

IT CORRIDOR

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Neelankarai » Sholinganallur » Thiruvannamiyur » Vijaya Nagar » Indira Nagar » Karapakkam » Kotturpuram » Padur » Thalambur » Pallikaranai



HOW ABOUT A TREE MAP FOR YOUR LOCAL PARK?

A group of residents in Indira Nagar have exactly this idea in mind; and they are going about making it a reality in a spirit of volunteering **P2**



ADDING A REUSE VALUE TO USED THINGS

Before discarding something that has outlived its usefulness to you, consider sending it to any of these groups **P5**



Can this traffic congestion at Pallikaranai be avoided?

R RAVINDRAN

On 200-feet Pallavaram Thoraipakkam Radial Road, motorists rolling in from Pallavaram and seeking to head towards Medavakkam and Tambaram (via Tambaram Velachery Main Road) cannot take a right turn at Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospital junction in Pallikaranai.

Instead, the motorists have to continue the drive on the 2000-feet radial road for at least a kilometre and then take a U-turn and

come back to the junction, take a left turn and head towards Medavakkam, which results in heavy traffic jam on the 200-feet Pallavaram Thoraipakkam Radial Road during rush hour.

However, motorists coming from Thoraipakkam and heading towards Velachery have a right turn.

During rush hour, the U-turn rule could be relaxed, and right turn enabled for motorists coming from Pallavaram and heading towards Tambaram, to prevent piling up of vehicles.



PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN

Registrations open for Indian Navy Half Marathon 2025

To be held on December 14, the run would commence at Napier's Bridge and end at INS Adyar Beach

The maiden edition of Indian Navy Half Marathon is scheduled to be held in Chennai on December 14, 2025.

The event, which features three race categories – Adyar Half Marathon Run (21.1 km), 10KM INS Parundu Run, and 5KM INS Pallava Run – will commence at Napier's Bridge and end in INS Adyar Beach.

A prize pool of ₹ 10,00,000 for the runners across various categories will be offered, said a press release. Registrations are open across all categories on the official event web-

site: <https://chennainavyhalfmarathon.com/>

The event aims to promote three causes: a Drug-Free India, Women Adishakti Power and a stand against online betting/ gambling. The event also celebrates the unique spirit of camaraderie, where civilians run shoulder-to-shoulder with Defence personnel, embodying unity, discipline and national pride, the release added.

The Chennai Navy Half Marathon also forms a part of the larger series of Navy Half Marathons held across the country, inspiring citizens to embrace health and fitness while strengthening the bond between the armed forces and the community, while encouraging participation of public in the Fit India movement.

The event is presented by Bank of Baroda and powered by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

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How about a *tree map* for your local park?

A group of residents in Indira Nagar have exactly this idea in mind; and they are going about making it a reality in a spirit of volunteering

PRINCE FREDERICK

An Indira Nagar resident with a hard-to-miss commitment to practising sustainability, a tree watcher and nurturer C. Namachivayam delights in maps, essentially quickly scrawled sketches. If it were possible to converse entirely in maps, he would choose “Map-ish” over English. He is given to flagging problems in the delivery of civic amenities by government line agencies. Whenever he brings up a civic issue, he invariably surfaces a map pinpointing it. The location with the exact spot where the “wound” is found suppurating and its precincts would all be mapped out. For once, he is preparing an “upbeat” map, a tree map for the famous Indira Nagar park on Indira Nagar Fourth Cross Street together with an “arbor” of like-minded residents delighting in the park and its trees.

Namachivayam has drawn up a rough map, naming the trees. The park is circular; it “hangs out” with two streets – Indira Nagar Fourth Cross Street and Indira Nagar Sixth Lane – which curve sufficiently to give the park its rotund shape. From the rough, partial drawing of the park with a listing of the trees by their names, one can see that if this tree list was run through the Simpson Reciprocal Index, it would return a high value, indicat-



Indira Nagar residents are in the process of creating a tree map for a famous park in their neighbourhood. As part of the exercise, they are seeking to have a nameboard for each tree. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing a diversity of tree species.

