

T. NAGAR

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



'TRAVEL' ON THESE MINI TRAINS

To celebrate World Heritage Day, Chennai Rail Museum in Villivakkam will play host to collectors and designers of scale-model trains and railroads from April 25 to 27. **P6**



PUTTING C&D WASTE IN ITS PLACE

Greater Chennai Corporation's new guidelines for managing construction and demolition waste comes into effect on April 21. Here are the salient features **P4**

'Mend Koyambedu Market Road'



RAMESH V.N.

Koyambedu Market Road is maintained in a manner that hardly acknowledges its significance. Being the "doorway" to the grains and ve-

getable markets, it is continually pounded by heavy vehicles.

During rains, the condition of the road is even more deplorable. These pictures following a downpour as moderate as the one experienced on April 16 are an illus-

tration. The plight of pedestrians can be gauged from these pictures. When beautification of the areas under the flyovers and metro stations are being initiated, one wonders how this essential issue is being left unaddressed.

An inundated Koyambedu Market Road



Koyambedu Market Road during the April 16 downpour.
PHOTO: VEDHAN M

Citizens group to meet on April 27

The Chennai Metropolitan House/Flat Owners' Welfare Association is conducting its 20th annual general body meeting April 27 at No: 986, Dr. Lakshmanasamy Salai, K.K.Nagar. Time: 3 p.m.

"This is a 20-year-old associa-

tion which takes up civic issues across the 200 Wards of the Greater Chennai Corporation. It has got 950 members," says P. Muthukrishnan, the association's general secretary.

For details, call 9444208121

A 'longing' on Langs Garden Road



Langs Garden Road in Pudupet has a safe beginning; and also ends without any "incident", its name fully intact no typos creeping it and making it a spectacle. Only midway through its journey, it is mauled, leaving it hoping -- nay, "longing" -- that vinyl signboard printing services have a proof reader in the ranks. In the nameboard displayed at the midway point, the printed material -- which obviously has eluded the notice of the Greater Chennai Corporation team -- has substituted "Longs" for "Langs". In fact, even in the accepted name, a grammatical propriety has been missed. It should be Lang's Garden Road in the place of the widely used and officially sanctioned Langs Garden Road. The image was taken on April 16, 2025.
PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

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Somasundaram playground in T. Nagar. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

CMDA gives a facelift to Somasundaram playground



Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority is redeveloping Greater Chennai Corporation's Somasundaram playground in T. Nagar. According to a CMDA official, the ground, spread across 4.95 acres, is being development at a cost of ₹10 crore.

As part of the work, the ground will get dedicated courts for basketball, badminton, volleyball and cricket; an indoor court for table tennis and a children's play area.

The work is nearing completion, says the official.

READERS WRITE

'Road relaying work yet to start at Kaveri Rangan Nagar'



MGR Street.
PHOTO: SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT

Navaneethammal Street, MGR Street and Duraiarasan Street at Kaveri Rangan Nagar are in a sorry state. We learnt from the Greater Chennai Corporation that work order to relay these roads was awarded to the contractor six months ago but the work has not started to this day.

N.S. Ramachandran, treasurer, Kaveri Rangan Nagar Narpani Mandram (a residents welfare association), Saligramam

You can be our volunteer-writer

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 postal address and contact number.



At Ashok Nagar library. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Additional space created at Ashok Nagar library

A 500 sq.ft. enclosure was inaugurated on April 11 at the State Government-run libraries at Pulla Avenue in Shenoy Nagar, N Block in Anna Nagar East, MMDA Colony in Arumbakkam, MKB Nagar, 11 the

Avenue at Ashok Nagar, and at Brindavan Nagar in Adhambakkam.

According to a library official, the additional space was created for the benefit of those aspiring to clear competitive exams.

