

TAMBARAM

Chromepet » Pallavaram » Tambaram West » Rajakilpakkam » Mannivakkam » Guindy » Keelkattalai » Nanganallur » Guduvanchery » Hasthinapuram » Pammal » Tambaram East

Medavakkam » Srinivasa Nagar » Kathipara Junction » Kovilambakkam » Sadasivam Nagar » Potheri » Selaiyur » Sembakkam » St. Thomas Mount » Madipakkam » Urappakkam » Paranur

A sore point about St. Thomas Mount station

The revamped station comes with a slew of amenities; the picture would have been even better if the FOB had come complete with a lift or escalators attached to it

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

On May 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the St. Thomas Mount railway station along with 102 other stations across the country under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

The station comes with enhanced passenger amenities such as improved seating, display boards and advanced lighting, but there is one thing a section of commuters were desperately looking for – a lift or an escalator attached to the foot overbridge.

R. Ravi, a commuter, points out



that commuters have at least 75 steps to take before boarding trains towards Tambaram, Chengalpattu and Chennai Beach. Metro train commuters also take the footbridge

to board trains from the St. Thomas Mount metro station.

Unlike Chromepet, Pallavaram, Tambaram Sanatorium and Guindy stations, the terminal has two

The passageway connecting the St. Thomas Mount subway and the suburban train platform is blocked.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

footbridges, one along the old and the other along the new ticket counter building. The second footbridge is located at the starting point for trains to Tambaram, Chengalpattu and Thirumalpur and the end point for trains to Chennai Beach.

“There is much space along the first footbridge to install escalators,” says M. Martin, a commuter.

The St. Thomas Mount subway walkway has been barricaded. Commuters must use the staircases or walk until the platform area ends (towards Chennai Beach), cross the track, and exit through the building along the double-discharge platform.



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Bus shelter in Medavakkam not being put to optimal use



The bus shelter near T14 Pallikaranai Police Station in Medavakkam (not far from the junction of Semmozhi Salai and Velachery-Tambaram Main Road) is often not of optimal use to commuters as vehicles are parked in front of it. Most of these vehicles are those that had been confiscated by the police. Vendors also occupy the space in front of the bus stop, say commuters. Therefore, buses halt away from the shelter, right on the carriageway. The shelter has been set up by Chennai Metro Rail Limited. This bus stop (meant for buses headed toward Sholinganallur) witnesses good footfall, especially during peak hours. PHOTO AND TEXT: R. RAVINDRAN

'Allow pedestrians to cross GST Road at Irumbuliyur signal'

The Tambaram Police Commissionerate's traffic wing should strictly regulate the Irumbuliyur signal area on GST Road.

Although a pedestrian crossing signal has been facilitated, motorists come from all directions, showing little regard for the pedestrian signal.

estrian signal.

Traffic police personnel remain mute spectators and allow heavy vehicles to make u-turns when pedestrians cross, increasing the risk quotient.

K. Sowmiya is a resident of Irumbuliyur



Will the lakes be given a fresh lease of life?

There are hundreds of lakes and waterbodies in Chengalpattu district, but most of them are in a deplorable condition.

Encroachments and sewage discharge have made the lakes a mess.

The public cannot ascertain the lakes' boundaries or names.

Many do not have warning boards to deter the public from misusing them.

Water Resources Department (WRD) and the local civic bodies,

which are supposed to maintain the lakes, should first fix the boundaries and put up a board on all four sides providing the details of the lakes.

Besides, this is the right time to d-silt, deepen, and conduct maintenance work at lakes, but there is no sign of such work being carried out.

Will the WRD and local bodies do this and save the lakes?

V. Santhanam is a social activist and a resident of Chromepet

'More sponge parks needed'

Tambaram City Municipal Corporation is proposing the idea of establishing sponge parks in localities under its jurisdiction.

Sponge parks are mini ponds that help in water-retention and maintaining a balanced eco-based system in the absence of a lake in a locality. These sponge parks sustain the groundwater table.

A sponge park enables an ecosystem in urban areas through water retention, water filtration, groundwater recharge and last but not the least, flood management.

