

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



'UGD network holds the key'

M. RAVI AND P. VISWANATHAN

The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation's work on restructuring the stormwater network on Kakkan Street in Hasthinapuram would not be helpful without an underground drainage network.

During rains, domestic waste water used to spill onto a section of

Chitlapakkam Main Road, Gandhi Street and Kakkan Street. As the network was low, residents dumped trash, preventing water flow.

The completed work might prevent sewage from spilling onto the Kakkan Road to an extent as the work has not been taken up at its intersecting point, Chitlapakkam Main Road. However, the network

READERS WRITE



The new SWD network on Kakkan Street, Hasthinapuram.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT will drain raw sewage into Sembakkam Lake. The Corporation should plug the illegal sewer pipes and provide underground drainage connections.

If UGD connections are not provided, the lake will deteriorate further, forcing residents to use polluted borewell water.

M. Ravi and P. Viswanathan are residents of Chitlapakkam.

'Omnibus stand in Mudichur not yet operational'

T. V. SUNDARAM.

The omnibus stand at Mudichur on Outer Ring Road was inaugurated in December 2024 by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin but it is yet to be operational. The main aim of constructing this terminal was to ensure that omnibuses bound for southern and western districts operate from here, thereby easing the congestion at Kilambakkam Centenary Bus Terminus.

Constructed jointly by the Tamil Nadu Housing and Urban Development and Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, the omnibus stand restrooms, the crew's alighting rooms, and a waiting hall are beginning to show signs of neglect and degradation.

After dropping off passengers at Kilambakkam terminus, these buses do not halt at the omni bus stand in Mudichur but prefer Koyambedu or Nerkundram or at points in



the vicinity for easy pick-up during the night from the city.

I urge the authorities in the State Transport Department to look into this issue. This will ease congestion on GST Road, especially during weekends and festival times. Satellite bus connectivity between Kilambakkam bus terminus and the omni bus stand is required as currently there are no services here, which might also be a reason for the omnibus operators not operating from the bus stand.

T. V. Sundaram is a resident of Urappakkam

THE START OF SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY NOW IN TAMBARAM!

ADMISSIONS OPEN!

Play Group to Grade X

Limited Seats Available!

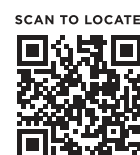
World-Class Facilities Smart Classrooms | STEM Lab & Robotics | Indoor Sports Court & Sprawling Grounds | GPS-Enabled Safe Transport

Academic & Creative Excellence Stress-Free Learning | Progressive Teaching | Theatre, Music & Dance | Holistic Development



Shraddha
Children's Academy
CBSE SCHOOL

+91 94502 94502 | 91500 27273
admissions@shraddhaacademy.com | shraddhaacademy.com
Shraddha Children's Academy, Karikala Cholan Salai, Varadharajapuram Village, Tambaram, Chennai - 602 109.



Women's safety group in action mode

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Indecent remarks, gawking and not moving and allowing space for women commuters to move are among the complaints the Tamil Nadu Government Railway Protection Force (GRPF) received in its recently-launched WhatsApp group. "Women Commuters Security Group" is aimed at helping address any nagging concerns women might have during their travels.

For Chengalpattu and Tambaram stations, the WhatsApp group currently has 50 passengers as members. Members can post messages if they find someone suspicious has entered the coach. Male commuters travelling in ladies coaches and guilty of any other illegal activity can be reported on the



The ladies coach in an electric train. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

group.

A team of inspectors and sub-inspectors are the admin for the group formed across GRPF divisions.

"We instruct the women to re-

cord the complaints in their respective division's group. Upon receiving the complaints, they are forwarded to the approaching station GRPF personnel for action," says GRPF officials.

Help at hand

Government Railway Protection Force -1512; Railway Protection Force -139; Tamil Nadu Government Railway Protection Force Whatsapp number, 99625 00500; RPF Whatsapp number - 90031 61710; Women helpline number - 1091, Children's assistance booth - 1098; Cyber crime assistance booth - 1930,

Commuters are requested to install the 'Kaval Uthavi' and Rail Madad apps.

GRPF officials at Tambaram Station say information about history-sheets involved in criminal activities can also be shared.

"To be a participant, commuters should have travelled on elec-

tric trains for five years. They should not have any criminal background or criminal cases pending against them," says an official.

The commuters in the group should also report offences committed against women and girl children in railway stations and trains.

