

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

Mail boxes that were removed from the bus shelters and installed on the compound walls nearby should be restored to their original spots; as debris is dumped along these walls, these boxes are inaccessible

'Restore bus shelters in Rajakilpakkam'

A. V. NARAYANAN

A year ago, to facilitate free flow of traffic, the State Highways Department widened Madambakkam Main Road in Rajakilpakkam.

As part of the widening exercise, Metropolitan Transport Corporation bus shelters were demolished in VGP Srinivasa Nagar, Kozhi Panai and Kendriya Vidyalaya – II.

Till date, the bus shelters have not been restored, forcing commuters to wait in the open, which becomes more of a challenge during the

monsoon season.

Further, India Post letter boxes that were installed in the bus shelters were installed on nearby compound walls. The boxes are inaccessible because debris from the widened road is dumped along the walls. I request the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to reconstruct the bus shelters and restore the post boxes in them, without any delay.

Until then, the debris must be cleared to make the mail boxes accessible.

A.V. Narayanan is a resident of Rajakilpakkam





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'Relocate TASMAC outlet in Chromepet'



Because of a TASMAC outlet near Chromepet footbridge on GST Road, pedestrians using the facility often find tipplers blocking the staircase. Commuters want the outlet to be shifted out of the area. PHOTO: M. MUTHU GANESH.

Escalators near MEPZ dismantled



A. VIGNESH

The escalators on a footbridge on GST Road in Tambaram Sanatorium were dismantled days ago to make way for new ones, but no further action has been taken to install new ones as planned. The dismantled escalators have not been removed from the scene and they are a blight on the landscape.

The footbridge is located along Madras Export Processing Zone.

Besides, work on facilitating the lift at the footbridge for those headed towards Tambaram was started months ago. But, there is no further development.

Pedestrians must climb more than 40 steps to cross the stretch. Moreover, the steps are steep, and pedestrians must hold on to the railings while climbing.

State Highways Department officials must inspect the escalators and the lift and take necessary action at the earliest.

A. Vignesh is a resident of Adambakkam

Water tank at park needs a cover

P. SURESH

Zone 3 (Sembakkam) of the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation should appoint a security guard for a park located at VGP Pon Nagar on Fifth Street.

The gates are open throughout the day, and access passage to the water tank loft is not barricaded. A gate should be installed and it should be kept locked. The keys should be with the staff checking the water level in the tank periodically.

At the loft, the tank is devoid of proper protection lids.

After sunset, anti-social elements use the loft



The tank should be properly protected with lids and a security guard should be appointed.

to consume liquor and for other activities.

Before any untoward incident happens, the water tank openings should be protected.

P. Suresh is a resident of Pon Nagar, Sembakkam



FOB needs lifts or escalators

K. DAYANAND

Southern Railway has constructed another footbridge across the Tambaram third terminal. Commuters of electric trains headed towards Chennai Beach and long-distance train passengers can access the platforms from the footbridge across GST Road. At present, access is allowed to platform 1A and the long-distance platforms 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

However, there are no escalators or lifts from the FOB walkway to platform 1A.

For platforms 1 and 2, there are no staircase access, and the lift or escalator structure remains unchanged from the time when work on the FOB began. The same situation prevails for



platforms 3 and 4.

There are no lift or escalator for platforms 5 and 6 and the passageway is narrow.

The structure area for platforms 7 and 8 is overrun with vegetation and is used for dumping trash. For 9 and 10, there is no structure.

The railways should provide access for a lift/escalator at every platform. The FOB is wide, and if steps are taken to do the needful, it will decongest the commuters, passengers, and pedestrians traffic at the other FOB.

K. Dayanand is a resident of Chitlapakkam

Regulate roadside eateries in Chromepet



V. SANTHANAM

Arterial stretches in East Chromepet, Radha Nagar Main Road, Station Road, Rajendra Prasad Road, Madras Institute of Technology Service Lane (along The New Colony) are lined with eateries.

Occupying road space, these vendors keep the gas cylinders close to the pavement and have no exhaust fans.

When masala chilli powder is sprayed onto dishes, it spreads into the air and irritates the eyes of pedestrians and two-wheeler riders.

