

## MYLAPORE

Mandaveli » R A Puram » Royapettah » Chindatripet » Royapuram » Korukkupet » Ennore » Luz » Alwarpet » Triplicane » Central

Washermenpet » Tondiarpet » Manali » M.R.C.Nagar » Teynampet » Mount Road » Broadway » Kondithope » Tiruvotiyur



### HOW TO HOST A COLLECTION DRIVE

Meet volunteers in Chennai who have thrown open their homes for NGO Goonj to take up relief work for families affected by Cyclone Fengal **P5**



### THEY TALK ART, MEETING ONLINE

An open community for art lovers, Storytellers brings a motley group of professionals together to discuss their works **P7**

## Tree branches block street lights



▼ In R.A.Puram most of the street lights are hidden by tree branches that need pruning. Residents request the Greater Chennai Corporation to address this issue. This image is from 6th Main Road. PHOTO: RAJALAKSHMI V

## What is in store at Mylapore Fest today

The Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival is happening at 10 venues (streets and spaces) around Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple in Mylapore.

On January 12, the finals of the Kolam and Rangoli contest will be taking place at North Mada Street in Mylapore. A Palankuzhi contest will begin at Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls School at 2.30 p.m.

A walk starts at 3 p.m. on the theme 'Discover the World of Traditional Games on the Floor of Sri Kapali Temple'. For food lovers and shopaholics, there is Sundareswarar Street as well as Bazaar Street.

For details, call 7305630727 or visit

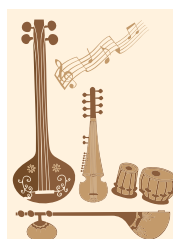
[www.mylaporefestival.in](http://www.mylaporefestival.in)

### Chennai Sangamam

Make sure you visit your neighbourhood parks, the beaches and public grounds to witness some of the best folk performances of Tamil Nadu.

Chennai Sangamam is happening from January 14 to 17 at various venues in the city.

In the Mylapore region, Bharath Scouts and Guides Ground in Triplicane and Government Music College Campus are among the venues. For details, visit <https://chennaisangamamofficial.com/>



## Book Fair ends today: have you visited these stalls?

RAJALAKSHMI V.

As the 48th Chennai Book Fair concludes on January 12, make sure you set foot in three stalls that pay undivided attention to certain themes: works of queer writers, environmentalists and cinema enthusiasts.

Thirunangai Press LLP (Stall No. 207 & 208): founded by Dalit-trans activist Grace Banu, this publication highlights works by queer authors. Featured books include Puzhal Sirai by Salaman and Naan Yen Pathavi Vilaginen by Babasaheb Ambedkar. The stall also offers English books and biographies of trans individuals, including works by A. Revathi.



Pesaamoli Publications (Stall No. 271 & 272): a haven for cinema lovers, this stall features movie scripts from acclaimed directors such as Mari Selvaraj, Lokesh Kanagaraj and Vetri Maran. Visitors can also explore books on cinematography, scripting and other film-related topics, alongside filmmaker biographies.

Poovulagin Nanbargal

(Stall No. 289 & 290): perfect for nature enthusiasts, this stall presents books authored by environmental activists, including Geo Damin M., whose works delve into ecological concerns and threats to the planet.

Additionally, the stall showcases models on pollution and environmental challenges alongside its book collection.

## Height of pillar boxes increased at P.S. Sivaswami Salai

Tangedco is in the process of increasing the height of many junction boxes in places where inundation is a sad reality. This exercise has been carried out in several places, but it strikes one as novel as one sees it being executed on P.S. Sivaswami Salai in Mylapore, near Vivekananda College. The raised concrete pedestals for the junction boxes seem a tad higher.

Understandably so: the road has been submerged in sheets of water in the past. This will safeguard people from power-related hazards.

**Baskar Seshadri**  
Mandaveli





# Unleash your creativity at the lit fest

The Hindu Lit for Life will host six workshops for different age groups. Ranging from creative writing to traditional games, these sessions take you on a journey of discovery and learning. To register, visit <https://newsth.live/LFLWSYW> or scan the QR Code



## The partners

The Hindu Lit for Life event is presented by KIA India and is in association with Christ University.

### Associate Partners:

RR Donnelley, Blue Star, Brigade Group, NITTE Deemed-to-be University, PROchure, Singer, Uttarakhand Tourism, Chennai Port Authority & Kamarajar Port Ltd, Vajiram and Ravi, Indian Bank and Akshayakalpa.

