

## MYLAPORE

Mandaveli » R A Puram » Royapettah » Chindatipet » Royapuram » Korukkupet » Ennore » Luz » Alwarpet » Triplicane » Central  
Washermenpet » Tondiarpet » Manali » M.R.C.Nagar » Teynampet » Mount Road » Broadway » Kondithope » Tiruvotiyur



### EIGHT STUDENTS FROM GCC SCHOOLS TO VISIT MALAYSIA

This initiative by Rotary Club of Madras East seeks to instil confidence and responsibility in students **P3**



### ADDING A REUSE VALUE TO USED THINGS

Before discarding something that has outlived its usefulness to you, consider sending it to any of these groups **P5**

## A double whammy for motorcyclists



**M. SRINATH**

Venkatachalam Street in Royapettah puts motorcyclists in jeopardy on two counts. Winding between Lloyds Road and Royapettah High Road, this road sports potholes like a badge of honour. Thanks to the recent showers, the road surface has become more uneven than before. The Teynampet Zone (Zone 9) of Greater Chennai Corporation does not show any inclination to remedy the situation by carrying out a patchwork. The slushy, slippery conditions are hardly friendly to motorcyclists and cyclists.

The other danger stems from the fact that the road wears pieces of ironwork in the middle that enable water to percolate into the earth, probably rainwater harvesting pits underneath. These ironworks do not make for safe motoring, say motorcyclists, pointing out that they should have been installed by the side of the road.



PHOTOS: M. SRINATH

### A volunteer out to help residents with SIR



**BASKAR SESADRI**

Abhiramapuram resident Sridhar Venkatraman has been helping many residents of Mylapore to an understanding of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. He is generous in the outlay of his time to clarify their doubts. For example, if a person had a change of address he guides them on how to update it. He has the document of the electorate of Mylapore/ Mandaveli constituency. Over the phone or on WhatsApp, he assists people with details of the last booth they exercised their vote in.

He can be reached at 97909 57208.  
*Baskar Seshadri is a resident of Mylapore*

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# Are you sure you do not want posters?

This view cutter on GN Chetty Road in T. Nagar exhorts people not to sully it by pasting posters; a paper here and a paper there might actually do great service, not disservice to this view cutter which has been allowed to slide into unseemliness



PRINCE FREDERICK

**A**cross Greater Chennai Corporation limits, there is any number of examples of artistically done transformer-covering view cutters being marred by posters. And there are also view cutters that would do with some poster draping. Anyone who pastes a poster on them would actually be doing them great service, not disservice.

If the reader is yet to clap eyes on such a view cutter, they may head to GN Chetty Road in T. Nagar (landmarks: Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust and AV Global Corporation).

This view cutter yells at the top of its lungs asking anyone with a poster to stay away from it. The message has been engraved into the view cutter by



The images were taken on November 22, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

cutting the metal surface. It is indelible; and therefore GCC should hurry to have it painted and ensure that the plea, exhortation or whatever it is ("Paste No Posters") does not sound farcical. It is said the 15 GCC zones are in a healthy competition about getting the most eye-catching designs on their transformer-covering view cutters.

The name of the zone behind this object d'art has been engraved into the metal. This view cutter's presence brings a blight to the landscape. It almost nuzzles against the compound wall of Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust campus; and it detracts from whatever artistic air the artwork on that wall managed to conjure up.

With some painting, its intended beauty – one sees shapes of towering structures on the facade – will surface. While the view cutter needs painting; the innards it hides need some scrubbing.

## Team from Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram wins inter-school quiz

**B**attle of Brains 2025, an inter-school quiz competition wrapped up with a vibrant grand finale, crowning students from Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram School as the city's new quiz champions. Organised by Casagrand in association with Nexus Consulting, the finale brought together hundreds of enthusiastic students, parents and teachers. Winners across categories were honoured with trophies and prizes worth ₹4 lakh, said a press re-

lease.

The finale brought together the teams from B V Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, PSBB KK Nagar and Sandipani Vidyalaya schools, who secured the first, second and third positions respectively.

Curated and conducted by quizmaster Venkatesh Srinivasan, the finale featured rounds covering science, current affairs, culture, visual problem-solving and a dedicated Chennai connect segment, the release added.



