

ANNA NAGAR

Purasawalkam » Villivakkam » Kolathur » Nazarathpettai » Pattabiram » Maduravoyal » Koyambedu » Tiruverkadu » Puzhal » Kilpauk » Perambur » Mogappair

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LITTLE KRISHNAS AND RADHAS DAZZLE THE AUDIENCE

The annual event organised by *The Hindu Downtown* enjoyed a good response with 700 children taking part in it **P3**



VALIDATION FOR THIS GATED COMMUNITY'S GOVERNANCE MODEL

How Orchid Springs in Kolathur follows a federal model of community governance **P6**

Short stay home for transgenders coming up in Anna Nagar

A similar facility is already functioning at McNichols Road in Chetpet



The space in Chetpet is managed by NGO Thozhi

of transwomen, will oversee the new facility. Currently, a shelter for transgenders is functioning at McNicholas Road in Chetpet, near the Chetpet railway station.

"This facility was established in 2018 as a central government project and run with the support of GCC. NGOs like us were roped in to take care of the place," says Philothama M, coordinator of centre in Chetpet.

The place has the capacity to accommodate 25 people and on an average, they stay for a year. "Any transperson coming to the city to appear for an exam, those rejected by their families and those facing health issues due to change of gender can avail this space," says Philothama.

While the Corporation arranges for dinner and snacks, Thozhi provides the residents with breakfast. "One year is too short a period to see a change in the life of a transgender, so we are not so rigid that they vacate the place in a year," says Philothama.

The new shelter proposed by the State Government is go by the name 'Aran' and will be a short stay home, says Philothama.

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Anna Nagar will soon offer transgender persons a safe and secure place to stay, a facility fashioned along the lines of the State-run Thozhi working women's hostel.

This initiative is aimed at helping members of the community who come to the city in search of a job,

education, seeking identity card or for surgery.

Greater Chennai Corporation has initiated the ground work for establishing such a facility in Zone VIII (Anna Nagar). A resolution regarding this was passed recently by the Corporation Council. It also announced that Thozhi, a community-based organisation working towards health, education, empowerment and employment

READERS WRITE

Traffic knots at key junction in Ambattur

The junction of North Park Street and Kallikuppam Road in Ambattur witnesses chaotic traffic. With Ambattur railway station and market in the vicinity, these two roads are pummelled by heavy traffic. The junction should therefore be treated as an accident-prone zone and appropriate safety measures put in place.

Pedestrian safety is hugely compromised on these two roads.

K. V. Saikrishna
Ambattur



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‘Car parking lot is poorly maintained’

The car parking lot at Chennai Central railway station is poorly maintained. It has an earthen floor, and is prone to water stagnation during rains.

D. Suresh,
Thirumullaivoyal

**‘Choking traffic witnessed near Thirumangalam metro station’**

Traffic near the main entrance of Thirumangalam metro rail station on Second Avenue in Anna Nagar (on the side of the road where traffic moves from Anna Nagar roundabout to Thirumangalam) is chaotic, especially during evening rush hour on weekdays.

This situation prevails largely due to share autos being parked in front of the railway station. MTC buses are unable to halt at a bus stop for the same reason.

S. Sankaranarayanan
Anna Nagar

‘Install makeshift shelters where they are needed’

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority’s ongoing renovation work has divested Avadi bus terminus on CTH Road of some shelters. The existing shelters do not serve the purpose as buses do not hit that section. Metropolitan Transport Corporation should make sure makeshift shelters are provided at the section of the terminus where they are missed.

T. Sadagopan,
president, Tamil Nadu
Progressive Consumer
Centre, a citizens
group based in Avadi

**‘Provide lift at platform two of Villivakkam railway station’**

At Villivakkam railway station, platform two, which handles suburban trains from Arakkonam to Chennai Central lacks a lift unlike platform one (for trains from Chennai Cen-

tral to Arakkonam). Given both platforms serve the same number of commuters, it is odd that one of them is not equipped with a lift.

M. Senthil, Villivakkam

**‘An apology for a footpath at Periyar Nagar’**

Having gathered moss, the footpath near the Sub-Post Office on Balasubramaniam Salai in Periyar Nagar is slippery. Besides, it is broken and uneven. A long piece of concrete rod lies in the middle of the footpath. Pedestrians should also be wary of cables.