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### Radio Partner: Big FM. Gift Partner:

Anand Prakash. **Water Partner:** Repute

## Crack the **Calm Code**

“Crack the Calm Code: Learning to Regulate Your Nervous System” would help participants discover how to manage stress through functional medicine and Ayurveda. Deepa Kannan, allied functional medicine practitioner and author, will guide participants through techniques to calm an overstimulated nervous system.

Facilitator: Deepa Kannan Date & Time: January 18, 10:00 - 11:30 AM  
Participants: 30 | Age Group: 18+ Venue: The Annexe, inside Lady Andal School premises Registration fee: ₹799

## Just **play**

Those enrolling for “Just Play: Life Lessons from Traditional Games” will get to experience the wisdom of India’s traditional games with Vinita Siddhartha. They will also learn strategies, synergy, and survival tactics derived from age-old pastimes.

Facilitator: Vinita Siddhartha  
Date & Time: December 19, 3:00 - 5:30 PM Participants: 40 | Age Group: 14+ Venue: The Annexe, inside Lady Andal School premises Registration fee: ₹799



## The **mischief** of math

“The Mischief of Math: Paradoxes, Patterns, and Life’s Little Logic Tricks” will have participants exploring the playful side of maths through hands-on activities and quirky tutorials. They will discover how numbers intersect with narratives along with mathematicians Nivedita Ganesh and Inavamsi Enaganti.

Facilitators: Nivedita Ganesh & Inavamsi Enaganti Date & Time: January 19, 10:00 - 11:30 AM Participants: 30 | Age Group: 15-25 Venue: The Annexe, inside Lady Andal School premises Registration fee: ₹799

## Tree of **confidence**

“Tree of Confidence” is a workshop where participants will join Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan in a creative exploration of confidence-building through stories, reflections and activities inspired by Nature

Facilitator: Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan Date & Time: January 19, 12:00 - 1:30 PM Participants: 25 | Age Group: 8-11 Venue: The Annexe, inside Lady Andal School premises Cost: ₹799



## How to read a **Mughal painting**

“How to Read a Mughal Painting: Understanding the Mughals through Their Art” would take participants into the vibrant world of Mughal miniatures and decode their secrets with Ashwitha Jayakumar, author of *The Book of Emperors: An illustrated history of Mughals*.

Facilitator: Ashwitha Jayakumar Date & Time: January 18, 12:00 - 2:00 PM Participants: 30 | Age Group: 14+ Venue: The Annexe, inside Lady Andal School premises Registration fee: ₹799



## From Fact to **Fiction**

“From Fact to Fiction: A Creative Writing Workshop” would transform real-world events into compelling stories and blend fact with imagination in a session with award-winning author Vibha Batra.

Facilitator: Vibha Batra Date & Time: January 18, 3:00 - 5:00 PM Participants: 30 | Age Group: 13-17 Venue: The Annexe, inside Lady Andal School premises Registration fee: ₹799





A Khelo India scholarship winner, Hansini M. has made great strides in the sport

**H**ansini M, a 15-year-old table tennis player from P.S. Senior Secondary School, has become the youngest National Champion in the Under-19 category at the National and Interstate Junior and Youth National Championship held in Vadodara from January 3-10, 2025, said a press release.

In a gripping final, Hansini triumphed over Haryana's Suhana Saini, showcasing exceptional skill and determination. A Class 10 student at P. S. Senior Secondary School in Mylapore, she was a member of the Indian Under-15 Youth Team and achieved a World Ranking of 20 in the Under-15 category in 2024, said the release. Her illustrious career includes being crowned the Under-13 National Champion in 2021, winning the prestigious World Hopes tournament in 2021, and holding the World No. 1 rank in the Under-13 category for an impressive stretch



## P.S. student sets a new record in TT

from Week 21 to Week 40 in 2022, added the release. A recipient of the Khelo India scholarship awarded by the Government of India, Hansini has also been awarded cash incentives from the Tamil Nadu government for her outstanding contributions to the sport.

## Varsha Jayaraman impresses at Anusham Arts and Dance Festival

Varsha Jayaraman, a young disciple of Guru Mahalakshmi Ashwin, presented an engaging Bharatanatyam performance at the Anusham Arts Dance Festival at the RR Sabha.