The civic body should explore establishment of parks on Open Space Reserve (OSR) lands and turning conventional parks into green infrastructure-based sponge parks, which will be critical for handling climate change impacts, supporting biodiversity and ensuring a natural setting for future generations.

J. Moses is a social activist and a resident of Chromepet

'Reintroduce small bus service S90'

Metropolitan Transport Corporation discontinued a small bus route number S90 (Tambaram to Perungalathur Anna Nagar Gundu Medu) a few years ago, citing poor ticket collection.

This route was popular among Captain Sasi Kumar Nagar residents, who are mostly daily wage earners, and students studying in schools in the Perungalathur region.

Commuters had significantly benefited from the S90 service and, in its absence, depend on autorickshaws. I request that MTC reintroduce this service.

V. Pitchumani
is a resident of New Perungalathur

An additional FOB sought

National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) must explore the possibility of constructing an additional footbridge along the Maraimalai Nagar haltovers on the lane towards Potheri and Singaperumal Kovil.

No speed breakers or rumblers exist, and motorists do not halt or slow down to let pedestrians cross the road.

The other option is to walk a reasonable distance to the MM Nagar junction, climb the existing

footbridge, and then walk and board the buses, which is tedious. Pedestrians run to cross the stretch, a few even talking on the phone, despite honking by motorists. Pedestrians suddenly halt the traffic flow, which can lead to multiple collisions.

Till an FOB is in place, NHAI should put up a board indicating a pedestrian crossing area ahead.

K. Geetha Kailasam
M M Nagar



Pedestrians crossing GST Road at MM Nagar region.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Direction board in a sorry state

The direction board near the Camp Road junction towards Velachery is in a pathetic condition. The paint has peeled off.

Such boards are helpful and authentic indicators for road users when Google Maps fails.

I request the Highways authorities to look into the issue immediately.

A. Abhiram Sai is a student of Madras Christian College, Tambaram (East)



You can be our volunteer-writer

Dear readers, you can be our volunteer-writer by writing to us about issues and events in your neighbourhood. You should send the write-ups to downtownfeedback @thehindu.co.in Letters must carry the postal address and contact number.



The patch in Santhoshapuram where garbage is dumped with impunity, usually under cover of darkness. The images were taken on May 21, 2025.
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Squalor by the side of an arterial road

PRINCE FREDERICK

Animals being guided more by instinctual responses than cognitive decisions, they flow with their biorhythms effortlessly. With an early afternoon sun beating down on Santhoshapuram on Tambaram Velachery Main Road, a herd of bovines are recumbent, their bodies instinctively sensing the possibility of heat stress.

They are chewing the cud and given the nature of their immediate

environment, there is concern over that "cud".

Plastics are strewn across a vacant space, one abutting the compound wall of Nanmangalam reserve forest. As they poke around in the garbage for edibles, they have likely ingested pieces of plastic.

Garbage packed in huge plastic covers sit stubbornly on one patch. Garbage is strewn all the way into the carriageway. If such squalor can be visited on an arterial and busy road such as this, one won-

ders where interior roads stand.

A habitue of this section notes garbage is being dumped here under the cover of darkness. He gives a clean chit to the conservancy workers of the local civic body -- Vengaivasal Gram Panchayat.

He points out Vengaivasal Gram Panchayat workers keep cleaning the place, but their task is as eternal as Sisyphus' and just as frustrating.



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A BIS standard specifically for bicycle helmets is in place now. Cyclists on what needs to be done next

Helmet talk

LIFFY THOMAS

Enjoy riding bicycles? Did you know the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has come up with a specific standard for helmets for cyclists, skate boarders and roller skaters – for the first time, and it is coded “IS 18808”. The move by BIS to nudge all stakeholders to promote ISI-marked helmet is crucial for a country where helmet use for non-powered vehicles is only voluntary (bicycles do not come under Motor Vehicles Act).

G. Bhavani, senior director and head of Chennai branch of Bureau of Indian Standards, says BIS has brought this standard in 2025 exclusively for bicycle riders, skateboarders and roller skaters. In April, the Bureau conducted its first awareness workshop in Chennai and continues to reach stakeholders including cycling groups such as WCCG - Chennai Cyclists, Cycling Yogis and Chennai Runners.