‘Give lane in Villivakkam a nameboard’

For decades, Damodhara Perumal Colony Second Lane in Villivakkam has managed without a nameboard, its residents bearing with the challenge of directing visitors to their doorsteps. But with Greater

Chennai Corporation installing new nameboards across the city under Singara Chennai Scheme, why should this lane be denied one anymore?

D. Ganesan, Villivakkam



Little Krishnas and Radhas dazzle the audience

The annual event organised by *The Hindu Downtown* enjoyed a good response with 700 children taking part in it



Close to 700 children participated in 'Maya Kannan' - Janmashtami Contest 2025 organised by *The Hindu Downtown* for children in the age group of three to eight years, in keeping with the festive spirit of the season. Sixty-six winners from across the five zones of *Downtown* (Adyar, Anna Nagar, My-



A dance performance and the audience at Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women.

lapore, T. Nagar and Tambaram) were felicitated on August 24 at an event held at Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women in Anna Nagar.

The contest had a good res-

ponse with participants asked to dress up as Krishna or Radha and perform a dance or sing or recite slokas in praise of the Lord. The children showed impressive invol-

ANNA NAGAR ZONE WINNERS

Himansh



Rashmikka .S



U.S. Janani

uphold time-honoured traditions.

There was an excellent Barathanatyam group performance by the students of Shri Krishnaswamy Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Anna Nagar. The winners were felicitated by Y.V. Niranjan Krishna from Gopuram products, T. Manimalai, principal of Shri Krishnaswamy Matriculation Higher secondary school and other special guests.

The title partner for the event was Gopuram Turmeric Powder and Kumkum; the food partner was Madras Coffee House, and the venue partner was Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women, Anna Nagar; Water Partner was Repute Water; the Tech Partner was Hilap-top.com. Gift Sponsors were DIFA, Lalwani, Medimix, My Resale Plot.com, Naga, P S Tamarind, RAS Chekku Oil and Vivekanandha Sarees.

An outreach programme to save Captain Cotton Canal

An awareness rally by students of Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth College for Women in Perambur sent out a message to the community

The Departments of Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry at Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth College for Women organised an awareness programme focused on urban cleanliness and ecological restoration. The initiative included a rally and human chain formation along St. Mary's Road, concluding at the historically significant yet environmentally threatened Captain Cotton Canal in Vyasarpadi.

Designed to educate the public on the environmental and health hazards caused by indiscriminate waste disposal, illegal sewage discharge, and the choking of water channels with plastic waste and water hyacinth, students held placards, banners, and posters highlighting the urgent need for respon-



sible waste management and preservation of water bodies, said a release.

The Captain Cotton Canal, named after Sir Arthur Thomas Cotton, a pioneering British irrigation engineer known for transforming South India's agricultural landscape through major irrigation projects, was originally part of Chennai's micro-drainage system. Once a functional stormwater outlet protecting localities like Erukancheri, MKB Nagar, and Vyasarpadi from urban flooding, the canal today suffers from decades of neglect. Clogged with garbage and illegal sewage, the canal is a risk to

public health, local biodiversity, and urban resilience, said the release.

The programme further strengthened the college's alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by addressing several key environmental priorities. It promoted awareness about water pollution and sanitation, Clean Water and Sanitation. Students expressed a strong desire to continue the momentum with future outreach efforts, including street theatre, clean-up campaigns, and collaboration with civic bodies, added the release.

Entries invited for Made of Chennai photography contest



traditions and everyday moments of joy.

The last date to send in entries is September 13, 2025.

The Hindu Made of Chennai is presented by Casagrand and powered by SRM; the initiative is held in association with Union Bank of India. The contest is supported by Tata Tea Chakra Gold and Tata Coffee as Associate Partners, while Big FM, Fever FM and Radio One are on board as Radio Partners. Madras Photo Bloggers are the Expert Partner for the contest.

Participants can register by scanning the QR code. The top 50 winners will be rewarded.

