

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

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‘Expedite works on 200 Feet Radial Road’

On Thoraipakkam-Pallavaram 200-feet Radial Road, works relating to construction of rainwater drain and service lane are moving at a snail's pace.

From the Chrompet bridge to Dr. Kamatchi Memorial Hospital in Pallikaranai, service lane and rainwater drain have been provided on both the sides of the road. Even after three to four years, the works have not been completed causing problems to road users.

People have to take a circuitous route either by going to Vel's University signal or Perumal Nagar signal to take the op-

posite road. There are many IT parks and banks in the area besides many highrise apartments where more than 5,000 families live.

I request the authorities to complete the work before north-east monsoon sets in. Besides, a foot overbridge is required between Vel's signal and Perumal Nagar stop.

Sravana Ramachandran
Velan Nagar, Zamin
Pallavaram

A section of the road.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Replace the electricity posts in Pammal

In the Pammal region, many of the concrete cement electricity posts have developed cracks, exposing the steel reinforcement bars and making them vulnerable during natural disasters.

A post requiring immediate attention is on Fourth Cross Street, Krishna Nagar, Pammal. This carries the supply voltage (11KV) to the transformer and has become brittle. This street connects to other localities, such as Ayyappa Nagar and Ponni Nagar and witnesses moderate traffic.

I request the authorities concerned in the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation to take appropriate proactive measures to avoid fatal accidents.

M. Arun
Pammal



Focus on safety of road users

“Project Safety” seeks that readers write in to **downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in** about chinks in the civic infrastructure, seemingly minor but capable of much harm, putting road users at risk.

It could be a tree dangerously leaning across the road, a speed bump that is unmarked, a speed bump that is of dimensions that do not do much for motorists' safety, a deep pothole, an elevated manhole on the carriageway or anything else endangering motorists' safety. The write-up should be accompanied by photos of the safety hazard the reader seeks to highlight through this section.

‘Regulate this key junction in Chitlapakkam’



During rush hour at the junction of Chitlapakkam Third Main Road and Thirumurugan Salai. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

Lately, traffic congestion at Chitlapakkam Third Main Road and Thirumurugan Salai has become routine.

During peak hours, students of NSN Matriculation Higher Secondary School and other institutions clash at the junction to go to Tambaram Sanatorium railway station.

The junction witnesses severe traffic between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., creating bottlenecks. I request the Greater Chennai Traffic Police deploy personnel to regulate the junction.

Similarly, the school authorities should do the same, which will help facilitate the easy flow of vehicular traffic in all directions. The traffic police and the school authorities should also regulate the junction of Thirumurugan Salai and Pamban Swamigal Salai.

S. Chandrasekaran
Chitlapakkam

A bumpy ride

Two major sections of this road in Nanganallur and Adambakkam are so uneven that motorists have a tough time negotiating them.

Thillai Ganga Nagar 23rd Street in Nanganallur and Vellalar Street in Adambakkam need the agencies to find a solution as the uneven surface is slowing traffic as well.

On 23rd Street (East), the motorists want the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board to replace the broken and protruding manhole lids. V. Guruswamy, a resident of Nanganallur, says: “The lids are rusted, shaky and protruding and could endanger the safety of motorists.”

On 23rd Street (West), an area of the stretch along an apartment's vehicular ramp is damaged, and some motorcyclists have fallen.

The State Highway Department has carried out cement patchwork on Vellalar Street between Karikalan Street (West) and East Karikalan Second Street, but it has not helped much.

The cement patchwork is broken and uneven.