I have taken up this issue with the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation. The food inspectors and the health department officials of the civic body are yet to take action.

V. Santhanam is a resident of Chromepet

Metro commuters' grouse over shuttle services

Though CMRL's shuttle service from Pallavaram to Airport Metro station has become a lifeline for many, commuters say inadequate regulation and cramped vehicles have detracted from the convenience it offers



The share autos deployed by CMRL inside the Pallavaram parking lot, waiting to pick up commuters heading to the Tirusulam Metro station.

PHOTOS: T. ARVIND

T. ARVIND

Commuters using the Chennai Metro Rail's shuttle services between the Pallavaram parking facility and the Chennai airport (Tirusulam) station have raised concerns over waiting time, lack of queue regulation and the circuitous route the vehicles currently take.

Since February, CMRL has been operating share-autos from the multi-level parking lot at Pallavaram to provide last-mile connectivity. The service is used every day by hundreds of passengers travelling from areas such as Tambaram, Selaiyur, Chitlapakkam, Pammal and Pozhichalur. While the facility has eased access to the Metro, several

challenges continue, users say.

Crowding during rush hour

CMRL presently operates four share-autos that can hold up to 10 passengers each, beginning early in the morning and going on until 9 p.m. Commuters however say overcrowding during peak hours, particularly by return in the evening at Tirusulam, has become routine.

Though a self-regulated queue is followed at the Pallavaram pick-up point, the same system is absent at the Tirusulam Metro station, leading to disorderly boarding.

"Last week, I could not get into the share-auto as several youngsters pushed ahead. I did not have the strength to compete and had to wait for the next vehicle," says Ananthasayam, a senior citizen

who commutes to Government Estate.

Women commuters observe that the cramped seating arrangements add to the discomfort. "We find it extremely difficult to sit on the back seats, and even the two seats near the driver are uncomfortable," says Shahina, who travels to the High Court. She suggests that CMRL consider using maxi-cab type vehicles to improve comfort.

Concerns over the route

Another issue flagged by commuters is the roundabout route taken by the shuttle via Pallavaram Shandy Road to reach GST Road, instead of directly exiting from the parking lot. "This adds a few extra minutes to the travel," says Ebanez, a regular user.

CMRL officials note the devia-

tion was introduced because the entrance to the parking lot along GST Road is too narrow to accommodate a waiting shuttle, which could obstruct traffic. Highway authorities had therefore recommended the alternate route, they add.

Larger vehicles ruled out

CMRL officials say the shuttle fleet will be increased from four to six vehicles shortly. However, they clarify that maxi-cabs are not being considered.

"The present autos are about three metres long, allowing faster movement and easier turns on the narrow stretches. Maxi-cabs are nearly five metres long and may delay operations, which would not be in commuters' interest," says an of-

ficial. Despite this, some commuters express the need for a substantial upgrade. "After enjoying the comfort of the Metro, taking the shuttle feels like getting off an Airbus only to board a rickshaw," says Shahina, reflecting sentiments shared by others.

Queue regulation

To address the lack of order at boarding points, CMRL plans to involve volunteers from organisations such as the NCC and NSS to regulate queues at Tirusulam. "This will likely be introduced by the end of January," an official says.

Commuters, while appreciative of the Metro's overall services, remark that they hope these operational issues will be resolved soon for a smoother transit experience.

Route No. 96 hits the road

Plying between Adyar Gandhi Nagar terminus and Tambaram West bus stand, this service joins a clutch of similar services to meet a demand that seems to be always on the rise

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Metropolitan Transport Corporation has introduced a new route number that might seem similar to a clutch of other route numbers long in operation.

The new route number, 96,

plies between Adyar Gandhi Nagar terminus and Tambaram West bus stand via Lattice Bridge Road, IT Corridor, Pallavaram-Thorai-pakkam 200-feet Radial Road and Velachery Main Road.

Seven buses will ply on route number 96.

Route number 91, 91 cut service, 91A, 91V (Kilambakkam, Tambaram, Hasthinapuram and Guduvancherry), starting from the Thiruvanmiyur bus terminus, nearly follows the same route, except that it does not pass through Lattice Bridge Road and Velachery Main Road. Route number 95, which starts from Thiruvanmiyur bus terminus, plies through IT Corridor till Sholinganallur region, takes Classical Language Road and Velachery Main Road.