The participants should enquire about children travelling alone in trains and inform the police officials.

The group admin, GRPF inspectors, and sub-inspectors should conduct meetings or hold talks in person or over the phone regularly to build rapport and goodwill with the participants, which will help prevent crimes.

T. Thilagavathy Theyagarajan, a commuter, says Southern Railway must provide panic buttons and install CCTV cameras in the women's coaches and other coaches.



During the campaign
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



On April 13, a park at Shankar Nagar in Pammal became the focal point in the neighbourhood. Around 25 members of Pammal-based Mother Teresa Differently-Abled Welfare Trust had made it the venue of a rare exercise, causing the curious to troop in. Titled 'We Can Do It', it was an attempt to enter the Bucephalus International Book of Records, and as it turned out, it was a successful attempt.

Each of the 25 members sowed around 100 seeds, ensconcing each seed in a cover filled with soil and compost.

The members received extrinsic support in this exercise – that

Seeding sustainability in people's minds

Last Sunday, 25 differently abled persons sowed well over 2,500 seeds at a park in Pammal to create a world record, and at the same time drove home a green message

is, from friends and relatives as well as curious bystanders – and that was well within the rules. The effort at the park is just the beginning. The exercise would reach its logical conclusion when

the seeds germinate and develop into robust saplings.

B. Kavitha, the trust's director and a disability activist, says, "The saplings will be cared for at members' homes and at the trust

office. Most of saplings will be sold to the public. Her request before the State Government is for the establishment of a nursery for the differently-abled, where they can sell saplings.

On this year's Republic Day, Kavitha received the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities from the Union Ministry of Social Justice

and Empowerment from President Draupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Dr. D. Kathirvel, officer in the Chengalpattu district office for differently abled; veteran social activist V. Santhanam and Chitra from Bucephalus International Book of Records participated.

B. Kavitha can be contacted at 91762 56748.

Take a cool break at this 'kiosk'



The Arkeeswarar Colony Residents' Welfare Association has set up a 'Mor Pandhal' on Arkeeswarar Colony Main Road. Anyone can quench their thirst here.

"Till May 31, the pandhal will be distributing buttermilk from

9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.," says P. Dhanraj, the association president.

The pandhal was inaugurated on April 13 by social activist V. Santhanam.

On the inaugural day, the association's office members distri-

buted coconut water, cucumber and watermelons.

Besides, the association office-bearers have facilitated a water tank for cattle and water bowls for birds.

For details, contact P. Dhanraj at 94444 58080.

WHAT RESIDENTS WANT

Plea for replacement of culverts

Members of Chitlapakkam Muthulakshmi Nagar Welfare Association are upset over non-replacement of culverts in the locality and have written to the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation Commissioner seeking action.

L. Sundararaman, president of the association, says: "For the past three years, we have been requesting to replace the culverts at Maruthi Street and Viswamittr Street, and Viswamittr Street and Ashtalakshmi Street.

The culverts at Maruthi Street are in a precarious condition and pose a risk to children and senior citizens. Steel rods are visible in the culvert.

Our petition was accepted last year at the CM's camp, yet no action has been taken.

'Do not drop subway project'

Recently, Chromepet residents requested that the Southern Railway and the State Highways Department construct a Heavy Vehicular Movement (HMV) subway at Chromepet.

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) announced that a footbridge with escalators will be constructed over GST Road near SDNB Vaishnav College for Women in Chromepet at an estimated cost of ₹10 crore.

Following CMDA's announ-

T.S.ATUL SWAMINATHAN

cement, the residents fear whether an HMV subway would be constructed or dropped off.

The subway construction area is a stone's throw away from the footbridge area.

V. Santhanam, social activist, says, "Both the footbridge and the subway are needed, but the subway must be prioritised.

The subway site is at Level Crossing (LC) 26.

It takes more than five minutes to negotiate LC 26.

'Clear approach road'

The residents of Chromepet and Pallavaram are facing challenges to reach the Tangedco office in Pallavaram.

The office lacks clear signage, making it hard to locate. The approach road is dirty and strewn with garbage, says S. Sridhar, a

resident of Chromepet. "The office staircase and surroundings are poorly maintained, posing difficulties for seniors and persons with disabilities. I suggest holding grievance meetings at Chromepet or at a venue that is more people-friendly."

