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In restart mode



By the time an ambitious community initiative achieves critical mass, those driving it will experience the queasiness that goes with high-altitude climbing. Imagine managing that uphill task only to find themselves being swept thousands of metres downhill in an avalanche, and lying alongside the initiative that is now a mangled mess. Resident groups that drove community initiatives admirably and brought them to maturity experienced that sickening thud, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. Talk to any residents welfare association, and they would have use for this line: "We did this, and it was running smoothly and the pandemic slammed the brakes on it." Certain misfortunes cannot be foreseen, much less prevented. Here are initiatives that had to give up the ghost suddenly on account of the pandemic, but reincarnated later putting on fresh flesh and a new vigour and renewed purpose. In some cases, the restart lacks the punch it has, but the residents are labouring to start again the right way

Raja Street: considerable ground waits to be covered



▼ The RK Nagarra waste collection camp last month; and the Urbin advantage.

Ganga points out one positive trend: "In the entire street, whoever had started segregating waste continued to do so even during the pandemic; and they still continue the practice. Those who had been composting at home still do."

The neighbouring RK Nagarra conducts regular drives to collect dry waste and e-waste. Whenever they launch a collection drive, Ganga posts the info in the neighbourhood groups, and her friends and neighbours make use of it to rid themselves of the e-waste and the dry waste they have collected diligently and kept with them responsibly.

Ganga points out that these exercises by RK Nagarra are having a positive effect on Raja Street, encouraging those treating their household waste responsibly to continue the good work.

But there is still considerable work to be done. Ganga notes compliance in terms of segregation is considerably low, because this neighbourhood is thickly populated and it is difficult to reach it in its entirety with a waste-management message.

There are addresses with a warren of small-sized houses. There are also hostels. Reaching these units is the challenge the RWA is up against.

Related story on page 2



Ganga Sridhar of Raja Street Residents Welfare Association notes that they started off with the Urbin concept, Kabadwalla Connect parking an Urbin in a six-unit apartment Dwaraka.

The Urbin found wider use, being placed outside this apartment during weekends for residents from across the neighbourhood – the RWA accounts Raja Street, Raja Street Extension

and Velayutha Raja Street – to drop their dry waste. Every 8 to 10 days, the recycler would arrive to collect the dry waste that had filled up the Urbin.

With the pandemic, this exercise came to a standstill, as the Urbin was not allowed to be kept outside.

The six households at the apartment have persisted with the practice of depositing plastic dry waste in the Urbin.

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Colours of Mylapore

Last weekend, North Mada Street in Mylapore turned into a giant canvas when participants came down to dot the streets with intricate and colourful kolams as part of the Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival 2025. A huge crowd gathered for this event with people perched on the balconies of adjoining buildings looking on.

Other highlights of the day included a vocal concert by the students of Mahathi Academy at Sri Kapaleswara Temple. This was followed by a string art workshop and a chess tournament that saw good participation from children, said a release.

Thiruvanniyur D. Rajesh and his team performed a Nadaswaram concert outside the East Gopuram of Sri Kapaleswara Temple. This was followed by the students of PSBB Senior Secondary School from KK Nagar delivering a choral concert. Garba, Silambattam and Tamil folk dances were well received, added the release.



The four-day Mylapore Fest that concluded on January 12 offered a wide range of events. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Retired faculty of Anna Adarsh College for Women on how she got into writing books on food science and nutrition

UNSTOPPABLE textbook writer

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Retired life can be dull and mundane after being in the company of students for many years. Not for 80-year-old B. Srilakshmi. The former lecturer with Anna Adarsh College for Women has been writing books on food science and nutrition for close to three decades now.

When this reporter spoke to her recently, she had just completed work on one more book. It all started when she knuckled down to working at the women's college in Anna Nagar, after a stint at an university in Mumbai, and a discovery that students had no prescribed book for nutrition and food science.

Students were supposed to go to the library and make their own notes. Or photocopies were taken and distributed to the students.