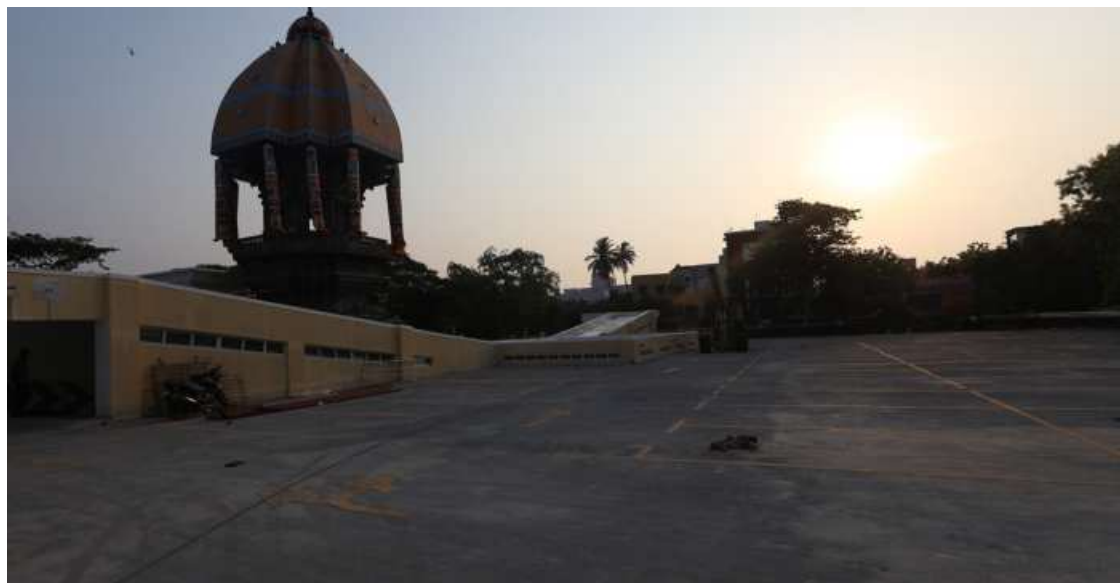
A new look



Beautification work in progress under flyover in Vadapalani on Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road. The images were taken on April 17. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

Valluvar Kottam renovation: *the final touches*

Completion of embellishments on the arches at the three entrances is said to be around a week away; with that, the renovation would be complete, say PWD sources



A glimpse into the renovation work on April 18, 2025. Photos: PRINCE FREDERICK

PRINCE FREDERICK

The wraps may not be off the Valluvar Kottam renovation yet, but the work has attained a level where the wraps cannot be kept clasped tight anymore.

The unveiling is not too far from the horizon; at the time of this writeup going to press, the work

seemed set to be almost wrapped up, the finishing touches being rendered to it.

On April 18, 2025, painting of the compound wall, the one lining Valluvar Kottam High Road, was under way. And work on an entrance being on, a part of the renovation was exposed for the public gaze.

With backlighting, there was atmosphere to the scene. From Vallu-

var Kottam High Road, one gains a glimpse into what appears to be an expansive parking area, neatly concreted and marked. The car parking area is said to be able to accommodate 168 cars.

According to PWD sources connected with the work, an elaborate assignment to embellish the three entrances to Valluvar Kottam – on the eastern, western and southern sides – is on the last leg. Stapati

works to beautify the three arches at the entrances are nearing completion. They should finish running the course in a week's time, say PWD sources.

On the inauguration of the renovated monument, sources note that the date is yet to be marked, and PWD is in touch with the Chief Minister's Office on this matter.

The public can expect some days to elapse before they can take

in the features of the renovation. Until then, they can probably hope for sneak peeks, from Valluvar Kottam High Road.

Here is an observation based on a glimpse from this road: the look of the compound wall has gone up several notches, particularly since Michaug when part of it had crashed along with the steel fencing that cordoned off the garden lining it.



Workshop on restoring stained glass windows

A workshop on conservation and restoration of stained glass windows will be conducted by Hepzibah Institute of Heritage Conservation and Research Academy from May 1 to 15 at St. George's Cathedral Church, Cathedral Road.

The workshop will comprise theory and practical lessons connected with stained glass windows. Subjects such as design and pattern creation, creating patterns, material selection and glass cutting techniques will be taught. Only 20 participants will be admitted for this free workshop, and selection will be on first come first serve basis; some preference will be given to those with a knowledge of heritage conservation. For details, WhatsApp 9381008253

Inviting nominations for Nursing Excellence Award

Ahead of International Nurses Day, observed on May 12 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, TwinTech Healthcare Academy invites nominations for the Nursing Excellence Award 2025.