'Extend S82 services to Guindy'

Commuters from Nanganallur want Metropolitan Transport Corporation to increase the services of small bus route number S82 (Alandur Metro Station - Madipakkam Bus Terminus). Currently, the bus services have a frequent extending an hour.

R. Ramanujam, a resident of Nanganallur, says: "The services can be increased and extended up to Velachery MRTS station



and Guindy Industrial Estate stop. This will help commuters travelling by MRTS to Triplicane and other regions from Nanganallur. People who do not have private transport, particularly senior citizens, have to travel by autos and cabs. Extending the service to Guindy will help people travelling to Porur, Manapakkam, and Ramapuram regions."

Greening effort on Padur bypass road



For a considerable part of the Padur to Kelambakkam Bypass Road, one would be greeted with wilting plants encased in tree guards. There is a sudden change in the scenery now when one hits the section of the road where Poonthangal lake is located. There is sign of a fresh greening exercise, as this image from April 18, 2025 shows. One hopes the row of saplings found on each side, is well-tended. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

MTC introduces a new service from Tambaram to Kilambakkam


The Metropolitan Transport Corporation has introduced a new route number, 55P, between Tambaram and Kilambakkam.

Starting from Tambaram, the bus will ply through Old Perungalathur, Mannivakkam Koot Road, Ruby Builders, Sreenikethan School, Casa Grand, Ganesh Nagar, Padapai Main Road Junction, Adhanur Post Office, Crown Palace, An-

na Nagar, Selvaraj Nagar, Urapakkam railway station, Adhanur Main Road, Vandalur Zoo, and Urapakkam school to Kilambakkam Centenary Bus Terminus.

The bus services from Tambaram will start at 7:10 a.m., 12 noon, 15.50, and 18.15 p.m.


From Kilambakkam, the services will start at 08.15 a.m., 13.20, 5 and 7.25 p.m..



St. John's Public School
CHENNAI-600 100

YOUR SON'S / DAUGHTER'S SCHOOLING IN CLASSES XI & XII ARE TOO IMPORTANT FOR THEIR FUTURISTIC LIFE & LIFESTYLES !

Come and get your children admitted To The School which can do wonders For the Students of Classes XI & XII.




SJPS

- Exemplary Infrastructure.
- Enterprising Learning Environment.
- Excellent Faculty
- Encouraging Supervision.
- Empowering Counselling.
- Ensuring Competency Building.
- Enriching, state of Art Resource Centres available to bring home Competencies.

- Science / Commerce / Humanities Streams Available.
- 20 Elective Subjects to Choose from.
- Special subjects like Psychology - Financial Market Management - Entrepreneurship - Home Science- Engineering Graphics-Geography available.
- Second Language not compulsory.
- Integrated Classroom Program - NEET / JEE-IIT within regular school hours.
- Exclusive Reference Library for XI & XII Students.
- Dedicated Mentors assigned for Every 20 Students.

SCHOOL | 5 km to 20 km Bus Service | available

Lake Bund Road, Jalladianpet, Near Perumbakkam, Chennai - 600 100. Phone: 9840342122
Telephone: 044-29815142 / 2981514244
Web: www.sjps.edu.in E-mail : rkishore@sjps.edu.in



Dr. R. Kishore Kumar
Chief Mentor, SJPS.

- CBSE K - 12
- Co-Educational
- Senior Secondary School

Greater Chennai Corporation's new guidelines for managing construction and demolition waste comes into effect on April 21. Here are the salient features



C&D waste collection centres in GCC limits

- Zone 1** - Buckingham Canal Road, Sathangadu, Thiruvottiyur (Adjacent to lorry station, Zone-1)
- Zone 2** - Kamaraj Salai (Near zonal office)
- Zone 3** -CMDA Truck Terminal near Night Shelter (Behind Madhavaram Bus Terminus)
- Zone 4** -Kodungaiyur Dumping ground, Tondiarpet High Road (3rd gate)\
- Zone 5 and 6** -Part of old Cattle depot, Avadhanam Pappier Road, Choolai (opposite Corporation School)
- Zone 7** -Vanagaram Road, Athipet dumping yard
- Zone 8** -1st Main Road, Shenoy Nagar (Near Gajalakshmi Colony)
- Zone 9** -Lloyds Colony (Near Corporation ITI Institute)
- Zone 10** -Gurusiva Street, S.M Block, Jafferkanpet, Kodambakkam (near R-10 MGR Nagar Police Station)
- Zone 11** -Nolambur Phase II, 2nd main road (near Madhuravoyal Taluk office)
- Zone 12** -Nandambakkam TPF near Adyar river bund in Division 158
- Zone 13** -Arulampatti 2nd street (near SIDCO Electronics commercial complex)
- Zone 14** -200 Ft Radial Road, Perungudi Dumping Ground
- Zone 15** -Gangaiamman Kovil Street Extension, Karapakkam (near Tamil Nadu Teacher Education University)