"Only Homescience did not have textbook as the course came from the United States of America and the teaching methodology adopted there was different. The textbooks in the market were by foreign authors and were too costly for many students," says Srilakshmi, a resi-



B. Srilakshmi enjoys reading and writing. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dent of Kilpauk.

More than four decades ago, the course did not have many takers either. "A class had only 20 students then but that has changed in the last few decades. Many colleges have a course in food and nutrition and

this is a field with a lot of developments and prospects," she says, explaining why there is always a need to upgrade textbooks that she brought out decades ago.

There are new terminologies and advancements in the field that her books simplify with diagrams, flow charts and an easy-to-follow style, say her students.

A majority of her works are for undergraduate courses.

The books on Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Science are fundamental to Home Science, Food Technology, and Allied Health Sciences. A book on dietetics is now in its 9th edition, and she has helped shape the academic framework of nutrition education.

"I spend a lot of time in researching, taking help of books from libraries, medical journals from the U.S. and other sources as quality is very important," says the professor who holds an M.Ed and M.Phil and has also worked at the National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad and was programme-in-charge for the M.Sc. Dietetics and Food Service Management course at the SCS Kothari Academy for Women.

Her greatest reward comes along whenever students tell her how these books have helped them get jobs.

So, which is more fun - teaching or writing? Srilakshmi laughs and says she loves both and writing at this age makes it feel like she is interacting with students in their early 20s. "Writing allows me to take up assignments at my own pace, where I come to the level of the students, making it easy to read and understand," she says.



Foundation matters

Gayathri Jayaraman, treasurer of the residents welfare association at Karpagam Gardens off Besant Avenue notes that before the pandemic struck, the neighbourhood had attained an impressive level of compliance in terms of source segregation of waste. Two residents welfare associations not too far away from Karpagam Gardens - one in Kasturbai Nagar and the other in Valmiki Nagar - had wielded a positive influence on it. The foundation of effective waste management practices had been laid deep. Residents had been provided with a green bin (for wet waste) and a red bin (for reject waste) and a bag for dry waste. Emulating Kasturba Nagar and Valmiki Nagar associations, Karpagam Garden representatives tasked with implementation of waste management



practices would accompany waste collection vehicles and staff from door to door to ensure compliance.

Gayathri points out that due to this, the neighbourhood managed to bounce back after the pandemic and now, the compliance level is 70 p.c., not on par with what it had achieved before the pandemic, but certainly not deplorable either.

A shelter for cows in Mylapore



Adikesava Perumal Kovil in Mylapore has constructed a “kosaala” to protect and shelter cows that belong to the temple on Kesava Perumal South Street (Arisikaran Street). With the work fully over and the shelter being neatly secured and maintained, and the cows are being fed and cared for here.

Baskar Seshadri
Mandaveli

‘Operate adequate electric trains during rush hour’

Hundreds of electric train commuters on the Chennai Beach-Chengalpattu line complain of overcrowding between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.; and between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Thousands of working professionals and students depend on the electrical multiple units every day, but the service frequency remains insufficient, leading to extreme inconvenience.

The opening of the Kalaingar Centenary Bus Terminus in Kilambakkam has further exacerbated the problem, increasing the number of commuters on this section. Southern Railway authorities must look into this pressing issue and take action to operate cut services from Guduvanchery to Guindy and Guindy to Guduvanchery during rush hour, except on holidays.

Sadhana S.
Chengalpattu

‘Replace the manhole cover’



C. R. Sainathan from Tiruvallikeni shared this photograph of a sunken manhole cover at the intersection of Bharathi Salai and Victoria Hostel Road

From Russia with love



Artistes from Russia performing at the Russian Dance Festival 2025 organised by Indo Russian Cultural and Friendship Society on January 16. The festival, on till February, will be held at schools, colleges, malls, trade fairs and clubs.

