

T. NAGAR

Saidapet » West Mambalam » Vadapalani » Porur » Kattupakkam » Irungattukottai » Nungambakkam » Manapakkam » Ashok Nagar » Valasaravakkam
Gerugambakkam » Mangadu » Choolaimedu » Egmore » K K Nagar » Kodambakkam » Virugambakkam » Somangalam » Poonamallee » Chetpet

Introducing an old resident of West Mambalam

A houseowner has made this baobab feel welcome by giving it breathing space; but it has to be protected from passersby

PRINCE FREDERICK

Some arrive at the right knowledge of the things around them without the handrails of instruction. Others, their intellectual feet slowed down by an ataxic gait, would need the steady hand of an awareness drive to reach a space where they can engage with the environment around them in a manner that cherishes and protects it.

To see this idea crystallised into a tangible reality, let us visit an interior street in West Mambalam. A publicity-shy baobab hiding in Thiruvengadam Street in Gokulam Colony, West Mambalam has benefitted from a farsighted action volunteered by a household, one that stands by this tree in both literal and figurative terms. Their compound wall inlaid with decorative grey stone blocks "steps back" and allows breathing space for the baobab. A planter bed caressing the wall is discontinued to allow the tree freedom to express itself.

Where the wall takes a break, a perforated metal screen has been installed



"deep in the crease".

These measures suggest a keen understanding of a baobab's potential for gaining girth. Baobabs being the Methusaleh of the avian world, known to live for a millennium if not more, the tree has all the time in the universe to grow up and big. Let us assume the trunk of

this baobab has achieved its maximum girth – trees are not automatons, and those within a species display individual features shaped by environmental factors. A baobab at the Andhra Mahila Sabha campus in Adyar requires nearly two dozen pairs of hands to give it a bear hug. And a baobab on



A baobab tree at Thiruvengadam Street in Gokulam Colony, West Mambalam on October 1, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Pallavan Salai sports a trunk barely one-tenth the size of the one at Andhra Mahila Sabha. Even if the trunk has completed its growth plan, the setback provided will help the tree stretch its arms freely, pushing its branches into the air unhindered.

While this household has acted responsibly out of the

knowledge they had about this tree, another entity has acted out of ignorance about the tree's intrinsic value. They have turned the broad trunk of the baobab into a billboard. The word "puncture" with a mobile number accompanying it has been scrawled on the trunk.

T.D. Babu, tree conserva-

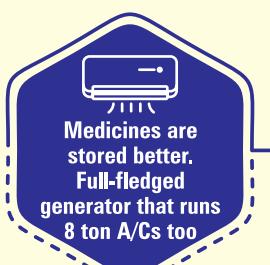
tionist, a member of Chennai District Green Committee and a Nizhal associate, brought this baobab's existence to *The Hindu Downtown*'s notice. While commending this household's initiative to help this Baobab, and by extension, the cause of tree conservation, he repeated his oft-expressed hope that the Forest Department expedites its project to place plaques next to heritage trees underlining their significance. One can lead themselves to believe that had a plaque been placed, the owner of this tyre repair shop would have refrained from daubing paint on the tree's trunk. When this writer quizzed a couple of habitues of the street about the tree, it was obvious they were not on first name terms with it. They did not know its name, let alone its history and its rarity on local soil. The plaques being prepared by the Forest Department do not stop at elucidating upon a tree's heritage value, but also issues a warning to anyone who acts in a manner that violates the rights of the tree to exist unhindered in the space it occupies.

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READERS WRITE

'Expedite work on MGR Nagar road'



Kalaignar Karunanidhi Salai at MGR Nagar. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

P. SUDHAKAR

Rebling of Kalaignar Karunanidhi Salai at MGR Nagar near Nesapakkam remains incomplete. Further, there is no sign of work for the past few weeks.

It was learnt that on grounds of breach of contract, the Greater Chennai Corporation had debarred the contractor from continuing its works following a fatal accident, which occurred last month, in some other road relaying project carried out by the same contractor.