Putting C&D waste in its place

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

From April 21, Greater Chennai Corporation will levy a fine of ₹ 5000 if one is found dumping construction and demolition waste on streets, pavements, drains, public spaces, vacant sites or any other unauthorised location.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste includes debris and rubble resulting from construction, re-modeling, repair and demolition operations. Steel, aluminium, wood and other components cur-

rently being salvaged for reuse or recycling are not included in this category.

GCC in its revised guidelines insists that "occupiers" generating small quantities of C&D waste during repair or minor renovation shall keep the waste within their own premises until collection by their own means or by GCC-authorised C&D waste transporters or empanelled vendors or lorry owners authorised by GCC to collect waste from door steps.

The occupiers can contact GCC's website for hiring services of

the C&D waste transporters or empanelled vendors or the authorised concessionaires and pay necessary collection and transportation charges to transporters and pay for processing fee, says the note.

What kind of a generator are you and where should you dump C&D waste?

Anyone generating less than 1 MT of waste generate from minor house repairs comes under the category of "micro generators". This waste can be disposed of in earmarked dumping sites or one can call GCC's toll free number 1913 for

a pick-up.

Those generating C&D waste during building renovation, remodelling or repairing where the total weight is more than 1 MT and less than 20 MT per day comes under "Small Generators". The two processing centres that will be taking such waste are at the dumpyards at Perungudi and Kodinguyur.

A receipt has to be obtained for disposal from the transport service provider or the gate office of the disposal site where C&D waste is disposed of by the micro generators.

Spotting an opportunity in the debris

LIFFY THOMAS

What becomes of the construction and demolition (C&D) waste dumped at the dumpyards in Perungudi and Kodungaiyur? They make a major source for C&D recycling companies, even for non-profits that are into constructing affordable houses.

In February 2024, Habitat for Humanity, a global non-profit organisation with an office at IIT-M Research Park, constructed a multi-purpose hall at a village school in Kancheepuram using C&D waste.

"We followed benchmarks and standards set by Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council of India. We used M-sand

along with C&D waste to make the concrete mix. The sand was first tested to make blocks out of it. Both the blocks and the concrete went into the construction of a multi-purpose hall within the school," says Deepak Visvanathan, senior technical advisor, Habitat for Humanity.

The company builds affordable homes and works with start-ups to see how this engineering technology can be promoted to construct resource and energy-efficient buildings.

C&D waste for the hall was sourced from the Perungudi dumpyard. "We have partnered with Greater Chennai Corporation to explore other products that can be made with such waste," says Visvanathan adding that they have also been conduct-

ing round tables to educate people about recycling C&D waste.

In various cities, experimental projects to rebuild homes for the underprivileged using construction debris and used materials have been taken up.

Surender Singh, associate professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras, says they have been working with government bodies to encourage use of different C&D waste fractions in road construction, especially for the upper pavement layers.

"Three to five layers are applied while constructing concrete roads in highways. In most cases, the contractor uses C&D waste for the lower layer, which we call non-structural application," says the professor.

Earlier, the Bureau of Indian

Standards allowed the usage of C&D waste in construction by up to 25%.

"Our studies at IIT Madras show that even 100% recycled aggregates from waste concrete chunks could be used for constructing concrete roads without affecting their performance in a significant manner. Subsequently, they proposed to increase their usage limit to at least 50%; and roads constructed with such materials are sustainable," he says.

Researchers from IIT-Madras (professors Manu Santhanam, Ravindra Gettu, and Surender Singh) are currently working on an international project sponsored by the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre to show how C&D waste can be

used in making roads on expressways and national highways. "The pilot study of this project will be implemented in Chennai and Ladakh. In Chennai, we plan to take up a test-section that is exposed to a lot of wear and tear due to the movement of vehicles," says the professor.