This award seeks to recognise the dedication, compassion, and service of nursing professionals across government and private hospitals in Tamil Nadu who are at the forefront of patient care, said a release. To participate one should

not have received this award in any of the previous editions, should have a minimum of 10 years of continuous experience in direct patient care and must be currently employed in a hospital (government or private) in Tamil Nadu.

Nomination forms and other details can be downloaded from www.chennaitwintech.com Alternatively, to receive the nomination link, send a WhatsApp message to: +91 97104 85295

Free screening for Deep Brain Stimulation

Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation is organising a screening camp to check for eligibility for Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) on April 20; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Spoorthi Neuro and Spine Centre, 2nd Main Road, Kasturba Nagar, Adyar. This surgery is be-

neficial for people affected by Parkinson's Disorder.

The screening camp is free-of-cost, interested individuals should only WhatsApp 9600052531. Screening will be on appointment basis and registration is mandatory.

List of air-conditioned EMU trains

On Saturday, the Chennai Division of the Southern Railway introduced six air-conditioned electric trains between Chennai Beach and Chengalpattu and vice versa.

Here is a list of air-conditioned train services and their timings.

Trains No: 49001 and 49002 will be operated from Chennai Beach to Tambaram and vice-versa.

Train No: 49001 will leave Beach at 19.35 p.m., and arrive at Tambaram at 20.30 p.m.

Train No: 49002 will leave Tambaram at 05.45 a.m., and arrive at the Beach at 06.45 a.m..

The trains will stop at Chennai Fort, Chennai Park, Chennai Egmore, Chetpet, Nungambakkam, Kodambakkam, Mambalam, Saidapet, Guindy, St. Thomas Mount, Pazhavanthangal, Meenambakkam, Tirusulam, Pallavaram, Chromepet, and Tambaram Sanatorium.

Train No: 49003, Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu will leave at 7 a.m., and reach Chengalpattu at 08.35 a.m..

Train No: 49004, Chengalpat-



At an air-conditioned train.

PHOTO: M. SRINATH

tu-Chennai Beach, will depart at 9 a.m. and arrive at Chennai Beach at 10.30 a.m. Train No: 49005, Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu will leave at 15.45 p.m., and reach Chengalpattu at 17.25 p.m..

Train No: 49006, Chengalpattu - Chennai Beach will leave at 17.45 p.m., and reach Chennai Beach at 19.15 p.m. The trains will halt at Chennai Fort, Chennai Park, Chennai Egmore, Mambalam, Guindy, St. Thomas Mount, Tirusulam, Tambaram, Perungalathur, Guduvancherry, Potheri, Singaperumal Kovil, and Paranur.

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

Greater Chennai Corporation's new guidelines for managing construction and demolition waste comes into effect on April 21. Here are the salient features



C&D waste collection centres in GCC limits

- Zone 1** - Buckingham Canal Road, Sathangadu, Thiruvottiyur (Adjacent to lorry station, Zone-1)
- Zone 2** - Kamaraj Salai (Near zonal office)
- Zone 3** -CMDA Truck Terminal near Night Shelter (Behind Madhavaram Bus Terminus)
- Zone 4** -Kodungaiyur Dumping ground, Tondiarpet High Road (3rd gate)\
- Zone 5 and 6** -Part of old Cattle depot, Avadhanam Pappier Road, Choolai (opposite Corporation School)
- Zone 7** -Vanagaram Road, Athipet dumping yard
- Zone 8** -1st Main Road, Shenoy Nagar (Near Gajalakshmi Colony)
- Zone 9** -Lloyds Colony (Near Corporation ITI Institute)
- Zone 10** -Gurusiva Street, S.M Block, Jafferkanpet, Kodambakkam (near R-10 MGR Nagar Police Station)
- Zone 11** -Nolambur Phase II, 2nd main road (near Madhuravoyal Taluk office)
- Zone 12** -Nandambakkam TPF near Adyar river bund in Division 158
- Zone 13** -Arulampatti 2nd street (near SIDCO Electronics commercial complex)
- Zone 14** -200 Ft Radial Road, Perungudi Dumping Ground
- Zone 15** -Gangaiamman Kovil Street Extension, Karapakkam (near Tamil Nadu Teacher Education University)

Putting C&D waste in its place

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

From April 21, Greater Chennai Corporation will levy a fine of ₹ 5000 if one is found dumping construction and demolition waste on streets, pavements, drains, public spaces, vacant sites or any other unauthorised location.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste includes debris and rubble resulting from construction, re-modeling, repair and demolition operations. Steel, aluminium, wood and other components cur-

rently being salvaged for reuse or recycling are not included in this category.

