

## IT CORRIDOR

Adyar » Kanathur » Kelambakkam » Navalur » Semmencherry » Thoraipakkam » Velachery » IIT Madras » Kandanchavadi » Kottivakkam

Neelankarai » Sholinganallur » Thiruvannamiyur » Vijaya Nagar » Indira Nagar » Karapakkam » Kotturpuram » Padur » Thalambur » Pallikarainai



### A MEASURE CARVED IN STONE

An experiment to curb unauthorised parking on East Coast Road seems to have passed muster and is becoming the norm **P3**



### A NOVEL RECYCLING EXERCISE COMING SOON TO CHENNAI

Next Sunday in Mylapore, an initiative to dust old and unused religious items and give them away to those who might need it will be organised. **P5**

## Commuters left high and dry

At Palavakkam bus stop on East Coast Road, the bus shelter is on an 'elevated platform'



The bus shelter at Pallavakkam Church bus stop on ECR on July 4, 2025. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**I**n terms of accessibility, the bus shelters across Chennai present a picture best described as schizophrenic, being ridden with contradictions.

On one hand, "special bus stops", those with floors whose heights are matched with those of low-floor buses, are dotting the landscape.

The idea is that of the wheelchair-bound finding themselves moving fluidly from the bus stop to the low-floor bus and vice versa. And on the other hand, there are bus shelters with floors of a height that would have even the able-bodied stretching their lower

limbs to a degree that does not make for comfort, and in the case of seniors, even safety.

On certain sections of the East Coast Road where the road widening and the allied works (those pertaining to construction of stormwater drains and pavements) have been completed, utilities have been raised. In Pallavakkam, a new bus shelter has been raised at the Pallavakkam Church stop on a spanking new pavement, stylishly tiled.

But the pavement which doubles as the floor for the bus shelter is at a height that is anti-accessibility, if one can call it that.

It is certainly well over 1.5 foot high, and not too far from being two feet high.

## Water hyacinth removal at Buckingham Canal



The Water Resources Department is carrying out water hyacinth removal work with amphibian vehicles at the Buckingham Canal in Sholinganallur on July 4, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



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## A measure carved in *stone*

An experiment to curb unauthorised parking on East Coast Road seems to have passed muster and is becoming the norm

PRINCE FREDERICK

What started as an experiment is now being firmed up as a norm. On an experimental basis, on a section of East Coast Road in Pallavakkam, the State Highways Department had grouted a row of stones (the ones usually used for defining kerbs) on the carriageway, leaving space between the pavement and this row of stones. The Department did this to study motorists' beha-

viour: whether they would park outside the line defined by the stones, thereby usurping a considerable patch of the carriageway or move on realising the space is out of bounds for parking.

Stones are being similarly grouted on other sections of ECR in Pallavakkam as well as in Kottivakkam sections of ECR where road widening has been completed. This move signals progression of the exercise from the experimental stage to a stage of permanence. The measure is designed to target unauthorised parking.



Kerb stones grouted into ECR at Pallavakkam and Kottivakkam to check unauthorised parking. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

As part of this progression, the space between every two stones already grouted is being reduced to four inches by removal and re-grouting. According to those connected with the developments, the gap is being reduced to prevent motorcyclists from parking their machines in the space, while keeping it wide enough for rainwater to flow through it and enter the inlet

points in the SWDs.

There are questions. One, would visitors to shops that do not offer parking simply park their vehicles on the carriageway? The answer available as of now: traffic police personnel would bring them to book for unauthorised parking.

Two, could the space between the row of stones and the pave-



ment be misused by vendors by parking their wares out there? It should be regularised quickly to pre-empt that possibility: one option is to make that a cycling lane, which despite promises of materialising in parts of Chennai has remained a pipe-dream.

And there is also a sense that through one-side parking, interior roads could be co-opted into the job of parking management.