“Through Manak Manthan, a monthly initiative of BIS, we take up a standard that was recently revised or formulated or is under development. We reach out to all stakeholders including consumers, manufactures, regulators and laboratories for suggestions. Manufacturers of this product can apply for BIS certification for this new Indian Standard, for which BIS is in the process of reaching out to the relevant associations for raising awareness,” says Bhavani.

BIS certification gives an assurance of quality of the product to the consumer.

“We certify after the manufacturers meet certain criteria. Later, the



company is allowed to manufacture and market the helmet with an ISI mark,” says Bhavani.

In Chennai, most cycling and running groups promote use of helmets.

“In all our group rides and events, one thing is clear – “no helmet, no ride”, says Sudarsana Rao of Vibrant Velachery.

Rao notes that if there is a rule by the government then use of helmets and its standards will also improve.

“Unlike the helmets worn by motorcyclists, not everybody sells cycle helmets. They are only available in specialised shops and are different from the ones used by motorcyclists,” says Rao, adding that Clubs such as theirs can do a lot to promote helmet use.

Most bicycle helmets are made using PVC, polystyrene and allied material. They are durable, lightweight yet robust and promise reliable performance.

Bicycle retail outlets note a majority of helmets sold by them are im-

ported and come with good safety standards, with prices from ₹3,500 onwards. “Manufacturing helmets for cyclists is a niche market and unless there is good volume there may not be many takers,” says Ashwin G., partner, 5AM Bicycle Studio.

Helmet manufacturing companies point out there will be a market in India as many cities are creating cycling infrastructure and there is greater awareness about the benefits of this eco-friendly mode of transport.

“Today, we are largely dependent on the foreign market for helmet design, which must change,” says Bijoy Bharathan, general manager, Turtle Helmet. The Government must also reduce the GST on safety gears such as helmets so as to encourage more people to buy one, says Bharathan.

Lessons from other parts of the globe

Quality helmets reduce the risk of death by over six times, and reduces the risk of brain injury by up to 74%, says a report by World Health Organisation.

However, availability of affordable helmets is a barrier for some people. In its toolkit on promoting cycling and walking, WHO notes that ensuring effective helmet use requires measures such as developing and passing helmet-use legislation, public education, and active law enforcement.

Many countries have introduced mandatory helmet laws for cyclists, including children. For example, Australia was among the first to introduce nationwide helmet regulations in the early 1990s. Canada and Argentina enforce helmet use for cyclists in certain regions and the Netherlands requires helmet use only for e-bikes that exceed the speed limit of 25 km. These policies are typically part of broader road safety strategies aimed at reducing traffic-related injuries.



A group of cyclists on OMR.
FILE PHOTO

The battle against canine distemper

This deadly viral disease thrives due to a lack of awareness about it, as also the prohibitive costs of vaccines and immunoglobulin injections needed to combat it. A visit to an unusual ward at BMAD treating infected dogs



Two dogs being treated for canine distemper at Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD).
PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

PRINCE FREDERICK

Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) runs an isolation ward, alfresco – right outside its premises in Besant Nagar. A blue colour-coated corrugated roofing sheet is fastened on to a metal structure that sits on the compound wall snugly with the support of what approximates to sturdy C clamps. IV fluid packets dangle from hooks that hang from a supporting metal rod in the makeshift roofing. Fluids are being administered to Scar and Rama (canine residents of MRC Nagar and Avadi respectively) that are curled up on a table, their human-relatives standing by their side and watching them attentively.

At first sight, the uninitiated would equate the open-air ward with stepmotherly treatment to these canines. A closer look brings a board into view; and with that, a message which includes imperatives barked out in bold letters.

The message having been read, a clearer picture emerges. Here is the text: “Canine Distemper (CD) is a contagious disease. It spreads among unvaccinated dogs through contact among unvaccinated dogs through contact and air. DO NOT touch other dogs. DO NOT let your dog loiter around this premises.”