The *Hindu* has announced the launch of *The Hindu* Made of Chennai Photography Contest 2025, inviting shutterbugs to capture the city's festive spirit through their lens. With the theme "Celebrations of Chennai", the contest encourages participants to showcase how the city comes alive in its streets,



PRINCE FREDERICK

Walks decoding neighbourhoods have a thick cladding of facts, usually ferreted out of yellowing documents. Emotions come into play only as the accompanist, never the guitar-strumming, crooning frontman. Facts and feelings meet without getting entwined. A walk titled “Chetpet” takes a detour from this standard format, having almost every fact infused with emotion. Designed as a community-led walk, that infusion is not just acceptable, but desirable.

Authored by Yein Udaan, a non-profit in the education sector, this walk is still softly trodden, being just two outings old. In October 2024 and for Women’s Day in 2025, the walk was conducted in collaboration with Madras Inherited, which seeks to preserve and celebrate the heritage of the city.

Ashmitha Athreya, lead storyteller and head of operations at Madras Inherited, observes that her organisation imparted to the Yein Udaan team, largely composed of members from an “invisible” part of Chetpet, an understanding of what makes a walk stick in the head long after the shuffle of curious feet had died down; how to delineate the route and integrate storytelling into it. “This is structured as a cultural walk. Community history is central to it. It is a sharing of stories about the community,” Ashmitha explains.

Last week, a diluted version of “Chetpet” was organised off the cuff for *The Hindu Downtown*. It was led by those who derive their identity from this Chetpet, which lies on the northern side of McNichols Road. Symbolically, on the leeward side, if one is aware that on the opposite side lies the upscale Harrington Road with its grid of car-lined avenues and a scatter of educational institutions whose uniform, parents would give their right arm for their children to wear.

On this side, invite yourself to Jaganathapuram, Brindavanam, Mangalapuram and MS Nagar, low-income neighbourhoods with a majority of homes battling poverty on an everyday basis, measuring success by how well they scraped through the long day. The average monthly income of the households here falls in the range of ₹4,000 to ₹8,000, remarks Vedika Agarwal, founder of Yein Udaan, which runs three after-school learning spaces for children in the community with a kindergarten unit thrown into the mix. Vedika adds that in a significant number of homes, the men fritter away the family’s earnings on alcohol, and some of these men also shirk work, placing finances under further stress. Domestic violence is rife. And back home from school, children are faced with an unsafe and unconducive environment for studies, Vedika elaborates. This side of Chetpet is



served by three Corporation schools and one government school, a majority of them not heard beyond these neighbourhoods.

The wider world has little interest in this lacklustre piece of Chetpet. And it stays largely in oblivion. This section draws outside eyes for its Dhobikhana, the second oldest in the country having been established in 1902 as the “Madras Municipal Dhobykhana”, its foundation stone laid on December 8 that year by Colonel Sir George Moore. Even this attention is short-spanned and seasonal, usually unfurled around Madras Day, and with the shifting of the news cycle, this Chetpet gets buried again deep in a mass grave of headlines.

In addition to this walk, a documentary-film *Chetpet* by Yein Udaan is an attempt at presenting this Chetpet with its suppurating wounds, as also the efforts to apply balm to them through education.

Four of the guides on this rustled-up walk (E. Karthikeyan, R. Madhesh, M. Rahul and D. Vennila) are residents of Chetpet from the cradle. Madhesh and Rahul – who have entered collegiate education – have benefitted from Yein Udaan’s after-school learning programme. Another beneficiary, Karthikeyan is older and wiser to the ways of the world, and his banter along the way includes working as a Home Guard in Chennai and regular employment with a residential construction major. In their spare time, the three youngsters serve

Spotlight on an invisible landscape

A community-led walk fashioned by Yein Udaan with the help of Madras Inherited seeks to capture the spirit and aspirations of the people in a portion of Chetpet that is unknown to the wider world, except for its historic Dhobikhana



(Clockwise from top left) a 2012-dated file photo of the Dhobikhana in Chetpet; the Yein Udaan team on the recent walk; the walk in October 2024; and the one for women’s day in 2025; the old typewriting institute. PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN, PRINCE FREDERICK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

Yein Udaan as volunteers. Vennila is employed at the non-profit as social worker for the last three years.

