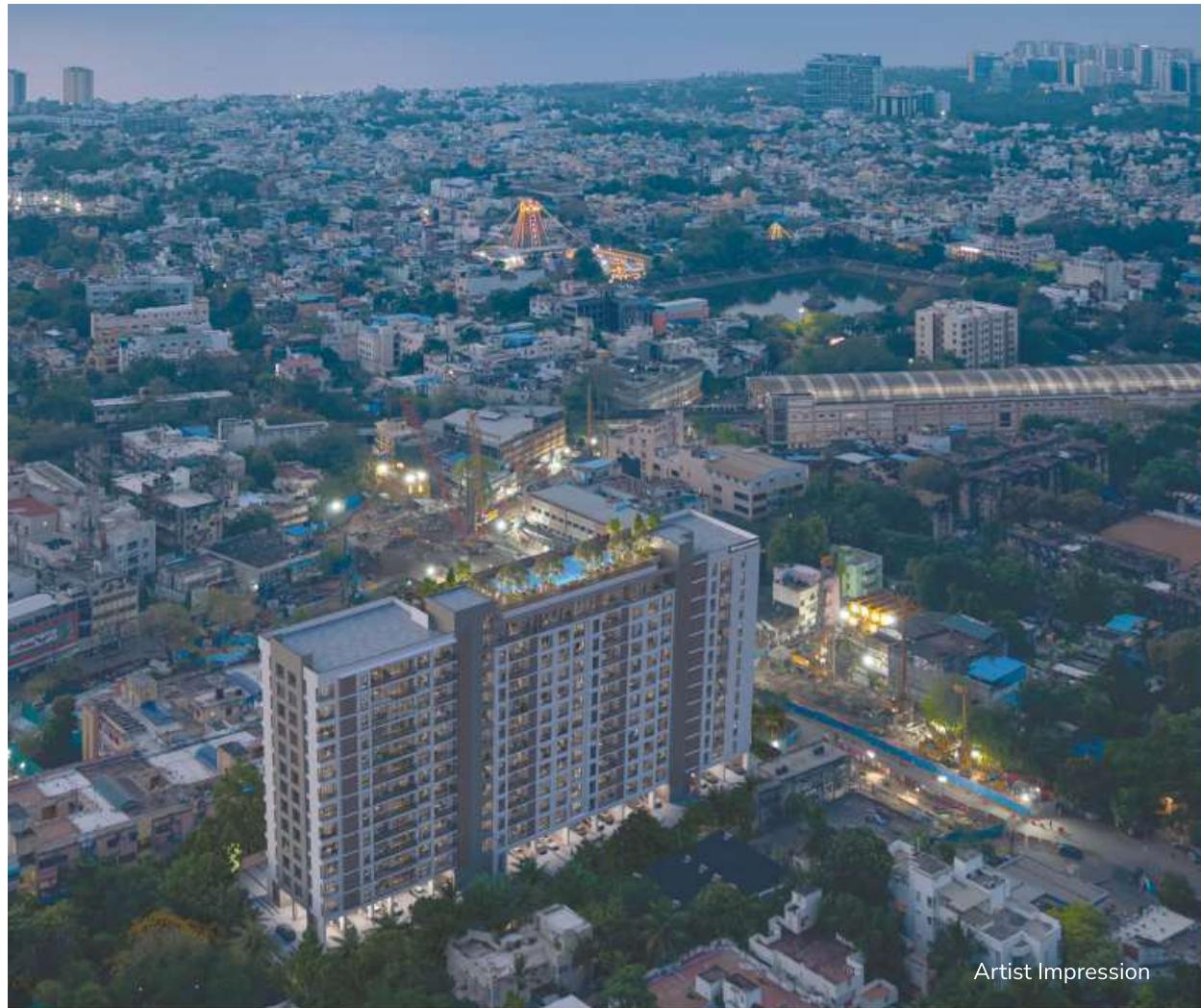


# DOWNTOWN

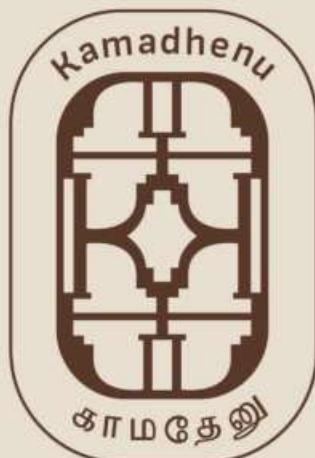
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# Spotlight on young alumni

A number of initiatives were launched at the third global meet of RKM Vivekananda College Alumni Association



The third Global Alumni Meet of RKM Vivekananda College Alumni Association, held on December 20, ended on a high note. The meet witnessed the participation of over 600 alumni, including nearly 50 of them aged above 80 years making it to the event. Over 30 alumni from overseas and more than 100 from Chennai and other cities took part in the event.

A number of initiatives were

launched on the occasion. Raksha Green Solutions and RKMVC exchanged a collaborative MoU to promote biotechnology research, with scope for other alumni to participate.

A 'Youth Forum' was launched to actively engage young alumni and prepare them to take leadership roles. A placement corner stall was introduced for the first time at the meet, receiving encouraging responses. A 'Souvenir Shop' was inaugurated, showcas-



From the event held on the college campus. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



vidual donor and an alumnus of the 1974 batch; R. Seshasayee, Chairman, Asian Paints (1966 batch); and R. Varadarajan, former Chairman, BPCL (1976 batch).