Route no 99 from Adyar plies

through Lattice Bridge Road, East Coast Road, Classical Language Road and Velachery Main Road.

Benefits: for the residents of Pallikaranai and the adjoining areas such as Sunnambu Kolathur, route number 96 will be useful, as it would spare them the trouble of having to go to Medavakkam and Little Mount to board buses towards Adyar.

Suggestions: "It would be more beneficial if some services are diverted through Velachery and Guru Nanak Road and Little Mount. Commuters can go directly to Sardar Patel Road and do not have to break their journey. To go to the section of Adyar on Lattice Bridge Road, commuters board M1, 3 and M70 come to Thiruvanmiyur and then head towards the afore-mentioned section, says G. Kowsalya.



Route Number 96 at Tambaram West bus stand. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

WHAT RESIDENTS WANT

'We need greater access to Rayappa Nagar'

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Residents of Rayappa Nagar in Varadharajapuram, along Outer Ring Road (ORR), have asked Tamil Nadu Road Development Corporation for additional access in the developing locality to ease traffic congestion.

V. Rajasekaran, president of Thiruvalluvar Rayappa Nagar Residents' Welfare Association, says a 30-foot road is currently the only entry and exit point to the area. "Residents of Rayappa Nagar and the adjoining localities such as Sundar Nagar and Selva Nagar, as well as people from Dargas, where the region's panchayat office is located, access it," he says.

A vehicle and an autorickshaw are unable to navigate the lanes smoothly. TNRDC should create additional access along ORR to enter the areas and reach the office.

"Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority has facilitated a park in the area, where a large number of children and people are seen enjoying in the evenings and during the weekends, but there are only two swings in the park," says Rajasekaran.

**FOB only on paper**

Following the death of a young school teacher more than two years ago, Southern Railway said it was working on a proposal to construct a footbridge connecting GST Road and Old GST Road in Irumbuliyur. But residents say there is no progress at the designated work site.

For safe commuting, pedes-

rians must walk from West Tambaram. Only a handful of people walk from the West through East Tambaram to the region and along its borders, East Tambaram and Peerankaranai, Veera Bathran Street, Old MSP Lane and Mareesan Street and Thilagavathy Nagar and Gayathri Nagar (Irumbuliyur) and Roja Street, Shenbagam Street, Kurinji Street, and Kanakambaram Street in Peerankaranai.

To reach GST Road, Irumbuliyur, pedestrians have to come through East and West Tambaram and Peerankaranai.

To avoid taking a detour, residents see it as a shortcut and jaywalk across the tracks.

A footbridge is needed over the tracks connecting GST Road and Old GST Road in Irumbuliyur to prevent further deaths. The FOB will be of use to people going to



East Tambaram and Irumbuliyur.

'Halt all buses at Mudichur'

A section of commuters from Mudichur have requested Metropolitan Transport Corporation to halt deluxe buses at Mudichur Village stop on Mudichur Road.

Currently only whiteboard buses halt at this stop. The move will benefit commuters from Amudham Nagar, Madanapuram, Bheemeshwaran Garden, Venkateshwara Avenue and Shanti Nagar, who board buses from Anna Nagar in Old Perungalathur.

Route numbers 55 (Tambaram - Mannivakkam), 55V (Tambaram - Kilambakkam), 55P (Tambaram - Navalur), whiteboard buses and deluxe buses 579A (Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ) Terminus - Wallajabad), 583 (MEPZ Terminus - Sriperumbudur), 583D (Tambaram (West) - Sriperumbudur), and 202 (Tambaram (West) - Avadi) pass through Mudichur Road.

Similarly, commuters juggle between Mudichur Junction and the Cardboard Company bus stops, waiting for 55, 55V, 55P, 579A, 583 and 583D. Buses on route numbers 55 and 55V should halt along the junction.

Changes in pattern of electric train services

The Chennai Division of the Southern Railway has scheduled a line and power block for the commissioning of the electronic interlocking panel at Tiruninravur yard on November 23. Following are the changes in the pattern of electric train services, between 7 a.m. and 3.40 p.m.