PHOTO : B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

PLAN YOUR WEEK

Lifetime achievement awards to be presented

Rotary International District 3233 will present lifetime achievement awards to the following distinguished personalities for their outstanding contributions to society. N. Murali, Director of *The Hindu* and President of The Music Academy; V. Kamakoti, Director of IIT Madras; N. M. Veeraiyan, Chancellor of Saveetha University; Major General M. Indrabalan (Retd.). The awards will be conferred by Justice V. Lakshminarayanan, Judge, Madras High Court, on January 25 at 6 p.m. at Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall, Lady Andal School Premises, Harrington Road, Chetpet according to S.Mahaveer Chand Bothra, Rotary District Governor 3233.

Art of analog photography

The Forum Art Gallery is hosting ‘Alt: Analog’, an exhibition celebrating the timeless art of analog photography. Featuring works by talented artists from India and the U.K., this showcase is the culmination of the CPB-Photoworks Darkroom Residency, supported by the British Council.

This exhibition brings together three artists who explore the evocative medium of analog photography: Holly Birtles (London, UK); Arun

(Chennai) and Soham Joshi (Brighton, UK)

This residency is a pioneering initiative that bridges two vibrant photography ecosystems, fostering cultural exchange and collaborative artmaking between India and the UK, said a release.

The exhibition is on till February 15 at Forum Art Gallery, Adyar.

Monday to Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. For details, call 8884122112

Handloom mela

A handloom mela organised by the All India Handlooms and Handicrafts is happening at North Mada Street in Mylapore.

Crafts from Gujarat, Kashmiri, Karnataka and other states are being showcased, and this includes saris, wooden crafts, quilts and ethnic wear. A discount of 20% on handlooms and 10% on handicrafts is also offered.

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A female and a male Peregrine falcon at MRC Nagar; and a Black kite around the Perungudi landfill.
PHOTOS: BHARATH RAVIKUMAR AND PRINCE FREDERICK

A view from the window

On January 16, a tinkle in a WhatsApp group of Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS) made Gnanaskandan Kesavabharathi jump out of his seat. A tidbit of information that arrived with that tinkle demanded an immediate response and GK (as he is known in naturalist circles) was on to it, promptly keying in an instruction that elbowed two young MNS members on to the road to MRC Nagar.

The info that cranked up the series of actions – “not one but two Peregrine falcons lord it over a rash of buildings at MRC Nagar”. It was a tipoff from Ambika C., a resident of MRC Nagar with an MNS membership.

The two MNS members landed at the spot lickety-split to ascertain the snappy report's veracity. One of the questions to get out of the way: is the new entrant really a Peregrine falcon or a “lookalike”, some other falcon being mistaken for a Peregrine? As sure as eggs are eggs, there were two Peregrine falcons, a male and a female, greeting the two naturalists, while being perched on a tall building.

Project Raptor Watch (PRW), spearheaded by GK, has been studying this patch for at least three winters, if not more, as a Peregrine falcon had helped itself to it, making it its winter stay, choosing its perch among three tall buildings. The patch is now a divided territory with another Peregrine falcon wading into the space.

Bharath Ravikumar, one of the two MNS members to study two Peregrine falcons at MRC Nagar, observes: “It was 3.30 p.m. Both of them were perched far apart. There was no hint of any unrest or an inclination to ‘ward off’ the other; they were both calmly minding their own business. Around 4.30 p.m., the male took to the air and disappeared and half an hour later, he showed up and was perched on the same ledge as the female, but on the opposite end. This seemed to have disturbed her; and she started walking towards him and pushed him off the ledge.”

If observations elsewhere are anything to go by, they will tolerate each other and might even come to hunt together, as is the case at House of Hiranandani Upscale where two Peregrine falcons – a male and a female – are at ease with each other, sometimes launch-

ing what clearly appears to be a joint hunting expedition. These observations have been made by E. Arun Kumar, an MNS member residing at Upscale.

“Of course, as this is the wintering ground, they would not pair off, but they could likely form a bond strong enough to hunt together,” says GK about the two falcons at MRC Nagar. “Based on observations, the possibility of tolerance towards each other is higher if it is a male and a female. Territorial instinct would kick in stronger if both Peregrine falcons were of the same sex.”