The fatal accident is a result of non-compliance of safety measures mandated under the contract. Hence, the contractor has

been debarred. So the work on Kalaignar Karunanidhi Salai also remains half done.

However, it is the public who suffer on account of the work remaining incomplete.

Following the recent spells of rain, it was quite difficult to use the road. We request GCC to complete the work on Kalaignar Karunanidhi Salai at the earliest as north-east monsoon will set in another few weeks.

It is an important road as it connects Ramapuram and K.K. Nagar and therefore witnesses heavy traffic.

**P. Sudhakar, secretary,
Federation of Residential Welfare
Association - West Jhafferkhanpet**

'Wrong way driving rife at this spot in Guindy'

RAVI RANGANATHAN

Motorcyclists coming into the one way road at the end of the ramp from Race Course Road merging into Anna Salai, near SPIC House in Guindy.

They look at the oncoming traffic as if they had the right of way. Traffic police have made their efforts by extending the barricades. A camera at the spot and penalties might help.



The Anganwadi at Bobliraja Salai in K.K.Nagar. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anganwadi in K.K. Nagar sports a new look

The Anganwadi at Bobliraja Salai (Ward 136) in K.K. Nagar wears a new look following a redevelopment carried out by the Greater Chennai Corporation under a scheme called Nurturing Neighbourhoods, an initiative of Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

According to a GCC official, the work was carried out at an approximate cost of ₹15 lakh.

As part of the work, the facility has been provided with EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer) floor which is a synthetic rubber known for durability and shock-absorbing properties and lends a better grip.

Next, the walls have been painted with images from plant and animal kingdoms and concepts of mathematics and some of the walls have been made "interactive" – all these features are aimed at deve-



lopment of cognition and motors skills.

Smart boards, Abacus, sensory walkway, and additional play equipment are other new features.

The work earned appreciation

from the parents.

"All these new features expected of a private play school has been made available for our children. This helps learning joyful," says a parent.

A new leisure space



A leisure facility called Eco Park developed by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority was inaugurated a week ago in Koyambedu. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

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STATUS REPORT



A new landmark in Ramapuram

A park spread across 2.2 acres is being developed by CMDA

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority has set up a park on the Ramapuram stretch of Mount Poonamallee High Road. According to CMDA, the facility, spread across 2.2 acres, is developed at a cost of ₹7,67,39,788.

Amphitheatre, skating rink, outdoor gym, Yoga court are some of the features. Ramps have been provided wherever necessary for the benefit of the differently-abled and senior citizens.

Besides, the landscaping ensured retention of existing trees and most of them are native ones, states a note from CMDA.

The park is under the surveillance of 21 CCTV cameras.



'SWD work moves at snail's pace in Arumbakkam'

Reconstruction of stormwater drain commenced this June at Jai Nagar First Main Road in Arumbakkam and is not complete yet. Besides, the nearby stormwater drains have not been desilted.

It should be noted the Greater Chennai Corporation's Mayor, the Regional Deputy Commissioner - Central, and other GCC officials visited the road during the rainy season last year as it witnessed heavy water logging and they promised to do the needful. The reconstruction of the drain is a result of this visit. However, the work is progressing at a snail's pace and we are doubtful whether it would be completed before the onset of the north-east monsoon.

This road witnesses heavy traffic as it connects two arterial roads: Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road and Poonamallee High Road and the slow pace of the work is testing the endurance of the public.

N Chitti Babu,
Arumbakkam,



Jai Nagar First Main Road in Arumbakkam on Thursday. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

Sivan Park to get a gallery

The area of the skating rink at Amma Park will be increased, say officials



Work in progress at Amma Park and Sivan Park.

PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority is redeveloping Greater Chennai Corporation's Sivan Park on P.V. Rajamannar Salai in K.K Nagar and Amma Park on Kodambakkam Road in Saidapet.

According to officials, the work is being carried out at a cost of ₹4.8 crore and ₹2.9 crore respectively.