These residents want to have a nameboard (tied not nailed) around each tree, indicating its species. A QR code in a boxy space on the nameboard will provide in-depth details about the tree, when scanned. Just one nameboard sans the QR code (for a Mahilam tree) has been created on a trial basis, says Namachivayam.

Hands have gone up to take up various aspects of the nameboard-assigning and tree-map work.

Namachivayam discusses the distribution of labour, a labour of love: “One of the residents, V.S. Ganesan has asked for the estimated cost of the project. He would then approach sponsors to fund the initiative. Another resident, Srinivasa Raghavan will be generating the QR codes that lead to information about the trees. On my part, I will identify the trees, get the plastic backup board of the required size, get the wires for tying the boards,

select proper websites with information on the trees provide these to Raghavan for linking the information with the QR codes. And of course, I will get the stickers made, each with the tree name and QR code.”

Namachivayam sums it up: “It is a full-fledged project work with many activities, several participants; with residents taking ownership of their local park in a cooperative and participatory spirit.”



Speak up for your neighbourhood park

Fed up to their ‘collars’ with bird droppings, Indira Nagar residents sought shelters over benches in this park; and this feature is now among reasons for this green space attracting an impressive number of visitors

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

They dot the Indira Nagar Park on Indira Nagar Fourth Cross Street, and are as unmissable as mushrooms. Mushrooms spring up after showers; these did after a shower of requests. A collection of 15 pleas seeking measures to improve as many aspects of the park had rained down on Chennai Greater Corporation. Among the pleas that elicited a positive response was that which sought a shelter over every bench. These shelters insulate park users against rain. According to Indira Nagar resident C. Namachi-

vayan, the purpose for which these shelters was sought was protection against bird droppings. There is a profusion of greenery marked by a diversity of fully grown trees at this green space; and hence, the incessant chirps in the trees. The shelters are a huge value-add to the park, making it a go-to space for relaxation even when the sky takes on the character of a dripping tap.

A takeaway for anyone seeking to improve their local, neighbourhood park: speak up for your park, and who knows, the park might end up having the good that you sought for it.



The park at Indira Nagar Fourth Cross Street on November 21, 2025. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

Plying between Adyar Gandhi Nagar terminus and Tambaram West bus stand, this service joins a clutch of similar services to meet a demand that seems to be always on the rise



Route Number 96 at Tambaram West bus stand. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Route No. 96 hits the road

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Metropolitan Transport Corporation has introduced a new route number that might seem similar to a clutch of other route numbers long in operation.

The new route number, 96, plies between Adyar Gandhi Nagar terminus and Tambaram West bus stand via Lattice Bridge Road, IT Corridor, Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam 200-feet Radial Road and Velachery Main Road.

Seven buses will ply on route number 96.

Route number 91, 91 cut service, 91A, 91V (Kilambakkam, Tambaram, Hasthinapuram and Guduvancherry), starting from the Thiruvannamiyur bus terminus, nearly follows the same route, except that it does not pass through Lattice Bridge Road and Velachery Main Road.

Route number 95, which starts from Thiruvannamiyur bus terminus, plies through IT Corridor till Sholinganallur region, takes Classical Language Road and Velachery Main Road.

Route no 99 from Adyar plies through Lattice Bridge Road, East Coast Road, Classical Language Road and Velachery Main Road.

Benefits: for the residents of Pallikaralai and the adjoining areas such as Sunnambu Kolathur, route number 96 will be useful, as it would spare them the trouble of having to go to Medavakkam and Little Mount to board buses towards Adyar.

Suggestions: "It would be more beneficial if some services are diverted through Velachery and Guru Nanak Road and Little Mount. Commuters can go directly to Sardar Patel Road and do not have to break their journey. To go to the section of Adyar on Lattice Bridge Road, commuters board M1, 3 and M70 come to Thiruvannamiyur and then head towards the afore-mentioned section, says G. Kowsalya.

Changes in pattern of electric train services

The Chennai Division of the Southern Railway has scheduled a line and power block for the commissioning of the electronic interlocking panel at Tiruvinnavur yard on November 23. Following are the changes in the pattern of electric train services, between 7 a.m. and 3.40 p.m.