## The spunky young green bee eaters

As one progresses towards the extremities of Old Mahabalipuram Road, expanses that tie urbania and peri-urbania in a neat package heave into sight. Barely would one have locked the gates of urbania and turned around to set foot in peri-urbania than a green bee eater would flit by, displaying its skill to hunt on the wing. There are skulkers among birds, and birdwatchers need to be on their reluctant tail to have a clear view of them. It drains time and energy. In contrast, the green bee eater would seem to be on the birdwatcher's tail. Ranging over peri-urban patches, green bee eaters are at ease being watched. The young among the skulkers might be a tad bold till they are young no more. The young among the green bee eaters are spunkier, staying a tad closer to human eyes than their seniors. At Sholinganallur, in a space that has a touch of the peri-urban, a gaggle of juvenile bee eaters has been congregating, and they seem quite venturesome, hunting for bees on the wing, close to human presence. These birds have a chin with a distinctly yellowish-green tint that are a dead giveaway that they have considerably more days ahead of them than behind them. Juvenile green bee eaters at Sholinganallur on July 3, 2025. Photos: Prince Frederick





As single-use plastics abound despite laws to check their manufacture, sale and use, one need not look far for an excuse to persist with them. Look sideways at the next shop or the next door, and there it is, the excuse plonked in a hideous plastic cover. Flower seller Jagadeesh, caterer Sasikala and a resident of Chromepet Radhika Premkumar avoided taking that convenient sideward glance. They instead looked straight at what ought to be done

# Three mascots for Plastic Free July

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

In a world where every personal plan and public policy clicked neatly into its intended place, Plastic Free July would be a superfluity. But with laws to eliminate single-use plastics having the biting force of the Etruscan pygmy shrew with its almost-invisible teeth, this awareness month is a necessity in our world. It challenges people to avoid banned plastics and minimise the use of legal and unavoidable plastics, to start with, for a month. These three individuals did not need the prodding of a Plastic Free July to free themselves from the entanglements of single-use plastics. They simply emerged as tiny pockets of resistance in a vast landscape of capitulation. Here are their stories.

## Flowers wrapped in a cause

In Adambakkam, Jagadeesh plies his trade near Sri Subramaniya Swamy Temple on Brindavan Nagar Main Road. From a shop that can be slipped into a vest-pocket, he sells flowers, making a quiet but firm statement – no plastic covers, only paper wrapping and paper bags. For the past 2.5 years, the 56-year-old has wrapped every garland and bunch of flowers in newspapers, refusing to use plastic covers. He stands his ground when a customer would wince at the sight of flowers being wrapped in paper.

“I will give only paper. If you do not like it, no problem, you can leave” – that is Jagadeesh’s response to any complaint from a customer.



Jagadeesh at work in his shop in Adambakkam.

He developed a distaste for plastic covers during the monsoon three years ago. Following a cloudburst, plastic covers had clogged the drains, resulting in a flooded street. Jagadeesh stepped out and cleared the plastic waste himself. “People laughed at me, but I knew I had to do something,” he says.

Since then, plastic covers have been an anathema: he made them unwelcome where he could without anybody’s permission – that is, in his shop. Unlike many others who choose to use old newspapers, Jagadeesh buys 40-50 fresh papers every week from a nearby shop to make clean paper bags. “Flowers are meant for puja. They should be

clean. How can I give something sacred in a dirty paper?” he asks.

For customers buying a bunch of garlands, he neatly packs them in white gunny bags.

Jagadeesh’s daily sales is in the range of ₹900-1000, with flowers priced modestly between ₹20-30. He does not seem to attach an undue value to profits. Other things matter just as much, if not more. “One out of every 100 customers would get irritated, but most people appreciate it. Some bring their own jute bags now, and I am happy about that,” he says.

Jagadeesh also gently explains to customers the harm plastic causes. He notes: “It is not just about business. We all have to take responsibility at some point in our lives.”