As part of the work, amenities

at the parks: play equipment, fitness equipment, and badminton courts will be replaced with new ones. Further, the landscaping of the parks will undergo a change, the officials say. However, Sivan Park will get an open gallery, a new facility. Badminton court will be a new facility at Amma Park and the area of the skating rink will be increased.

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DESIGN NOTES



On the compound wall at the University campus. The images were taken on October 3, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



'Feed' those 'lions' some paint

Take a look at these elements in the compound wall of the University of Madras campus

PRINCE FREDERICK

At best, it was meant to be an *amuse-bouche*, savoured before one had a taste of the intricate, heritage architectural design found on the other side of the compound wall. Calling it an *amuse-bouche* would in fact be an overly generous, even misleading description, if one knew the architectural repast inexplicably grander that is spread out inside.

This is an earthen design of four lion-faced creatures, open-

mouthed and looking in four directions, built into a masonry pier. Two masonry piers with this design are in the compound wall marking off the southern boundary of the University of Madras campus. The lion-faced creatures (yalis) could be apt term) look too "rundown" to successfully hunt for attention. It does not take much to rejuvenate them, and along with them the entire masonry piers: a

In this column, the reader will come across minor elements of design in the city that are ignored but can enhance the landscape

lick of painting. The paint having worn off, the features of the creatures are not sufficiently decipherable now. Before the painting, they need some hairdressing. One set of them is sporting a collective, unlikely hairdo – a plantlet.

The compound wall on the eastern side of the campus, which constitutes its facade, is more presentable. This compound wall is an al-

liance between robust carved granite stones and sturdy metal grilles. The same design sits atop two stone pillars, each found on one side of the campus' main entrance. Being painted, they manage some attention. The lion-faced beings on the two masonry piers on the southern compound wall need to be "fed" some paint too.

Yein Udaan celebrates Daan Utsav with a wide roster of events designed to connect individuals, corporates and communities through meaningful engagement. According to a press release from Yein Udaan, a voluntary organisation engaging with underprivileged section of Chetpet through education, has a week-long line-up of activities in Chetpet, offering participants an opportunity to experience the joy of giving through immersive, purposeful and memorable events.

On October 5, in the after-

Daan Ustav events in Chetpet this week

noon, there is a Thrift & Cloth Sale. Upcycled and pre-loved clothes and items would be available at a festive community sale. Employees of corporate houses can contribute items or volunteer at stalls. Proceeds support women's skilling programmes, says the release.

Other programmes on October 5: in the evening, there will be a Chetpet Community Walk. It will be a guided heritage walk showcasing Chetpet's rich history

and everyday life. | CSR teams and participants can discover the community firsthand. Ticket proceeds support children's programmes.

Men's Community Evening (also on October 5) will feature a recreational evening of games and relaxation for community fathers. Corporates can co-host activities to promote positive male role models in families.

On October 6, in the morning, there will be a Treasure Hunt in

the Community. It will be a gamified exploration of Chetpet with "kindness checkpoints", says the release, adding that donors can sponsor prizes; employee teams can participate for fun, teamwork, and immersion.

On October 7, Art & Craft Workshops including sessions on embroidery, water painting, and wire art will be conducted. Employees of corporate houses can collaborate with community artisans, supporting women's livelihood initiatives.

On October 7 & 8, there will be

"YU at Your Office" Engagement Drive: Yein Udaan team visits corporate offices with student stories, handmade products, and awareness stalls.

Both October 11 and 12 | Sat/Sun will feature a Musical Evening & Sing-Along. On the cards is a lively evening of music featuring local artistes and community children. | Corporate teams can sponsor the stage, sound or refreshments. It will mark a celebratory close to Daan Utsav at Yein Udaan, says the press release.

Roll out into the streets

As GCC is preparing a road between two MRTS stations for road-skating sessions at certain hours of the day, here is why more such arrangements have to be made without delay

LIFFY THOMAS

Recently Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner J. Kumaragurubaran in a post on X shared a video of children practising skating on the MRTS road between Perungudi station and Velachery station.