According to a press release, her rendition of Jagadanda Karaka as the main item highlighted her grasp of rhythm and choreography. The performance was structured with precision, and her abhinaya in the padam Dhari Joochi reflected a good understanding of expressions for her age, the release adds.

While it was pleasantly surprising to see the finesse in the Chandrayothi Tillana, her ability to hold the audience's attention shows promise for the future, making her a young dancer worth watching as she develops her artistry further, says the release.



## A farewell party



(From left to right) Nawabzada Mohammed Asif Ali, Satish Jupiter, Ravikumar Dhingra, Darshini and Rames.

A farewell party in honour of Rear Admiral Ravi Kumar Dhingra, VSM Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu & Puducherry Naval Area (FOTNA), who is embarking on a new journey was held on January 4, 2025 at The Park in Nungambakkam.

Jointly hosted by Satish Jupiter and The Park, Chennai the event saw an array of consuls, expats, government officials, members of diplomatic core and prominent faces of Chennai in attendance to cherish their fond acquaintance with the officer.

## Reliance launches electrolyte drink

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL) has launched a beverage product under the brand called RasKik Gluco Energy, an energy boosting and rehydrating drink. According to a press release, it is packed with electrolytes, glucose and lemon juice and is priced of ₹10 per single-serve SKU.

The other flavours include: mango, apple, mixed fruit, and coconut water. This marks RCPL's entry into rehydration segment, adds the release.



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# Sustainable fashion brand bows out in style

Oh Scrap! Madras, which has carved a niche for itself by upcycling fabric scraps to make clothes, jewellery, home decor, toys and a variety of other fabric-related creations is officially shutting down on January 15

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

The inexorable clock has quickened its feet, rushing through a final countdown for Oh Scrap! Madras. On January 15, the Chennai-based upcycling enterprise would have officially retreated from the sustainability stage, one it filled admirably for five years. Until the *coup de grace* is delivered to it that day, Oh Scrap! Madras would be kept on “life support”, its website (www.ohscrapmadras.com) open for a clearance sale with prices marked down by 50 to 60 per cent on all products.

While it lasted, Oh Scrap! Madras enunciated the shibboleths of sustainability flawlessly. The finery and artsy trinkets and home decor and utilitarian bags and a spectrum of other fabric-related creations it shipped from a well-appointed but unpretentious 2BHK flat Thiruvanniyur were born of upcycled fabric scraps. Women constituted more than ninety per cent of its workforce. On top of that, both co-founders were women. Designer Priyanjoli Basu and demographer-epidemiologist Dominique Lopez, the co-founders, made sure the fabric scraps came from local addresses, drawn from the godowns of textile factories, local fashion brands and the wardrobes of individual donors. The employees got to work from home not as an occasional perk, but by default. A tailoring machine was parked at home.

Oh Scrap! Madras’ work processes could have gone into a primer on United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, painting an illustrative picture of them – not all the 17 goals, but some of them certainly.

Beyond the gravitas of meeting SDGs, Oh Scrap! Madras brought a levity to its business. The name carried a chant-



A glimpse of the product line  
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

like appeal and even a winsome reverence. As Priyanjoli puts it, “I just wanted something fun and something that would stay with people in their mind.” And it did, becoming a synonym for sustainable fashion in Chennai.

The enterprise gave both its co-founders a huge and uplifting sense of purpose. But paradoxically, the things that fill us with purpose also deplete us. Over the last five years, Priyanjoli and Dominique had been lurching from one product to another, one sale to another. It was in fact baptism by fire for Oh Scrap! Madras. Established in August 2019, the fledgling enterprise would soon find itself catering to a closed world. The pandemic had shut down avenues of growth even before they were fully open to this enterprise. During this period, it put much of its fashion line on hold, and was largely making masks.

Sustainable fashion is usually a hard sell. As the duo puts it, each in different phraseology and accent, Oh Scrap! Madras would have taken what was considered dead and imbued it with new life, but the magic was never in the discarded and upcycled fabric, it was in the act of transformation. But the buying public was largely fixat-



This section spotlights initiatives undertaken by residents of Chennai to minimise the waste that reaches landfills

The numbers bear this out. In a post titled “5 years recap” they put out on Instagram, they note that more than 850 garments were made available in their thrift store; and Oh Scrap! Madras “has successfully upcycled, recycled, thrifted or donated 5.5 tons of fabric scraps since 2019”.