## ‘No plastic zone’ in a residential pocket

Radhika Premkumar from Khivraj Mansarovar Second Street in Chromepet lets her life be steered by a sustainability philosophy. Trained in commerce through collegiate education, Radhika once had a corporate career. And the nine-to-five rigour allowed little time for mindfulness to the minutiae of everyday living. In December 2015, during the Chennai floods, she found herself facing a fork in the road, pointing her in a new direction. Struck by illness and unable to reach a doctor as the floods had disrupted life, she realised that healing should be built into daily living, various aspects of it being defined by health-promoting choices. Besides turning to natural remedies, including acupressure, Radhika rung in changes that turned her hearth upside down, in a positive way. Her family being on the same page, she could implement these changes without any resistance. In 2016, she switched to biogas cooking. “By 2018, I began making bio-enzymes,” she says. Passion led her to wear a new professional identity as seller of bio-enzymes. Post-pandemic, she co-founded Arani Biotech with Kannabiran and Kumaran; the company manufactures bio-enzymes.

Of course, the plastic presence in her home did not escape Radhika’s introspective look. Wherever possible, she has replaced plastic items with eco-friendly alternatives and single-use plastics do not have a toehold in her household.

Here are some of the replacements. Bamboo brushes instead of plastic brushes. Steel straws instead of plastic straws. Vetter body brush instead of plastic loofah. Steel water bottles instead of plastic water



Radhika Premkumar from Chromepet ensures that the plastic bottles that sneak into her house are recycled; Radhika during a bio-enzyme making session at a college.



bottles. Provisions are carried in cloth bags or steel vessels, and she never leaves home without her trusty water bottle. “Plastic sneaks in sometimes, such as through online food deliveries, but we can always

make sure it does not pile up on the planet,” she says. She ensures plastic items that come home uninvited, but unavoidably (examples being plastic juice bottles and milk covers) are dispatched to the recycler or the local scrap dealer. She avoids polyester and steers clear of products with harmful chemicals.

Medical waste such as band-aids, adult diapers and needles is packed carefully before disposal. Nothing is tossed out mindlessly.

Through awareness sessions in schools via the Rotary Club, Radhika plants ideas of change in young minds. “My neighbours tell me they think of me when they carry water bottles or switch to cloth pads. That feels like a small win,” she smiles.

Her advice is simple: conscious buying, gradual change, and less waste. She says: “We have to read labels, know the ingredients to know what we’re buying. Every habit takes time, but the key is to start.”

## Catering for the planet’s needs

In a world hooked on fast food and faster packaging, Sasikala from Velachery “slows” things down on both fronts. Her homegrown venture, Safe Food Focus offers traditional dishes, neatly packed in butter sheets, cotton boxes or even banana leaves – never plastic. For courier orders, she uses ziplock paper covers. When she cooks for orphanages or parties, she delivers the food in steel vessels. Transportation of steel containers demands the hire of a bigger vehicle adding to the logistics, but Sasikala has learnt to take this challenge in her stride.

In her cooking classes and through awareness drives, Sasikala urges people to carry their own plates, spoons, and bottles while travelling.

Sasikala prides herself on ensuring personal and planet health. Her first big order in 2023, feeding 100 children, sowed the



Sasikala from Velachery and a glimpse into her sustainability-driven catering service.

seeds of Nallaram, an initiative to provide nutritious kanji mixes to children with anaemia. Two years later, the impact is visible by the smiles on those children’s faces, notes Sasikala.

Like a dress with two colour combinations that can be worn inside out, her kanji mixes – blends of two or three traditional rice varieties – can be turned into kichadi, upma, or even payasam.



From a previous event of the initiative

## A novel recycling exercise coming soon to Chennai

Next Sunday in Mylapore, an event to dust old and unused religious items and give them away to those who might need it will be organised

LIFFY THOMAS

Disposing of old items with a religious significance such as *panchangam*, gently used puja articles, damaged sloka books and even faded photos can be a challenge as they come with sentiments attached to them. Many hesitate to give it away as they are considered sacred. To give it away or not is the question.

In Mylapore, an environment-friendly initiative helps deal with this dilemma.

The initiative is being brought to Chennai (Mylapore for starters) by Rotary Club of Bangalore, RT Nagar and Sri Kamakshi Aarsha Samskriti Trust, in association with TVR Subbi Chetty Vasantha Mandapam in Mylapore (venue partner) and Spreco (recycling partner).