Regular visits

Continual monitoring of the patches in its focus is the hallmark of PRW, in fact PRW 2.0. GK notes that as a matter of routine, members of PRW 2.0 go on a raptor survey once a week. And when a freak occurrence needs to be investigated, they lose no time in doing so.

On the scope and focus of the project, GK says, “It is a longterm raptor monitoring programme of Madras Naturalists' Society which seeks to document, study and monitor the abundance, local movements, nesting and breeding activity of the raptors found in Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Chennai and Chengalpattu (KTCC) districts – defining it a tad differently, the Chennai Metropolitan Area.”

The study area extends to Pulicat in the north and Nayapakkam in the west. Thiruporur and beyond, Tiger Lily Lake being defining, brings up the southernmost point.

GK continues: “PRW 1.0 started in 2015 aimed at documenting the different raptor species seen in KTCC. PRW took a new shape in 2020 as PRW 2.0 giving birth to species-specific projects such as Black kite population monitoring at Perungudi dump site, Peregrine falcon abundance survey for KTCC and nest monitoring of resident raptor species such as the Red necked falcon and the White bellied sea eagle. The project is carried out by a dedicated group of 45 volunteers. The volunteers survey 15 different clusters covering 45 hot-pots. Historically, 32 raptor species have been recorded in this region and PRW has documented seven more for the region over the last

Project Raptor Watch 2.0 by Madras Naturalists' Society in the Chennai Metropolitan Area has spread its wings and achieved elevation. Among the exercises that have taken substantial shape are: the data-driven study of Peregrine falcons in markedly urban sites and a close look at the fluctuating Black kite population around the Perungudi landfill and the breeding patterns of the Red necked falcon

Following urban raptors

PRINCE FREDERICK

one decade taking the current tally to 39 raptor species.”

Black kite monitoring

For this project nestled within the larger PRW 2.0, binoculars were trained on the Perungudi dump site where one can see swarms of black kites at certain times of the year.

“There are Black kites that are resident in

Chennai. And there are Black kites that head to Chennai from elsewhere during the south west monsoon. A majority of the Black kites that migrate to the city during this period likely fly in from the west – Kerala and Karnataka – where the south west monsoon is the primary monsoon. When south west monsoon recedes, they go back to where they came from. At the height of the South west monsoon, the number of Black kites at the Perungudi dump site swelled to around 1,300 and now, it is hardly 20,” GK begins.

Peregrine falcon survey

Another exercise under PRW 2.0, this survey is being conducted only in parts of KTCC where the Pere-

grine falcon is known to be present as also where it could be found.

Here is a break-up of the wintering Peregrine falcon population in apartments across Chennai.

Two at TVH Oranya Bay in Padur, Old Mahabalipuram Road; two at House of Hiranandani in Egattur; One at Bashyam OMR; one at Appaswamy OMR; one at DLF Garden City in Semmancherry; two at MRC Nagar; one at Trellis South in Vadapalani and one at Taisha in Saligramam. In

urban sites with a Peregrine falcon presence, those residing there help with data about the bird. “Through regular monitoring, we know the everyday movements and patterns of most of the Peregrine falcons,” he notes. “Now, we are on to the next stage of the Peregrine falcon survey – we are doing a pre-NE monsoon survey, the NE monsoon survey and post-NE monsoon survey to understand where the numbers differ. When the monsoonal rains subside, the Peregrine falcons return to their regular haunts. We do synchronised surveys to ensure the same Peregrine falcon is not counted again. When this study reaches the third year, we ex-

pect to have in-and-out data of around 30 Peregrine falcons.”

The parameters

GK continues: “As we undertake a scientific study in these projects, certain parameters come into play – namely, weather, external disturbances, wind and rain. Through these parameters we see patterns. When JCB dredges up the dump site, the Black kite numbers will shoot up – this we would put down to external disturbance even as we ascertain the extent of the increase in numbers. When wind and rain cease, the Black kite numbers will go up. During rains, peregrine falcons will go into “hiding”.”