Full cancellation of electric trains – train Numbers : 43211, 08:05 a.m., 43213, 08:40 a.m., 43215, 09:15 a.m., 43217, Moore Market Complex - Tiruvallur, 09:35 a.m., 43707, Chennai Beach - Tiruvallur, 09:55 a.m., 43507, Moore Market Complex - Tiruttani 10 a.m., and 43901, Moore Market Complex - Kadambattur, 10:30 a.m..

In lieu of above cancelled electric trains, the following commuters' specials will be operated.

Moore Market Complex - Arakkonam, 08:20 a.m., Tiruttani - Chennai Beach, 08:50 a.m..



a.m., Arakkonam - Moore Market Complex, 08:55 a.m., Moore Market Complex - Tiruttani, 09:10 a.m., Moore Market Complex - Tirupati, 09:50 a.m., Arakkonam - Moore Market Complex, 10 a.m., Tiruttani - Moore Market Complex, 10:15 a.m., Moore Market Complex - Avadi, 10:45 a.m., and Moore Market Complex - Arakkonam, 11 a.m..

For full details, log on to <https://x.com/DrmChennai>

A Children's Day gift for balwadis in Nanganallur



As part of Children's Day, the Federation of Nanganallur (Residents) Welfare Associations and Swastik Madhar Sangam of Volta Colony installed five reverse osmosis units at balwadis in Bakthavachalam Nagar and KK Nagar in Nanganallur. The Swastik Madhar Sangam team members honoured the teachers with gifts for their exemplary service.

SUSTAINABILITY

Adding a reuse value to used things

Before discarding something that has outlived its usefulness to you, consider sending it to any of these groups

LIFFY THOMAS

Old spectacles find new eyes

Old spectacles including those that have gone out of fashion are usually discarded, consigned to the garbage bins. A small number of non-profits and optical shops stop these spectacles from being wasted in this manner. They collect these spectacles and hand them over to organisations that can help in recycling them.

Kapleshwar Optics in T. Nagar, for instance, has a collection box for people to drop their old spectacles. They are generally picked up by a team from Lions Optical Bank.

Sankara Nethralaya has its own in-house optical service at College Road where old spectacles can be dropped. Based on the condition of the frame, they are repurposed to be reused by a needy patient coming to the hospital.

Likewise, outlets of GKB Opticals and Kalpvruksha Seva Trust in West Mambalam encourage peo-



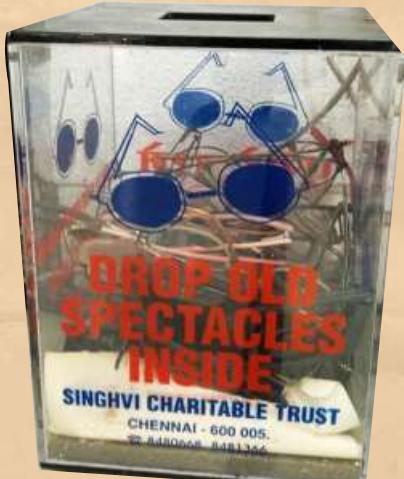
ple to give away their spectacles that are lying unused at home.

A note on Lenskart.com says that it runs an exchange programme that allows one to donate old glasses to someone in need via the Lenskart Foundation and get an exchange value on a new pair of glasses. All eyeglasses and sunglasses, irrespective of whether they were purchased from Lenskart or not are eligible for this offer, says the note.

The lens from the frames of donated spectacles are removed and after minor repairs, refitted and made ready for reuse. These spectacles are categorised on the basis of power and kept aside for camps.

Unlike in the west, donation of old spectacles is losing traction out here for reasons such as cost incurred in refurbishing them.

For many years, Chennai-based Singhvi Charitable Trust was collecting old glasses from outlets, refurbishing them and distributing them at camps. Now, they only give away new spectacles.



'SADS' making people happy

Be it an oversized pair of shoes that you got as a gift or stationery received as return gifts or furniture not matching your living room, Share at Door Step (SADS) is ready to pick them up at your doorsteps and ensure they reach someone genuinely in need of them.

The pan-India non-profit that also caters to Chennai encourages people to donate their reusable items by availing the "doorstep pick up" option. The items thus collected are delivered to those who need them.

The charges for pick-up depend on the location, volume and mode of pickup.