The collection drive will be held on July 13 from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. All items must be brought in sturdy cloth or jute bags, and a service fee of ₹300 per participant will be charged. The organisers have conducted 16 such drives in Bengaluru so far, recovering 15 tonnes of materials. The collected materials are separated into different categories: the ones that are in good shape are cleaned and given a new lease of life. And the damaged materials will be given to the recycler in a process that has dignity and respect written all over it. Before any item is sent for recycling, a ritual called “Udvasana pooja” is

performed.

“The crux of this process is that through puja we remove the divinity and merge it with the panchaboothas. This has been appreciated by many people as it gives a lot of solace to those wanting to give away sacred objects,” says Vasudha Sundar, founding member, Shri Kamakshi Aarsha Samskriti Trust.

Unlike regular collection drives, the organisers point out that such events are labour-intensive.

“Typically, a frame will have the image, glass in front, nails and MDF board. All these have to be sorted,” says Sowmya Raghavan, community services director, Rotary Club of Bangalore, RT Nagar.

The service charge is levied to meet various expenses including transportation, cost of labour, *dakshina* for the priest and rent for the venue.

Both Vasudha and Sowmya say finding material recovery facilities has been their biggest challenge while trying to expand the initiative to other cities. They welcome interested groups to carry forward the initiative in Chennai.

In Bengaluru, all the drives have taken place in temples. The drives also see a fair share of swapping of items happen, as there are people who would like to pick up something. A resale vendor is also on board to pick up gently used items that can be sold.

The organisers can be contacted through email on [cpp.hebbal@gmail.com](mailto:cpp.hebbal@gmail.com) and [skast.trust@gmail.com](mailto:skast.trust@gmail.com)

### The drive

**When:** July 13; 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

**Where:** TVR Subbi Chetty Vasantha Mandapam in Mylapore

**What to bring:** Old photos, idols of deities, puja articles, calendars

**What not to bring:** Haldi, kum kum, threads



LIFFY THOMAS

Every time 20-year-old Ahil Adithyaa drives from Mahindra World City in Chengalpattu where he lives, he has to pay up at Paranur toll plaza. The reluctance with which Ahil hands out the cash is understandable.

“Residents staying within a five-kilometre radius are eligible for exemption from toll fee payment and I live within a two-kilometre radius from the plaza,” says Ahil, a student of a college in Potheri.

The youngster has also heard that the lease period of the toll plaza has run its course. Keen on getting the details about this, Ahil, who recently attended a Right to Information (RTI) workshop conducted by Tambaram Makkal Kuzhu, made a postal application with the Chengalpattu taluk office.

Though the digital native would have preferred to make the application online, the traditional snail mail is being used for various reasons including the lack of a mechanism at various government departments at the state and district level.

Although any digital submission is supposed to make things easier and faster, the State Government’s RTI site would leave any user frustrated.

The home page of [rtionline.tn.gov.in](http://rtionline.tn.gov.in) constantly “alerts” users with a message that reads: “Petitions and First Appeals addressed to the departments of Secretariat may be entered here. Action is being taken to extend this facility to the Heads of Departments, District Offices and the offices down below, in a phased manner.”

It further adds, “RTI petitions relating to the offices where the facility has been implemented can be sent through this portal and the petitions and appeals relating to the offices wherein this facility has not yet been implemented may be sent manually to those offices at present and not

to file those petitions in this web portal.”

#### Slow digital adoption

B. Savadamuthu, who conducts free online RTI workshops for Chennai-based Nallore Vattam every Monday, says digital plat-

form for RTI applications in Tamil Nadu has a long way to go.

“On July 4, 2024 based on many representations I made, the Commissioner of Revenue Administration communicated to all districts collectors to accept online applications and create ‘cre-

dentials’ for the public information officer (PIO) handling the department,” says Savadamuthu, who retired as an executive from a public sector bank and also served as PIO and appellate authority for RTI.

In the last one year, Savadamuthu has filed many RTIs to find the number of applications that were answered online and only four districts responded.