## LEARNING

# Eight students from GCC schools to visit Malaysia

This initiative by Rotary Club of Madras East seeks to instil confidence and responsibility in students

**E**ight students from Greater Chennai Corporation schools are going to have a memorable summer in Malaysia. Vishak M. (CHSS T.H Road), Ponni P. S. (CHSS Alwarpet), Desiga G. (CHSS Athipet), Kalaiarasi K. (CHSS Maduvinkarai), Sanchana L. (CGHS M. H. Road), Santhoshi M (CHS Alandur), Kaviya V. (CHS MMA II) and Sadhana S. (CHS Vanniya Teynampet) are the winners of the flagship youth empowerment initiative of the Rotary Club of Madras East, Wings2Fly 2025, where they get to go on an international educational tour to Ma-



laysia during May 2026.

This year's theme, "Know Your Rights," was aimed at empowering students with knowledge on constitutional rights, cyber safety, and child protection laws.

The event started with a rigorous three-round selection process that began with 70,000 students

from across GCC schools.

From this extensive pool, 302 students advanced to Round 2 – a specialised two-day legal rights workshop conducted by The Chennai Justice Law Academy. The workshop covered key areas such as constitutional rights, due process, cyber awareness, the POCSO

Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act, said a release.

Round 3 and the grand finale were conducted at Amma Maligai, Ripon Building, where 32 finalists presented their insights before an expert jury panel. After detailed evaluation, the top eight champions were selected for the interna-

tional learning phase.

In a release, Sudhan Muthupalanappan, Youth Service Director, said, "Wings2Fly is more than a competition—it is a platform that transforms children into confident, aware, and responsible young citizens. Watching these students grow over 10 months has been truly inspiring. The top eight winners have earned this moment, and we are proud to send them to Malaysia as ambassadors of Chennai."

Rotarian Alamelu, who is the project chair, said: "This year's theme, 'Know Your Rights,' has empowered students in ways we never imagined. Their curiosity, courage, and clarity of thought reflect the true impact of Wings2Fly."

"Every round was designed to build awareness, confidence, and global exposure. The enthusiasm shown by students and teachers demonstrates why programmes like Wings2Fly are vital for the next generation," said Co-Chair Ann Madhuri Venu

## Alternatives to single use plastics

A free workshop in Alwarpet will train women to make products with paper

What can one do with empty cartons and old newspapers? Sell them in bulk to the kabadiwala or find a business model with paper

waste. A five-day workshop at Eldams Road in Alwarpet aims to empower women less than 50 years of age to find a business model out of paper.

Organised by the Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP), a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change, the free five-day capacity building course on craft making alternatives to single use plastics for women will begin on

November 24.

More than 10 different products that can be made with paper such as plates, cups, trays, straws, pen stand and fruit baskets will be covered during the workshop. Materials will also be supplied by the organisers.

"Many do not know what are the alternative to single use plastics. We are looking at offering this as an income generation programme for women through hands-on demonstration and other marketing skills that we will train them in," says P. Sudhakar, director, EIACP.

To register and for other details, call 9444254831

## Registrations open for Indian Navy Half Marathon 2025

To be held on December 14, the run would commence at Napier's Bridge and end at INS Adyar Beach

**T**he maiden edition of Indian Navy Half Marathon is scheduled to be held in Chennai on December 14, 2025.

The event, which features three race categories – Adyar Half Marathon Run (21.1 km), 10KM INS Parundu Run, and 5KM INS Pallava Run – will commence at Napier's Bridge and end in INS Adyar Beach.

A prize pool of ₹ 10,00,000 for the runners across various categories will be offered, said a press release. Registrations are open across all categories on the official event website:

<https://chennainavyhalfmarathon.com/>

The event aims to promote three causes: a Drug-Free India, Women Adishakti Power and a stand against online betting/gambling. The event also celebrates the unique spirit of camaraderie, where civilians run shoulder-to-shoulder with Defence personnel, embodying unity, discipline and national pride, the release added. The Chennai Navy Half Marathon also forms a part of the larger series of Navy Half Marathons held across the country, inspiring citizens to embrace health and fitness while strengthening the bond between the armed forces and the community, while encouraging participation of public in the Fit India movement.