GCC in its revised guidelines insists that “occupiers” generating small quantities of C&D waste during repair or minor renovation shall keep the waste within their own premises until collection by their own means or by GCC-authorized C&D waste transporters or empanelled vendors or lorry owners authorised by GCC to collect waste from door steps.

The occupiers can contact GCC's website for hiring services of

the C&D waste transporters or empanelled vendors or the authorised concessionaires and pay necessary collection and transportation charges to transporters and pay for processing fee, says the note.

What kind of a generator are you and where should you dump C&D waste?

Anyone generating less than 1 MT of waste generate from minor house repairs comes under the category of “micro generators”. This waste can be disposed of in earmarked dumping sites or one can call GCC's toll free number 1913 for

a pick-up.

Those generating C&D waste during building renovation, remodelling or repairing where the total weight is more than 1 MT and less than 20 MT per day comes under “Small Generators”. The two processing centres that will be taking such waste are at the dumpyards at Perungudi and Kodinguyur.

A receipt has to be obtained for disposal from the transport service provider or the gate office of the disposal site where C&D waste is disposed of by the micro generators.

Spotting an opportunity in the debris

LIFFY THOMAS

What becomes of the construction and demolition (C&D) waste dumped at the dumpyards in Perungudi and Kodungaiyur? They make a major source for C&D recycling companies, even for non-profits that are into constructing affordable houses.

In February 2024, Habitat for Humanity, a global non-profit organisation with an office at IIT-M Research Park, constructed a multi-purpose hall at a village school in Kancheepuram using C&D waste.

“We followed benchmarks and standards set by Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council of India. We used M-sand

along with C&D waste to make the concrete mix. The sand was first tested to make blocks out of it. Both the blocks and the concrete went into the construction of a multi-purpose hall within the school,” says Deepak Visvanathan, senior technical advisor, Habitat for Humanity.

The company builds affordable homes and works with start-ups to see how this engineering technology can be promoted to construct resource and energy-efficient buildings.

C&D waste for the hall was sourced from the Perungudi dumpyard. “We have partnered with Greater Chennai Corporation to explore other products that can be made with such waste,” says Visvanathan adding that they have also been conduct-

ing round tables to educate people about recycling C&D waste.

In various cities, experimental projects to rebuild homes for the underprivileged using construction debris and used materials have been taken up.

Surender Singh, associate professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras, says they have been working with government bodies to encourage use of different C&D waste fractions in road construction, especially for the upper pavement layers.

“Three to five layers are applied while constructing concrete roads in highways. In most cases, the contractor uses C&D waste for the lower layer, which we call non-structural application,” says the professor.

Earlier, the Bureau of Indian

Standards allowed the usage of C&D waste in construction by up to 25%.

“Our studies at IIT Madras show that even 100% recycled aggregates from waste concrete chunks could be used for constructing concrete roads without affecting their performance in a significant manner. Subsequently, they proposed to increase their usage limit to at least 50%; and roads constructed with such materials are sustainable,” he says.

Researchers from IIT-Madras (professors Manu Santhanam, Ravindra Gettu, and Surender Singh) are currently working on an international project sponsored by the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre to show how C&D waste can be

used in making roads on expressways and national highways. “The pilot study of this project will be implemented in Chennai and Ladakh. In Chennai, we plan to take up a test-section that is exposed to a lot of wear and tear due to the movement of vehicles,” says the professor.

Despite such initiatives contributing to a circular economy, recycling C&D waste is still not seen as a viable business opportunity.

Surender Singh says the cost of procuring construction waste is high. Deepak Visvanathan feels governments must offer more incentives to encourage private companies to find opportunities in this sector. “There must be some motivation for a real estate company to buy this waste,” says Visvanathan.



Local connections *matter in* sustainability

Greater Chennai Corporation's micro composting centre in Pudupet maintains a "cordial" relationship with its neighbours



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The micro composting centre at Veerabadran Street in Pudupet is on "amicable" terms with its neighbours and that is what keeps it going.