While no department will refuse to accept applications online, this process is complete only when a credential is also created for the PIO. “A government office may have at least 10 departments and for every PIO they need to create a user name and password so that a petitioner can address him/her directly. This ensures faster response,” he says. Besides reduction in cost and time, the chances of digital submissions going missing are low. “We encourage citizens to opt for digital submission, but many departments are yet to make the process easy for citizens,” he says.



ILLUSTRATION :  
SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

## The challenges of filing RTI petitions online

### Experts on how to draft a compelling plea

Saroja Sundaram, executive director of the Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), says among what ought to be kept in mind while drafting an RTI application are specificity and conciseness.

“Questions should be targeted. One question could be broken into multiple ones to avoid ambiguity and make it easy for the department to respond. If you are asking information about an infrastructure try to give as many details as possible otherwise the answer would be yes/no. You can also give a table and list the details you need as some departments give information in the format that we ask for,” says Saroja adding that CAG had conducted awareness workshops in the past.

V. Santhanam, who has filed close to 2000 RTI applications, says one must know the functions of the department before filing a petition. “If residents in a street want to get answers to an infrastructure work I ask a group of people from the area to file the RTI, so the department is forced to give answers,” says Santhanam. Youngsters need to come forward to file RTIs and they could start with small issues concerning their neighbourhood.

“For instance, the ration shop in your neighbourhood is not stocking various items. One can file an RTI to understand how the system works, where the questions could range from the population the ration shop covers to how many kilos of certain items a household is entitled to,” adds Saroja.

## They conduct free RTI workshops

Tambaram Makkal Kuzhu (Tambaram People’s Forum), a civic organisation, conducted its first RTI workshop in June and plans to conduct them periodically. Two RTI activists addressed the participants on how to draft RTI questions. C.R. Bharathi Kannan of the Forum says a majority of the participants for the first workshop were students. He says they also plan to conduct follow-up meetings to help people with any nagging questions they might have.

The next workshop will be held on a weekend at Thagai Community Centre in Tambaram. Those keen on being part of the workshop can call 9498488645/ 9986316106.

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For close to a year now, Nalloorvattam has been conducting online sessions on RTI every Monday at 7.30 p.m. An average of 15-20 people attend these sessions conducted in Tamil and English for people from across Tamil Nadu. The main focus at these workshops is to train participants on submitting an application digitally. Interested participants are required to share details such as name, email ID and residential address to get the link to the meetings. Depending on requests, these workshops are sometimes conducted offline as well. For details, call 89034 32714.

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Over the last three years, Arappor Iyakkam has conducted at least 100 workshops to educate people on how to file an RTI. The workshops cover aspects such as how to frame RTI questions, ways to address the authorities and how to go on an appeal. An extension of this initiative is the ‘My vote Is Not For Sale’ campaign; the pilot programme has spread to various districts in Tamil Nadu. Currently, in Chennai its workshops are held once in three months. Interested persons can either write to [contact@arappor.org](mailto:contact@arappor.org) or call 7200020099 to know about the upcoming sessions.

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Chitlapakkam Rising conducts these awareness sessions periodically. The citizens group is planning one in September. In 2022, during one such workshop, they brought active RTI champions from Chennai to speak to the participants. They included social activist from Chromepet V. Santhanam; banker Perulli Viswanathan; activist Kasi Mayan; civil engineers R. Pandiraja and Dayanand Krishnan.

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Social activist and Chromepet resident V. Santhanam is invited by many institutions to conduct awareness workshops where he shares his experiences and the various battles won by filing an RTI. He also conducts them for small groups of two to five. Those who are interested may call 9444254850



## Special significance to St. Patrick's annual marathon



St. Patrick's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School in Adyar, which is celebrating its 150th year, held its annual school marathon on June 29 with a special sesquicentennial significance. Themed "Legacy in Motion: Run to Radiate," this year's event was more than a celebration of fitness—it was a vibrant expression of tradition, unity, and pride.