Despite such initiatives contributing to a circular economy, recycling C&D waste is still not seen as a viable business opportunity.

Surender Singh says the cost of procuring construction waste is high. Deepak Visvanathan feels governments must offer more incentives to encourage private companies to find opportunities in this sector. "There must be some motivation for a real estate company to buy this waste," says Visvanathan.



Local connections *matter in* sustainability

Greater Chennai Corporation's micro composting centre in Pudupet maintains a "cordial" relationship with its neighbours



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The micro composting centre at Veerabadran Street in Pudupet is on "amicable" terms with its neighbours and that is what keeps it going.

From the horse stables at the Mounted Police facility on nearby Adithanar Salai (also known as Harris Road), it receives horse dung, on an average, 200 kg every day. And its immediate neighbour, the Greater Chennai Corporation's cow shed (one meant for keeping impounded stray cattle) provides it with cow dung.

This Greater Chennai Corporation micro composting centre, run by the voluntary organisation Namma Ooru Foundation and reportedly established with CSR funding from IOCL Southern Pipes Region, successfully looks around its immediate surroundings for material to feed the machines ahead of the composting process.

P. Natarajan, founder of Namma Ooru Foundation, remarks that there is a profusion of tea shops, fresh fruit shops and fast food joints in this area, and the relevant refuse from these shops are taken in for composting.

"From 12 tea shops, we source tea powder waste. We get egg shells from the fast food shops and fruit waste from the fruit shops, coconut waste and sugarcane waste from vendors selling tender coconut and sugarcane juice – all from Harris Road and nearby areas."

With its thriving second-hand automobile spares market, this road bustles with movement of people and these shops thrive by catering to the floating population.

That is hardly an exhaustive list – there are other neighbours, only a



little removed in terms of geographical coordinates.

Natarajan notes that brown matter (garden waste) was being collected from WCC and DPI for two to three months; and as they are relatively further in distance, the switch was made to collecting the same from police quarters and police museum.

Green matter (vegetable waste) comes from a bunch of markets nearby: Pudupet market, Chinthathripet market, Zam bazaar market, Avai Shanmugam Salai market, Triplicane market and Fresh today supermarket.

Besides, apartments that want to manage their waste responsibly send their organic matter.

Natarajan says compost derived from various sources of organic matter is bound to have high nutrition.

He adds: "IIT Madras tests the compost produced at this micro composting centre and provides a report on the carbon nitrogen ratio and other nu-

tritions in the compost. The compost is being sold to various districts of Tamil Nadu, including Thanjavur, Dindugal, Madurai, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur."

A tour of the processes at the micro composting centre in Pudupet.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

'Travel' on these mini trains

To celebrate World Heritage Day, Chennai Rail Museum in Villivakkam will play host to collectors and designers of scale-model trains and railroads from April 25 to 27. On all three days, the event will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to some of the participants about this niche hobby

LIFFY THOMAS

An expensive hobby

For the first time, 72-year-old Sundaram Parthasarathi will be showcasing a running model of the Vande Bharat Express done to scale. An enthusiastic collector of train models, Sundaram is into this hobby for 35 years. Last year, he showcased the Chennai Metro Rail. A few years ago, Sterling Resorts commissioned a project, which he was on board; he partnered with another expert to design the Nilgiri Mountain Railway for one of their properties.

His railway exhibits are handmade. "I do not buy accessories such as signals and station buildings. I make them



myself," he says, adding that a few of the tracks are computerised.

His 20x10 feet, U-shaped room at his house in Abhira-

mapuram is his lab where he experiments with train scale models for hours.

During Navarathri, his train models are a showstopper. At

other times of the year, he welcomes schools to take a look at the railway exhibits.

A mechanical engineer by profession, Sundaram warmed up to the hobby during a visit to The United Kingdom.

"The company sent me to the U.K. in 1986 and that is when I seriously started collecting train models. During weekends, I used to buy second hand items," says Sundaram, who retired as special director from Ashok Leyland in 2013.

He agrees this is an "expensive hobby" but it is a special joy when you are in the company of 60 others (referring to the WhatsApp group with members spread across India and from a few other countries) exchanging notes on the finer aspects of this pursuit.

A lifetime pursuit



"Technical but interesting". That is how K.R.S. Ganesan describes the model that he will be showcasing while takes this reporter on a virtual tour of his Ashok Nagar house to show what he is currently working on. The hall has been converted into a work station. The control system is in another room. Many other enabling items required to complete the exhibit are parked in other rooms.

