi-care Concert”, the unique marathon gospel concert debuted in 2001, when singer Jollie Abraham pioneered the idea of presenting gospel music for 12 hours on the trot, an ensemble of singers taking turns to keep the hymns coming.

Since then, the event has its annual date without a break. The defining features of the concert include live orchestra for every song, shunning karaoke tracks, and being accessible to all by virtue of a free-entry policy, says a press release.

“In the first 13 to 14 editions of the concert, there was a striking participation of singers from the film industry. They included K.J. Yesudas, S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, M.S. Viswanathan, P.B. Srinivas, Jikki Amma, Mano, P. Susheela, Janaki, Vani Jayaram, Chitra, Unni Menon and Malaysia Vasudevan,” says Jollie Abraham.

The 25th edition opened at 10 a.m. with Jollie Abraham’s heartfelt rendition of “Ninaikkum Devan Undu”. It was followed by a succession of stirring performances by singers Reshma, Reily, Vycar Law-



rence, Johnney, Agnes and Grace Karnad, says the press release.

Notably, renowned South Indian violinist Kalyanasundaram enthralled the audience with two solo performances.

The evening reached its spiritual peak at 9:15 p.m. with a candlelight prayer led by Pr. Anand of ACA, after which Jollie Abraham concluded the event with the song “Kadaiikkala Abhishekam”. The concert officially drew to a close at 10 p.m., marking 12 hours of uninterrupted praise and music, the release adds.

Awards and recognitions

The silver jubilee concert also honoured individuals



for their contributions to music and social service: The prestigious Good Samaritan Award was conferred upon Govindakrishnan of Nethrodaya, an organisation working for the betterment of



the vision-impaired.

The award was presented by UK Clacton County Councillor King Kanagasundaram.

Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Fr. Thisai Jerry, for his contribution to Christian lyrics; and Gnani, for his work as a composer. These awards were presented by noted Malayalam film music director Shyam.

Consistent with its tradition of extending succour to the underprivileged, the Musi-care initiative once again extended aid to 100 families, says the press release.

Festive fervour



Artists from Kolkata making idols of Goddess Durga at Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya as part of Navaratri celebration. This is an annual practice for over 40 years. PHOTO: RAGU R



Safety engineers have a grand reunion

The Safety Engineers Association of India (SEA India), a pioneering professional body in the field of occupational safety, health, and environment, celebrated its Silver Jubilee at Anna University Campus recently.

The event was graced by industry leaders and safety professionals

from across India, says a press release.

The occasion saw the honouring of SEA Founder Lakshmanan, whose vision laid the foundation for the association's remarkable journey, the release adds.

The chief guest, S. Ananth, Director of Industrial Safety and

Health (DISH), delivered the keynote address, highlighting the critical role of safety engineers in nation-building and industrial growth. Guest of Honours and senior leaders from various industries were also felicitated for their contributions.

The highlight of the event was a series of technical sessions and knowledge-sharing programmes which included "Leveraging AI for Safety Compliance", a session by Mohan Venkatesh; a presentation by Dr. G. Jayaraj focused on emerging trends in occupational safety practices; and a HSE quiz programme.

The 24th AGM of the Association followed.

Science exhibition held



The 21st Science Exhibition of The National I.T. International Matriculation Higher Secondary School and Vidhyarsh Public School in Mangadu was

held recently.

A. A. Nakkiran, former judge of the Madras High Court, was the chief guest.

V. Padmavathi, the school's correspondent, inaugurated the expo.

Nakkiran examined the exhibits created by students and admired their ingenuity and creativity.

The expo recognized the students' unwavering dedication and remarkable scientific ingenuity by presenting awards to the creators of the most exceptional projects, according to a release from the institution.

QMC Alumnae Association to hold AGM on Sept. 24

Queen Mary's College Alumnae Association (QMCAA) has announced its Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) will be held on September 24, 2025.

The venue for the AGM is Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam No. 332 at Ambujamal Street in Alwarpet. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:40 p.m., says a press release.

According to the release, the proceedings include the presentation of the Secretary's Report; members confirming the minutes of the previous meeting and deliberating on the association's development activities.

Other important items on the agenda include the adoption of the audited accounts for the financial year, appointment of the auditor for 2026-27, admission of new members, and the election of office bearers. Any other matters may also be discussed with the permission of the Chair, the press release says.

QMCAA members can confirm their participation by calling any of the following numbers: 93846 61580/ 94448 60363/ 98401 28739, the release adds.

The Alumnae Association also invites contributions towards AGM expenses. New members can enrol by paying a life membership fee of ₹500 (via cheque or DD in favour of "QMCAA"), the release adds.

Property fair concludes today

Today is the last day of 'Idhu Ungal Sothu', a property expo happening at Kailash Garden in Sholinganallur.

Investors and real estate developers are showcasing plots, villas, apartments and row houses, said a release.

Bank officials will be available to offer home loan assistance and to simplify financing for interested attendees, the release added.

Entry is made free, aimed to encourage real estate as an investment. For details, call 9444456087.

Hospital launches dedicated fever clinics

Be Well Hospitals has launched fever clinics to address the seasonal surge in fever-related illnesses, dengue, malaria and viral infections.

The clinic aims to provide fast, high-quality and affordable care with a focus on early diagnosis and prompt treatment, said a release.

The fever evaluation package, priced at ₹150, includes a doctor consultation, vital checks and injection administration, if needed. The

complete fever package at ₹999 provides comprehensive tests, including a dengue NSI test, CBC, Widal, malaria parasite smear and urine routine.

The fever clinics have been launched at its hospitals in Ambattur, Anna Nagar, Kilpauk, Poona-mallee, Selaiyur and T. Nagar.

For appointments, call 9698 300 300. Or visit www.bewellhospital-s.in

MSSW conducts health camp in village

Department of Master of Social Work in Disability and Empowerment from Madras School Of Social Work (MSSW), Egmore recently conducted a multidisciplinary health check-up camp for residents of Sendraiyanpalayam village. The exercise was in alignment with its rural outreach programme called UN-ARVOLI, says a press release. Over 150 people across diverse age groups were screened by four doctors and paramedics from Sri Lalithambigai College and Hospital in Maduravoyal. The camp concentrated on general diagnosis, ophthalmology diagnosis, Orthopedic diagnosis and Dermatology diagnosis. Those attendees who required further treatment were referred to follow-ups by the respective doctors. The camp took place under the supervision



of the Head of the Department of MSW in Disability & Empowerment Prof. Jesuini John Bose P; Prof. Aswani B Nair; Prof. Jasper D and Prof. T. Kavitha from Madras School of Social Work, Egmore, Chennai and the members of IRCDS, Tiruvallur..

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