From the horse stables at the Mounted Police facility on nearby Adithanar Salai (also known as Harris Road), it receives horse dung, on an average, 200 kg every day. And its immediate neighbour, the Greater Chennai Corporation's cow shed (one meant for keeping impounded stray cattle) provides it with cow dung.

This Greater Chennai Corporation micro composting centre, run by the voluntary organisation Namma Ooru Foundation and reportedly established with CSR funding from IOCL Southern Pipes Region, successfully looks around its immediate surroundings for material to feed the machines ahead of the composting process.

P. Natarajan, founder of Namma Ooru Foundation, remarks that there is a profusion of tea shops, fresh fruit shops and fast food joints in this area, and the relevant refuse from these shops are taken in for composting.

"From 12 tea shops, we source tea powder waste. We get egg shells from the fast food shops and fruit waste from the fruit shops, coconut waste and sugarcane waste from vendors selling tender coconut and sugarcane juice – all from Harris Road and nearby areas."

With its thriving second-hand automobile spares market, this road bustles with movement of people and these shops thrive by catering to the floating population.

That is hardly an exhaustive list – there are other neighbours, only a



little removed in terms of geographical coordinates.

Natarajan notes that brown matter (garden waste) was being collected from WCC and DPI for two to three months; and as they are relatively further in distance, the switch was made to collecting the same from police quarters and police museum.

Green matter (vegetable waste) comes from a bunch of markets nearby: Pudupet market, Chinthathripet market, Zam bazaar market, Avai Shanmugam Salai market, Triplicane market and Fresh today supermarket.

Besides, apartments that want to manage their waste responsibly send their organic matter.

Natarajan says compost derived from various sources of organic matter is bound to have high nutrition.

He adds: "IIT Madras tests the compost produced at this micro composting centre and provides a report on the carbon nitrogen ratio and other nu-

tritions in the compost. The compost is being sold to various districts of Tamil Nadu, including Thanjavur, Dindugal, Madurai, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur."

A tour of the processes at the micro composting centre in Pudupet.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

'Travel' on these mini trains

To celebrate World Heritage Day, Chennai Rail Museum in Villivakkam will play host to collectors and designers of scale-model trains and railroads from April 25 to 27. On all three days, the event will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to some of the participants about this niche hobby

LIFFY THOMAS

An expensive hobby

For the first time, 72-year-old Sundaram Parthasarathi will be showcasing a running model of the Vande Bharat Express done to scale. An enthusiastic collector of train models, Sundaram is into this hobby for 35 years. Last year, he showcased the Chennai Metro Rail. A few years ago, Sterling Resorts commissioned a project, which he was on board; he partnered with another expert to design the Nilgiri Mountain Railway for one of their properties.

His railway exhibits are handmade. "I do not buy accessories such as signals and station buildings. I make them



myself," he says, adding that a few of the tracks are computerised.

His 20x10 feet, U-shaped room at his house in Abhira-

mapuram is his lab where he experiments with train scale models for hours.

During Navarathri, his train models are a showstopper. At

other times of the year, he welcomes schools to take a look at the railway exhibits.

A mechanical engineer by profession, Sundaram warmed up to the hobby during a visit to The United Kingdom.

"The company sent me to the U.K. in 1986 and that is when I seriously started collecting train models. During weekends, I used to buy second hand items," says Sundaram, who retired as special director from Ashok Leyland in 2013.

He agrees this is an "expensive hobby" but it is a special joy when you are in the company of 60 others (referring to the WhatsApp group with members spread across India and from a few other countries) exchanging notes on the finer aspects of this pursuit.

A lifetime pursuit



"Technical but interesting". That is how K.R.S. Ganesan describes the model that he will be showcasing while takes this reporter on a virtual tour of his Ashok Nagar house to show what he is currently working on. The hall has been converted into a work station. The control system is in another room. Many other enabling items required to complete the exhibit are parked in other rooms.

The fully automated layout on a HO scale is being designed using Train-Controller software. "It is a totally hands free operation with automatic control. All scheduling and stops are set," says Ganesan, a civil engineer. He explains visitors will be shown how a slow train is stopped at a loop line and then a fast train overtakes it.