Scar and Rama are being treated for canine distemper, and given the contagious nature of the disease, the other dogs visiting BMAD for a consultation need to be kept at a safe distance from them – hence, the alfresco, removed ward.

Canine distemper treatment costs on the higher side due to the prohibitive price of the injections that ought to be administered to infected and at-risk dogs. These dogs are given immunoglobulins through Canglob D injections.

Canglob has a post-exposure dose. It also has a prophylactic dose for dogs feared to have been exposed to this viral disease, says Dr. Josika Navukkarasu, chief vete-

rinarian at BMAD.

“A typical case would be a household with two dogs, one showing signs of canine distemper and the other not showing the signs. The one without signs of CD can be started on the prophylactic dose (in other words, pre-exposure dose),” Dr. Josika explains.

“The thing with canine distemper is that even after you give immunoglobulin, there is a high chance that the dog will not make it,” she notes, elaborating that it is a pan-tropic virus as it affects every system in the body. “My advice is that going for vaccine is the best way to deal with CD. One vaccine will not do: in puppyhood, they would need close to three doses of distemper vaccine.”

Dr. Josika reveals that vaccination and treatment for distemper provided at BMAD are chargeable, but offered at a nominal cost. She adds that the economically disadvantaged can pay whatever they can, “but the vaccine cost itself is so high that unless we have people

or companies sponsoring vaccines it is difficult to do everything for free.”

CD works on the basis of outbreaks: it is highly infectious and contagious, she says and illustrates it: “In one road, if there are 20 dogs, and one of them contracts CD, definitely another five or six will also contract the disease.”

How can the community support the treatment of dogs with CD?

“If donors donate towards Canglob, we can give Canglob at a further subsidised rate, even free for people who cannot afford it,” says Dr. Josika. “If they want to donate specifically towards Canglob, they can make a general donation, and mention through our Instagram page or WhatsApp number that they have donated so much and want it to go towards Canglob.”

BMAD’s Instagram handle is @besantmemorialanimaldispensary and its email ID is bmadts@gmail.com

The *nesting Black winged stilts* of Perumbakkam: a sequel



PRINCE FREDERICK

Last week's showers might not have been forceful enough to break lake bunds, but the fragile nests of Black winged stilts in wetlands are an altogether different matter.

At the onset of summer, Perumbakkam wetland begins to serve as a home as well as a "maternity ward" for Black winged stilts.

These birds build nests on stones, padding them with plant material to make the incubation process easier for themselves (both the male and female Black winged stilt share nesting, incubation and parenting duties).

Some Black winged stilts build their nest from the ground up (avoiding the use of stones as base) by heaping up plant material and creating a mound of a nest.

A recent issue of *The Hindu Down-*

town discussed the resilience of the Black winged stilts, as evidenced by their efforts to build a nest again and again even where a succession of showers had damaged their nests beyond redemption or submerged them.

At Perumbakkam, sometimes, the stones sink on account of rains. This problem does not crop up under regular circumstances, only on account of unexpected and unseasonal summer showers (as the breeding season for this species in these parts is from April to August).

This year, ever since the Black winged stilts started the nesting routine, there were two spells of rain, causing them setbacks.

The latest happened last week, but the "householders" – particularly two pairs, with two different styles of nests, as one can see from the images – emerged unscathed from the crisis.

A nest made with piled-up plant material; and (right) a nest made with stones as base. The images were taken on May 23, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

A man-made 'hillock' at Perumbakkam

A space near the Perumbakkam lake is being used as a garbage transit point

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

At the Perumbakkam lake, a vitalising stroll down a tiled pathway waits for the visitor. Ahead of that experience lies a nose-pinching ordeal the visitor has to hurry past. These pictures taken on May 19, 2025 show a garbage mound on Indira Gandhi Main Road in Perumbakkam that seldom reduces in size, as fresh refuse is shovelled into it day after day, and the clearance hardly keeps pace with the dumping. Lack of clearance is the secondary matter of concern. The garbage mound should not have come up in

this location in the first place, as it lies in the Perumbakkam wetland's buffer zone. The sight of cattle muzzling around in plastic covers is disturbing, when one knows what ingested plastic can do to bovines.