GCC, in coordination with Greater Chennai Traffic Police, will make the road impervious to motorised vehicular traffic for a few hours every day for skating and cycling, he announced in the post. Currently, "heavy vehicle arresters" have been fixed and a few leftover works are to be completed on this stretch.

While this should come as good news for academies scouting for ideal locations to train children in

skating, seeing it implemented is far from easy. This road has been used by young learners even before the pandemic for the minimum hindrance it presents.

Complaints by motorists when an entire carriageway of the road elsewhere is made out of bounds for them have meant that skaters have to scout for new location all over again. Manpower challenges in the police department to regulate such stretches mean this sport takes a backseat.

Three popular stretches sought by skating enthusiasts and training academies for road skating are: service lane on Marina Beach, near Light House; carriageway of Swami Sivananda Salai near MLAs Hostel; and Elliot's Beach Road in Besant Nagar.

R. Pratap Kumar, president of Tamil Nadu Roller Skating Association, says despite many requests by the association none of these roads is officially given for practice ses-



Screenshot of the post on X by GCC Commissioner; children warm up before a practice session on the road near Perungudi MRTS station; and file photo of an event at Swami Sivananda Salai.

Other cities

Chandigarh, he says, is one of the best when it comes to road infrastructure for skating. "Many medal-winning skating aspirants go to cities such as Chandigarh and Bengaluru to practise before a meet as they have dedicated stretches," he says. R.M. Anbunathan, a skating coach for more than two decades, agrees that finding an ideal location is a challenge and many a time they practise in neighbourhoods till residents raise an objection.

Currently, Anbunathan has managed to get permission from a senior police official to occupy 700 metres of the road at Swami Sivananda Salai in the morning between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.

"Before we could do a full circuit of Swami Sivananda Salai covering 3.7 km. Now, 700 metres is what is permitted," says Anbunathan who runs the Marina Academy of Speed Skating.

Skating coaches say Tamil Nadu is currently one of the top states in skating. Chennai District Unit is one of the biggest in roller skating in Tamil Nadu, and Chennai district holds many National and International medallists. There are more than 20 registered clubs, so to ensure this momentum is maintained the State government must accord importance to the sport.

"There are at least eight events in the road category including 100 mt, marathon, lap race, so we need affordable and safe space," says the senior coach.

Arrangements should be made to support road skating wherever sports infrastructure is coming up in the city.

Two skating facilities promoted by private players in Medavakkam and Gerugambakkam are being accessed by many skating enthusiasts. While they are maintained well with good infrastructure, distance and the cost of availing the facility discourages many from adopting them.





SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Green souls have to acknowledge reality. #compost will remain gently clicked. Composting advocates are voices in the wilderness, their messages often echoing back to themselves unheard. So, in a crowded digital space where more exciting hashtags, some of meretricious character, are being peddled, how can their message get noticed? Saraswathi Shanmugasundaram, a resident of an apartment at Luz in Mylapore and a composting advocate, offers an answer, actually demonstrates it. On her Instagram page @onelittlepalette, the hashtag #compostart is as profusely distributed as colourful Ixora in a rain-drenched garden.

Saraswathi, also wearing the work badges of an IT professional and yoga instructor, has experienced the misadventures pre-destined from every greenhorn compost enthusiast. Despite failing in the first few attempts at composting – one bin even got swept into a burglar's heist bag – she stayed resolutely at the composting post and in time, became a composting evangelist. And just like that, she discovered compost could be a canvas; and that #compostart can bring the missing visibility to the green practice.

She recalls the discovery: "People usually sieve compost after the cycle finishes to remove small plastics like apple stickers or threads from puja flowers and to catch chunky particles for the next cycle. When I sieved compost, I would spread newspaper and sieve it out. It spread like a flat bed and looked like a black slate where you could write or place something, like scribbling on mud or sand. Touching and feeling the compost led me to think of drawing and creating art from it."

The first sketches were simple smileys, but they gradually grew elaborate, festival motifs and seasonal designs entering the picture.