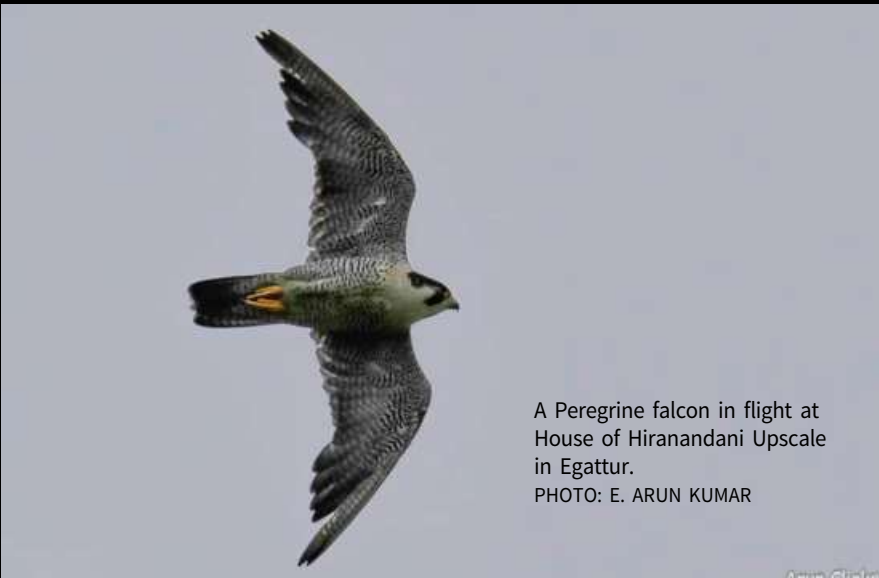
Putting the air channel to good use

Peregrine falcons feel snug in declivitous landscapes – as much at ease in those crafted with human hands as with those occurring naturally.

When they shack up for the winter at House of Hiranandani Upscale in Egattur, the two Peregrine falcons would hardly miss the rock faces they are accustomed to back in their breeding grounds. The tall towers serve them well, probably far too well for them to long wistfully for them when they have made the return trip.

Upscale resident and MNS member E. Arun Kumar, who tracks the movements of these two Peregrine falcons – named Rana and Nandini – has studied how these towers are an incredible aid in these raptors' hunting expeditions.

Arun explains the science behind it. An air channel inevitably forms between the towers facing. Depending upon the direction in which they



A Peregrine falcon in flight at House of Hiranandani Upscale in Egattur.
PHOTO: E. ARUN KUMAR

are flying, the pigeons find their flight aided or impeded by the air channel. When the air is blowing against the pigeons and slamming the brakes on

them, the Peregrine falcon that has soared high above the towers (where the air flows freely) takes advantage of the situation.

And then Arun goes on to discuss the artistry and the subterfuge that complement the science –narrating a hunt underpinned by this principle that he witnessed on a windy day just ahead of a massive wet rag of a day.

Arun narrates that given the weather, he was hoping, even expecting a pelagic bird to be buffeted about and finally fly his way. But he was instead treated to “a midair hunt by the fast and furious peregrine falcon”. And he is not complaining. With the aerial show put up by the Peregrine falcon, the disappointment disappeared into thin air.

The Peregrine falcon was slowly hovering around the apartment blocks and seemed view the pigeons' presence dispassionately. But the Peregrine falcon's presence unsettled some of the pigeons, he says, there was a frenzied scampering among them.

After surveying the scene stationed on a window parapet for a few minutes, the Peregrine falcon swept away “towards the open space in the midst of different towers”, its

flight marked by palpable intensity.

When the falcon was gaining elevation, for a fleeting moment Arun got the impression it was leaving the vicinity.

The elevation was being achieved to launch an aerial attack. There was speed, suddenness and flawless execution. Before Arun could realise it, the hunt had been brought to a successful completion. The falcon was in front of him, a pigeon in its talons, before it faded away.

Gnanaskandan Kesavabharathi (GK), who helms Madras Naturalists Society's Project Raptor Watch 2.0, underlines the Peregrine falcon's ability to turn its regular hunting strategy on its head and still pull off an attempt in style.

