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REMEMBERING AN EXTRAORDINARY TEACHER

Old students of 1973 batch of commerce organised a condolence meeting to pay tribute to former principal of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College **P2**



DRIVING IT 'SAFE'

With public charging infrastructure in Chennai failing to keep pace with manufacture and sale of electric autorickshaws, drivers are plagued by 'range anxiety' and forced to settle for lower daily earnings **P4**

READERS WRITE

'RA Puram 4th Main Road needs speed breakers'



K. RAMAMURTHI



The wornout rubber-plastic speed breakers on the stretch from IOC Officers Quarters to Greenways Road were removed by authorities two months ago, but steps are yet to be taken to have a replacement in place.

RA Puram 4th Main Road is laid in concrete and this serves as a "race track" for motorists. The other day a motorcyclist heading towards Greenways Road at a high speed knocked down a woman few blocks away from IOC Officers Quarters. The woman was lucky to have survived the accident with just an injury to her arm.

Authorities can think of installing five-step durable speed bumps as per Indian Road Congress standards on this stretch of RA Puram 4th Main Road.

Other concerns

Subsequent to traffic diversion through CP Ramaswami Road (RA Puram 3rd Cross Road) due to Metro Rail work in RK Mutt Road, absence of traffic regulation and speed control measures on RA Puram main roads abutting Sangeetha Hotel pose a significant threat to the safety of people in the neighbourhood.

The speed breakers opposite Sangeetha Restaurant that were laid recently hardly serve their purpose. They are speed gliders rather than speed breakers.

The railings recently installed near Bill-

roth Hospital signal are shaky in many places posing a threat to the safety of walkers.

Traffic signal lights installation at Sangeetha restaurant junction is long pending, though promised by the police department almost a year ago.

K. Ramamurthi is a resident of RA Puram 4th Main Road

A week marked by intermittent showers



Areas in and around Mylapore saw waterlogging on account of intermittent showers last week. The areas included Adam Street, KP South, Mosque Street and Palathope. The image is from Sundareswarar Street taken on June 9. PHOTO: SRINATH M

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Remembering an extraordinary teacher

Students of 1973 commerce batch organise a condolence meeting for P. Natarajan, former principal of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College

KRISHNAN V.

Professor P. Natarajan, former head of the department of commerce and principal of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College in Mylapore, attained the lotus feet of God on May 28, 2025 at the age of 83.

The 1973 batch of B.Com students organised a condolence meeting to pay tribute to him on June 8 at The Mylapore Club.

Affectionately called PN, he was the guru, guide and mentor of 35,000 plus students over his tenure of 40 years in the college. He has helped many students succeed



Old students at the condolence meeting and a group photo of the 1973 batch; professor P. Natarajan is in front row sitting in the centre, 8th from left.

in B.Com, Chartered Accountancy and other professional courses with his style of teaching, where he laid greater emphasis on fundamentals of accounts, commerce and statistics. Apart from the subject, he imbibed in us values such as integrity and patience to handle difficult situations.

He also served as warden of the boys hostel, being deeply involved

in this role and that dedication made him popular with students from other courses and batches. PN would learn about the personal background of students so that he could help them overcome their problems, mentoring and guiding them on their career path.

Many recall his outstanding memory to identify the hostelites with their room number and name as al-

so day scholars with the year of study and roll numbers that too after several years. He was a humble human being and a thorough gentleman.

He had an inimitable gait, an assertive yet friendly voice which attracted all the students to him like a magnet.

Soft-spoken and full of zest, he managed to have an excellent rap-

port with the students throughout his career at Vivekananda College.

PN's son recalled that when he wanted to buy his first car, he chose black colour and his close relatives advised him not to go for black as it is inauspicious. However, he went by his father's opinion.