The donations in kind reach the beneficiaries; through verified trusted partner NGOs, they are audited on a regular basis, says a note on the website.

For details, visit <https://shareatdoorstep.com>

A bank providing medical equipment



and oxygen concentrators are among the most sought-after items by families.

"We ask users to use a medical equipment for 30-45 days and return or renew it at least once so that they can keep it for a longer period of time," says Aashish Kumar Jain CS, trustee of RYA Cosmo Elite Foundation, adding that at least 4,000 people have benefited from the bank over the years.

A man desperately seeks a wheelchair for a family member for a short-term use, and it does not prove an easy search. Having witnessed this, a bunch of his friends from RYA Cosmo Elite Foundation start a medical equipment bank. This was ten years ago, and now, this bank boasts a horde of medical equipment at any given time, and it operates from a garage in Pulianthope. The medical equipment are either bought new or received as donation.

These medical equipment are lent on a no-cost basis to those in critical care at home. Wheelchairs, medical beds

To check availability of items in the e-bank, call 7550077700

Clothes and bicycles

* Sevai Karangal collects used bicycles and donates them to students in rural areas where public transport is inadequate; IIT-Madras is a major donor in this initiative. For details, WhatsApp 9840873859.

* Thuli receives gently used clothes and accessories, repurposes and offers them to the underprivileged. Its collection centre is at Kasturba Nagar. Call 6380306662.

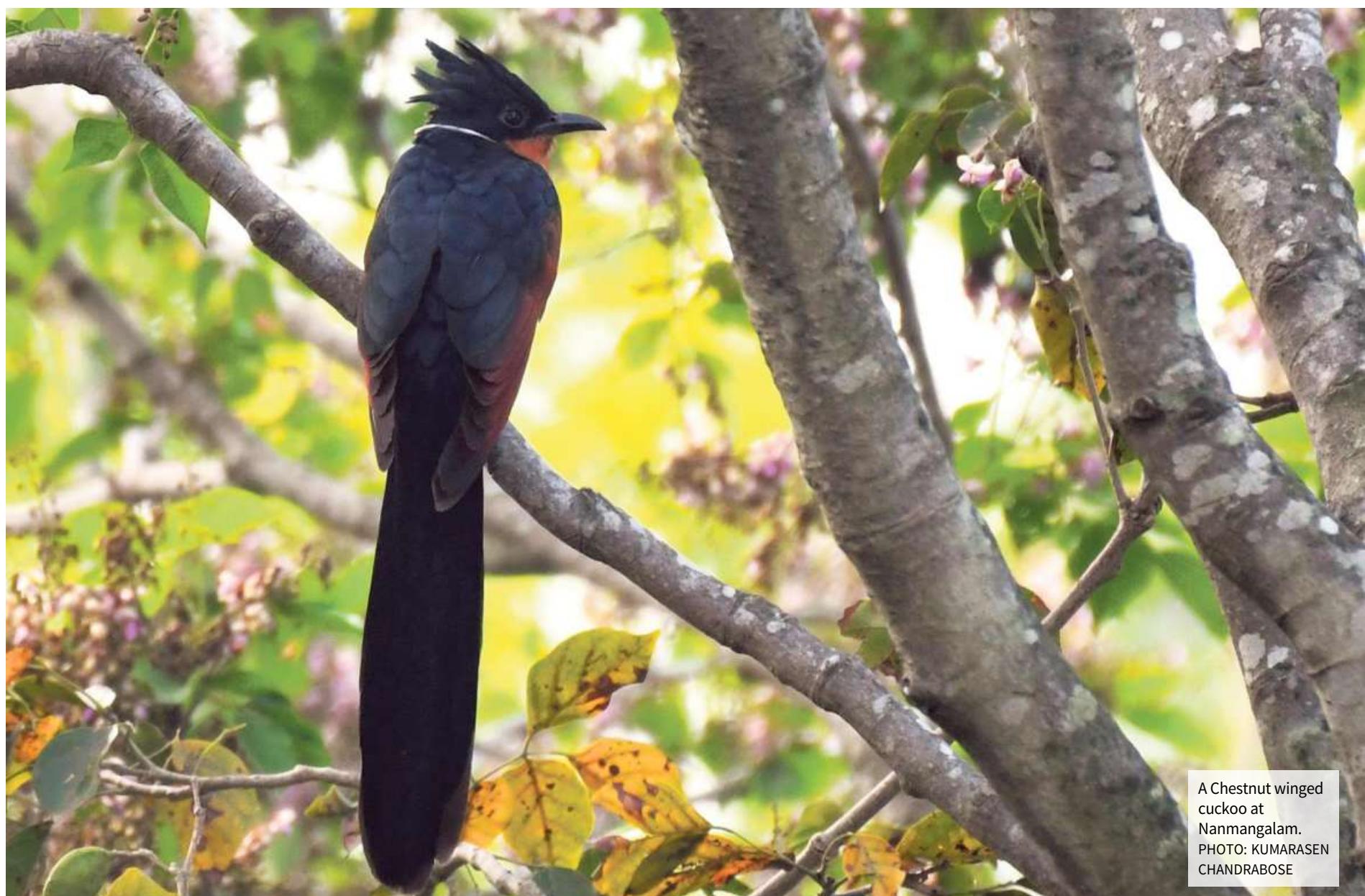
* Rajasthan Cosmo Club Foundation picks up gently used clothes from the doorsteps; call 9962299622.