The event is presented by Bank of Baroda and powered by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

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# Inspiring brush strokes

R.A. Puram resident Tamizharasi strikes a balance between a corporate job and a deep engagement with art



## BASKAR SESHADRI

**T**amizharasi, fondly called Thamizh, is from R.A. Puram. The youngster has a boundless passion for art. With gentle brush strokes using acrylic paint, she manifests her love for art. She got

trained in painting for a short span at an academy in Mylapore a few years ago; later she learnt a diversity of techniques on her own to offer coaching to students who are inclined towards art. Since she is working in a multi-national company, she spends her weekends for art classes at her house as she

cannot afford to rent a place. She charges ₹800 per student for a month, taking eight classes and on weekends the duration of the classes is longer, close to two hours.

She is an expert in water colour painting, acrylic, poster colour glass painting, pot painting and

wall art. Those keen on engaging her to beautify a wall with art can reach out to Thamizh at 87789 65026.

She has students who are ready to take up new challenges along with her.

*Baskar Seshadri is a resident of Mylapore*



## Exhibition of artworks by students under way in Gopalapuram



**T**he Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University is currently conducting a 10-day art exhibition, "INAIPPU – Fusion" at ART SPACE – Kalpa Druma on Cathedral Road in Gopalapuram, throwing light on the artworks of students of MFA Painting (regular) programme.

The exhibition, which was inaugurated on November 21 will go on till November 30. The timings of the exhibition every day are from 10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

The inaugural ceremony was made scintillating by the presence of a galaxy of personalities from various fields – actors Re-

vathi and Rekha Nair; sculptor N. Karoona Moorthy; painter Bhagwan Chavan; senior journalist and writer Sugadev; artistic director and founder of Global Rhythms Srinivas Krishnan; Kalpa Druma managing director Lakshmi Devi; and proprietrix of HTC Amritha Venkatakrishnan.



## Volunteers honoured

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

## Registrations open for kickboxing competition

HammerPro Kickboxing is organising Tamilnadu Kickboxing Championship 2025 for Amateur and Pro Kickboxers in Chennai.

The event is scheduled to be held on December 21, 2025 at Maduravoyal.

According to a press release, the winners of the competition would be presented with a cash prize and a title belt.

Registration is open to all kickboxing fraternity in Chennai, says the press release.

For further details about registration, call 9962188501

## SUSTAINABILITY

# Adding a reuse value to used things

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

LIFFY THOMAS



## Old spectacles find new eyes

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

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

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

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



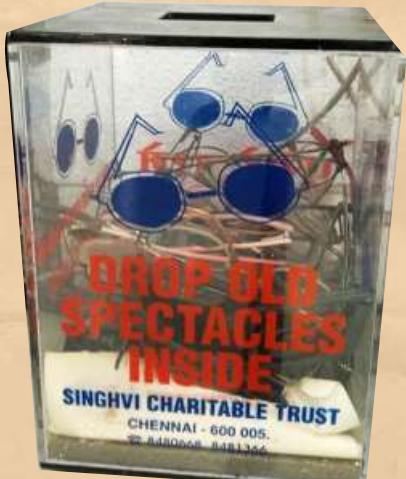
ple to give away their spectacles that are lying unused at home.

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

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

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

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



### 'SADS' making people happy

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

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

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

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

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

### A bank providing medical equipment



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

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

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

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

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

### Clothes and bicycles

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

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

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

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



# No paid public toilets in Chennai

A 'No Fee Zone' board will be installed at toilets run by Greater Chennai Corporation

LIFFY THOMAS

**P**ublic toilets within Greater Chennai Corporation limits will soon start sporting a new board that reads 'No Fee Zone' to emphasise that these facilities must not charge users for using them. On November 19, Mayor R. Priya unveiled a special stamp for World Toilet Day and 'No Fee Zone' signage to reinforce that every public toilet in Chennai is free.

Public toilets in the city have largely been free barring some of them where janitors have charged a small fee, so what is new?

"Many have even carried a board saying 'free toilet' but some would deliberately hide the board or collect a fee illegally which we want to prevent completely. The 'No Fee Zone' board will be placed at such a height that it can be seen easily by



anyone. They are aware that they have free access," says an official from the Special Projects Department of Greater Chennai Corporation. "There are no paid toilets maintained by GCC."