The fully automated layout on a HO scale is being designed using Train-Controller software. "It is a totally hands free operation with automatic control. All scheduling and stops are set," says Ganesan, a civil engineer. He explains visitors will be shown how a slow train is stopped at a loop line and then a fast train overtakes it.

Due to limited space, the train enthusiast will be arranging his exhibit in a 24x8 space at the venue.

Although fascinated with trains from a young age, it was just before retirement that he got started with the hobby. "I had eight engines and 200 feet track in 2013," says Ganesan, who retired as senior deputy general manager from L&T. Rolling stock like goods wagons and passenger coaches together added to more than 30 over the years.

"I am keen on designing operational layouts to show signals and time of start/stop functions and schedules using Train Controller software," he says.

In 2018, he completed a large layout in a hall of 40 x 15 incorporating several operational features using this software. Model railroading is an activity of constant improvement and learning. "A hobby that can last a lifetime," he adds.

On the right track

Seventy-year-old C.B. Malhotra, known as Shyam in this hobby circle, is undecided what he will be showcasing in the upcoming exhibition.

Last year was the first time Shyam took part in the Heritage Train Model Exhibition, though he is into this hobby for two decades.

"That sparkle in the eyes of children when they see our trains running is more satisfying than collecting models or running them," says the resident of George Town.

Shyam's love for train models started during his childhood. His father had the habit of getting him a gift after the final examination. "I would ask for a train," says Shyam.

Later, he saw a working model and the bug bit him. Shyam started the hobby in 1999 when he was in his 40s.

"When I got started on the hobby, I would go to second hand markets and that is where I came

across a few people and that bond grew," he says the hobby is addictive, often leading to spend continuous hours on it.

For parents trying to wean their children from gadgets, he offers wise counsel: "Make sure you provide your children with exposure to as many hobbies as possible," says the businessman, adding that a childhood hobby could be good company and a small source of income as well.

Full steam ahead



The shrill whistle, the fuming boilers and the billowing plumes of steam. Never mind if you and your generation have not seen steam locomotive engines, Mahendra Kumar (who is from a generation that has) can recreate them for you.

"My dad used to take me to railway stations just for me to watch the engines and during one such outing, I got to see a steam engine," recalls Mahendra, a HR manager.

His fascination for trains was further fuelled during annual visits to the Island Grounds where the trade fair was organised and Integral Coach Factory had a

stall where they would showcase running train models.

Many years later in 2018, a trip to Darjeeling reignited this fascination. Since then, Mahendra has been collecting scale models. Today "HO" "Double O" and "G" scale models top his collection followed by a small number of "N" scale models.

At the exhibition, the Anna Nagar resident will be showcasing his collection of steam-based locomotives and train buses.

A member of HO Scale Collectors Group, the HR professional, who also has a collection of automobile models, says invitation to the group is only through reference.



A work in progress: Red Line taking shape

On CMRL's Red Line duty, two metal arms are at work on Perumbakkam Main Road, focussed on the creation of a concrete arm. One metal arm is that of personnel forklift; the other, the longer one, conveys concrete mix through its "cephalic vein" to the "beneficiary", a platform arm atop a Red Line pillar. The image was taken in the twilight hour on April 14, 2025. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK



When the stints find the spotlight



When the wintering season kicks in, the stints would be as inconspicuous as stars on a night sky pregnant with rain clouds. They would look toned-down and in wetlands such as the one at Perumbakkam and Kelambakkam, they would be shoved further into obscurity on account of their immediate company, having been outsized by other waders. At the tail-end of the season, when the attendance of migratory birds at these wetlands thins, they find their spotlight. Without the distractions, they are now more easily noticed. Besides, the washed-out look at the start of the season disappears in parts -- particularly on the mantle that takes on a russet hue. The picture shows a Temminck's stint at the Kelambakkam backwaters at a low-tide hour on April 18, 2025.

PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

Culinary workshop

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is conducting a culinary workshop on making sun-dried ready-to-fry snacks on April 24. According to a press release, the items will be made from chillies, potatoes, berries, and a few more. Another workshop on making soaps will be held on April 25. The session will focus on soaps made from extracts of herbs and fruits. Both the sessions will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 29530048



List of air-conditioned EMU trains

On Saturday, the Chennai Division of the Southern Railway introduced six air-conditioned electric trains between Chennai Beach and Chengalpattu and vice versa.