(Krishnan V. is an alumnus of the 1973 batch and a resident of Mylapore)



Deepening of Nandanam Canal under way

As part of Greater Chennai Corporation's effort to increase its rainwater-carrying capacity, the Nandanam canal finds JCBs and concrete mixers parked in its space as guests, as these images from June 13, 2025 show. The canal is being deepened. Nandanam Canal is in a relay race together with the Mambalam canal to beat monsoonal flooding in these parts with T Nagar being in the epicentre of it. The exercise to deepen Nandanam canal is integral to prevention of flooding in these parts. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

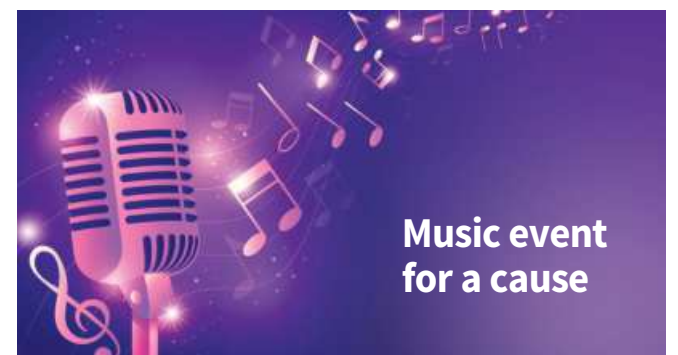
Alumni of St. John's Besant Nagar to meet on June 29

St. John's Besant Nagar Alumni Association will host its annual alumni meet on June 29, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Hotel Matsya, Adyar.

Open to alumni from all batches, the annual meet serves as a vibrant platform for former students to reconnect with old classmates, seniors, juniors and teachers.

Last year's edition saw the enthusiastic participation of over 100 alumni.

Alumni are encouraged to RSVP in advance and spread the word among their batchmates. For enquiries or confirmations, call V. Ravikanth at +91 73388 07112 or Aruna Kotra at +91 98842 21704.



Music event for a cause

Gurukulam, a centre for children with special needs functioning in Anna Nagar, is organising a music-related fundraiser on June 21 at Sir Mutha Venkata Subba Rao Concert Hall, Lady Andal School, Harrington Road from 6 p.m. onwards. Prominent singers will be taking part in it.

Started with five children, the Centre now has 50 children and young adults whom they educate, train and expose to integrate them with the society. Gurukulam currently operates from a rented accommodation.

Ticket for the show are available at www.district.in/events/akshayyam-jun21-2025-buy-tickets. Or contact 7305484110/9841318260

Stuck in Nandanam and screaming



R. RAVINDRAN

The section of Anna Salai starting from Nandanam signal and extending up to Teynampet KB Dasan Salai signal is supposed to have unfettered, free-flowing, unidirectional traffic. This is the putative characteristic of this section ever since it was made a one-

way to facilitate a flyover construction. However, during rush hour, traffic flow on this section is anything but free-flowing. Though the entire road (except for the strip earmarked for flyover work) is available for unidirectional traffic, traffic logjams happen with disturbing frequency. On June 11, 2025, around 5.30 p.m., traffic had come to a standstill, and this situation continued 20 minutes. Among the

vehicles that cooled their tyres was a screaming ambulance. When the traffic started moving, vehicles were lurching forward by inches, and another 25 minutes elapsed before the ambulance reached the Teynampet KB Dasan Salai junction signal. In normal circumstances, an ambulance should cover this ground in two to three minutes.

Photos: R. Ravindran



‘Replace broken cover near Bells Road bus stop’

While passing through this place, I noticed this broken cover. Please rectify this as soon as possible. Location: Tiruvallikeni, Bells Road bus stop, near Kasturibai hospital. Text and Photo: C. R. Sainathan from Tiruvallikeni



‘Pay attention to this transformer at CIT Colony’

At CIT Colony 2nd Main Road, the transformer located inside Suryakantha Apartment catches fire frequently and is a danger to the residents and neighbours. Appeals to Tangedco for a permanent solution have fallen on deaf ears. Overload and giving new connections without upgrading the capacity is at the root of this problem. Many houses and building on TTK Road are connected to this transformer.

Ramdas Naik is secretary CIT Colony Residents Welfare Association



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 contact number.



‘This space needs to be spruced up’

ARUNKUMAR SADANAND

Iforayed into Foreshore Estate, driving down a bumpy road, an apology for a road. The road was littered with empty glassware picked up from the shelves of Tasmac outlets.