Full cancellation of electric trains – train Numbers : 43211, 08:05 a.m., 43213, 08:40 a.m., 43215, 09:15 a.m., 43217, Moore Market Complex - Tiruvallur, 09:35 a.m., 43707, Chennai Beach - Tiruvallur, 09:55 a.m., 43507, Moore Market Complex - Tiruttani 10 a.m., and 43901, Moore Market Complex - Kadambattur, 10:30 a.m..

In lieu of above cancelled electric trains, the following commuters' specials will be operated.

Moore Market Complex - Arakkonam, 08:20 a.m., Tiruttani - Chennai Beach, 08:50 a.m., Arakkonam - Moore Market Complex, 08:55 a.m., Moore Market Complex - Tiruttani, 09:10 a.m., Moore Market Complex - Tirupati, 09:50 a.m., Arakkonam - Moore Market Complex, 10 a.m., Tiruttani - Moore Market Complex, 10:15 a.m., Moore Market Complex - Avadi, 10:45 a.m., and Moore Market Complex - Arakkonam, 11 a.m.

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

Bookworms meetup to discuss Fredrik Backman's bestseller

The upcoming meetup of Bookworms, the FOMRRA-driven book club, promises an exciting evening. The event marks the sixth edition of Bookworms meetups.

Hosted by Prestige Courtyards, Sholinganallur, on November 30th, this meet will feature a discussion on Fredrik

Backman's bestseller *A Man Called Ove*, which was later adapted into the film *A Man Called Otto* starring Tom Hanks. With both the book and movie widely loved, it is sure to spark a lively debate, says a FOMRRA press release.

Adding to the excitement is the Chennai launch of author and screenwriter Rochelle Potkar's latest novel *The D'Costa Family*, praised for its Goan-flavoured plot, dark comedy and powerful message on greed.

As always, the popular Book Swap returns for its 19th edition, a chance to refresh home libraries with exciting new titles, the release adds.

Rochelle Potkar's latest novel *The D'Costa Family* will be released.

Inviting nominations for Rajasthani-Tamil Seva Awards 2026

Rajasthani Association Tamilnadu is inviting nominations for the second edition of its prestigious 'Rajasthani-Tamil Seva Awards 2026', an initiative to honour exceptional individuals and institutions for their outstanding contributions to the people of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The awards will be presented under eight categories: Agriculture & Rural Development, Arts & Culture, Education & Healthcare, Entrepreneurship & Industry, Environment & Sustainability, Media & Communication, Public Service & Governance, and Social Welfare.

Each award carries a cash prize of ₹2,00,000, along with a trophy and citation, said a release.

Nominations are open to the public till December 5 at www.rajasthanitamil.org.

Individuals, institutions, and practitioners from the public, private or voluntary sectors – irrespective of size, caste, creed, or background – are eligible to apply.

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LB ROAD, ADYAR



A reading nook marked by a wooden cabinet standing tall with four elongated legs and sporting a door studded with glass through which the books can be viewed. The images were taken on November 21, 2025. Photos: Prince Frederick



A reading nook in Thiruvananthapuram

A branch of the recently launched Project Thiruvananthapuram Mada Street, this library has a fighting chance of surviving the odds, thanks to its immediate neighbours, the shopkeepers

PRINCE FREDERICK

Wait for that perfect moment, when all favourable factors are in alignment, and you are waiting indefinitely for something that is non-existent, and at best rare, as rare as a seven-planer parade.

A horde of details about a tiny little library at East Mada Street in Thiruvananthapuram are hanging in the air. Its physical design raises questions about its longevity. It is wooden, and cannot be left in the open during rains. During a downpour, it



can scoot to the shelter of a tarpaulin canopy installed for it as well as two wooden benches made of discarded wood and a wooden chair.

Even if the skies are clear, it is not all-clear for this library at night.

"The library will be kept back inside a local's parking area in the night. And brought back in the morning," says Dhanya Rajagopal, who is hoping for this temporary library to become a permanent one and rolling away ever boulder in the way of achieving that.