Furthermore, as Dominique says: “We also used to have upcycling services for clients where they could send their old fabric and we could revamp it. We ran a

**The magic was never in the discarded and upcycled fabric, it was in the act of transformation**

operation, not innovation. The market for sustainable fashion remains niche. If Oh Scrap! Madras with 100 products on its catalogue now and a product shipping history covering four major metros in India (Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi; besides, of course Chennai) even parts of the United States should decide to throw in the towel, surely, there is still considerable work on perception engineering to be done.

As Oh Scrap! Madras bows out of the scene, its co-founders strike a positive note. There is something comforting about this ending.

“Ending something is not the same as giving up,” Dominique notes. “It is about knowing when the work you set out to do has been completed.”

The journey would have ended, but it was on track when it lasted.

Co-founders Dominique Lopez and Priyanjoli Basu.



donation service where people could donate their old clothes. We conducted upcycling workshops, both offline and online, regularly; and we organised talks about sustainability.” In a generous final act, Priyanjoli and Dominique donated piles of fabric scraps to up-and-coming designers who had been following Oh Scrap! Madras for years.

Back to the recap note, it says “we were a wonderful team of 12 out of which 11 are women and seven are local women artisans.”

“The women we empowered are no longer just part of the brand – they are the brand,” Priyanjoli says with quiet pride. These women, once bound by societal constraints, now hold the tools to write their own stories. Priyanjoli continues: “What we were creating was not just art from scraps. We were giving women a voice, an identity and a chance to reclaim their own story.”

“What we have done,” Dominique reflects, “is not just upcycle fabric, but upcycle lives.”

Some of the women were house helps, and what they earned from Oh Scrap! Madras was a big boost to the family income – in fact, during the pandemic it was a lifeline, says Priyanjoli.

Would Priyanjoli and Dominique want to recreate the magic, but in a different form?

To answer that, Dominique goes to the very beginning of this initiative.

Through a chance encounter, the duo had met – Priyanjoli back in Chennai after her studies in fashion design in London; and French national Dominique who had settled down in Chennai with her family – and discovered they were on the same page about how to put sustainability ideals into practice. And Oh Scrap! Madras was born in 2019. They want to recreate the magic, but individually, each taking a different road to purpose, one paved with sustainability-driven goals.

## How to host a collection drive

Meet volunteers in Chennai who have thrown open their homes for NGO Goonj to take up relief work for families affected by Cyclone Fengal

LIFFY THOMAS

Just before Christmas when homes were getting decked up with colourful lights and cribs, Mangala Chandran’s home at Sri-ram Nagar West Street in Alwarpet was getting ready to accommodate old but useful stuff.

She was receiving cartons and bags of gently used clothes, dry ration, stationery and other usable items – the entrance of her house could have been mistaken for a go-down.

This drive for NGO Goonj that Mangala initiated racked up a decent collection. This old stuff could have ended up in landfill, but now they are being diverted them to families that lost much due to Cyclone Fengal.

“Mangala is regular in conducting such collection drives, sometimes it is held once in three to four months, opening up her house for people to drop in items that could touch somebody else’s lives,” says her neighbour L. Hariharan, who has been actively volunteering for Goonj for more than 11 years now.

Until a year ago, his home was the drop-off point for people in and around Alwarpet to donate reusable items. The donated items would then be transported to Goonj’s main centre in Kovilambakkam.

During the Christmas week last year, at Karpagam Avenue in RA Puram, The Little Caterpillar, a play school, also assumed the responsibility of conducting a collection drive for people affected by the cyclone. The school also played host to the Goonj team who interacted with visitors at the centre and had a stall selling upcycled items.

While many residents have been throwing open a section of their house to stock items for those affected by Cyclone Fengal and other natural calamities, NGOs working on the ground say they still need more helping hands.

“Since Cyclone Fengal made landfall on December 1, we have had nearly 10 collection drives, a majority of them in the central parts of the city,” says Anisha Baura, team member, Goonj.

Our plan is to reach out to



Items kept in front of a house in Alwarpet; and (below) the Goonj stall at The Little Caterpillar. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

15,000 families but we have so far only reached out to 3,000 families, she says.

Individuals and institutions planning to conduct such drives are required to reach out to Goonj at least five days in advance to receive the help they would need. They are also required to take responsibility of the logistics of stocking the items and transporting them to a central collection point.