Pulling an artwork out of the bin

Amidst a crowd of attention-grabbing messages, how can the less popular but essential message of composting find an audience? Two climate-action advocates in Chennai have the answer



"To add colours, I use natural materials like fallen leaves, vegetable peels, flowers from the garden, sometimes fresh fruits or vegetable colours, everything that is compostable. Once the art is done, the compost goes to the plants and the materials used for colour go back into the compost bin or are washed if needed."

During one Vinayaka Chaturthi, she experimented with moist compost. "I added water to the compost, but it crumbled and thought that is how compost texture should be – crumbly but moist – it was not good enough to hold as an object. So I spread the sieved compost on a newspaper / old calendar sheets, and drew a picture of Ganesha."

Compost artworks, including the one titled 'Malar', from @onelittlepalette; Saraswathi Shanmugasundaram; and a sustainability diary. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing it is neither smelly nor dirty – simply soil in formation.

A starting point

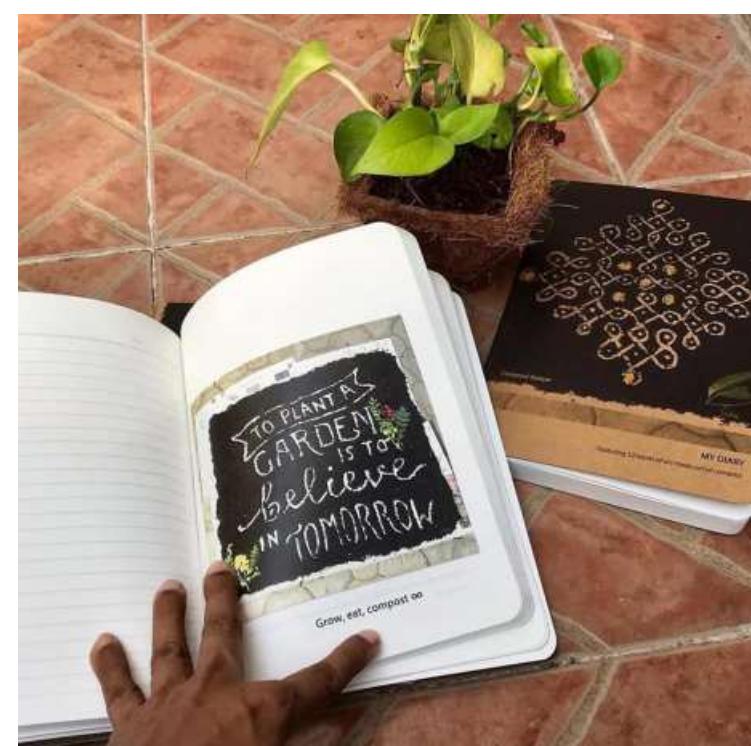
Nilayaan, a community-focused environmental initiative that works to promote sustainable waste management, and composting practices takes compost art to boardrooms and classrooms, since 2022. Deepesh Bhaskar, founder of Nilayaan, believes compost art can be a powerful starting point in environment and climate education for children.

"The whole idea is to make children aware of composting in a unified and nature-centric way," says Deepesh.

The adventure starts with a nature walk, where kids from Play-KG to 8th standard collect fallen leaves and twigs. "We do not let them pluck anything," says Deepesh, "but they do get a handful of compost to work their magic." Then, divided into groups and given themes inspired by the elements – air, water, fire, earth and space – they create art that literally grows from the ground up.

And here is the twist: most kids do not even realise they're working with compost. "Towards the end, we reveal that the materials came from kitchen waste, and suddenly they are touching, smelling, and learning all about it," Deepesh explains. It's not just about making art; it's about making the invisible world of microorganisms visible and fun.

In corporate wellness programmes, Nilayaan offers lessons in composting neatly wrapped in compost art. The overall theme of these sessions is "Composting Against Climate".