Dhanya, architect and urban planner, is among the prime movers behind Project Thiruvananthapuram Mada Street, an effort to reimagine the Mada streets around Marundeeswarar temple. The two-day event launching the Project birthed the library. It is integral to a space next to the temple tank that would be the nucleus of an exercise to not so much change the space as add a reason to it for people to patronise it as a social congregating point.

A statue of leader C.N. Annadurai is part of this space.

"Some elements are set up. Some pavers are needed for walking towards the gate because of water logging there," says Dhanya. "Councillor Visalakshi Kapilan im-

mediately set up an additional spotlight for the corner of Anna Statue. Some barricades have been placed to prevent it from being taken over by unauthorised parking."

The model by which the library would be run is yet to be identified. At present, the exercise is powered by optimism and support from various quarters, some not expected.

As expected, books are being donated by residents; the lion's share of the donation so far has been from two residents, Harini Krishnamurthy and her father Krishnamurthy.

Encouragingly enough, there is support from local businesses. Dhanya explains: "There are a whole lot of people who helped during the two-day event such as House of Annapoorna and Naturals Salon who let volunteers use the restrooms and also gave coupons. Then there was native tiffin outlets that allowed us to fill water from their herbal water dispenser. We really want to highlight the importance of local businesses."

And with such goodwill, Dhanya expects the library and other community-driven initiatives to become more robust and permanent.

Eight students from GCC schools to visit Malaysia

Eight students from Greater Chennai Corporation schools are going to have a memorable summer in Malaysia. Vishak M. (CHSS T.H Road), Ponni P. S. (CHSS Alwarpet), Desiga G. (CHSS Athipet), Kalaiarasi K. (CHSS Maduvinkarai), Sanchana L. (CGHS M. H. Road), Santhoshi M (CHS

Alandur), Kaviya V. (CHS MMDA II) and Sadhana S. (CHS Vanniya Teynampet) are the winners of the flagship youth empowerment initiative of the Rotary Club of Madras East, Wings2Fly 2025, where they get to go on an international educational tour to Malaysia during May 2026.

This year's theme, "Know Your

Rights," aimed at empowering students with knowledge on constitutional rights, cyber safety, and child protection laws.

The event started with a rigorous three-round selection process that began with 70,000 students from across the GCC schools.

From this extensive pool, 302

students advanced to Round 2—a specialised two-day legal rights workshop conducted by The Chennai Justice Law Academy.

The workshop covered key areas such as constitutional rights, due process, cyber awareness, the POCSO Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act, said a release.

Round 3 and the grand finale were conducted at Amma Maligai, Ripon Building, where 32 finalists presented their insights before an expert jury panel.

After detailed evaluation, the top eight champions were selected for the international learning phase.

Adding a reuse value to used things

Before discarding something that has outlived its usefulness to you, consider sending it to any of these groups

LIFFY THOMAS

Old spectacles find new eyes

Old spectacles including those that have gone out of fashion are usually discarded, consigning them to the garbage bins. A small number of non-profits and optical shops stop these spectacles from being wasted in this manner. They collect these spectacles and hand them over to organisations that can help in recycling them.

Kapleshwar Optics in T. Nagar, for instance, has a collection box for people to drop their old spectacles. They are generally picked up by a team from Lions Optical Bank.

Sankara Nethralaya has its own in-house optical service at College Road where old spectacles can be dropped. Based on the condition of the frame, they are repurposed to be reused by a needy patient coming to the hospital.

Likewise, outlets of GKB Optical and Kalpavruksha Seva Trust in West Mambalam encourage people

to give away their spectacles that are lying unused at home.

A note on Lenskart.com says that it runs an exchange programme that allows one to donate old glasses to someone in need via the Lenskart Foundation and get an exchange value on a new pair of glasses. All eyeglasses and sunglasses, irrespective of whether they were purchased from Lenskart or not are eligible for this offer, says the note.

The lens from the frames of donated spectacles are removed and after minor repairs, refitted and made ready for reuse. These spectacles are categorised on the basis of power and kept aside for camps.

Unlike in the west, donation of old spectacles is losing traction out here for reasons such as cost incurred in refurbishing them.