Text: T.S. Atul Swaminathan



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Treacherous earth under tyres in Old Perungalathur

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

At Venkateswara Nagar in Old Perungalathur, the highways department is constructing a massive rainwater conduit on Kishkinta Main Road. The exercise taking a big, crunchy bite out of the road, vehicular traffic is often down to a trot. Even more significantly, the exercise presents a rare danger: loamy soil shifting under the tyres after having been made soft and slushy by the rain. On the road, barricades stay in place, effectively keeping



motorists from plumbing the depths of the huge trenches. What comes out of these trenches – scooped-up loamy earth – howev-

er manages to intrude upon the motorists' preserve, the road. After a downpour, the loamy soil that makes it to the road becomes



treacherous under the tyres, tripping motorcyclists. As the road has slimmed in some portions, these motorcyclists cannot avoid the slushy patch. Habitués of the road point out that motorcyclists suffering a fall on account of the slush (following a downpour) is a common sight. On September 1, 2024, in an evening hour following a downpour earlier, two motorcycles took a tumble in quick succession. Till the completion of the project, clearly care should be taken to ensure the road is not caked with soil.

Photos: Prince Frederick



Budding minds

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31st August 2024 saw the dawn of a new era as Budding Minds International School, Chennai, hosted ACT 2024 - Action for Community Transformation for evoking environmental awareness and initiatives amongst the young students of Grades 7-12.

With over 140 participants forming 35 teams, hailing from 12 schools across Chennai, it was a awe-inspiring event with impactful discussions and environmental solutions, heralded under the expert guidance of eminent environmentalists, Jury members and panelists. With this great start,

Budding Minds sincerely hopes to engage more young minds to explore, engage and initiate for the betterment of our society.


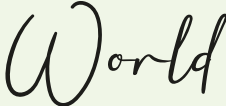
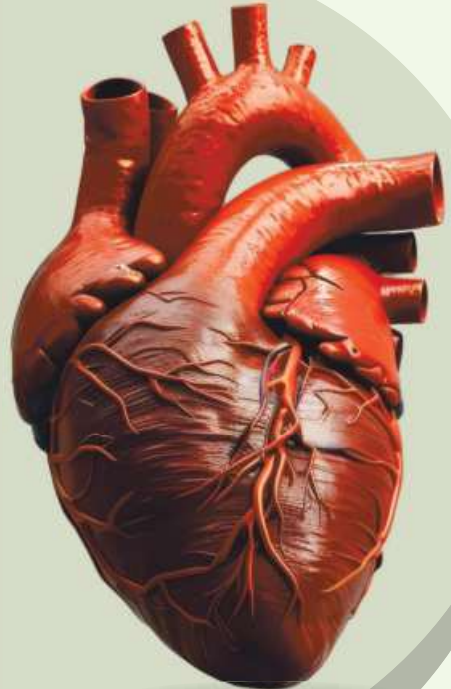
Our partnership with various prestigious NGOs like Bhumi, Chitlapakkam Rising, Naam Vidhaikalam, Thuvakkam, Care Earth Trust, Nizhal and The Nature Trust left a lasting impact on the perspectives of teens and adults alike. We eagerly look forward to many such meaningful events in the future.

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Eleven-year-old on a
space odyssey

Iniya Pragati with NASA and ESA participants at Lunar Habitat Mission in Europe. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Astro photography is her favourite hobby. She dreams about meeting astronaut Sunita Williams and loves to watch movies like *Interstellar* and *The Martian*. Meet 11-year-old Iniya Pragati, one of the youngest Analog Astronauts to complete two lunar mission training programmes in 18 days.

The Urapakkam resident recently returned after completing the 18-day Lunar Mission Astronaut training programme from the Analog Astronaut Training Centre (AATC) at Krakow in South Poland. Iniya was among the four selected from across the globe for the programme along with NASA and ESA participants, said a release.

As a "Mission Specialist", she was preparing for the last one year on various space internships in rocket design and propulsion, advanced satellites, space architecture and space safety.

During the mission, she had to brush up on hydroponics, 3D printing, engineering rover design, human cognitive behaviour, understanding the synergy of yoga and "Bharatanatyam alaripu" in circadian rhythm.