Due to limited space, the train enthusiast will be arranging his exhibit in a 24x8 space at the venue.

Although fascinated with trains from a young age, it was just before retirement that he got started with the hobby. "I had eight engines and 200 feet track in 2013," says Ganesan, who retired as senior deputy general manager from L&T. Rolling stock like goods wagons and passenger coaches together added to more than 30 over the years.

"I am keen on designing operational layouts to show signals and time of start/stop functions and schedules using Train Controller software," he says.

In 2018, he completed a large layout in a hall of 40 x 15 incorporating several operational features using this software. Model railroading is an activity of constant improvement and learning. "A hobby that can last a lifetime," he adds.

On the right track

Seventy-year-old C.B. Malhotra, known as Shyam in this hobby circle, is undecided what he will be showcasing in the upcoming exhibition.

Last year was the first time Shyam took part in the Heritage Train Model Exhibition, though he is into this hobby for two decades.

"That sparkle in the eyes of children when they see our trains running is more satisfying than collecting models or running them," says the resident of George Town.

Shyam's love for train models started during his childhood. His father had the habit of getting him a gift after the final examination. "I would ask for a train," says Shyam.

Later, he saw a working model and the bug bit him. Shyam started the hobby in 1999 when he was in his 40s.

"When I got started on the hobby, I would go to second hand markets and that is where I came

across a few people and that bond grew," he says the hobby is addictive, often leading to spend continuous hours on it.

For parents trying to wean their children from gadgets, he offers wise counsel: "Make sure you provide your children with exposure to as many hobbies as possible," says the businessman, adding that a childhood hobby could be good company and a small source of income as well.

Full steam ahead



The shrill whistle, the fuming boilers and the billowing plumes of steam. Never mind if you and your generation have not seen steam locomotive engines, Mahendra Kumar (who is from a generation that has) can recreate them for you.

"My dad used to take me to railway stations just for me to watch the engines and during one such outing, I got to see a steam engine," recalls Mahendra, a HR manager.

His fascination for trains was further fuelled during annual visits to the Island Grounds where the trade fair was organised and Integral Coach Factory had a

stall where they would showcase running train models.

Many years later in 2018, a trip to Darjeeling reignited this fascination. Since then, Mahendra has been collecting scale models. Today "HO" "Double O" and "G" scale models top his collection followed by a small number of "N" scale models.

At the exhibition, the Anna Nagar resident will be showcasing his collection of steam-based locomotives and train buses.

A member of HO Scale Collectors Group, the HR professional, who also has a collection of automobile models, says invitation to the group is only through reference.



Inviting applications for 'Art for Hope'

Hyundai Motor India Foundation (HMIF), the CSR arm of Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL), has announced the fifth season of its flagship art initiative - 'Hyundai art for hope'. The programme has become a transformative platform for emerging artists, enabling creative expression and fostering inclusive cultural growth, said a release.

In this season, HMIF will support 50 talented artists and art collectives from across India with financial grants, professional mentorship, and a national stage to showcase their work. A total of 40 grants of ₹ 1 lakh each for individuals and teams, including persons with disabili-

ties, will be given. Another 10 grants of ₹ 2 lakh each for art collectives and institutions, said the release.

Over the past four seasons, 'Art for Hope' has directly benefited over 150 artistes with ₹ 1.65 crore in grants, and supported over 25,000 artists through workshops, exhibitions, and skill-building opportunities, said a release.

Artists can apply on hyundaiartforhope.com and submit their project nominations. Key details about the initiative can also be viewed on the website. Artists can reach out to contact@hyundaiartforhope.com for further information about this initiative.

Oratorical competition conducted for college students

Tamil Nadu Minorities Commission, Chennai District, conducted an oratorical competition for college students at New College in Royapettah. The event was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Minister for Dairy Development Raj Kannappan. Special Guests including the chairman of the State Minorities Commission Joe Arun; State Coordinators Constantine Ravindran and J. Hajakani; and New College principal M. Asrar Sheriff took part. A total of 79 students from various arts and science colleges, law colleges, and teacher training institutes in Chennai District participated. The event was organised by Sulaiman, professor at New College and Chennai District Coordinator. Winners will receive prizes from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at a grand ceremony to be held in June, said a release.