For many years, Chennai-based Singhvi Charitable Trust was collecting old glasses from outlets, refurbishing them and distributing them at camps. Now, they only give away new spectacles.



'SADS' making people happy

Be it an oversized pair of shoes that you got as a gift or stationery received as return gifts or furniture not matching your living room, Share at Door Step (SADS) is ready to pick them up at your doorsteps and ensure they reach someone genuinely in need of them.

The pan-India non-profit that also caters to Chennai encourages people to donate their reusable items by availing the "doorstep pick up" option. The items thus collected are delivered to those who need them.

The charges for pick-up depend on the location, volume and mode of pickup.

The donations in kind reach the beneficiaries; through verified trusted partner NGOs, they are audited on a regular basis, says a note on the website.

For details, visit <https://shareatdoorstep.com>

A bank providing medical equipment



A man desperately seeks a wheelchair for a family member for a short-term use, and it does not prove an easy search. Having witnessed this, a bunch of his friends from RYA Cosmo Elite Foundation start a medical equipment bank. This was ten years ago, and now, this bank boasts a horde of medical equipment at any given time, and it operates from a garage in Pulianthope. The medical equipment are either bought new or received as donation.

These medical equipment are lent on a no-cost basis to those in critical care at home. Wheelchairs, medical beds

and oxygen concentrators are among the most sought-after items by families.

"We ask users to use a medical equipment for 30-45 days and return or renew it at least once so that they can keep it for a longer period of time," says Ashish Kumar Jain, trustee of RYA Cosmo Elite Foundation, adding that at least 4,000 people have benefited from the bank over the years.

Physiotherapy devices are among the latest medical items to be added to the e-bank. Ashish says once a member of Rotaract Club was keen on supporting this initiative and he requested that the message on the bank accepting gently used items be circulated so that those in need are benefited.

"We need support both in cash and kind, but one big help we would like to offer people is removing the burden of keeping medical items that are not needed any more and passing it on to someone in need," says Ashish.

To check availability of items in the e-bank, call 7550077700

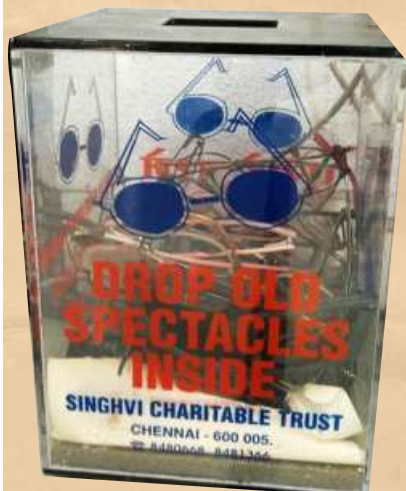
Clothes and bicycles

* Sevali Karangal collects used bicycles and donates them to students in rural areas where public transport is inadequate; IIT-Madras is a major donor in this initiative. For details, WhatsApp 9840873859.

* Thuli receives gently used clothes and accessories, repurposes and offers them to the underprivileged. Its collection centre is at Kasturba Nagar. Call 6380306662.