The marathon brought together students from classes 6 to 12, who participated with great energy and enthusiasm. The event was flagged off by chief guest K. Vengadesan, Office Superintendent of Income Tax, Chennai, and an alumnus of the 2008 batch. Trophies were presented to the winners in each category, and certificates of participation were awarded to all runners. In his address, Rev. Bro. Pasca praised the students for upholding the spirit of the sesquicentennial year and reminded them that through every step, they are not only running a race—but carrying forward the legacy of a school that continues to thrive in its 150th year, added the release.

## English grammar book released

A book release was the highlight of the 279th meeting of Shakespeare Millennium Club conducted recently. Essential English Grammar for Graduate Level Students, as the book is called, was released by the Justice M. Sundar of the Madras High Court in the presence of a distinguished gathering that included V. Selvaraj, K. Sundareswaran, Kalyani Anbuchelvan, Ramesh Venketachalapathy, Janakan Paul and the members of the Bar Council, academicians and the authors G.K. Chithra and JKS.

Justice M. Sundar noted that the book's USP was its lucid and simple style, adding that it was an essential resource for every student especially those entering the law course, because for lawyers, language is not just for communication but is the very tool of their profession.

## Rotary's tribute to doctors



The Community Service Health Team of Rotary International District 3233 under the governorship of Rtn. D. Devendran, organised Healers Harmony - Rotary's Tribute to Doctors on the occasion of National Doctor's Day on July 1 in Egmore.

The programme recognised Rotarian doctors of RID 3233, says a press release. The following eight eminent doctors were given various awards.

Prof. Mohammed Rela, chairman and managing director, Dr. Rela Institute of Medical Center and Dr. Ravi Kannan, director, Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Center, Silchar, Assam were given For the Sake of Honour Award.

Rtn. Dr. R. Sriram, emergency medicine consultant, RC Madras West, Rtn.



Dr. Mohan Rajan, senior consultant ophthalmologist, RC Madras T. Nagar and Dr. T. S. Selvavinayagam, director of public health, Government of Tamilnadu were given Lifetime Achievement Award. Rtn. Dr. R. Prem Sekar, paediatric interventional cardiologist, RC Madras Temple City and Rtn. Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham, senior consultant ophthalmologist, RC Chennai Towers were given Distinguished Medical Service Award.

Dr. Karthik Balaji, founder, Zoriox Innovation Labs, Chennai was given Young Achiever Award.

On the same day, CSH Team's website <https://dhanvanthri3233.org> and "Rotarian's Privilege Health Card" (for the benefit of Rotarians and their families) were launched.

## Horticulture department to supply seed kits

Department of Horticulture & Plantation Crops will be supplying seeds under a State Government's programme called "Uttachathu Velanmai Iyakkam" (Nutritional Agricultural Mission).

According to a senior official, a ₹60 worth kit containing seeds of tomato, brinjal, chillies, cluster bean, lady's finger, and greens will be given for free from next week.

"This is an annual drive timed around the Tamil month, Aadi, as it is regarded as the best period for sowing seeds. This year 30,000 kits have been allocated for

Chennai. The drive aims to encourage kitchen gardening among the city dwellers," says the official.

The kits are available at the following outlets of the department: Semmozhi Poonga, Cathedral Road, Teynampet (PH: 6379700718); Senkanthal Poonga, Avvai Shanmugham Salai, Gopalapuram (PH: 9790042148); Madhavaram Botanical Garden, Milk Colony, Madhavaram (PH: 9597418342); Thiru Veedhi Amman Kovil Street, Thiruvannamiyur (PH: 9444805265); and at Anna Nagar (PH: 9790042148).

## New portal for registration and renewal of licenses

As part of the Government's SimpleGov initiative, which aims to reduce the compliance burden of regulations, the process for registration and obtaining licenses for women's hostels and homes and old age homes has been revised. Going forward, all applications shall be made through [tnesevai.tn.gov.in](https://tnesevai.tn.gov.in). Existing license holders are required to visit the above website and upload the necessary details and supporting documents. Additionally, organizations already registered with the Social Welfare Department must also use the same portal to renew their licenses, says a press release.