Here is a list of air-conditioned train services and their timings.

Trains No: 49001 and 49002 will be operated from Chennai Beach to Tambaram and vice-versa.

Train No: 49001 will leave Beach at 19.35 p.m., and arrive at Tambaram at 20.30 p.m.

Train No: 49002 will leave Tambaram at 05.45 a.m., and arrive at the Beach at 06.45 a.m..

The trains will stop at Chennai Fort, Chennai Park, Chennai Egmore, Chetpet, Nungambakkam, Kodambakkam, Mambalam, Saidapet, Guindy, St. Thomas Mount, Pazhavanthangal, Meenambakkam, Tirusulam, Pallavaram, Chromepet, and Tambaram Sanatorium.

Train No: 49003, Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu will leave at 7 a.m., and reach Chengal-



At an air-conditioned train.

PHOTO: M. SRINATH

pattu at 08.35 a.m..

Train No: 49004, Chengalpattu-Chennai Beach, will depart at 9 a.m. and arrive at Chennai Beach at 10.30 a.m.

Train No: 49005, Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu will leave at 15.45 p.m., and reach Chengalpattu at 17.25 p.m..

Train No: 49006, Chengalpattu - Chennai Beach will leave at 17.45 p.m., and reach Chennai Beach at 19.15 p.m. The trains will halt at Chennai Fort, Chennai Park, Chennai Egmore, Mambalam, Guindy, St. Thomas Mount, Tirusulam, Tambaram, Perungalathur, Guduvancherry, Potheri, Singaperumal Kovil, and Paranur.

For details, log on to <https://x.com/DrmChennai>

Best Bargains

HEALTH INSURANCE
Age Entry 0 to 100
Now on Easy EMI / Loan

Cashless Mediclaim
Policy available for
Individual, Family,
Senior Citizen & Group
Daily Hospital Cash Policy
Outpatient Care Policy
Fresh / Portability Policy
72006 46544

SOFA SERVICE

ANY SOFA'S
RECLINER SOFAS
CUSHIONS
REUPHOLSTERY

Reconditioning @
Very Moderate Charges
K.N.S. RAJAN SERVICES

76671 33233
93818 03956

Summer Courses

THIRUKURAL KATHAIGAL	TAMIL FOUNDATION
TAMIL GRAMMER	SPOKEN HINDI
TABLE TRICKS	MENTAL MATHS
PHONICS CRASH COURSE	ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Call/Whatsapp: +91 7305361509
Mannivakkam Extn.

KALAIVANI
OLD AGE HOME
@
EAST TAMBARAM

Contact:
98843 67968
89392 76861

MARUTI SUZUKI
ARENA
For Service Booking Call
AUTO TECH
Ph: 97100 11888
044 - 223 88888
No. 6, 1st Street,
Kamatchi Colony,
Sanatorium,
Chennai 600 047.

repute
Quality that you deserve...
ORDER WATER TODAY
20 Ltr Can
suitable for office & home
www.reputeh2o.com
98845 44444

To advertise in
DOWNTOWN

Contact:
UDHAYAKUMAR
81246 14787

Inviting nominations for Nursing Excellence Award

Ahead of International Nurses Day, observed on May 12 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, TwinTech Healthcare Academy invites nominations for the Nursing Excellence Award 2025.

This award seeks to recognise the dedication, compassion, and service of nursing professionals across government and private hospitals in Tamil Nadu who are at the forefront of patient care, said a release. To participate one should

not have received this award in any of the previous editions, should have a minimum of 10 years of continuous experience in direct patient care and must be currently employed in a hospital (government or private) in Tamil Nadu.

Nomination forms and other details can be downloaded from www.chennaitwintech.com. Alternatively, to receive the nomination link, send a WhatsApp message to: +91 97104 85295



Graduation day

Meenakshi College of Engineering, K. K. Nagar, combined its 18th and 19th graduation days and held the ceremony recently.

The ceremony was held at the Anna Centenary Library Auditorium, Kotturpuram.

The principal, S. Anandakumar, presented the graduation report, which highlighted the institution's achievements and milestones over the past few years.

P. B. Kotur, global head of the Global Engineering Academy at L&T Technology Services and a renowned TEDx speaker, delivered an inspiring speech to the graduates.