There was human excreta. And a brush wood jungle punctuated with abandoned cars and vans. This place still has a ration shop which works out of a dilapidated shed. A few were seen buying their rations. In the backdrop was an abandoned foreshore Es-

tate Police station.

The only saving grace is the TANGEDCO office at it is frequented by subscribers. My request to GCC: spring-clean this place.

(Arunkumar Sadanand is a resident of South Beach Avenue Ist Street, MRC Nagar)



LIFFY THOMAS

In the last seven months as an autorickshaw driver, Pavithra Prakash has learnt some hard lessons about driving an electric vehicle. “Once charged, my auto can run for 160 km and I make it a point not to cross 110 km,” says the 29-year-old mother, happy about the financial independence ushered in by her new job. She has “range anxiety” whenever the three-wheeler crosses that mark as it is usually difficult to find an EV charging station nearby. Even if she were to charge at a public charging point, it would require her to wait for a few hours.

“Once I was left with charge for just 30 km and the vehicle started making alarming sounds, I panicked as my house is located near Red Hills and I just wanted the charge to be sufficient for me to reach home,” says the autorickshaw driver who charges the vehicle at her home.

Pavithra’s husband, who has an auto running on compressed natural gas, encouraged her to opt for an electric vehicle for the ease it would offer the young driver who learnt driving skills from Association of Non-Traditional Employment of Women (ANEW) in Anna Nagar.

“On days when I get many rides I am forced to wind up by 2 p.m. as the vehicle does not have charge. I sometimes refuse long-distance trips fearing the situation that would manifest if I run out of charge,” says Pavithra.

Anxious if the battery will drain out, autorickshaw driver R. Shanthalakshmi only takes short trips in and around Palavakkam where she resides. “When I purchased the vehicle from a showroom in Tambaram, they told me there are public charging stations I could use, but in the five months since I have been driving

Driving it ‘safe’

With public charging infrastructure in Chennai failing to keep pace with manufacture and sale of electric autorickshaws, drivers are plagued by ‘range anxiety’ and forced to settle for lower daily earnings. Months into driving e-autos, two women auto drivers share their angst

this vehicle I have not discovered even one, so I charge the vehicle every night at home,” says Shanthalakshmi, who is content earning ₹1000 to ₹1500 a day ferrying people. Her income as an auto driver is supplemented by earnings from petty shops she runs near her home.

Showrooms retailing three-wheelers say the demand for electric vehicles is noticeably greater than what it was last year. In March this year, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handed over 50 electric autos to women members of urban self-help groups under the Environment and Climate Change Department to empower them to be financially independent while promoting sustainable mobility.

“Unlike public charging stations for two-and-four-wheelers, there is no such facility for autorickshaws. Some showrooms selling the vehicles make provision for charging outside their store,” says R. Ashwanth, manager, Rag Motors. He says there are two

Pavithra Prakash and (below) R. Shanthalakshmi.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND PRINCE FREDERICK



A crucial factor

A report by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on “Regulatory mechanism for three-wheelers” says that apart from regulations, charging infrastructure serves as a crucial factor impeding the growth of electric three-wheelers.

The project “Switching to a sustainable auto-rickshaw system” was a pilot study carried out to gauge the service of electric autos feeder (for first- and last-mile connectivity) in Chennai in collaboration with Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) from January 2019. One of the main objectives of the project was to promote a policy and regulatory framework in cities for sustainable mobility.

Though electric autos can have home-based charging infrastructure, dedicated public charging infrastructure needs to be developed to support charging needs of e-autorickshaw drivers, says the report.

Provision of charging points should also be made available at parking spots in places such as office campuses, malls and marketplaces. Pilot initiatives with public transport authorities to promote first- and last-mile connectivity can lead to growth of charging infrastructure.

variants in three-wheelers: one has 125 - 150 km range and the other 200-250 km, a majority go in for the latter and are happy as their everyday travel is usually covered by that range.

Those in the industry say public charging infrastructure should keep pace with electric vehicle sales. Giving subsidy to vendors will also encourage establishment of more facilities.

No standardisation

Ragavendra Ravichandran, co-founder and chief operating officer, Plugzmart, agrees the charging infrastructure for three-wheelers is yet to pick up. The chargers currently used by electric autos have not been standardised.