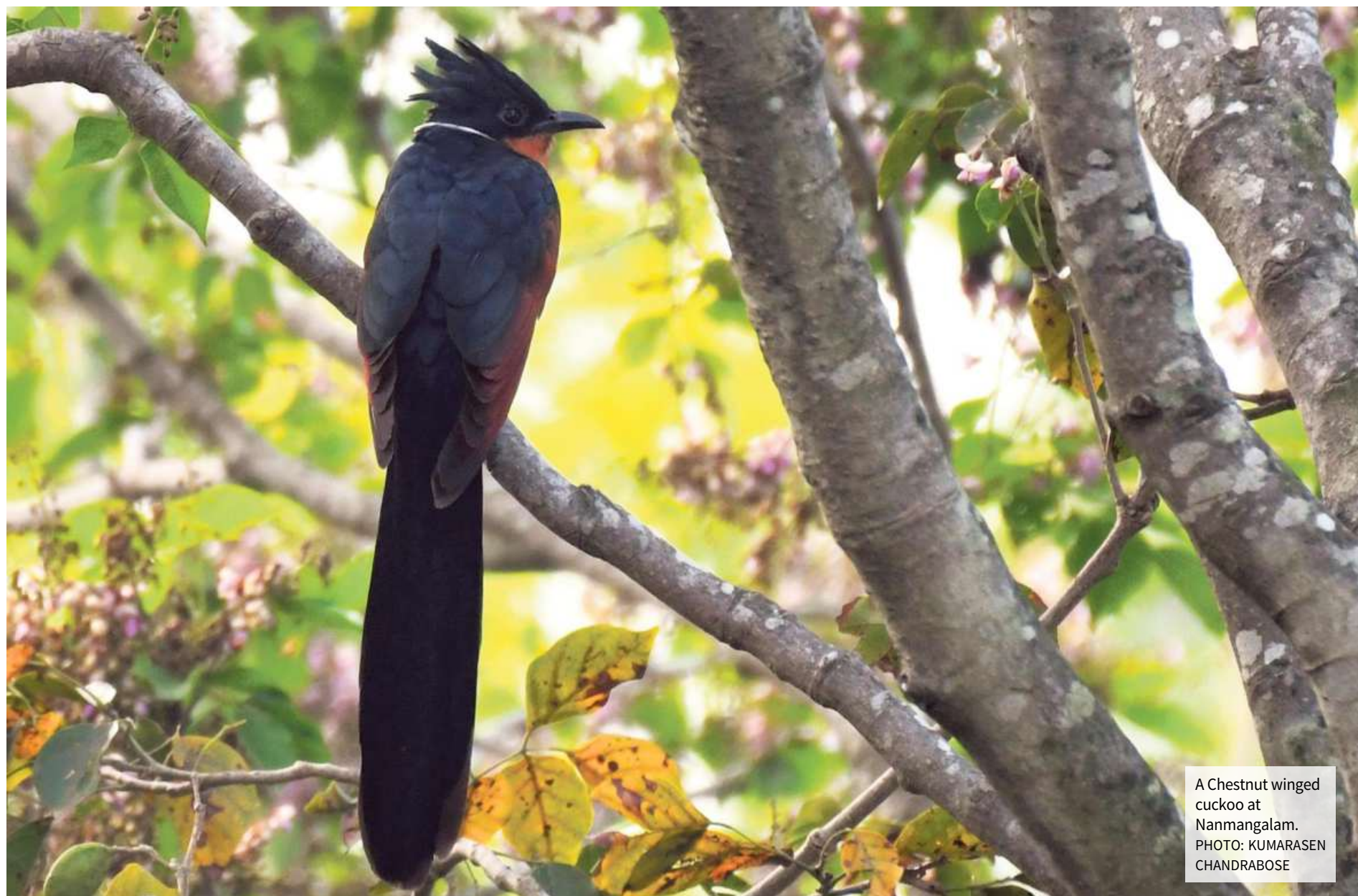
* Rajasthan Cosmo Club Foundation picks up gently used clothes from the doorsteps; call 9962299622.

* Little Drops, a home for the homeless destitute at Paraniputhur, accepts anything from people. It encourages apartments to organise a collection drive and sends a van for the items to be transported. Call 9884080869/ 9884080864.



An old question resurfaces

Recently, an injured Chestnut winged cuckoo was rescued at Oliver Road in Mylapore; and inevitably, there was speculation about how much this species, a passage migrant in these parts, loves to spend the winter in Chennai



A Chestnut winged cuckoo at Nanmangalam.
PHOTO: KUMARASEN CHANDRABOSE

PRINCE FREDERICK

Recently, on its Instagram page, Urbaser Sumeet raised a hymn of praise to a conservancy worker within its fold. Not a verse in that praise struck a superfluous note. Udaykumar, the conservancy worker, rescued an injured bird, pulling it out of the jaws of death after it had come between the jaws of a canine. While on his beat, clearing garbage on Oliver Road in Zone 9, a resident had told him about a bird bitten by a dog and cowering in the neighbouring house. The reel shows Udaykumar narrating the sequence of events that led to the bird's recovery: how he took the bird, the injury from the bite on the side of its neck evident, to a vet, informed his office and finally, handed the bird over to the forest department. If it had not been a Chestnut winged cuckoo (CWC),

the story would have ended then and there as a heart-warming act of kindness. No sequel to it.