And the fifth one is Vedika Agarwal. The Yein Udaan founder is an outsider holding a “green card” in this Chetpet by virtue of her work, one that brings a rare empathy to its children. Given her privileged background, Vedika’s decision to carve out a career in this urban slum with social fractures has left people in her circle and outside surprised as well as impressed. Her work rooted in what comes across as a deep care for the children of this area (watch her TED talk at KC High in 2023 on YouTube), insid-

ers instinctively treat her as their own. She is ‘Vedika miss’ not only to the nearly 350 children currently at the three after-school learning centres, but also to their parents and grandparents. Due to Vedika’s popularity in these neighbourhoods, the walk moves in fits and starts, much like a drive in rush-hour traffic on nearby Sterling Road and McNichols Road, being interrupted by exchange of pleasantries.

Vedika points to what are line houses where optimisation of space is at play. Part of a row-house format or not, most houses across the four neighbourhoods are matchbox-sized: from the outside,

The wider world has little interest for this part of Chetpet. And it stays largely in oblivion. This section draws outside eyes for its Dhobikhana, the second oldest in the country having been established in 1902 as the “Madras Municipal Dhobykhana”, its foundation stone laid on December 8 that year by Colonel Sir George Moore. Even this attention is short-spanned and seasonal, usually unfurled around Madras Day, and with the shifting of the news cycle, this Chetpet gets buried again deep in a mass grave of headlines

those in the traditional laundering business to conduct it.

Vennila reveals that during the two walks, a nonagenarian-lady familiar with the Dhobikhana dwelt on the daily grind of the families that depend on it for sustenance. Entire families are engaged in this work, the children pitching in before they leave for school and after they return home. Vennila notes that those working in the Dhobikhana constitute just one segment of residents. Among the rest of the populace, a majority work as daily wagers.

Another stop is an Yein Udaan learning centre, located on the first floor of a building and it has been taken on rent. Vedika volunteers information about the space: previously, a school (Lourde Nursery) functioned for over two decades up till the pandemic struck, which proved its death blow. The pandemic led to changes in topography, Vedika goes on, pointing to slightly bigger houses, some of them compact apartments. Rendered jobless due to the fallout of the pandemic, some residents sold their properties. Vennila notes the presence of an old typewriting institute – Chetpet Typewriting Institute, said to be five decades old – provides a sense of continuity.

At the afore-mentioned first-floor learning centre, children have their noses buried in books. But a break is round that corner, when those same noses would be buried in plates of snacks. Vedika remarks these are healthy eats made at homes of Yein Udaan staff, taking turns. Twenty-four out of 28 staffers are from the community. The payment they receive for making these eats augments their income; and resources are ploughed back into the community. It is a practice of circular economy, she adds.

What follows is a brief stop at Ambedkar Playground which sports a football turf; and some of the children from the after-school learning programme, including girls, are being coached by members of a non-profit, Life Is A Ball, that uses sports, particularly football for empowerment. Vennila remarks that decades ago, this Chetpet would have a regular taste of gangster violence, recalling an incident she witnessed as a seven-year-old from behind the half-open doors of her house. Thirty-seven now, she observes the area is a far cry from that reality, being peaceful. “Decades ago, residents seeking to keep youngsters from falling into bad influences would organise kabbadi tournaments,” she shares.

one can see how cramped the space inside would be. In dysfunctional households, such living spaces disperse tensions between father and mother instantly to the children. Vedika and her team take it upon themselves to engage with such families in the interest of the children’s studies and holistic development. And that often means having tough conversations.

In Jaganathapuram, one has a glimpse of the Dhobikhana. With one phase under renovation, the entire Dhobikhana has come under a veil and is now off-limits. The renovation extends beyond the workspace to include living quarters. Vennila notes some of the families have moved out temporarily, and some others are staying on, having found rental accommodation elsewhere within the locality. She adds that in another part of the locality, what was a market (loosely called “fish market”) was pulled down to raise a facility for

The walk ends where it began at the Yein Udaan learning centre on McNichols Road, a facility whose exterior with its brick design leaves one in no doubt about its former life. It was the Chetpet police station before the personnel moved to a well-appointed facility on Mayor Ramanathan Salai. The old building functions as an Yein Udaan learning centre.