“For electric four-wheelers, there is broad standardisation among major brands when it comes to charging interfaces. AC chargers typically use the Type 2

connector, and DC fast chargers commonly use the CCS2 (Combined Charging System) connector. This allows vehicle owners to access public charging infrastructure with a standardised plug wherever they go. However, this level of standardization does not yet exist for electric three-wheelers,” says Ragavendra.

Electric autos used for transporting goods go to warehouses for charging; and those used for ferrying people are dependent on public charging stations or homes, he says.

Is it okay to charge an electric vehicle at home? Yes, but it may not be as fast as a public infrastructure point. Many prefer to charge vehicles at home for the convenience it brings. A Tangedo official says so far there is no restriction on charging electric vehicles at home for domestic use, but if a petty shop is offering it at a fee to users then they must have a separate meter with commercial tariff.

Shanthi set foot in Ceebros Boulevard at Thoraipakkam as a flower seller and ended up putting down unshakeable roots as a vendor of vegetables and fruits. And she has blended in, residents accepting her as their own, rallying around her in her times of trouble and celebrating her personal victories

Blooming where she is planted

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Gated communities operate according to an entrenched pattern. Intrinsic to this pattern are faces that show up at the gates every morning – a flower seller, a vegetable vendor and anyone carting in an essential service. Over time, these local peripatetic traders become clued in, and with an accuracy equalling social-media algorithms, tailor their services to meet individual preferences, carrying the right wares before ringing a calling bell. Residents rely on them.

And the odd one manages a deeper connection. The transaction extends to squeeze in small talk. There is mutual sharing of personal updates. Somewhere between transactions and conversations, a comfortable familiarity builds. These traders may not live inside the community, but in every practical sense, belong to it. When the gates of Ceebros Boulevard in Thoraipakkam open to the outside world every morning, Shanthi walks in as an insider, a non-resident insider. She has been a regular at these gates since 2011 – once inside, she does not have to explain her presence. The residents know. Shanthi has blended in.

The memory of her first day at Ceebros Boulevard in Thoraipakkam, marked by an encouraging string of transactions, remains indelible. “I asked the security guard if I could go in to sell flowers and was directed to Flat 201,” she recalls. She knocked, sold a strand of flowers for ₹5, and moved on to Flats 212 and 222. Household chores came her way and she was grateful for the work. “I took whatever came my way,” she says. Soon, the demands shifted. Residents began asking for mint



Some are small-time vendors. Some do odd jobs for a living. But they have found an indispensable place in the communities they serve



Another day in office: Shanthi going about her work at the gated community.

The whole family, in fact, works within Ceebros Boulevard. Her mother helps from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., then joins her. During festivals, her daughters lend a hand. Both are now married, but the bond with Ceebros continues.

On a typical day, Shanthi sells flowers to five or six households and vegetables to anywhere between 20 and 30 homes. After paying for the hire of the mini-truck and assistance, she takes home around ₹500. “I never found selling here difficult,” she says. “Ceebros has always been good to me.”

Shanthi operates without a name board or price tags. If someone wants something specific, they show her a photo – she brings it the next day. From roses and jasmines to vase flowers, she remembers each household’s preference. “Sometimes I give flowers for free if someone buys vegetables,” she says with a shrug. In fact, she has never sold flowers outside Ceebros. “This is enough,” she says simply. “Everything I need is here.”

Over the years, her everyday vocabulary has broadened and it is multi-lingual. “Today, tomorrow, I will bring in the evening,” she says in English, and chuckles. “When someone speaks to me in Tamil, I reply in English – they all laugh.” She has even picked up a few Hindi words such as “palak.” While everything seems hunky-dory, there are regrets hidden away from public view by Shanthi’s natural cheerfulness. One major regret – time not spent with her daughters. “I was not there much when they were small,” she says. “I left early and came back late.” But Ceebros, she believes, helped raise them. “They helped with food. With weddings.”