The lollipop-style signboards will be complemented by badges



worn by janitors and stickers on toilet doors to state that no fee will be collected for using a public toilet.

GCC has assigned concessionaires across Zones I to XV for construction, maintenance and technology integration of toilets.

"When the DBFO (design, build, finance and operate) model was being discussed with stakeholders, GCC decided that these signages will help in clarifying any ambiguity among users and make people more aware of the facts," says V.R.

## Should it be free or paid?

Some users feel it is better to levy a small fee for using a public toilet to demand better services, many others think no one must be denied access to a facility for not paying up. An inclusive city begins with a free public toilet.

Courts have also argued that public toilets with adequate facilities should be provided free of cost as access to them is considered a basic right essential for human dignity, and charging for using them can be seen as a barrier to this fundamental necessity, says a report in *The Hindu*.

During the launch of "No Fee Zone" signage on World Toilet Day.  
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hari Balaji, CEO, Urban PCT Three (Ferrgra), the concessionaire responsible for maintaining toilets coming under Zones VII to X (excluding Marina).

There are three other firms that have been assigned by GCC to manage toilets under the public private partnership model.

Under the new arrangement, companies managing toilets are required to follow certain SOPs and have KPIs (key performance indicators) to be met. Each toilet is judged daily on cleanliness, odour control, water availability, lighting, safety, functional fixtures, manpower deployment, complaint closure and accessibility standards. "These toilets will be inspected by a third party," says the GCC official.

Signage boards with QR codes and phone numbers have to be fixed on every facility for users to raise a complaint.

"Earlier, one agency was involved in construction and another in maintenance. Under the new arrangement, the same firm takes care of operation and maintenance for a period of eight years which will fix accountability," says Hari.

## 'Women are increasingly targeted in cyber crime'

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

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

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

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



During the workshop

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

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

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

Sathishkumar Kannan emphasised practical steps to stay pro-

tected, including verifying online identities, safeguarding personal photos, and knowing when and how to report cyber incidents to authorities.

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

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



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

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

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

# How about a tree map for your local park?

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

PRINCE FREDERICK

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

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



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

ing a diversity of tree species.

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

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

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

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

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

## Toastmasters take the time to enjoy, take stock and relaunch themselves

**F**rom humble beginnings in April 2004 to an inspiring 1000th meeting on November 16, 2025, Chennai Toastmasters Club (CTM) showcased the spirit of growth, grit and greatness. What started as a single club has evolved into a huge community that has shaped hundreds of confident communicators and leaders across South India.

This milestone meeting was not just a celebration – it was a tribute to every member, past and present, who has built this movement and representatives from across Chennai gathered to connect and celebrate this shared journey. Around hundred toastmasters and guests attended the event. The chief coordinators of these celebrations were Toastmaster Nanda Kumar and Toastmaster Ravi Kumar who led the program with aplomb.

The meeting kickstarted with a countdown by Toastmaster Muthu Vishal and presided by Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) Sunil Baffna. The meeting was hosted by Toastmaster Manoj Kumar Venkataraman and Toastmaster Rahul Soni. The top administrative echelon of District 120 led by DTM Parthasarathy P.D.,

graced the event to honour the club's achievements.

The chief guest, Ravi Ramanathan of Ramanathans Effective Public Speaking Institute, was conferred the "DTM Abraham Zachariah" Award for outstanding service in the field of public speaking. The late DTM Abraham Zachariah had been one of CTM's most respected stalwarts since its inception. Toastmaster Jimmy Pathrose announced this momentous award and the entire leadership team presented it to Ramanathan, says the release.

In true Toastmasters tradition, appreciation took centre stage when the members were recognised for their outstanding contributions to the club, ably announced by Toastmaster Suman Mishra, says the release.

To mark the occasion, the newsletter editor Toastmaster Aalia Fazal presented the first copy to District 120 Director DTM Parthasarathy. A soft copy of the magazine is available for those who wish to read members' reflection. All those interested in attending Chennai Toastmaster's club meeting can call any of these two numbers 94441 86014/ 9884996963.

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# An old question resurfaces

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



A Chestnut winged cuckoo at Nanmangalam.  
PHOTO: KUMARASEN CHANDRABOSE

## PRINCE FREDERICK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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