Her fascination for astronomy began when she was six, watching the night sky and asking many questions. Her visits to the planetariums, reading STEM books and assembling cardboard rockets and satellites only got her more curious and

Iniya Pragati completes two lunar mission training programmes in 18 days

learn more.

At nine, she started volunteering with NASA and ISRO. Iniya is also an author with a series of books about space.

"My Curious First book" and another titled "Evidence of Water on Mars" won her acclaim. Mars Analog Mission with Habitat Marte as Chief of Greenhouse and Sanitation Stations, part of Analog Astronaut community are a few of her preparations toward Mars settlement, said the release.

Iniya is happy to be invited to institutions and public forums to share her knowledge but has a number of events lined up for the coming months. Praveen, Iniya's father, says she is currently working on a research paper and will be participating in an international conference soon. "I want all aspiring astronauts to watch the night sky and get more curious and go deeper and deeper," says the student of SRM Public School.

Who is your
favourite teacher?

To celebrate Teachers Day, Minmini App invites people to post a one-minute video about a teacher whom they think is a G.O.A.T. - "Greatest Of All Times".

Users can download the Minmini App from Google Play Store or Apple App Store and post their videos mentioning that one G.O.A.T. Teacher who shaped their lives until 11 p.m. on September 8 with #GOAT.

Five winners will be selected to win exciting prizes from Minmini, said a release. In a release, S. Shriram, executive vice president of Minmini App, said he owes his success and credit to two teachers, one from his high school days and another from his B-School days. "It is because of them, where I stand today. I am quite sure, everyone will have a similar example of one or two teachers who profusely shaped their careers," he said.

Topics on sustainability dominate science expo

The 30th annual arts and science exhibition of Shri Natesan Vidyasala in Manivakkam was held recently. Ajay Kumar, Deputy Director of Geological Survey of India, presided over the inaugural ceremony.

The exhibition showcased various topics, including the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, the State's efforts in achieving these goals, and archaeological and temple marvels.

Visitors explored India's contribution to English literature, the history of the Olympics, and the country's achievements in the Games. The event featured models and experiments in space and core sciences, a magical dark sky room, a space dome, and a virtual journey to several lakes around Chennai. Other highlights included displays on artificial intelli-

gence, robotics, AI in teaching, math magic, creative arts and children's paintings, said a release.

Students presented technical papers, which was evaluated by G. V. Vijayaraghavan, professor and head of the department of Physics, B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology.

Prizes were awarded to winners of various inter-school competitions on climate change at the concluding day. A book titled 'UN Sustainable Development Goals' and a compilation of technical papers presented by the students were released.

T. M. Anbarasan, State Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises; Varalakshmi Madusudan and S. R. Raja, MLAs, Chengalpattu district and Tambaram assembly constituencies respectively participated.

Over 40 schools compete in
management conclave

Team from NSN Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Chromepet won the overall trophy. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Students from more than 40 institutions took part in 'Exousia', an inter-school management conclave organised by the Department of Business Administration of Madras Christian College.

The theme for this year's event, 'AI: Shaping Today and Tomorrow,' emphasised the growing influence of artificial intelligence in various sectors and how it shapes the business and management future.

Chief guest PWC Davidar, retired Additional Chief Secretary and Advisor for Simplified and Digital Governance, Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA), encouraged the students to embrace

leadership and innovation.

The students competed in events such as Shark Tank (pitching entrepreneurial ideas), Visual Verse (product packaging), a corporate debate and a quiz.

While NSN Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Chromepet won the title Exousia 2024, Sri Sankara Vidyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Pammal emerged as the runner-up.

The BBA students at the institution performed during the fest. P. Wilson, principal of Madras Christian College, and D. Armstrong Doss, Head of the Department of Business Administration, took part.

Association honours 40 teachers

The Peoples' Awareness Association in Chromepet celebrated Teacher's Day by honouring around 40 teachers of Ayyasamy Iyer Higher Secondary School in Chromepet with shawls and sweet boxes.