When her son passed away, it was the residents who rallied around her. They pooled in money to cover funeral expenses. Later, when she was struggling to arrange her daughter’s wedding, the community stepped in. “They told me to be strong. Some gave money. Some gave furniture. They made sure the wedding happened.” The community’s acceptance of Shanthi seems total, as evidenced by the number of residents she strikes up a conversation with on a typical day. “The moment I enter the main gate, until I leave – everyone talks to me,” she says, her face lighting up. Some of those conversations now come from across the seas, from residents who have moved out of the community but stay connected.

For someone who once stepped into this community gingerly, and asked timidly if she could sell a few flowers, Shanthi now walks with ease and purpose – not just as a vendor, but as someone who belongs.

leaves, coriander, bananas and so on – and Shanthi had a stab at delivering grocery items on demand, still latching on to her other profiles as flower seller and an occasional helper in households. And she would soon ease into being the community’s unofficial but only vendor of vegetables, greens, fruits and flowers.

Five years into her Ceebros journey, she added festival essentials to her offerings – sugarcane, turmeric and Pongal pots. “Four days in advance,” she notes proudly. For residents, her arrival brought relief – they no longer had to step out or search for what they needed during festive times. Shanthi had them covered.

“For years, Shanthi has been the go-to delivery app for greens and flowers – always reliable and on time. I have personally seen her adapt, understand and cater to people’s demands seamlessly,” says Bharathi Hariharan, a resident.

“I cannot think of any major festival without Shanthi’s timely supply of Pooja items – I have never had to look beyond Ceebros. Her greens, though not on a fixed schedule, are essential to our well-being,” says Rajlakshmi Sashikanth, another resident. “And her personal touch – always checking on our well-being – makes her feel like family.” When she got started on this journey, Shanthi was a resident of Thiruverkadu. Today, she resides in Kannagi Nagar (a short jog away from Ceebros Boulevard) with her 70-year-old mother and two daughters, aged 22 and 20. She herself is 50 – and has walked a long road, quite literally. “Van drivers do not come into Kannagi Nagar,” she explains. “So I walked. Sometimes I came home only at midnight.” Carry-



ing huge flower bags filled to the brim, navigating late-night roads, and still appearing the next morning – that was her everyday life.

A long day

Her day begins before sunrise. At 2 a.m., she leaves for Koyambedu market – a three-stop haul for flowers, fruits, greens and vegetables. She hires a mini-truck service along with ten other women (each of them paying ₹300 and carrying their trays of goods). By 7:30 a.m., she is stationed at the Ceebros gates. What follows is a frenetic dance of deliveries – mint leaves, vegetables, fruits and flowers – often done door-to-door. She returns in the evening for another round of commerce, with a new stock of fresh vegetables. Market days give her no breathing space. She boards the 4 a.m. bus to Parrys Corner (for its flower market) and returns just in time for the morning pooja. “At first, I did not even have a pushcart,” she shares. “I carried everything in hand.” Squirrelling away earnings over time, she bought one.

Support from family

Her mother, though elderly, is a pillar of support. “When I am tired, she takes over the vegetable sales.”

Libraries being renovated function from new addresses

L. KANTHIMATHI

Nine State government-run libraries in Chennai are operating from temporary addresses having been shifted out of their regular facilities which are being renovated by Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority.

They are among the twelve libraries that have come under the purview of this renovation exercise.

The library at Gandhi Nagar in Adyar has gone to Arignar Anna Government Higher Secondary School at Urur Adyar in Besant Nagar; the library at Eleventh Avenue in Ashok Nagar to the adjacent Government Girls Higher Secondary School; the one at Thanga Salai to a Greater Chennai Corporation-run school in the vicinity; the library at Bharathidhasan Salai in Alwarpet operates at library on Turnbolls Road in Nandanam near G.K. Moo-



panar flyover. The library at Indira Nagar in Adyar will function from a commercial complex of the Greater Chennai Corporation nearby; and the one at Bharathi Salai in Triplicane from a GCC-run Urban

Health & Wellness Centre at Dhevarajan Salai.

The library at Jani Basha Street in Royapettah has been shifted to a GCC building on Pycrofts Road in Triplicane. And the one at First Cir-

cular Road at Jawahar Nagar in Kolathur will be moved to the adjacent building which belongs to Perambur Cooperative Building Society.