ILLUSTRATION:
SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

Apartments have to get their 'Act' together

LIFFY THOMAS

A year since Tamil Nadu Apartment Ownership Rules 2024 prepared by the Housing and Urban Development Department came into effect, many apartment complexes in Chennai are yet to complete the process involving registration or renewal of association status.

Tamil Nadu Gazette dated September 24, 2024 requires owners of units in an apartment (starting from four-flat apartments to massive multiple-tower societies) to submit "Form-A" towards initial registration. It wants apartments with multiple blocks/towers in a compound to form a federation, and make bye-laws. Irrespective of the size the apartment, flat owners are required to appoint an auditor, submit audited accounts and balance sheets.

The Act provides an impetus to redevelopment projects, allowing owners to demolish a building if there is consensus

from two-third of apartment owners. Likewise, it empowers the association to take action against residents erring to pay their maintenance bills. There are many features in favour of owners, but communities *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to note the process is being delayed due to challenges in the system. Some communities cite lack of awareness and many are said to be buying time.

Most resident associations were previously registered under Societies Act. Now they have to migrate to Tamil Nadu Apartment Act and begin by completing requirements in "Form A".

Ragamalika Apartments in Mandaveli, a registered association, is finding it difficult to renew its registration as per the new Act. While the Act is clear, they are unsure where and how to process it and whether any acknowledgement will be provided. Apartments with less than 15 units say too much documentation discourages them from getting the association registered.

Real estate consultants say they are getting more inquiries from owners of buildings seeking to take up redevelopment in helping register the association, as also those looking for help in drafting bye-laws.

Ongoing projects

Six years ago, House of Hiranandani in Egattur formed a registered body involving nine towers. Now the gated community has 14 towers and more are under different stages of construction. The Act requires them to form a federation but as the developer is still working on projects, the current association has time in hand.

On the need for a federation, Raghavan Murti, an active member of the gated community, says, when the builder leaves the scene, there are roads, club house and other common amenities that have to be maintained. "We need a common body when dispute arises or to negotiate issues between associations, so a federation has to take shape sometime," he says.

Validation for this gated community's governance model

From the get-go, a gated community in Kolathur – Orchid Springs – has been following "a federal model of community governance". That has made the gated community ready for the Tamil Nadu Apartment Ownership Rules 2024 nine years in advance. One of its requirements is that communities with multiple towers and blocks have an association for each of the blocks/towers and an overarching federation over them.

According to Ganapathy Suresh, founding president, Orchid Springs All Owners Association, the community has been following this model since residents started moving in to the community from 2015 onwards. This is indeed impressive when set against a backdrop where similar gated communities are still only chewing the cud over this stipulation, now almost a year old.

Under this model, each block has their own president, secretary and treasurer and maintenance fee is handled by the respective association.

An amount required for the upkeep of common amenities is paid to the Federation, which is like an apex body that is represented by three members from each block.

Orchid Springs has more than 2000 flats spread across eight blocks.

"In such a decentralised approach, there is better accountability, transparency and a low probability of pilferage," says Ganapathy, adding that every association keeps account of their money.

This system works well for tenants as well. "The flats in ev-

ery block are of different sizes, ranging from 600 sq.ft. to 5,000 sq.ft, and the financial status of every resident would be different. So maintenance is charged based on the size of the flat and the amenity one is availing," says Ganapathy. He had advocated a similar system at Gokulam Flats in Nollambur, which has 4,500 flats and 17 associations, before he moved into this community in Kolathur.

The decentralised approach also ensures there are more of office bearers in the Federation who should have more say in matters concerning residents.

In such a decentralised approach, there is better accountability, transparency and a low probability of pilferage

He says the Act empowers owners to take legal action against residents erring in paying their maintenance bills.

The gated community is still working on completing the process towards registration that the Tamil Nadu Apartment Owners Act mandates. Three blocks have submitted Form A (an important step in the registration process).

Once all the eight blocks get their Form A done, the next step would be to apply for Form B.

"All apartments must follow this seriously otherwise the State Government has the power to disqualify the old association or freeze accounts," says Ganapathy, adding that the new Act gives more power to residents associations.