Led by V. Santhanam, the association's president, the office bearers presented the school with a shield for its excellent performance in the class X and XII Board Examinations.

Redington Limited, a technology solution provider firm, donated 20 tables and 60 chairs as part of its corporate social responsibility funds.



One of the many displays at the exhibition

Football fans from a Taramani-based company are driving an initiative to help talented children from underprivileged families in and around the neighbourhood get empowered through the sport

LIFFY THOMAS

More than 350 students from 18 government and corporation-run schools across Chennai are gearing up for a six-day inter-school football tournament, which would start rolling on September 9 at SDAT Ground in Nehru Park.

Chennai Kaalpandhu League (CKL), as it is called, has had three successful seasons so far (2019, 2022 and 2023). And in the previous editions, the U-14 category this season aims at identifying talent from underprivileged communities. It will open doors for this talent to receive quality training, as also exposure to league matches.

Started as a corporate social responsibility initiative of LatentView Analytics, a global digital analytics consulting and solutions firm with its office in Taramani, this programme is driven by a bunch of football fans from the organisation with the support of coaches.

During the start of the academic year, students aged between nine and 13 are identified from schools

with the help of an external coach to be given training for three months. This year, more than 350 children from 18 schools were selected. For the convenience of employee volunteers, schools chosen are largely in and around LatentView Analytics.

“Apart from selecting students who can absorb the game, we look for schools that have a space where children can play or can be given training in football,” says Hariharan Kumaravel, an employee-volunteer and a football fan. The Government Model Higher Secondary School and Chennai Boys High School in Saidapet have good grounds.

Following the Chennai Kaalpandhu League, some players are identified to be given extensive training and

nutrition for three years. They follow a football curriculum put together by India Khelo Football, a platform that connects grassroots talent with professional opportunities. “Apart from basic skills in dribbling and passing, we see if a student

has the stamina to play for 20-25 minutes,” says S. Manigandan, programme coordinator and coach. Professional coaches from Chennaiyin FC and other clubs are roped in to prepare the players for more competition. “Even if the team has

not won but we see an individual has the potential we select them for further training,” says Hariharan. The employee volunteers give feedback to improve this initiative every edition. For instance, need to have girls team came from the em-

At a practice session (below) last year's champions.

PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ployees. “So for every co-educational school, we make it a point to have a girls and boys team,” says Hariharan.

Employee volunteers are involved in coming up with a training plan and giving knowledge of football to the children. “We send out a sheet that employee volunteers sign to be attached to a certain school. Coaching happens twice a week and the volunteer is expected to show up, which invariably happens as we are all football lovers and this way we get to play as well,” says Hariharan, who is associated with a school in Thoraipakkam and another in Perungudi. Over the last three seasons, CKL has identified 21 players. Shalini V. U-17; Jerish Yadav U-15; Balamurugan U-14 and Shwetha U-14 have gone on to participate in league matches in other states as well.

Balamurugan, a Class IX student of Government Higher Secondary School in MGR Nagar, has been to Delhi, Patna and Gujarat for coaching. He has been identified by India Khelo Football that gives him an opportunity at the national-level selection trials. “My parents are extremely happy to see me go places playing football and they want me to strike a balance between football and studies,” says Balamurugan, a Ronaldo fan.

Hariharan adds that their ultimate aim is to see these children from Chennai take part in one of the Euro leagues.



Four steps to glory

HARSHA KODA

An unprecedented fitness challenge is set to take place on September 29 at DLF Garden City, starting at 6 a.m. This exciting event combines four challenges, all within a single, exhilarating experience.

Participants can test their endurance and agility across four exciting segments: cycling, fitness challenges, running, and an obstacle course. The event will follow a qualifying format, with only some of the participants advancing to the next round. Participants can compete in four categories (Men under 40, Women under 40, Men over

40, Women over 40). Participants can bring their family and friends along to cheer them on and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere. This event is part of the OMR 360 initiative, which aims to promote community engagement and well-being.