The sight of this CWC in the reel held gently by Udaykumar, with bare hands and with gloved hands could not but put this writer in mind of an observation ornithologist V. Santharam had made in the context of the discussion about the CWC.

He had made the observation in an article in *The Hindu* titled, "How much of a passage migrant is the Chestnut winged cuckoo?" (dated November 22, 2020). He gave two time capsules in which CWC is usually sighted in Chennai – November-December and during March-April on the return migration. He recalled two instances of rescuing a Crested winged cuckoo in the Santhome of the 1980s when he was the resident of the neighbourhood. On both occasions, the CWC had flown into a house, and crows

had launched into it. In one of those two instances, it had made a "crashlanding" next door in Santharam's neighbour's house.

In a conversation connected with this article, the ornithologist shared that again in the same time period, a resident of north Chennai brought a rescued CWC to his office in Nungambakkam, seeking his help. At that time, Santharam was working with UBS Publishers which had an office in Nungambakkam.

The recent incident at Oliver Road provides an object lesson about this CWC trait (getting disoriented and flying into houses) for the current generation.

It probably could come as a surprise to many young birders. A considerable part of what one hears about the CWC from birders is about how it has started patronising certain patches. For five years, winter after winter,

there have been accounts of CWC sightings happening almost on an appointed date (putting it without hyperbole, around a particular time of year) at Nanmangalam reserve forest.

Kumarasen Chandrabose is among birders in Sembakkam, Nanmangalam and surrounding areas that have been documenting the arrival of the CWC at Nanmangalam for the last five years.

In the early years of the Chestnut winged cuckoo's engagement with the Nanmangalam forest, tyres from a distant land rolled in. Reportedly, birders from Bangalore queued up one day at Nanmangalam for a glimpse of the bird..

Cut to now, the relative regularity of CWC sightings in various other parts Chennai and its vicinity make a compelling case for asking an old question all over again – no marks for guessing

what it is. Let us get to it in a minute. AM Aravind has reported a CWC sighting from Puzhuthival-kam. Sundaravel Palanivel has seen it at a patch of Pallikaranai in Kamakotti Nagar, just a chirp away from his home. He then caught up with the species in Kumizhi near Guduvanchery. Jithesh Babu had a "meetup" with the bird in Karikali. There have been sightings of the CWC in Adyar, one recently by Kumaresan Chandrabose. And then the Oliver Road incident.

This writer puts the same question to Santharam, five years later – how much of a passage migrant is the Chestnut winged cuckoo. Without taking a nanosecond to think it over, the ornithologist shoots back the same answer. "It is a passage migrant; but some of them could be staying on in Chennai for the winter." Who knows, probably more of them than before.

No paid public toilets in Chennai

A 'No Fee Zone' board will be installed at toilets run by Greater Chennai Corporation

LIFFY THOMAS

Public toilets within Greater Chennai Corporation limits will soon start sporting a new board that reads 'No Fee Zone' to emphasise that these facilities must not charge users for using them. On November 19, Mayor R. Priya unveiled a special stamp for World Toilet Day and 'No Fee Zone' signage to reinforce that every public toilet in Chennai is free.

Public toilets in the city have largely been free barring some of them where janitors have charged a small fee, so what is new?

"Many have even carried a board saying 'free toilet' but some would deliberately hide the board or collect a fee illegally which we want to prevent completely. The 'No Fee Zone' board will be placed at such a height that it can be seen easily by



anyone. They are aware that they have free access," says an official from the Special Projects Department of Greater Chennai Corporation. "There are no paid toilets maintained by GCC."

The lollipop-style signboards will be complemented by badges

worn by janitors and stickers on toilet doors to state that no fee will be collected for using a public toilet.

GCC has assigned concessionaires across Zones I to XV for construction, maintenance and technology integration of toilets.

"When the DBFO (design, build, finance and operate) model was being discussed with stakeholders, GCC decided that these signages will help in clarifying any ambiguity among users and make people more aware of the facts," says V.R.