GK notes that knowing the Peregrine falcon's ability to gain elevation and swoop down on its prey stunning it with speed, some birds would push themselves up and try to soar much higher than the falcon.

In such a scenario, the Peregrine falcon might choose to strike from below, dipping and taking a U-turn upwards and pursue the prey.

Hunting in tandem



Whatever the vexations that sear the rufous crown of a red necked falcon, an absentee spouse is certainly not one of them. The male and female of this species are co-workers. Truth be told, that description is not spot-on, hardly setting the species apart from most others. To varying degrees, the male and the female in almost every avian species divide the drudge work that goes with raising the young. What makes the red necked falcon a touch better than most other species in this matter is that both the male and the female have teamwork and partnership developed to the nth degree.

The male and female Red necked falcon hunt in tandem with a level of coordination that would make any doubles pair in a racquet sport proud.

Bharath Ravikumar lives in a place wedged between ECR and OMR and is characterised by transmission towers, and also marsh-like patch.

He gets to see a red necked falcon pair up close.

Listen to Bharath: “A Red necked falcon pair have a hunting technique down to art, and it requires simultaneous participation from the male and the female. Sometimes, the female will launch the attack by flushing the birds parked on the ground and directing them to go in a particular direction. The male red necked falcon would be flying parallelly but at a higher elevation, and when these flushed birds have been guided in a particular direction, the male would go for the kill.” There would also be reversal of roles, with the male doing the flushing and the female completing the hunt by going for the kill.

E. Arun Kumar, a resident of House of Hiranandani Upscale in Egattur, OMR who has witnessed this teamwork by a Red necked falcon pair being orchestrated to perfection at Kaveripakkam, notes that this behaviour is well-entrenched in this species.

A Red necked falcon pair in the outskirts; and another pair in the ECR-OMR region. PHOTOS: E. ARUN KUMAR AND BHARATH RAVIKUMAR



Here is why those who have saved a road accident victim could think twice before applying for the Good Samaritan award despite a five-fold increase in its reward money

LIFFY THOMAS

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari recently announced five-fold increase in the reward amount for the “Good Samaritan” scheme.

Launched in 2021, this award is extended to anyone who has saved the life of the road accident victim by administering immediate assistance and rushing the person to a hospital or trauma care centre within the Golden Hour. Currently, an award amount of ₹5,000 is given to the Good Samaritan, which the Minister said would be increased to ₹25,000.

As per reports, the Good Samaritan Award money was given to 80 people until December 2022 according to government data tabled in the Parliament.

The *Hindu Downtown* spoke to a cross-section of NGOs working in the area of road safety and found out the scheme is not popular among most citizens.

The RTO or the traffic police in the jurisdiction where the accident occurred is required to certify the individual as a Good Samaritan and share their details to the Transport Commissioner.

“During our workshops I ask volunteers if they had ever wanted to nominate themselves for the Good Samaritan Award and the response I got was we hand over the accident victim to the ambulance driver and leave the place,” says Karthik Venkatesan, manager - training and public affairs, Alert.

He has not come across any person who has applied or won this recognition since it was started.

Most of the workshops that train

people on giving support during the Golden Hour also covers the Good Samaritan Law. “We encourage participants to come forward to be recognised as a Good Samaritan but there are gaps in the system that put off people. One is required to provide contact details to the doctor, introduce oneself as the one who handed over the victim to the hospital but how many of us have the time to stay till the end,” says Karthik.

Thozhan, another NGO that regularly runs road safety programmes, says none of its volunteers has been nominated for the Good Samaritan Scheme because the reporting format is hugely complicated.

“In a typical case, a first responder would either leave once the ambulance arrives or wait in the hospital till a family member attends to the victim. The Scheme requires verification from a police personnel which puts off many people,” says M. Radhakrishnan, founder of Thozhan.

The Road Transport and High-

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Keep it simple

ways Ministry announced this scheme so that taking a road crash victim to a hospital is not just hassle-free but there is also the incentive of a reward and recognition.