The libraries at Anna Nagar, Ma-

The temporary library at Arignar Anna Government Higher Secondary School at Urur Adyar in Besant Nagar. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ha Kavi Bharathiyar Nagar in Vyasarpadi, and Periyar Nagar in Kolathur will be functioning from the annexure buildings on their premises.

“A good number of youngsters preparing for various competitive examinations use these libraries. Hence, they have been identified for CMDA’s renovation project aimed at improving the ambience of these libraries. The shifting was done to ensure there is no disruption in these students’ exam preparation. Being old, some library buildings will be demolished and new buildings constructed. Most of these libraries would get the co-working facility called Muthalvar Padaippagam,” says District Library Officer M. Kavitha.

A ‘place’ under the sun for folk arts

Located in Kodambakkam, IDAM holds out an invitation to both exponents and students of folk art forms such as Thappattam, Devarattam, Oyilattam and Bomallattam. In addition, it hosts general open mics and theatre workshops

Glimpses of performances at IDAM.



SAHANA MIRA S

When you step inside IDAM, an art and cultural space in the middle of busy Kodambakkam, you will find out it is more than just a place, even though ‘Idam’ literally means place when translated. Inside, rural Tamil Nadu comes alive with folk art forms

from Thappattam, Devarattam, Oyilattam, Bomallattam to Tholpavakoothu, apart from general open mics and theatre workshops. But what makes the space stand out is that it does not stop at showcasing these performances but invites Chennaiites to step into the venue as students of the traditional arts.

Founded by actor Vetri MV,

IDAM is the result of years of groundwork. Since 2017, Vetri has been conducting acting, theatre and art workshops across colleges. But a couple of years ago, he felt the need for a dedicated space for the urban crowd to get in touch with folk heritage. It is not necessarily folk instrument classes, children who attend events here often leave with folk

tales and stories from traditional storytellers. “The main purpose of starting our art and cultural space was simple. It is to connect the folk artists and general public,” says Vetri. “Most people who live in the city are not always aware of the folk art instruments or dances. So, IDAM became a space for education as much as celebration.”

Interestingly, it was not cinema that introduced the actor to folk art, it was theatre. His journey as a theatre artist performing and directing across Tamil Nadu made him give importance to folk forms and their unsung masters, many of whom now take the stage at IDAM.

One such artist is Gramiya Kalamani Nellai Manikandan, a recipient of the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar. A passionate teacher, he lights up as he talks about training young, urban audiences in forms such as Devarattam.

“When I train people living in

the city in folk art forms such as Devarattam, they should first know about the art form, so that is how I start.

They are really interested in knowing it, but they do not know where to learn it from,” says Nellai Manikandan. Vetri says the undertones of inquisitiveness has been pulling urban crowds towards folk art as there is an increased turnout.

He admits it would not have been the same a decade ago. “Initially, creating the space exclusively for artforms was a challenge in the city, but we have been successfully sustaining it,” says the founder. The space is also gearing up for something new. “We are starting a full-time three-month course consisting of Thappattam, Devarattam and Oyilattam taught by three different masters which is starting from July, shares Vetri.

Alongside, a theatre and acting course is also in the works, which is open to anyone with curiosity.

Assistance for deserving students

Non-profits offering scholarships seek applications for the coming academic year

Bharti Airtel Scholarship Programme, an initiative by Bharti Airtel Foundation launched in 2024, supports deserving students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, with a focus on girl students, to become future technology leaders. The scholarship programme has been designed for deserving students enrolled in technology-based engineering undergraduate and five-year integrated courses in the top 50 NIRF-ranked (Engineering) universities/institutes as per the latest NIRF ranking. It covers 100% annual fees, including meal and accommodation charges.

Scholarship applications for the year 2025-26 are open. For details, visit
<https://bhartifoundation.org/bharti-airtel-scholarship/>

Kodambakkam-based Anandham Youth Foundation supports the higher education of underprivileged rural students. A five-step filtration process is followed before selecting deserving students. The selection criteria also includes students with the best marks, and from a poor economic background; orphaned students, those from single-parent households, those who study in Government or Government-aided schools and those who are first generation graduates in their family.