* Little Drops, a home for the homeless destitute at Paraniputhur, accepts anything from people. It encourages apartments to organise a collection drive and sends a van for the items to be transported. Call 9884080869/ 9884080864.



An old question resurfaces

Recently, an injured Chestnut winged cuckoo was rescued at Oliver Road in Mylapore; and inevitably, there was speculation about how much this species, a passage migrant in these parts, loves to spend the winter in Chennai



A Chestnut winged cuckoo at Nanmangalam.
PHOTO: KUMARASEN CHANDRABOSE

PRINCE FREDERICK

Recently, on its Instagram page, Urbaser Sumeet raised a hymn of praise to a conservancy worker within its fold. Not a verse in that praise struck a superfluous note. Udaykumar, the conservancy worker, rescued an injured bird, pulling it out of the jaws of death after it had come between the jaws of a canine. While on his beat, clearing garbage on Oliver Road in Zone 9, a resident had told him about a bird bitten by a dog and cowering in the neighbouring house. The reel shows Udaykumar narrating the sequence of events that led to the bird's recovery: how he took the bird, the injury from the bite on the side of its neck evident, to a vet, informed his office and finally, handed the bird over to the forest department. If it had not been a Chestnut winged cuckoo (CWC),

the story would have ended then and there as a heart-warming act of kindness. No sequel to it.

The sight of this CWC in the reel held gently by Udaykumar, with bare hands and with gloved hands could not but put this writer in mind of an observation ornithologist V. Santharam had made in the context of the discussion about the CWC.

He had made the observation in an article in *The Hindu* titled, "How much of a passage migrant is the Chestnut winged cuckoo?" (dated November 22, 2020). He gave two time capsules in which CWC is usually sighted in Chennai – November–December and during March–April on the return migration. He recalled two instances of rescuing a Crested winged cuckoo in the Santhome of the 1980s when he was the resident of the neighbourhood. On both occasions, the CWC had flown into a house, and crows

had launched into it. In one of those two instances, it had made a "crashlanding" next door in Santharam's neighbour's house.

In a conversation connected with this article, the ornithologist shared that again in the same time period, a resident of north Chennai brought a rescued CWC to his office in Nungambakkam, seeking his help. At that time, Santharam was working with UBS Publishers which had an office in Nungambakkam.

The recent incident at Oliver Road provides an object lesson about this CWC trait (getting disoriented and flying into houses) for the current generation.

It probably could come as a surprise to many young birders. A considerable part of what one hears about the CWC from birders is about how it has started patronising certain patches. For five years, winter after winter,

there have been accounts of CWC sightings happening almost on an appointed date (putting it without hyperbole, around a particular time of year) at Nanmangalam reserve forest.

Kumarasen Chandrabose is among birders in Sembakkam, Nanmangalam and surrounding areas that have been documenting the arrival of the CWC at Nanmangalam for the last five years.