The Ministry’s website has instructions for filling road accident cases and reporting form including particulars such as certification by the police department and by the hospital.

The nomination for the Award is sent by the Transport Department of the State to the Ministry. Thozhan has many volun-

teers who have helped accident victims but none of them is keen on applying for this Award. “Award is secondary especially when you know there are too many processes to be followed,” says Radhakrishnan, adding that they honour those who have helped accident victims every year during its annual day.

Many NGOs have been working with the government to empower private hospitals to attend to an accident case during the Golden Hour.

“Private hospitals do not take accident victims. In many cases, the nearest government hospital is far away which is the reason for increasing fatality rates, so this rule must be relaxed,” says Radhakrishnan.

He says the process to submit the application for the Good Samaritan scheme must be simplified. “A majority of accident victims are taken through 108 Ambulance, so why not empower them to verify a first responder?” asks Radhakrishnan.

NGOs also want the Government to publish names of Good Samaritans on its platforms.

Other awards

* Every year, in the month of December, ALERT, a non-profit organisation that empowers people to act effectively during a crisis and save lives, invites nominations for its annual “Alert Being Awards”.

Individuals and organisations that have created an impact through life-saving acts or initiatives can send their nominations to www.aba.alert.ngo

* The Cheistha Kochhar Good Samaritan Award is being instituted by Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research (C-DEP.org) in memory of Cheistha Kochhar. The award is being instituted at the behest of Sujit Bhattacharya, a young scholar who wants to use the nudge theory that Cheistha used to work on, to bring about change in society, says a note on the website.

The award will be given annually to those who have contributed to the betterment of society and who have consistently helped fellow humans in need. Deserving candidates may be nominated through C-DEP.org for consideration.

The hindrance to offering help

According to a study titled “Exploring the obstacles preventing good samaritans’ attending to the road crash victims: A case of a developing nation”, legal harassment, the bystander effect, fear of bloodshed, lack of altruism, and knowledge deficits are among obstacles hindering Good Samaritan behaviour.

The authors - Aditya Saxena from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Binayak Choudhury from School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal - surveyed 551 respondents to bring out the study published on Sciencedirect.

According to the World Health Organisation, during a road crash, bystanders can save lives in situations where established emergency medical services are not available. They can administer first-aid to the injured and even rush them to the nearest hospital.

The report also notes that there is no study in India that looks into the role of Good Samaritans in road crash incidents.

The study points out that there is a pressing need for public awareness campaigns to educate people about their legal rights and protections as Good Samaritans. Besides, efforts should be directed towards enhancing education and training programmes, particularly targeting individuals with lower levels of education and income.





Rap battle showcases literary innovation

As part of *The Hindu* Lit for Life, a dynamic rap battle finale was hosted on January 12 at Brigade Xanadu, featuring finalists selected from over 100 entries.

Rappers performed in Tamil and English, delivering impressive lyrical skill and energy that captivated the audience. The event offered a vibrant platform for emerging artistes to showcase their talent, celebrating the evolving art form of rap within the literary space.

Judges: Jords, a British singer and rapper for English; Senthuzhan, rapper for Tamil. The rap battle contest was curated by Catalyst 28. The rap beats by Gurumarx from Catalyst 28.



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Associate Partners: RR Donnelley, Blue Star, Brigade Group, NITTE Deemed-to-be University, PROchore, Singer, Chennai Port Authority & Kamarajar Port Ltd, Uttarakhand Tourism, Vajiram and Ravi, Indian Bank, Akshayakalpa and ICFAI Group.

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▼ The prize distribution ceremony.

‘Salute to Mother’ programme to be held on January 23

Through this initiative by Sri Krishna Sweets, more than 100 mothers have been honoured so far

Sri Krishna Sweets is organising the 14th edition of Salute to Mothers programme in which mothers of celebrities are honoured. Salute to Mothers programme will be held at Narada Gana Sabha (from 5.45 p.m. onwards) on January 23.