File photo of city students executing an art project

Mind matters

LIFFY THOMAS

Through free mental health awareness workshops in colleges and a helpline number, Dhruti Charitable Trust is reaching out to youngsters facing stress and depression

A student of a city-based arts and science college recently approached a counsellor seeking help to deal with distress resulting from body shaming. Bullied on the campus, the hosteller was skipping classes and isolating herself.

While a majority of colleges have an in-house counsellor, it would help to offer them the op-

tion of a helpline number.

Thiruvanniyur-based Dhruti Charitable Trust, registered in 2024 as a non-profit, is alive to the need for both. It conducts free mental health workshops in colleges and also offers a helpline number which promises access to professional counsellors virtually and the comfort of confidentiality.

The idea to offer mental health support to youngsters came to Ramji Venkatachari, a non-resident Indian and founder of the Trust, when he spent a semester as researcher with a cohort of 50 students of B.Sc Rural Agriculture of Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research. The students lived in a village and visited agri establishments as part of the programme.

"Some of the behaviours of these students puzzled me. A few would just cry for no reason. Boys would deal with their frustration with a touch of aggression," says Ramji. Later, surveys conducted among colleges convinced the tech entrepreneur that there was a need

for mental health services for college students. "I am an alumnus of Bharat University, I left for the United States to pursue my Ph.D in the 1990s. Now that I am winding down and coming to settle down in Chennai, this is also a way of giving back to society," says 58-year-old Ramji.

Engaging with colleges

The Trust is currently engaged with 30 city colleges (both arts and science and engineering). "We are booked for 50 sessions between August and September," says Ramji, adding that professional counsellors conduct interactive sessions that go on for well over an hour.

Besides giving colleges access to a dedicated helpline number, the team is working on setting up peer support groups in institutes.

"We are going to select five to six students, mentor them to conduct these mental well-being sessions in their own colleges and function like a club. We will be starting this in five colleges as a pilot model this year before we expand. The groundwork for this has already begun at Asan Memorial College and Bharat University," he says.

For more details, visit <https://dhrutitrust.org>

Police regulate fish market in Chintadripet



Following a photo feature in these pages about the traffic congestion created by the rush at the fish on Arunachalam Street in Chintadripet, the traffic police have started to regulate the stretch between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. The rush usually lasts till 11 a.m. *The Hindu Downtown* reported that despite the opening of the new fish market in the locality, many vendors continued to stay put at the old market, resulting in traffic bottlenecks. Residents wanted vehicles ferrying fish not to be parked on this busy road. This image was taken on August 30 around 10 a.m. PHOTO: R. RAGU

Solo dance and music performances at Kalakshetra

Rukminidevi Natyakshetra Foundation celebrates 'Aananda 2025', an exploration of young artistes in Carnatic vocal and Bharatanatyam, on September 5 at Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra, Thiruvanniyur.

At Aananda 2025, students who have been dedicated to their art for more than a decade are given the opportunity to present solo performances. Through these presentations, they not only celebrate their own journey but also inspire the fellow students to pursue arts with equal passion and commitment.

Performers are Shreya Ravikumar (Carnatic Vocal) and R. K. Raghaviraj (Bharatanatyam).

Yoga classes

Mogappair Panneer Nager Manavalakalai Trust is conducting its monthly Yoga foundation course from Sep 01 to 14 at seetha kathi salai 4th Cross St, Near Velammal Matriculation School, Mogappair. For details Call 9840861519/ 9444418241

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CPCL donates tricycle

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited has donated a tricycle to a partially differently-abled rag-picker, Annaparvathy, a resident of Nathampedu village in Thiruvallur district. According to a press release, the donation is part of CPCL's 15-day cleanliness drive called Swachhata Pakhwada. Aged 48, Annaparvathy (alias Pavithra) has spent over two decades in the informal waste management sector. She limps and goes from door to door collects recyclable waste and sells them to the recyclers. Now, the tricycle has helped to increase the scale of her operations – reaching more households and recycling larger volumes of waste, adds the release.



Engineering college distributes scholarships



Meenakshi College of Engineering, K.K. Nagar (West), recently conducted induction day for the first-year students of B.E., B.Tech., B.Arch., MBA, and MCA programmes.