## Factory staff donate blood at camp

The Rotary Club of Chennai Coastal marked the beginning of the 2025-2026 Rotary year with an event dedicated to community service and health. The Club organised a mega health and blood donation camp at Modern Age Metal Processors on Manali Express Highway Road, Ernavoor.

The event was attended by the local community and industrial skilled workers. Health checkup was conducted for 130 workers and 17 people donated blood.

Navin Gupta, president of Rotary Club of Chennai Coastal, thanked Hindu Mission Hospital and Rajasthan Cosmo



Club for their support.

Ravi Sundaresan from Rotary International District 3234 also graced the occasion.

In recognition of Doctors' Day, the Club presented certificates of appreciation to Dr. Manju Shree, Dr. Vannila, Dr. Ashwin Balaji and Pavalam from Hindu Mission Hospital.

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**SATHIAMORTHY**  
**70927 03458**



## Local body councils: applications sought from **the differently-abled**

Last date for submission of applications is July 17

**A**pplications are invited for the nomination of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) as members of the Councils of Town Panchayats, Municipalities, and Municipal Corporations in Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil Nadu Assembly recently amended the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, to allow PwDs to be nominated as members of these Councils. Nominations will be made by the Director of Municipal Administration, the Director of Town Panchayats, or the Director of Municipal Corporations, as the case may be. In cases where a Municipal

Corporation does not have a Director, the nomination will be made by the State Government.

As per the eligibility criteria laid down in the Act, an applicant must be a resident of the respective Town Panchayat, Municipality, or Municipal Corporation, and must hold a valid disability certificate issued by authorities designated under the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018.

Application forms for nomination to the Greater Chennai Corporation Council are available at [chennaicorporation.gov.in](http://chennaicorporation.gov.in). Forms for other Municipalities and

Corporations can be downloaded from [tnurbantree.tn.gov.in/whatsnew](http://tnurbantree.tn.gov.in/whatsnew). Forms for Town Panchayat Councils are available at either [tn.gov.in/dtp](http://tn.gov.in/dtp) or [dtp.tn.gov.in](http://dtp.tn.gov.in).

PwDs seeking nomination to a Town Panchayat Council must submit their application to the Executive Officer of the respective Town Panchayat.

Those seeking nomination to a Municipality Council must apply to the Municipal Commissioner, and those applying for nomination to a Corporation Council must submit their application to the Corporation Commissioner.

Applications may be submitted either in person or by post, and must reach the concerned authority by 3 p.m. on July 17, 2025. The nominated member will have the duties and powers provided under Section 43 of the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.

## Training session on how to be a gold appraiser

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute of Department of MSME is conducting a training session on how to be a gold appraiser. It will be held from July 10 to 14 at its premises in SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the programme covers essential topics in metallurgy, focusing on gold and silver, difference between karat and carat, calculating gold purity, and jewel loan assessment. The session will also focus on Hallmarking procedures, assaying methods, and touchstone testing practices. Also, participants will learn about jewellery making techniques like casting, filigree, and stone setting (both open and closed). Further, there will be a session on establishing a gem and jewellery business. Prior registration is required.

For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280

## Workshop on **electric vehicle technology**

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is conducting a training programme on electric vehicle technology and business opportunities electric vehicle sector from July 10 to 12 at its premises in Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session will focus on functioning of motor, battery, controller, and charging systems. The

programme will also focus on identification of faults and servicing methods and safety procedures. Further, EV dealerships, setting up of repair centres, franchise business models, guidance on government schemes and incentives in the sector will be dealt with, adds the release.

For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280



## Session on **understanding tenders**

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute of Department of MSME is conducting a training programme on understanding tender procedure. The session will be held on July 11 at the institute's premises in Guindy.

Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session will focus on

GeM (Government e Marketplace); registration, listing of products and services; types of procurements, bidding procedure, essential of tender documentation. Those above 18 years of age may take part. Hostel facility is available at a nominal rate, adds the release.

For details, call 9543773337 / 9360221280

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