In the early years of the Chestnut winged cuckoo's engagement with the Nanmangalam forest, tyres from a distant land rolled in. Reportedly, birders from Bangalore queued up one day at Nanmangalam for a glimpse of the bird..

Cut to now, the relative regularity of CWC sightings in various other parts Chennai and its vicinity make a compelling case for asking an old question all over again – no marks for guessing

what it is. Let us get to it in a minute. AM Aravind has reported a CWC sighting from Puzhuthivalikal. Sundaravel Palanivel has seen it at a patch of Pallikaranai in Kamakotti Nagar, just a chirp away from his home. He then caught up with the species in Kumizhi near Guduvanchery. Jithesh Babu had a "meetup" with the bird in Karikali. There have been sightings of the CWC in Adyar, one recently by Kumaresan Chandrabose. And then the Oliver Road incident.

This writer puts the same question to Santharam, five years later – how much of a passage migrant is the Chestnut winged cuckoo. Without taking a nanosecond to think it over, the ornithologist shoots back the same answer. "It is a passage migrant; but some of them could be staying on in Chennai for the winter." Who knows, probably more of them than before.

EVENTS

Seminar on building practices held



The School of Infrastructure, Department of Civil Engineering, B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Vandalur, in coordination with The Institution of Engineers (India), Kancheepuram Local Centre, conducted a two-day national seminar on 'Sustainable Building Practices and Innovations in Green Construction for a Resilient Future'.
Monsingh David Devadas, dean, MEA-

SI Academy of Architecture, Chennai, inaugurated the seminar.

The seminar focused on the growing significance of sustainable building materials, advanced construction techniques, energy conservation and generation, water treatment and recycling methods, and Artificial Intelligence in shaping the future of construction and architectural practices, said a release issued by the educational institution.

'Women are increasingly targeted in cyber crime'

Seminar by WHY TAP at MOP Vaishnav College for Women was aimed at creating awareness about this issue among students

During the workshop



WHY TAP, the training and placement division of WHY Global Services, recently conducted a seminar on cyber awareness security at MOP Vaishnav College for Women.

The seminar was aimed to prevent young women from falling into the trap of cyber-crime. Women are increasingly targeted by online threats, identity theft, cyberstalking, impersonation, and financial scams.

Sathishkumar Kannan, a

certified ethical hacker and founder of WHY Global Services, conducted the seminar.

The session equipped young women with practical knowledge to identify, prevent, and respond to cyber threats, said a release.

During the seminar, students were introduced to real-world cyberattack methodologies, including phishing and identity-based threats.

A significant focus of the session was women's digital safety.

Sathishkumar Kannan emphasised practical steps to stay protected, including verifying online identities, safeguarding personal photos, and knowing when and how to report cyber incidents to authorities.

"As a cybersecurity expert, I believe that protecting women online is not merely a technical challenge; it is a societal duty. Colleges, parents, and institutions must work together to build digital resilience in young adults," he said.

Meet and greet event to welcome Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka



(From left to right) Rajesh Radhakrishnan, Mohammed Asif Ali, Krithiga, Ganesanathan Geethiswaran, Satish Jupiter, Dr J Radhakrishnan. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

A meet-and-greet evening to welcome Ganesanathan Geethiswaran, Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, was recently organised in the city.

Jointly hosted by Satish Jupiter and

The Park, Chennai, the event saw consuls, expats, government officials, members of diplomatic core and prominent faces of Chennai in attendance to welcome and greet the new Deputy High Commissioner.

Volunteers honoured

Agal Foundation Trust in West Saidapet which works for the welfare of the visually-challenged people celebrated its 10th anniversary recently. According to a press release, volunteers of the foundation were honoured on the occasion. Those interested to volunteer for the trust may call 7338720444

Registrations open for kickboxing competition

HammerPro Kickboxing is organising Tamilnadu Kickboxing Championship 2025 for Amateur and Pro Kickboxers in Chennai. The event is scheduled to be held on December 21, 2025 at Maduravoyal.

According to a press release, the winners of the competition would be presented with a cash prize and a title belt. Registration is open to all kickboxing fraternity in Chennai, says the press release.

For further details about registration, call 9962188501

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How about a tree map for your local park?