G. Ra. Gokul, college chairman, motivated the students to make the best use of opportunities, emphasising the importance of discipline, innovation, and holistic development.

The event also included introductions to academic regulations, student support systems, and co-curricular activities, said a release.

Scholarships worth ₹75 lakhs were distributed to more than 100 first-year students of the above-mentioned academic programmes in the name of founder-trustees A. N. Radhakrishnan Scholarship (for boys) and Meenakshi Ammal Scholarship (for girls).

Other dignitaries who took part in the event are N. Rengarajan, executive director; and Charles Godwin; and Ganesh Venkatraman, principal.

Prior registration is mandatory. For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280.

Training session on media drone operations

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - Tamil Nadu, is conducting a training programme on “media drone operations” from September 9 to 11 at its premises at EDII Office Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate in Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session will focus on drone cinematography techniques, flight regulations and safety under Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Knowledge and skills in media drone operations will help one find opportunities in the following sectors: news and media, film, tourism and hospitality, advertising and marketing, and also in government departments relating to fire and rescue operations, and police and military surveillance.

Those aged 18 years and above with a minimum qualification of class 10 are eligible to apply. Certificates will be issued upon completion of the course. Hostel facility is available for both men and women on a first-come, first-served basis.

Prior registration is mandatory. For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280.

Training on entrepreneurship in solar energy sector

The centre is also conducting a nine-day training programme on entrepreneurship in solar energy



sector from September 8 to 16 at its premises on EDII Office Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session will focus on the basics of solar energy, solar rooftop venture, solar photovoltaic system and its components, market survey, developing a business plan for a solar roof top venture, finance, legal compliance and marketing.

The programme also focuses on personality skills required of an entrepreneur. This part of the session would cover communication, team building, and leadership skills.

Those above 18 years of age and who have completed class 10 can apply.

Hostel facility is available but based on first come, first serve basis.

Last date for registration in September 5.

For details, call 8668102600 / 7010143022.

Onam extravaganza at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, East Mada Street, Mylapore, is celebrating Onam with a five-day festival titled Bhavan's “Pon Onam” from September 1 at its Chennai Kendra auditorium.

From captivating Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Chakyarkooth, Thiruvathira dance, Kerala Nadanam, Tholpavakooth, Veeranadanam, Chenda Melam, Sopana Sangeetham to theatre and colourful displays of folk traditions, the celebrations will bring to life Kerala's rich cultural heritage, featuring traditional art forms performed by talented artists from the state, says a press release.

Bhavan's celebration of “Pon Onam” is a heartfelt effort to make every Keralite feel at home, rekindle cherished memories and relive the vibrant spirit of Kerala's beloved festival, the release adds.

The added attraction of the festival will be serving authentic Kerala Onam delicacies every evening free of cost. Admission to the programme is free.

Home appliance brand opens a new showroom



Darling, a leading home appliances stores in Tamil Nadu, has opened its 163rd showroom on Rajaji Street in the Tambaram (West) region.

S. R. Raja, MLA, Tambaram Assembly Constituency, and K. Vasantha Kumari, Mayor, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, inaugurated the showroom.

Spanning 25,000 square feet, the store offers a diverse range of appliances, including television sets, refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, and mobile phones, said a release.

To celebrate the store's opening, discounts are offered on television set, refrigerator, washing machine and air conditioner.

At the opening ceremony, several new products were launched, including Haier's 100-inch TV, Samsung's 25 kg washing machine, and V-Guard's new water heater and fan.

A unique cooling room where customers can test an air conditioner's performance before making a purchase can be experienced, the release added.

Workshop on hospital compliance

Sha (Med) Compliance and Services Private Limited is organising a one-day workshop on ‘Hospital Compliance’ on September 6 at Teach auditorium, Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu, Taramani. Hospitals from across the State, retired government officials from the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Tamil Nadu Police, and the Greater Chennai Corporation, are participating, said a release.

Dr. H. V. Hande, former Health Minister of Tamil Nadu, will inaugurate the ‘Hospital License and Compliance Software’. Dr. Hande will be bestowed with the ‘Beeshma of Healthcare Services’ award by TAMILISAI Soundararajan, former Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. Registration is free but mandatory. Contact 7305368552. Email id: shashospitallicense@gmail.com

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