It is not just about winning; it is about pushing your boundaries, connecting with your community, and having a blast. Register now and be a part of this event that celebrates fitness, community, and the spirit of OMR. To participate, register online at www.omr360.in/registration before midnight on September 15. Visit our handle @omr360events on all major social media networks for further details.





A trailer packed with *pauses*

Though sandwiched between two busy arterial roads, Polachery and Sonallur have retained their pastoral quality

PRINCE FREDERICK

Film trailers concentrate fast-paced action scenes leaving out brooding pauses. Imagine a trailer that does the opposite. It would have trouble pulling the crowd into the aisles. A “trailer” about Sonallur does this unthinkable act, but gets away with it. In fact, despite the “lapse”, it is lapped up generating considerable “viewer” interest for the “film”.

This trailer is Polachery, a locality in the bowels of what is called the OMR region. It gives a sneak peek into what lies ahead of it – Sonallur, more connected with Vandalur-Kelambakkam High Road than the OMR region.

Sonallur consists of hamlets separated by patches of reserve forest – one can also view it the other way round and still be spot-on.

On Polachery Main Road (which starts the journey to Sonallur where Sonallur Main Road takes over and completes the journey all the way to Vandalur-Kelambakkam High Road), a lake



compresses delicious pastoral and natural scenes into a neatly tied package of pauses, pregnant with meaning and beauty.

Here is a quick run-through of what this small patch in Polachery has to offer.

Two residents are gathering palm fronds for a fire-walking exercise at the local temple. Overhead, baya weavers – the male baya weavers, to be specific – are wearing nests hanging from palm fronds.

From Polachery Main Road, one can see the skyline painted with an undulation of towering structures, suggesting the invasion of modernity. On the road,



there is a clatter of hooves. It is a herd of cattle: in contrast to imported cattle, these are small-sized and of native origin suggesting a continuity with tradition.

Polachery also presents the contrast between the domesticated and the wild. On any given day, the lake would be venue for a bunch of “master markspersons” to practise their craft. It is the kingfishers (the pied kingfish-

er and white-throated kingfisher) doing what they are born to excel at – fishing. In the waters, domesticated ducks would be letting out slip streams.

With the rains, the grass is greener. Munias (the images show the tricolored as well as scaly-breasted munias) can be seen removing seeds from the grasses and eating them, and also using the grass twigs for nest-building.

The picture gets even more interesting as Polachery fades away and Sonallur hits the screen.

There ends the trailer.

How to get there: From OMR, this patch can be accessed via Thalambur Main Road. From Vandalur-Kelambakkam Main Road, it can be accessed via Mambakkam.

The Extended Trails

They are not hidden trails. They are in the face, waving at passersby on wide thoroughfares. However, they have stayed on the fringes of recognition, bypassed with just a passing nod by motorists on the way to somewhere else.

In the light of the long festival weekend, *The Hindu Downtown* brings extended trails in Chennai Metropolitan Area that are not removed from their stomping grounds. They can experience what these trails have to offer at breakfast and likely be back at their own table for lunch, certainly for tea.

The day-trippers suggested by *The Hindu Downtown* in this series include spaces with a palpable tension between the rural and the urban and the deliciously sequestered

Scenes around the Polachery lake on September 4, 2024.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



Limited seats, hurry!



▼ Limited seats, hurry! An entreaty integral to sales talk, it shows up in a non-commercial setting at Thalambur. That entreaty is presented to commuters at what is called Thalambur Koot Road bus stop. The shelter stands solid, but not the seats. Age has brought half of those seats down to their knees, and neglect has them staying hopeless in that abject position. Located at the junction of Thalambur Main Road and Thalambur Koot Road, this bus stop is considerably busy on week days, receiving noticeable patronage from college students and IT professionals. The images were taken on August 21, 2024. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



A memorable Teacher's Day

Recently, students from the 1992 batch of St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Chengalpattu honoured their teachers on the eve of Teachers' Day.