“For many people, space is a constraint but we expect one to host it for not more than two days. Some hesitate as the cost of trans-

**Since Cyclone Fengal made landfall on December 1, we have had nearly 10 collection drives, a majority of them in the central parts of the city**

portation has to be borne by them,” says Anisha.

Hariharan, who helps people set up camps, says many volunteers sign up through conversations on WhatsApp groups. “With one’s network it is possible to find interested people,” says Hariharan, who has helped collect more than 20,000 garments so far and is secretary of Sri Ram Nagar Association.

Nikita Viswanath, founder, The Little Caterpillar, believes creating a buzz around some drives is of paramount importance or people would otherwise be unaware of them. “We are planning another soon with some interesting take-away workshops for visitors,” says Nikita. They also invite volunteers to participate in its other activities which includes packing of items, creative writing to promote a drive and designing posters for the same.



An initiative by the Anns club of Rotary Club of Madras Industrial City to collect sweaters for residents of the Institute of Mental Health to help them weather the cold season found many supporters. There were contributions, big and small, from various quarters

# Every drive matters, every drop counts

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Everyone is talking about a nip in the air. Marghazhi is usually cold to the touch, but this year, it is widely believed to have been a smidge colder. Giving the air-conditioners and ceiling fans an all-night break proving not entirely helpful, some headed to their hibernating, forgotten woollen wear, retrieving them from the lowermost, less-opened compartment in their chest of drawers.

Against this backdrop, the Anns Club of Rotary Club of Madras Industrial City (RCMIC) sought that this “compartment” be drawn further to look for any old, sparingly-used sweater sitting deep inside. It could be packed off for charity. Instead, if one chose to open their heart wider and not the compartment, they could buy a new sweater and hand it over to charity.

RCMIC’s Anns Club was making this plea to meet a need at Institute of Mental Health (IMH) at Kilpauk. If one were to be detailed, 700-plus needs, that being the number of residents at IMH receiving treatment.

As this collection drive had a steep deadline – what good is a sweater that arrives after the chilly weather had quit the scene – the dragnet was being thrown deep and wide.

The RCMIC Anns Club launched the collection drive in association with the NGO Goonj and Rotary eShakti.

Communication wrapped in words exuding warmth – “Kindness is the warmest gift we can share” – and with details presented in lines led by sweater emojis, were sent out “Donate new or sparingly used sweaters. Front open sweaters with buttons preferred. If you want to get new ones, you can send your donations. Sizes can be M, L, XL” – thus read the instruction note.

The plea was splashed across the walls of RWAs’ online groups.

Eight sweaters out of what was finally collected (650) might seem



RCMIC Anns Club members during the distribution of sweaters.

like a crumb, but generosity is still generosity irrespective of its size. Trellis South, a two-tower gated community in Vadapalani managed those eight sweaters, placing two sweater donation boxes, one at each tower.

Trellis South has track record of organising an impressive clothes collection drive ahead of Deepavali. In the past, this initiative was a jewel in its crown. Last year, Kathikeyan Rajamohan, who is part of the community-engagement team, headed by Srikanth, made sure the community did not break away from this tradition. On the sweater collection drive, he remarks, “We were aware of this need only on January 3, and by then, the drive was coming to an end. So, we quickly collected these eight sweaters

and handed them over for distribution in IMH.” Numbers sometimes do not reflect the significance of an act. In this case, it certainly does not. This small, quickfire collection drive in this gated community has loosened its muscles for more clothes collection drives.

Says Karthikeyan: “We are cur-



rently planning four drives per year covering one each quarter. This helps in decluttering our wardrobe and support the needy. Our intention is to reach out to the beneficiaries directly which gives you more satisfaction rather going through an aggregator.

Though we have individual volunteers/ champions for each drive, all these activities come under our community engagement team, which is headed by Srikanth.”

According to Nirupama Aravind from the Anns Club of RCMIC, 650 sweaters were collected and handed over to the residents of IMH. Nirupama adds, “RCMIC did a collection drive at various apartments in the city, particularly the OMR area.”