Justice R. Hemalatha, judge, High Court of Madras, S. Sivasankari, writer and Major General M. Indrabalan will be the chief guests.

Mathru Pooja Recital will be performed by Isaikkavi Ramanan. Students of Viswasamasathan School of Bharathanatyam will perform at the event. The students are trained by S.Vijayalakshmi.

K.V.Subha, advocate, Chennai, will be the Master of Ceremonies.

This year, the organisers are



also honouring a family - Geetha Varadarajan, R.Varadarajan, parents of Major Mukund Varadara-

jan who dedicated his life during a counter-terrorism operation.

The following mothers will be

honoured during this year's Salute to Mothers programme :

S.Annapoorni, mother of S.Balasundaram, Head of Payments, Financial Services, Walmart; Bakkiyalakshmi Devi Shanmugam, M/O Desa Mangaiyarkarasi, Tamil literary personality and singer; M.Balasaraswathy, M/O Sri Murugesu Lankalingam, CMD, Lanson Group of Companies; Harani Ekhaambarresh, M/O Sri Sai Abhyankkar, music composer, producer and singer; Indira Seshadri, M/O T.K. Bhaskar, Advocate, Partner - H&B Partners, Chennai; Jamuna Chandrayya, M/O Dr. Geetha Haripriya, Chairperson and Medical Director, Prashanth Fertility Centre and Prashanth Hospitals; Kamala Narasimhan, M/O Sreekanth Narasimhan, Joint Secretary, Meenakshi College for Wo-

men; Mangala Nandagopal, M/O Senthil Kumar Nandagopal, Vice Chairman, India Operations, REVATURE; Padmini Srinivasan, M/O Gayathri Girish, Carnatic vocalist; Pushpavalli Chinnasamy, M/O Umamaheswari Yuvaraj, Director, Ananya's Nana Nani Homes, Ananya Shelters, Coimbatore; Usha Sukumar, M/O Divya Abhishek, Youngest Chairperson of Southern India Regional Council of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India; Vasanthi Rajendren, M/O G.R. Ananthapadmanabhan, G.R. Radhakrishnan, Managing Directors, GRT Group; and Vijayalakshmi Srinivasan, M/O Preethi Srinivasan, co-founder, Soulfree.

More than 100 celebrity mothers have been honoured so far. In this programme celebrities will speak about their mothers.

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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

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TIMESNOW.in Academic Excellence Awards 2025 Tamil Nadu

TN Schools, Pre Schools and Education Institutions Survey 2025

The TIMESNOW.in Academic Excellence Awards 2025 event was held on January 10, 2025, at Chennai. This prestigious occasion celebrated the outstanding achievements of schools, preschools, and educational institutions for their exceptional efforts during the 2024-25 academic year. The event was proudly presented by Shrimathi Devkunvar Nanalal Bhatt Vaishnav College For Women, Chennai with the awards ceremony graced by the esteemed Chief Guest, Mary Kom, who felicitated the winners.



Everwin Vidhyashram Senior Secondary School, Kolathur
Top Ranked School National - CBSE Curriculum - North Zone



GoStudy, Chennai
Best Overseas Education Consultancy



Eurokids Preschool, Chennai
Best Chain of Preschools



Felix Pilot Training Institute, Chennai
Best Pilot Training Institute



Eurokids Preschool, Chennai
Best Preschool in Innovative Curriculum



Everwin Vidhyashram Senior Secondary School, Mathur
Top Ranked School in Life Skills Development - North Zone



Kangaroo Kids Preschool, Chennai
Best Preschool in Child-Centered Learning



Dr. MGR University (FACULTY OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT & CULINARY ARTS)
Outstanding Contribution to Hotel Management Education



Remo International College, Chennai
Best Aviation College



Kangaroo Kids Preschool, Chennai
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SDNB Vaishnav College receives Presenting Sponsor Felicitation from Mary Kom

NOTE : The current rating is included in the Timesnow.in Education Survey published on 12th January 2025, which also provides a comprehensive methodology. For a deeper understanding, please refer to the full survey report.



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