The local civic body is said to be using the space as a garbage transit point. To all appearances, though, it comes across as a dumping ground. The dump overlooks Indira Gandhi Main Road, an important link road between Perumbakkam and Sithalapakkam, and also between Nookampalayam Main Road and Mambakkam-Medavakkam Main Road.



Dumping of garbage near Perumbakkam lake. The images were taken on May 19, 2025.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



Perumbakkam federation wants culverts at upcoming property

The Federation of Perumbakkam Residents' Welfare Association (FPRWA) have sent a letter to Chief Minister M. K. Stalin requesting to issue a directive to a Bangalore-based property developer to "give way" to culverts to prevent flooding in the region.

The company is developing a site along Classical Language Road in Perumbakkam, near Gleneagles HealthCity. The site has been raised above the ground and three culverts, located on Global Hospital Road, are buried under the earth.

The culverts used to carry rainwater from Bollineni Hillside, Gandhi Nagar Society, Embassy Residency, Gurudev Colony, Moogambigai Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Rathnam Nagar, Sairam Nagar and Cheran Nagar to Perumbakkam wetlands.

Three culverts, each 6 feet wide and 8 feet deep, were constructed by the Saint Thomas Mount Panchayat Union.

K. Sarangadass, president of FPRWA, says, "I request the CM to instruct builders to provide culverts on their site in alignment with the existing culverts on Global Hospital Road. This is important to prevent flooding during the North East Monsoon." The Federation has also submitted letters to the Chengalpattu District Collectorate, Block Development Officer, Saint Thomas Mount Panchayat Union, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

Text: T.S. Atul Swaminathan



Electronic boards at suburban stations



Three railway stations — Pazhavanthangal, Chromepet and St. Thomas Mount — have got electronic display boards. They display a host of information including train number, destination and the time of arrival at the platforms. A few commuters want Southern Railway to carry information of trains that are expected through the day. Currently, information of trains arriving in the next 30 minutes is only shown. This would help passengers to plan their journey better.

Timings of buses from airport

In April, Metropolitan Transport Corporation introduced two route numbers: a service between Chennai International Airport and Akkarai East Coast Road, and Kilambakkam Bus Terminus.

The details of the route numbers are as follows.

Route Number: MAA1 (Chennai International Airport-Kilambakkam Bus Terminus): The route number will ply every 15 minutes. They will pass through Pallavaram, Chromepet, Tambaram Sanatorium, Tambaram and Vandalur.

The buses will leave from the Airport at 12, 12.30, 1, 1.30, 2, 2.30, 3, 3.30, 4, 4.20, 4.40, 5, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 6, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 7, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.05, 9.20, 9.40, 10, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11, 11.15, 11.30, and 11.45 a.m., 12 noon, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 13, 13.25, 13.40, 13.55, 14.10, 14.25, 14.40, 14.55, 15.10, 15.25, 15.40, 15.55, 16.10, 16.25, 16.40, 16.55, 17.10, 17.25,

17.40, 18, 18.20, 18.35, 18.50, 19.05, 19.20, 19.35, 19.50, 20.05, 20.20, 20.40, 20.55, 21.10, 21.25, 21.40, 21.55, 22.10, 22.25, 22.40, 22.55, 23.10, 23.25, and 23.40 p.m., according to a press release issued by Chennai International Airport.

Route Number: MAA2 (Chennai International Airport - Akkarai East Coast Road): The route number will ply once every 30 minutes. The bus will travel through GST Road, Pallavaram - Thoraipakkam 200-Foot Radial Road, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, and Akkarai.

The buses will leave from the Airport at 5, 5.30, 6, 6.30, 7, 7.30, 8, 8.25, 8.50, 9.15, 9.45, 10.15, 10.45, 11.15, and 11.40 a.m., 12.10, 12.40, 13.10, 13.40, 14.10, 14.40, 15.05, 15.30, 15.55, 16.25, 16.55, 17.25, 17.55, 18.15, 18.45, 19.15, 19.45, 20.15, 20.45 and 21 p.m..

The release added that the buses will leave from the A6 exit gate of International Terminal 2.