Chennai doctor in 'The Ophthalmologist Power List 2025'

Dr. Soosan Jacob, director and chief of Dr. Agarwal's Refractive and Cornea Foundation, has again earned a spot in 'The Ophthalmologist Power List 2025'.

She is one of the three Indians to find a spot in the list, an annual ranking that celebrates pioneers in the field of ophthalmology. The list represents excellence, dedication, and innovation in ophthalmology, said a release.

Published by The Ophthalmologist, one of the leading

and respected international journals in the field, the list honors experts who have made a significant impact on the field and earned recognition from peers worldwide.

She was included in the list in the years 2021, 2022, and 2024.

Dr. Soosan Jacob has over 25 years of experience, specialising in refractive surgery, cutting-edge keratoconus management, advanced corneal transplantations, glaucoma, and complex cataracts, added the release.



Research projects on display

Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science hosted its "Navayantra Research Expo 2025." According to a press release, close to 100 research projects from 11 research centres were on display.

The Dr. T.A. Lourdasamy Innovation Award for the best senior researcher was presented to J. Janiel for the project titled "Cancer Drug Response Prediction through Machine Learning using Genomic - Drug & Environmental Variables Data - A Combined Approach through Remote

Sensing" with a cash prize of ₹30,000. And, the Dr. T.A. Lourdasamy Innovation Award for best junior researcher was shared by Vasudevan S for "Early Classification and Detection Diagnosis of Cancer" and Surya Kumar M for "Assessment of Ethanol's Sustainability as an Additive in Aviation Gasoline" with a combined cash prize of ₹20,000.

P.P. Mathur, former Vice Chancellor of KIIT University and Birla Gopal University was the chief guest, adds the release.

A vending zone with a history



It is called "cotton street". That might be a misnomer, as a diversity of fabrics are paraded on the street. Cotton clothes however dominate the collection.

Pantheon First Lane in Egmore is a Greater Chennai Corporation-designated vending zone. It has 63 shops. According to a vendor on this street, each shop has a dimension of 5 x 5 feet; some shops combine two blocks of this dimension Cotton Street lends itself to budget shopping.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



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Garbage bins close to a school's entrance



Greater Chennai Corporation's waste bins near a school that is located at the junction of Mc Nichols Road and Nowroji Road East End in Chetpet. Passers-by also complained of the sorry state of the footpath along the school's compound wall. The image was taken on April 17. PHOTO: RAGU R

Iyyapanthangal RWA conducts cultural festival



Ashok Brindavan Nagar & Dhanalakshmi Nagar Residents Welfare Association in Iyyapanthangal organised a cultural festival recently.

According to a press release, 500 residents including 100 children took part in it. The event was marked by games, sports and music and dance

shows.

"The event seek to forge community bonds among residents. Besides, games were conducted for women. There were exclusive events for senior citizens too," says Association's president S. Jayaseelan.

MSME Minister T.M. Anbarasan was the chief guest.

Culinary workshop

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is conducting a culinary workshop on making sundried ready-to-fry snacks on April 24. According to a press release, the items will be made from chillies, potatoes, berries, and a few more. Another workshop on making soaps will be held on April 25. The session will focus on soaps made from extracts of herbs and fruits.



Both the sessions will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 29530048

Medical equipment donated

Rotary Club of Madras T. Nagar donated medical equipment worth ₹1.27 crore to Voluntary Health Services, Taramani.

According to a press release, the instruments include anaesthesia workstation and patient monitor for the neurosurgery department; cell counter and blood transfusion support for children with Thalassemia to Thalassemia Transfusion Centre Department and microscope with binocular optics and digital imaging system to the ophthalmology department.



Graduation day

Meenakshi College of Engineering, K. K. Nagar, combined its 18th and 19th graduation days and held the ceremony recently.

The ceremony was held at the Anna Centenary Library Auditorium, Kotturpuram.

The principal, S. Anandakumar, presented the graduation report, which highlighted the institution's achievements and milestones over the past few years.

P. B. Kotur, global head of the Global Engineering Academy at L&T Technology Services and a renowned TEDx speaker, delivered an inspiring speech to the graduates.

He emphasised innovation, adaptability, and the importance of lifelong learning in today's fast-evolving world.

Besides, he distributed certificates to the graduates.

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