He emphasised innovation, adaptability, and the importance of lifelong learning in today's fast-evolving world.

Besides, he distributed certificates to the graduates.

Inviting applications for 'Art for Hope'

Hyundai Motor India Foundation (HMIF), the CSR arm of Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL), has announced the fifth season of its flagship art initiative - 'Hyundai art for hope'. The programme has become a transformative platform for emerging artists, enabling creative expression and fostering inclusive cultural growth, said a release.

In this season, HMIF will support 50 talented artists and art collectives from across India with financial grants, professional mentorship, and a national stage to showcase their work. A total of 40 grants of ₹ 1 lakh each for individuals and teams, including persons with disabilities, will

be given. Another 10 grants of ₹ 2 lakh each for art collectives and institutions, said the release.

Over the past four seasons, 'Art for Hope' has directly benefited over 150 artistes with ₹ 1.65 crore in grants, and supported over 25,000 artists through workshops, exhibitions, and skill-building opportunities, said a release.

Artists can apply on hyundaiartforhope.com and submit their project nominations. Key details about the initiative can also be viewed on the website. Artists can reach out to contactus@hyundaiartforhope.com for further information about this initiative.

Free screening for Deep Brain Stimulation

Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation is organising a screening camp to check for eligibility for Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) on April 20; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Spoorthi Neuro and Spine Centre, 2nd Main Road, Kasturba Nagar, Adyar. This surgery is beneficial for people affected by Parkinson's Disorder. The screening camp is free-of-cost, interested individuals should only WhatsApp 9600052531. Screening will be on appointment basis and registration is mandatory.

JCE celebrates graduation day



More than 600 graduates from various disciplines received their degrees during Jerusalem College of Engineering's 25th and 26th Graduation Day ceremony, which was recently held.

The college also recognised 53 academic rank holders for their consistent dedication and exemplary performance throughout their studies.

Ramesh S., Principal of JCE, presented a comprehensive report

highlighting the institution's achievements over the year.

Professor T.G. Sitharam, Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi, was the chief guest.

In his address, he congratulated the graduates, especially the achievements of women graduates, emphasising that the occasion marked not just an end but the beginning of a new chapter filled with opportunities.

He spoke about the responsibility and innovative spirit that should define every engineering graduate, urging them to do whatever they do with passion and to pursue their dreams with dedication and integrity.

He stressed the need for students to continuously upskill, especially in rapid technological advancements, including the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and digital transformation.

Chennai doctor in 'The Ophthalmologist Power List 2025'

Dr. Soosan Jacob, director and chief of Dr. Agarwal's Refractive and Cornea Foundation, has again earned a spot in 'The Ophthalmologist Power List 2025'.

She is one of the three Indians to find a spot in the list, an annual ranking that celebrates pioneers in the field of ophthalmology. The list represents excellence, dedication, and innovation in ophthalmology, said a release.

Published by The Ophthalmologist, one of the leading and respected international journals in the field, the list honors experts who have made a significant impact on the field and earned recognition from peers worldwide.

She was included in the list in the years 2021, 2022, and 2024

Dr. Soosan Jacob has over 25 years of experience, specialising in refractive



surgery, cutting-edge keratoconus management, advanced corneal transplants, glaucoma, and complex cataracts, added the release.

Oratorical competition conducted for college students

Tamil Nadu Minorities Commission, Chennai District, conducted an oratorical competition for college students at New College in Royapettah. The event was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Minister for Dairy Development Raj Kannappan. Special Guests including the chairman of the State Minorities Commission Joe Arun; State Coordinators Constantine Ravindran and J. Hajakani; and New College principal M. Asrar Sheriff took part. A total of 79 students from various arts and science colleges, law colleges, and teacher training institutes in Chennai District participated. The event was organised by Sulaiman, professor at New College and Chennai District Coordinator. Winners will receive prizes from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at a grand ceremony to be held in June, said a release.

STOMACH PAIN
FOR FULL DIAGNOSIS AND COMPLETE TREATMENT.

GASTROENTEROLOGY
DEPT IN J V HOSPITALS

Dr. R. SRINATH FRCS (UK)
Head of the Department

ENDOSCOPY & ABDOMEN
SCAN AT CONCESSIONAL RATE
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

J.V. HOSPITALS
31, Railway Border Road, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 24.
(Near Kodambakkam Railway Station)

CONTACT : 98416 72952