## Sports shoes collection drive

The Institute of Mental Health has an impressive track record in athletics. Nirupama Aravind, who is part of the Anns Club of Rotary Club of Madras Industrial City (RCMIC) notes that “IMH deserves immense appreciation for its tireless efforts in empowering the residents of IMH taking treatment at the hospital to become Paralympic athletes. IMH has 13 athletes ready to participate in a major sports meet on January 21. Nirupama remarks that they lack proper shoes, clothing and accessories. “The Anns Club and Rotarians of Rotary Club of Madras Industrial city are organising a drive to collect these essentials for these athletes, head of the tournament,” she adds. “One of the residents, Venkatesh has been selected for an international participation. He needs sponsors.” For details about the drive, call 7708111268





Stalls put up by Storytellers and some of their artworks.  
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# They talk art, meeting online

RAJALAKSHMI V.

An open community for art lovers, Storytellers brings a motley group of professionals together to discuss their works

**O**n a quiet Saturday afternoon, a small group of artists chat on a Discord Server, their faces appearing in small windows on the screen. While some are ready with their sketches, others are just beginning to trace theirs. This group is in session for another round of drawing, conversation and learning.

The sounds of the outside world fade into the background as their stories flow naturally, bouncing off the digital space like old friends reconnecting. The drawings serve as a backdrop to their conversations, and the conversations are their own form of creation. There is no rush, no pressure, only the quiet rhythm of pencils and brushes on paper and the occasional burst of laughter cutting through the calm.

Storytellers is a Chennai-based art community founded in 2023 by Farhan K., an architect by profession and an artist by passion. With over 50 members, this diverse group includes artists, writers, jewellery designers, and bakers, all based in Chennai who meet online to sketch.

What makes many connect with Storytellers is finding a platform amidst professional commitment where there are no limits to the kind of art shared, and freedom is encouraged. Healthy competition exists, but it's always accompanied by support and encouragement.

Farhan recalls, "It was during my college years that I discovered



artistic communities in cities like Bangalore. I wanted to create a space where artists could share their work and ideas. When I first set up my own stall, I had to spend a significant amount of money to make it happen, and it was tough to recover those costs. That experience pushed me to start this community."

Storytellers regularly showcase their work at events in the city, the most recent one being Kalai Alai, which took place on December 22, 2024. They also host their own events, such as Animatsuri, where anime-inspired artworks are displayed.

"If you visit our stall, you'll see that every piece of art has its own story. That's the theme we follow every time.

We've been displaying our work at events, and we're planning to hold workshops in the future to engage more directly with the public. Setting up stalls has taught us valuable management skills, and it's always a joy when people buy our work and offer feedback. At

the end of the day, profit isn't our main goal. It's the satisfaction we get from sharing our work and covering our expenses," Farhan explains.

true."

She continues, "After quitting my job in February, I struggled to get back into my art. My social media was quiet, and I felt disconnected from the creative world. But gradually, I started drawing again. Then, in July, I found Storytellers. It was a turning point for me. I realized that doing what I love would bring opportunities, but I had to put myself out there."

Sai Keerthi, a 26-year-old senior illustrator at Lollypop Design Studio, discusses how the community collaborates and their future goals. "When it comes to organising events, everyone contributes in their own way. No one is assigned specific roles; we all step up for tasks we're familiar with. For Animatsuri, I helped coordinate with a vendor for badges because I'd worked on similar projects before. Monika handled the keychains. Our goal is to reach a wider audience in Chennai and expand to other cities. For now, we focus on telling a story with every piece of art we create so that people can connect with it. And we want others to know they can be part of this community, no matter their skill level."

Farhan adds, "Joining the community doesn't require being a professional artist—just a passion for creating stories through art." Their advice to any artist is simple: "Just go for it. Put your work out there, and don't worry about likes or shares. Let people see your work, and things will fall into place."

For updates on upcoming online and offline art sessions, follow @storytellers03 on Instagram.





## The Pongal rush: special buses, help desks, helpline numbers

**T**he State Transport Department is plying special long-distance buses on January 12 and 13 from three bus terminuses in the city. On these two days, more than 7,000 buses will be operated.

The buses are operated from Kalaingar Centenary Bus Terminal (KCBT), Mofussil Bus Terminal, and Metropolitan Transport Corporation Bus Terminus in Kilambakkam, Madhavaram New Bus Terminus, and Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus (CMBT) in Koyambedu. From KCBT, buses to Vandavasi, Polur, Puducherry, Cuddalore, Chidambaram, Tiruchi, Madhavaram terminus, Andhra Pradesh, Salem, Kumbakonam and Tiruvannamalai, and CMBT, East Coast Road, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Bengaluru and Thiruttani. People travelling by private tran-



sport have been requested to drive through the Thiruporur - Chengalpattu route or the Vandalur - Outer Ring Road route to avoid traffic congestion on Grand Southern Trunk Road, Tambaram and Perungalathur regions, said a release.