During the launch of "No Fee Zone" signage on World Toilet Day.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hari Balaji, CEO, Urban PCT Three (Ferrgra), the concessionaire responsible for maintaining toilets coming under Zones VII to X (excluding Marina).

There are three other firms that have been assigned by GCC to manage toilets under the public private partnership model.

Under the new arrangement, companies managing toilets are required to follow certain SOPs and have KPIs (key performance indicators) to be met. Each toilet is judged daily on cleanliness, odour control, water availability, lighting, safety, functional fixtures, manpower deployment, complaint closure and accessibility standards. "These toilets will be inspected by a third party," says the GCC official.

Signage boards with QR codes and phone numbers have to be fixed on every facility for users to raise a complaint.

"Earlier, one agency was involved in construction and another in maintenance. Under the new arrangement, the same firm takes care of operation and maintenance for a period of eight years which will fix accountability," says Hari.

Should it be free or paid?

Some users feel it is better to levy a small fee for using a public toilet to demand better services, many others think no one must be denied access to a facility for not paying up. An inclusive city begins with a free public toilet.

Courts have also argued that public toilets with adequate facilities should be provided free of cost as access to them is considered a basic right essential for human dignity, and charging for using them can be seen as a barrier to this fundamental necessity, says a report in *The Hindu*.

Seminar on building practices held



The School of Infrastructure, Department of Civil Engineering, B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Vandalur, in coordination with The Institution of Engineers (India), Kancheepuram Local Centre, conducted a two-day national seminar on 'Sustainable Building Practices and Innovations in Green Construction for a Resilient Future'.

Monsingh David Devadas, dean, MEA-

SI Academy of Architecture, Chennai, inaugurated the seminar.

The seminar focused on the growing significance of sustainable building materials, advanced construction techniques, energy conservation and generation, water treatment and recycling methods, and Artificial Intelligence in shaping the future of construction and architectural practices, said a release issued by the educational institution.

Registrations open for kickboxing competition

HammerPro Kickboxing is organising Tamilnadu Kickboxing Championship 2025 for Amateur and Pro Kickboxers in Chennai.

The event is scheduled to be held on December 21, 2025 at Maduravoyal.

According to a press release, the win-

ners of the competition would be presented with a cash prize and a title belt.

Registration is open to all kickboxing fraternity in Chennai, says the press release.

For further details about registration, call 9962188501

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Meet and greet event to welcome Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka



(From left to right) Rajesh Radhakrishnan, Mohammed Asif Ali, Krithiga, Ganesanathan Geathiswaran, Satish Jupiter, Dr J Radhakrishnan. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

A meet-and-greet evening to welcome Ganesanathan Geathiswaran, Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, was recently organised in the city.

Jointly hosted by Satish Jupiter and The Park, Chennai, the event saw consuls, expats, government officials, members of diplomatic core and prominent faces of Chennai in attendance to welcome and greet the new Deputy High Commissioner.

'Women are increasingly targeted in cybercrime'

Seminar by WHY TAP at MOP Vaishnav College for Women was aimed at creating awareness about this issue among students

WHY TAP, the training and placement division of WHY Global Services, recently conducted a seminar on cyber awareness security at MOP Vaishnav College for Women.

The seminar was aimed to prevent young women from falling into the trap of cybercrime. Women are increasingly targeted by online threats, identity theft, cyberstalking, impersonation, and financial scams.

Sathishkumar Kannan, a certified ethical hacker and founder of WHY Global Services, conducted the seminar.



During the workshop

The session equipped young women with practical knowledge to identify, prevent, and respond to cyber threats, said a release.

During the seminar, students were introduced to real-world cyberattack methodologies, including phishing and identity-based threats.

A significant focus of the session was women's digital safety.

Sathishkumar Kannan emphasised practical steps to stay pro-

tected, including verifying online identities, safeguarding personal photos, and knowing when and how to report cyber incidents to authorities.

"As a cybersecurity expert, I believe that protecting women online is not merely a technical challenge; it is a societal duty. Colleges, parents, and institutions must work together to build digital resilience in young adults," he said.

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