For details, visit
<https://www.anandham.org/>

Dream India E&C Trust is inviting applications from students across Tamil Nadu who completed class X and XII for educational scholarships under the project "Education For All". Students from government schools, rural government schools, private schools with single parent or guardians would be given priority.

Based on the student's performance, the scholarship would be provided for each year of their academic course. Students selected for scholarship would be guided by a mentor. The applications would be analysed by the trustees of Dream India and processed within a time frame of three to four weeks. Scholarship for higher studies would be in the range of ₹15,000 to ₹25,000.

For details and eligibility criteria visit
www.dreamindia.org/scholarship
WhatsApp 99406 75570

Maatram Foundation offers free higher education to deserving students from an economically deprived background. The non-profit has partnered with various educational institutions and supports students with their tuition fees, transportation charges and other expenses. Students who have scored more than 85% but cannot afford to buy even an application form are identified and given quality education, says a note on the website. Students are shortlisted after through scrutiny which includes a visit to their neighbourhood and an in-person interview.

The link to the scholarship application form for 2025 is available on
<https://maatramfoundation.com/>
The Foundation does not collect any application fee. In case one receives any such calls, please report it to the helpline number 9551014389.

Students on the first day of the new academic year at Presidency Girls Higher Secondary School in Egmore.
PHOTO: RAGU R

Scholarship programme turns 15

Empowering girl students is the main focus of Smt Rajeswari Radhakrishnan Charitable Trust

The 15th educational sponsorship programme of Smt Rajeswari Radhakrishnan Charitable Trust, a registered public charitable trust, was held on June 8 at St. Antony's Higher Secondary School in Velachery. The Trust has been sponsoring fees for education of the poor and deserving meritorious college students, specially girls, children of the destitute and widows from rural areas throughout Tamil Nadu for the last 14 years.

In the academic year 2025-2026, the Trust has allocated ₹75 lakh towards educational sponsorship, of which ₹40 lakh has been distributed so far and the balance will be distributed during the se-

cond half of the year, said a press release. Eligible students who score over 85 per cent in class 12 (in core subjects) and 75 per cent in college semester exams are considered.

During the function, 82 students, mostly girl students from poor economic background, residing in and around Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts were selected and scholarship given. Students of other districts will get their sponsorships in the Trust's programme next week, the release added.

Seven students, studying in third year, who were the beneficiaries of our Trust, joined IT companies through campus interview. Managing trust-

tee M. Radhakrishnan thanked the sponsors and well-wishers, and emphasised the need for education of the girl child. Since 2010, the Trust has also supported with feeding the poor, giving medical needs and help during natural calamities.

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Three 'Unsung Heroes' felicitated



The awardees along with the dignitaries.

Khaalid Ahamed of The Uravugal Trust; K. Narasimhalu, a foot artist; and Palani Kumar, visual artist and photographer are the three recipients of the sixth edition of "Unsung Heroes" award 2025.

The award was presented by the Rotary Club of Madras East and Congruent Solutions at an event held in the city.

Launched in 2016 to recognise individuals who have made significant, often overlooked contributions to the community, the Club has so far honoured 15 such individuals.

Since the project's inception, Congruent Solutions has partnered with the Rotary Club, said a release.

Khaalid Ahamed, founder of Uravugal Trust, was recognised for his extraordinary humanitarian work in Chennai. His journey began in 2015 after witnessing a homeless man die alone

on the street – an experience that inspired him to ensure dignity in death for the unclaimed and forgotten. In 2017, he established Uravugal Trust with a few close friends, committed to providing respectful burials and cremations for homeless individuals, the release added.

K. Narasimhalu is a self-taught artist from Andhra Pradesh. He creates stunning artworks and intricate embroidery using his feet, despite living with cerebral palsy.

M. Palani Kumar is a photojournalist and filmmaker who was honoured for his courageous and compassionate work in social justice. Since 2015, he has dedicated his career to exposing the harsh realities faced by marginalised communities, particularly manual scavengers across Tamil Nadu, through impactful visual storytelling. His recent work also highlights environmental injustices in Ennore.