### Reservation counters

To help passengers book their tickets, nine reservation counters have been set up on the premises of KCBT and CMBT till January 13. The counters will function from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Public can also book the tickets online through [www.tnsrc.in](http://www.tnsrc.in) and on the official app of Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation.

### The numbers

To know about bus routes and register service complaints, the pu-

blic can contact the number 94450 14436 (24X7).

To register complaints against fleeing Omni bus operators, public can call 044 24749002, 044 26280445, 044 - 26281611, and a toll-free number 1800 425 6151.

For the passengers' safety, a control room has been set up on the premises of the Kilambakkam bus terminus, which will function round the clock. Besides, 'May I Help You' booths (buses and routes) have been set up in the terminuses.

The public must use the reservation counters and app, and online facilities for safe and hassle-free travel.

Metropolitan Transport Corporation will operate connecting buses from the Koyambedu bus terminus round the clock to reach the other two bus terminuses.

## Focus on terminuses

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation will operate more than 150 special link buses on January 12 and January 13 to help long-distance passengers to board the buses from three terminals across the city.

The special buses will be operated on these route numbers.

Buses to Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus, Koyambedu: 15 (Broadway), 46 (Thiru Vi Ka Nagar), 72 (Avadi - Thiruverkadu, through the terminus), 78 (Thiruvannamalai), 114 (Red Hills), 159A (Thiruvottiyur), 170C (Guindy Industrial Estate - Thiru Vi Ka Nagar through the terminus), 27B (Anna Square), and 48C (Vallalar Nagar).

Kalaingar Centenary Bus Terminus, Kilambakkam: 206 (Avadi), 104C (Koyambedu), 104K

(Red Hills), 111ET (Thiruverkadu), 121HET (Kannadasan Nagar), 18AET (Broadway), 21GCT (Mandaveli), 50OP (Pallavaram), 51AX (T. Nagar), 51X (Vela-chery), 555S (Sholinganallur), 583X (Sri Perumbudur), 66K (Kundrathur), 66P (Poonamallee), 70GCT (Vadapalani), 91K (Thiruvannamalai), 91R (Vela-chery), 95XCT (Sholinganallur), 99X (Adyar Gandhi Nagar Bus Terminus), and M18 (Tambaram).

Madhavaram New Bus Terminus: 121A (Manali - Koyambedu), 121C (Ennore - Koyambedu), 121CT (Madhavaram Mofussil Bus Terminus (MMBT) - Koyambedu), 121M (Madhavaram Bus Terminus - Koyambedu), 70F (Kilambakkam - Madhavaram Bus Terminus) and 70M (Kilambakkam - MMBT).



## Are you celebrating a smoke-free Bhogi?



Students of Queen Mary's College conducted an awareness rally ahead of Bhogi festival to remind the community not to burn plastics and old items and to celebrate a smoke-free Bhogi. PHOTO: RAGU R

## Symposium highlights role of mediation in resolving conflicts

FICCI Ladies Organisation and Madras Management Association organise the event

**T**he FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), Chennai co-hosted a symposium with Madras Management Association, in association with the Foundation for Comprehensive Dispute Resolution (FCDR) and Jaagrithi Foun-

dation on 'Resolving Conflicts in Families, Keeping Family Bonds Intact, Magic of Mediation - The Best Legal Solution'.

The symposium was presided over by Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy, Judge, Madras High Court, and Justice K. Kannan, Former Judge of the High Courts of Madras, Punjab and Haryana, both as chief guests.

Other dignitaries included Captain Vijay Kumar, Executive Director, MMA; Senior Advocate Pushya Sitaraman, Co-Founder of FCDR; and K.P. Chidambaram, Founding

Trustee, Jaagrithi Foundation.

Panellists included Senior Advocate Murari; Advocate Geetha Ramaseshan; and Advocates and Mediators of FCDR, Uma Ramanathan, Chitra Narayan, Vijaykrishnan, and Revathi Mohan.

The event highlighted mediation as a respectful, confidential, and effective solution that preserves familial ties while addressing legal complexities, underscoring the commitment of participating organisations to the common goal of the well-being of society through legal awareness, said a release.

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