It was a moment fraught with multiple emotions both for the students and teachers as they meet after 32 years. The alumni shared their memories and their association with each of the teachers who played a major role in their career progress. Teachers were on cloud nine as they received the honours and they mentioned that they were not recognised in such a fashion even while they were in service and thanked the students for remembering them after these many years.

Cotton exhibition at Madipakkam

The Rajasthan Artisans and Weavers Welfare Association is exhibiting Rajasthan cotton and silk fabrics until September 12 at Chellammal Sakthi Mahal, Medavakkam Main Road in Madipakkam.

The fabrics on display include Madurai and Orissa saris, Rajasthan bedspreads, Jaipur stone jewellery, door curtains, Saharanpur wood furniture, Punjab readymade shirts, leather bags and belts, wallets, and shoes and sandals for women and children.

The exhibition is open from 10.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call 99404 22426.

Workshop on beekeeping

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on beekeeping on September 12. Another session on soap making will be held on September 13. According to a press release, soaps made from herbs and flowers will be demonstrated.

The sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044-29530048



A representational photo only. THE HINDU

Free computer education

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Gandhi Institute of Computer Education and Information Technology Centre at Mylapore imparts free computer education to the educated unemployed youth belonging to the economically backward section of the society. The Institute is offering this service to deserving students in various job oriented computer courses like MS-Office with Tally, DTP. These courses have helped many students to secure employment at various levels. Senior citizens can now take Microsoft Word, Excel and Internet Courses. Last date for collection and submission of filled-in applications forms is September 25. For more details contact the institute in person. Contact 24611312, 24643420



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At Akkarai beach, during weekends, one can expect a portable trampoline (belonging to a private business) with its see-through net. Another facility with a see-through net can now be seen at the beach. If one has a fertile imagination and chooses to exercise it, they might see this structure as slightly resembling a trampoline. Unlike the trampoline that puts in an appearance at times when a sizeable crowd is expected at the beach, this one is a permanent presence, patiently waiting at its post unmindful of crowd sizes.

And it is parked there for a purpose that goes beyond weekend entertainment.

Greater Chennai Corporation has installed this netted box-type structure for beach-goers to ensure plastic bottles are not scattered across the beach sands, but get into this safe space.

By the number of plastic bottles “netted” by the structure by afternoon on a week day, one could see the exercise is enjoying a good reception. Due to the see-through nature of the net, which allows people to take note of what it holds, they (at least, many of them) are instinctively drawn to dropping the plastic bottles in it.

According to a GCC official attached to Zone 15, this initiative is being driven by Ri-

Targetting plastic bottles

Greater Chennai Corporation is planning to introduce this initiative in all the beaches within its limits. The Akkarai beach in Sholinganallur zone is among the first batch to receive it

PRINCE FREDERICK

pon Building, and is focussed on all beaches that fall within GCC limits. It has been introduced at Akkarai beach which falls in Zone 15.

The official adds that the plastic bottles collected in this manner are being taken to Kodin-gaiyur where they would be put through a plastic baling machine and set on a recycling journey.

Though nobody would be left in any doubt about the mission of this netted-box structure, it might help to spell it out with a board parked nearby.

In addition, bins have been placed at all the kiosks at Akkarai beach for the shopkeepers to use.

The GCC official notes that this is to encourage shopkeepers to gather the waste that is generated every day as part of their business, in the bins and hand it over to conservancy workers.

By the number of plastic bottles “netted” by the structure by afternoon on a week day, one could see the exercise is enjoying a good reception. Due to the see-through nature of the net, which allows people to take note of what it holds, they (at least, many of them) are instinctively drawn to dropping the plastic bottles in it



At Akkarai beach on September 4.
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

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