Summer camp at RA Puram ends



CK Wonder Kidz, a preschool in Raja Annamalai Puram, recently concluded its summer camp that was based on various themes such as 'scientific explorers', 'cosmic expedition', 'save the animal kingdom' and 'underwater world'. Craft projects, indoor games, zumba, yoga and Thirukural recitations added to the fun and learning this summer. Children were given certificates and gifts.

A taste of Sowcarpet



The streets of Sowcarpet came alive with aromas, laughter and vibrant camaraderie as the Rajasthan Cosmo Club (RCC) hosted a fun-filled food trail for its members, exploring over 15 of the area's most iconic eateries.

Organised by Anil Lunked, Manish Kumar Chowdhari, Gambhir Chordia, Vikram Bohara and Darshan Kothari, the event saw over 50 RCC members come together to rediscover the magic of Chennai's oldest food lanes – from piping hot samosas and onion uttapams to rabri, jalebis and masala badam milk.

Beginning at the colourful Phoolo Ka Bazaar, the trail wound its way through legendary stops such as Agarwal Bhavan, Prakash Bhavan, Chinnappa Sandwich, Seena Bhai Tiffin Centre, Kishore Chats, Kakada Ramprasad, Hari Om Bhavan, Krishna Prasad and Kaloo Pan

Shop.

While food was the main attraction, the organisers added layers of fun through quick games and trivia at select spots. From guessing the day's onion prices outside Seena Bhai, to a blindfolded feeding challenge at Chinnappa Sandwich, or a "Food Whisper Chain" at Kishore Chats, each activity sparked laughs and brought members closer.

A special quiz was also conducted to guess the bill amount or solve riddles based on each eatery's special dish. Lucky winners walked away with surprise prizes – and plenty of bragging rights.

Many members were visiting these iconic joints for the first time, while others shared nostalgic memories linked to the food.

"This wasn't just a food walk, it was a memory walk," said one of the participants.

Temporary shifting of terminals

Due to station redevelopment work at Chennai Egmore, the Southern Railway has decided to originate and terminate the following trains from Tambaram and Chennai Beach from the dates below.

Train No: 16101 / 16102: Chennai Egmore - Kollam - Chennai Egmore Express will originate and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 18, and from June 19 to August 17.

Train No: 16101, Tambaram - Kollam Express will depart at 17.27, and 16102, Kollam - Tambaram Express will arrive at 02.45 a.m..

Train No: 22671 / 22672, Chennai Egmore - Madurai - Chennai Egmore Tejas Express will originate and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 18.

Train No: 22671 Tambaram - Madurai Tejas Express will depart at 06.22, and 22672, Madurai -

Tambaram Tejas Express will arrive at 21.25.

Train No: 16179 / 16180 Chennai Egmore - Mannargudi - Chennai Egmore Mannai Express will originate from and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 18 and from June 19 to August 17.

Train No: 16179 Tambaram - Mannargudi Mannai Express will depart at 23.22, and 16180, Mannargudi - Tambaram Mannai Express will arrive at 5 a.m.

Train No: 20605 / 20606 Chennai Egmore - Tiruchendur - Chennai Egmore Superfast Express will originate from and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 18 and June 19 to August 17.

Train No: 20605 Tambaram - Tiruchendur will depart at 16.27, and 20606 Tiruchendur - Tambaram will arrive at 10 a.m.

Train No: 16127 / 16128, Chennai Egmore - Guruvayur - Chennai Eg-

more Express will originate from and terminate at Tambaram from June 20 to August 19, and from June to August 18.

Train No: 16127 Tambaram - Guruvayur Express will depart at 10.47, and 16128, Guruvayur - Tambaram Express will arrive at 19.45.

Train No: 12759 and 12760, Tambaram - Hyderabad - Tambaram Express will originate from and terminate at Chennai Beach from June 20 to August 18 and from June 19 to August 17.

According to a release issued by the Southern Railway, Train No 12759, Chennai Beach - Hyderabad Express, will depart at 18.20, and Train No 12760, Hyderabad - Chennai Beach Express, will arrive at 07.15.

Train No: 12759, Chennai Beach - Hyderabad Express will depart at 18.20 and 12760, Hyderabad - Chennai Beach Express will arrive at 07.15, according to a release issued by the Southern Railway.