Yoga classes at Velachery and Nanganallur

Satyam Yoga Trust will conduct a four-week yoga programme from May 30 at Thiruveethi Amman temple on Thiru Veethi Amman Kovil Street in Velachery. The programme will be held from May 31 at Shri Sudarshan Terrace Hall, B-2, Lakshmi Nagar Main Road, Nanganallur. Time: From 5.30 a.m. to 7 a.m. According to a press release, no fee will be charged. The trust follows the curriculum and tradition of Bihar School of Yoga. For details, call 98412 27709 / 94450 51015 (Nanganallur) and 87544 99334 / 94450 51015 (Velachery).

A wide variety of bags



Leo Bags is a one-stop destination for shoppers of bags. Established in 1980, the bag store is one of South India's largest chain of stores for bags and luggage, said a press release.

Its five stores in the city are in Chrompet, Pallikaranai, Palavakkam, Nanganallur and Tambaram.

The stores house brands such as Samsonite, American Tourister, Skybags, Safari, and Wildcraft, offering a wide selection at affordable prices.

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Chennai resident wins Senior Fashion Pageant India

The event is a platform for individuals over 55 to showcase their grace, grit and glamour

Fifty-eight-year-old Raj Srinivasan has a new feather to his cap. The Velachery resident is the third runner-up at the Senior Fashion Pageant India, an event for individuals aged 55 and above. Raj was the only contestant from Tamil Nadu to make it to the finals, standing out among 16 men from different parts of the country, said a press release.

Raj has over three decades of leadership experience in the corporate world. He was part of the Tamil Nadu Government-Industry team during the 1990s, playing a key role in attracting major investments.

However, Raj's life took a turn for the worse when his wife was diagnosed with can-



cer on their 25th wedding anniversary in 2020. He faced a personal battle, choosing to quit his job to care for his wife. Tragically, he lost both his wife and mother within just five months, said the release.



▼ Raj Srinivasan: and (right) with other contestants.

Despite these challenges, Raj's positive outlook kept him going. He decided to pursue passions he had always harboured but never had the chance to explore – acting, modelling and singing. Raj has since acted in a web series, Forever Buddies (MX4Player), and a Tamil movie, Scene No. 62 (available on Amazon Prime). He has also ap-

peared in TV commercials and is an active user of Smule, where he has sung over 800 songs.

The Senior Fashion Pageant India is an initiative by Peach Events, led by Rekha Desai, that provides a platform for individuals over 55 to showcase their grace, grit and glamour, celebrating those who defy age conventions, added the release.

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MCE conducts sports day

The Meenakshi College of Engineering, K.K. Nagar, earlier this month organised its annual sports day for 2024-2025 at Rajarathinam Stadium in Egmore. The event featured inaugural and valedictory functions attended by faculty members and students.

N. Senthil Kumar, chairman of the Anna University

Sports Board, was the inaugural function's chief guest, inspiring students to pursue physical fitness and sportsmanship alongside academic excellence.

The stadium witnessed enthusiastic participation by students in a wide range of track and field events, demonstrating their athletic skills, determination and

team spirit in spite of the scorching sun.

The valedictory function was held in the afternoon. S. R. Jangid, former Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, graced the ceremony.

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering won the overall championship trophy, and the Department of Architecture bagged the runner-up trophy.

Montessori teacher training programme

The Indian Montessori Training Courses, Chennai, will be starting its 54th regular batch in Montessori teacher training.

The training will commence on July 9 and lasts for 10 months. It will be held from Monday to Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 2.15

p.m., and Friday - 9.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., with on-line classes on Monday and Friday.

Successful candidates will be awarded a diploma by the Indian Montessori Centre, Bangalore, said a press release.

The course is a unique

career opportunity to learn, understand and make a difference in a child's life, the release adds.

For details, call 9444936263, 04424614301. Email: admissions.imtcc@gmail.com

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SCIENCE AND
COMMERCE
STREAM**



FEATURES:

- AI & Coding from Grade 1
- Entrepreneurship Development Program
- Beyond the Book Presentations
- Industrial Connect
- Scientific Sports Program.
- STEM Education
- NEET and JEE Program

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