A group of residents in Indira Nagar have exactly this idea in mind; and they are going about making it a reality in a spirit of volunteering

PRINCE FREDERICK

An Indira Nagar resident with a hard-to-miss commitment to practising sustainability, a tree watcher and nurturer C. Namachivayam delights in maps, essentially quickly scrawled sketches. If it were possible to converse entirely in maps, he would choose "Mapish" over English. He is given to flagging problems in the delivery of civic amenities by government line agencies. Whenever he brings up a civic issue, he invariably surfaces a map pinpointing it. The location with the exact spot where the "wound" is found suppurating and its precincts would all be mapped out. For once, he is preparing an "upbeat" map, a tree map for the famous Indira Nagar park on Indira Nagar Fourth Cross Street together with an "arbor" of like-minded residents delighting in the park and its trees.

Namachivayam has drawn up a rough map, naming the trees. The park is circular; it "hangs out" with two streets – Indira Nagar Fourth Cross Street and Indira Nagar Sixth Lane – which curve sufficiently to give the park its rotund shape. From the rough, partial drawing of the park with a listing of the trees by their names, one can see that if this tree list was run through the Simpson Reciprocal Index, it would return a high value, indicat-



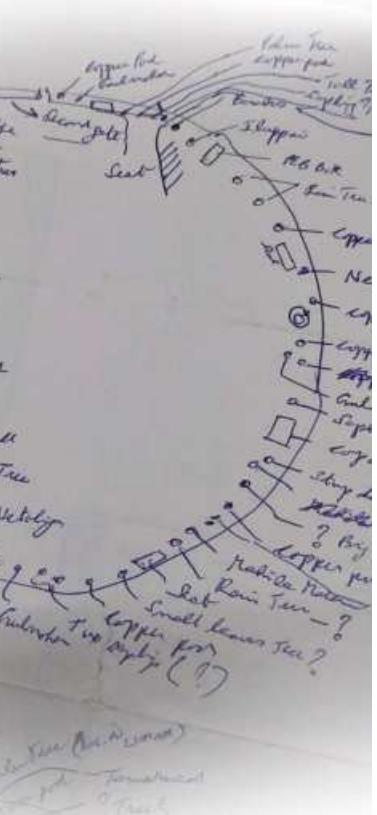
Indira Nagar residents are in the process of creating a tree map for a famous park in their neighbourhood. As part of the exercise, they are seeking to have a nameboard for each tree. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing a diversity of tree species.

These residents want to have a name-board (tied not nailed) around each tree, indicating its species. A QR code in a boxy space on the nameboard will provide in-depth details about the tree, when scanned. Just one nameboard sans the QR code (for a Mahilam tree) has been created on a trail basis, says Namachivayam.

Hands have gone up to take up various aspects of the nameboard-assigning and tree-map work.

Namachivayam discusses the distribution of labour, a labour of love: "One of the residents, V.S. Ganeshan has asked for the estimated cost of the project. He would then approach sponsors to fund the initiative. Another resident, Srinivasa Raghavan will be generating the QR codes that lead to information about the trees. On my part, I will identify the trees, get the plastic backup board of the required size, get the wires for tying the boards,



select proper websites with information on the trees provide these to Raghavan for linking the information with the QR codes. And of course, I will get the stickers made, each with the tree name and QR code."

Namachivayam sums it up: "It is a full-fledged project work with many activities, several participants; with residents taking ownership of their local park in a cooperative and participatory spirit."

Can this traffic congestion at Pallikaranai be avoided?



R RAVINDRAN

On 200-feet Pallavaram Thoraipakkam Radial Road, motorists rolling in from Pallavaram and seeking to head towards Medavakkam and Tambaram (via Tambaram Velachery Main Road) cannot take a right turn at Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospital junction in Pallikaranai.

Instead, the motorists have to continue the drive on the 2000-feet radial road for at least a kilometre and then take a U-turn and come back to the junction, take a left turn and

head towards Medavakkam, which results in heavy traffic jam on the 200-feet Pallavaram Thoraipakkam Radial Road during rush hour.

However, motorists coming from Thoraipakkam and heading towards Velachery have a right turn.

During rush hour, the U-turn rule could be relaxed, and right turn enabled for motorists coming from Pallavaram and heading towards Tambaram, to prevent piling up of vehicles.

PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN





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