'Dr. Jane Goodall DBE, the Light that lit my path'

Chennai resident Supraja Dharini recalls her long association with the conservationist

SUPRAJA DHARANI

The passing of Dr. Jane Goodall DBE marks the end of an era. And for me personally, the end of an inspiring association. Her life and words shaped the path that became 'TREE Foundation'. Without Dr. Jane, I might never have found the courage to dedicate my life to sea turtles and marine conservation. In December 2001, as I walked along Periya Neelankarai beach, near my home in Chennai, I saw a large creature on the beach. As I walked close to it, I realised it was dead. A fisherman nearby explained that it was an Olive Ridley, one of the ancient mariners who return to our beaches along India's east coast to nest every year between December and April. That encounter disturbed me deeply.

Only weeks earlier, I had watched a National Geographic documentary featuring Dr. Jane. I so vividly remembered, hearing her say: "Every individual can make a difference". The words gave me strength at a moment when I felt overwhelmed by the sight of the dead turtle before me. Her voice convinced me that even a



single step could matter.

That single step became TREE Foundation, which I formally established in 2002 and the same year also became the Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots, first India member (a Global Network of Volunteers).

The inspiration

Inspired by her ability to connect people with nature, I began with the same fisherman who first told me about the turtle. His knowledge was invaluable, and from there, we slowly built trust with fisher communities. Just as Dr. Jane had shown the world that science must walk hand in hand with empathy, I realised conservation in India could only succeed by working with people whose lives are tied to the sea.

Dr. Jane's Roots & Shoots movement, which empowers young people to care for the planet, inspired us to make students central to our conservation programmes. Today,

children and young adults across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Goa are part of biodiversity awareness campaigns, beach clean-ups, and ecosystem walks building the next generation of guardians for nature.

Dr. Jane taught us that change is never immediate, but requires patience, compassion, and courage. Her story helped me overcome scepticism in the early days, when some communities questioned why a woman was speaking to fishermen about sea turtles and walking on the beach at night time. Now artisanal fishermen along our project area coast, release entangled endangered marine megafauna including sea turtles caught in their nets or ghost nets and release back to the sea.

The meeting

In 2007, destiny granted me the chance to meet Dr. Jane in person for the first time. To sit with her, to

be encouraged by her kind words, and later to welcome her into our home during her 2009 visit, remain among the most treasured experiences of my life, even though I had the opportunity later to spend time with her multiple times again in the United States of America. She was always delighted to hear about our accomplishments and sent her warm wishes when I was selected by The Explorers Club in 2021 as one of the '50 People Changing the World'.

During her visits to India, at Chennai and Hyderabad, she met fishermen, interacted with the TREE Foundation's Sea Turtle Protection Force members, students, conservation leaders and even officers from the Indian Coast Guard, Forest Department and consuls from various country consulates.

A personal farewell

Though she is no longer with us in body, Dr. Jane's legacy will always live in our work. Her Jane Goodall Institute continues to inspire globally, and here in Tamil Nadu, her light shines in every turtle hatching released to the sea, every child who learns to care for the ocean, and every community that chooses coexistence.

For me, Dr. Jane was more than an inspiration she was the guiding light of my life. Dr. Jane thank you for showing us the way. We will keep walking the path you lit for us.

(Supraja Dharini is founder-chairperson, TREE Foundation)

Anti-drug programme by MSSW students

The Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), Egmore, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Chennai Zonal Unit, organised an anti-drug awareness programme at Anna Nagar Tower Park recently.

The programme was an extension of a study conducted by MSSW postgraduate students on drug use among undergraduate students in Chennai. The research revealed key concerns including peer pressure, easy accessibility of drugs, and social stigma, which continues to discourage students from seeking de-addiction support despite awareness of counselling services, said a release.

As part of the awareness drive, students performed a street play to spread messages about the dangers of substance abuse and the availability of support systems for prevention and rehabilitation. Deepak Kaushik, Superintendent, NCB Chennai Zone; Jubin Sam, Sub-Inspector, NCB Chennai Zone, and Vaibhav Srivastava, Assistant Director, Southern Region, NCB Chennai, were the special guests.



Rang Mahal brings Bengal to the city

As in previous years, Rang Mahal, which represents the conglomeration of West Bengal weavers from Nadia district, is in the city for a mega sale. This is the 27th year since they have been visiting the city with their collection of handloom and handicrafts, said a release.

The exhibition-cum-sale starts on October 7 and will end on October 17 at C.P. Arts Centre in Alwarpet. One can shop for a range of saris and dress materials at "weavers price".

Purattasi Thiruvizha at T. Nagar temple

The 74th year Purattasi Thiruvizha of Arulmigu Sree Karmugil Vannan Alayam, T. Nagar, will be held from October 8 to 18.

On October 8, 'Sree Maha Sudharsanam' and 'Sree Dhanvanthri Homam' will be held from 6.30 to 8.30 a.m., followed by the distribution of prasadam. On October 9, at 7 a.m., Sree Devi Poo Devi Samedha Srinivasa Perumal Thirumanjanam will be held. At 6 p.m., Sree Kariyassiddhi Anjaneyar Vennai Kaapu Alankaram and Vadai Maalai Satruthal.

On October 10, at 7.30 p.m., Sree Haripandha Sevai, Sree Harinama Sankareethana Anantha Neertha Bajanai will take place.

On October 11, Thirupalliezhichi starts at 6 a.m. At six in the evening, Sree Rukmani Sathyabama Samedha Sree Karmugil Vannan Thiruveedhi Oorvallam will take place.

On October 18, 6 p.m., Vidaiyatri Urchavam will take place. The temple is located on Mambalam High Road, Lala Thottam (Opposite to Kodambakkam railway station), T. Nagar.

For details, call Sri Ramesh Bhattacharyar at 90031 67276, V. Mohan, the temple's president at 98410 51822 and M. Narasimhan, honorary president, at 99418 19899.

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Reunion marks 56 years of friendship



Matriculation School, Karaoke singing and Carnatic songs by the family members of the doctors of the doctors of 'Stanlumni 69'. In continuation, some of the doctors are planning to go on a cruise trip from Singapore with their families. These events mark 56 years of friendship.

S. Devaji Rao is consultant surgeon, Chennai Meenakshi Multispecialist Hospital in Mylapore and member of Stanlumni 69

▼ Doctors belonging to the 1969 batch of Stanley Medical College had a get-together at Hotel Accord International in T. Nagar. The two-day event included a scintillating dance drama on freedom fighters by the students of Revoor Padmanabha Chetty

Workshop on vermicomposting

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on vermicomposting on October 9. Another workshop on mushroom cultivation on October 10. The sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. Prior registration is necessary. For details, call 044 - 29530048.



Inter-school oratorical and debate competition



Union Christian Matriculation Higher Secondary School is conducting ORATORIA'25, an inter-school oratorical and debate competition for students of classes IX to XII. The event will be held on October 31 and the winner of the contest will receive a return ticket to Singapore, said a release. Other exciting prizes worth ₹90,000 will be given. Registrations close on October 10. Scan the QR code to register.



Dental camp held

Avichi Alumni Association organised a dental camp for students of Avichi Higher Secondary School. According to a press release, around 700 students were screened for dental disorders. A medical team from SRM Dental College Hospital, Ramapuram conducted the camp. Students were also taught about dental hygiene.

Workshop on solar energy sector

Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME, is conducting a workshop on entrepreneurial opportunities in solar energy sector from October 8 to 10 at its premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate, EDII Office Road, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session will focus on the basics of solar energy, introduction to solar software, business models, financial planning, rules and regulations, and subsidy schemes.

Those above 18 years of age with



a minimum educational qualification of class 10 can apply. Hostel facility is available on first come, first serve basis.

Prior registration is required. For details, call 8668102600 / 8072914694.

Applications invited

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation has invited applications for its one-year apprentice training. B.E., Diploma, and Non-Technical Stream (Undergraduate, Mechanical Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, B.A., B.Sc., B.Com, BBA, BBM and BCM) Ta-

mil students, who have completed their degrees in the years, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 and 2025, can enrol.

The students should apply online (<https://nats.education.gov.in>) National Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, before October 18.

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