The alumni association has taken up a number of initiatives in the last one year including opening an Alumni Office on the college premises and creating a governing board consisting of seven members with the secretary, RKMVC as patron.

Monthly leadership talks highlighting career opportunities across industries and launching a quarterly newsletter for the alumni fraternity made sure old students stayed connected with events in the college. Likewise its LinkedIn page, launched in July 2025, has been growing.

## Photo gallery chronicles memorable events

The Golden Jubilee Alumni Meet of P S Senior Secondary School dripped with nostalgia

The golden jubilee alumni meet of P S Senior Secondary School was held on the campus in Mylapore on December 20.

Alumnus Kamakoti Veezhinathan, Director of IIT - Madras, was the chief guest. In his address, he delved into how the school moulded him.

Principal Revathy Parameswaran, in her address, thanked the alumni for contributing towards the scholarship fund. K. Alamelu, a retired principal who was at the helm for 21 years; K. V. S. Gopalakrishnan, president of P S Educational Society, and P. S. Prabhakar, correspondent of the school, presided over the event.



A photo gallery featuring memorable moments of the school spanning its 50 years – starting from its inception in 1976 and its founding fathers, the international Olympiads won by students, the school's four Principals winning the President's "Best Teacher Award", expansion of infrastructure – was a huge hit among the alumni, said a release.

The current students of class 12 gave a video presentation chronicling the school's development since its inception. On the occasion, alumnus R. S. Advaith organised an orchestra.

The reunion witnessed participation of an impressive number of alumni. They visited the classrooms and regaled old memories. The day concluded with a sumptuous dinner hosted by the school.

The alma mater was grandly decorated with flowers and dazzling lights to mark its golden jubilee.

## Storytelling event today in Teynampet

Storyteller Pretigaya Haran is organising a storytelling event in which she will share some nostalgic personal tales from her life. It will be held in Teynampet on December 28. Time: From 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, no fee will be charged to take part in the event. The session will be of interest to those 16 years of age and above.

For venue and other details, call 8056051247.



## MYLAPORE

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## *Stella Maris campus is number 2 on eBird Chennai's checklists for 2025*



PRINCE FREDERICK

This is kindergarten stuff to any patch birder. One cannot not amass bird species records at will in their chosen patch. Each patch has built-in factors controlling – restricting, if you like – the bird diversity out there. Patches differ by the degrees of restriction thrust on them by factors that are natural as well as anthropogenic. Largely natural.

In the light of this reality, certain patches are meant to be laggards in terms of species counts on platforms such as eBird. But they need not stay invisible. The will of those associated with this patch (its residents and habitues) can overcome this fate in a different way – by diligently generating checklists of birds found in the terrain, every day. If multiple checklists pour in, they can hog a corner of the spotlight.

Through perseverance, and even a form of doughtiness, Stella Maris college has made it to number two on eBird's checklists leaders' roll for Chennai in 2025.

In terms of variety of species, the Stella Maris campus is no patch (pun intended) on Adyar Estuary. But it is tailgating the leader, which Adyar Estuary unsurprisingly is.

On December 27, around 2.15 p.m., when this edition was rushing with winged feet to the press, Stella Maris campus stood with 442 checklists for 2025, with only Adyar Estuary ahead of it.



with 451 checklists – check the screenshot going with this report.

"It's elementary, my dear Watson" – you may not have a multitude of bird species tripping over your doormat, but you can record and report the small number of them that do.

Watching the same set of bird species over and over again is sufficient to understand the essence of all species, even those continents away and never to visit your garden. Kalpana Jayaraman, who retired in May 2025 as head of the department of zoology at Stella Maris (auto-

nomous), touches upon two reasons for Stella Maris college being where it is on eBird checklists leaders' list.

First, the college got started on campus bird count in 2013. But after two years of forgettable results, the initiative gained momentum – well, the wings of an albatross – in 2015, recalls Kalpana. Salient features of the initiative include training students how to bird, where to bird (around the campus) and where to post the results of birdings (eBird obviously).

Kalpana notes students are encouraged to prepare multiple checklists, teaming

up in groups of three or four. Each group is also asked to eBird in multiple places across the campus, thereby more pairs of eyes are trained on each section, and nothing avian misses the eye. The current head, S.A. Vidhya is "a regular patch birder, birds from campus almost every day, observes Kalpana. So, the baton gets passed, always.

The other reason, according to Kalpana, is the college has been offering a certificate course – Essentials of Birdwatching – for the last five years. It is open to students across departments.

And these factors have obviously made a huge difference.



### Adyar Estuary clear leader in species count in 2025

Outcomes of certain contests are known even before they are flagged off. The only thing to look for is how decisively the victory is won. Adyar Estuary (as the estuary is spelt on eBird) is a heavily birded patch in Chennai, sometimes verging on the "Overbirded" category.

On December 27, at the time of this article going to press, it had racked up 179 species on eBird for 2025, some of them rarities of the kind that sparked a procession of hopeful birders.

At 150 species, Broken Bridge Road stands second. And Broken Bridge Road is a cousin to Adyar Estuary, being contiguous with it.

At 140, species, Sholinganallur/ Perumbakkam marshlands takes the bronze.

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Snapshots of Campus Bird Count at Stella Maris College in 2021 and 2024; and a screenshot of eBird Chennai checklists leaders' list for 2025.



## Exhibition at Egmore Museum to benefit underprivileged artists

Thamizh Nilam Arts & Crafts Trust is conducting a two-day Grand Color Art & Craft exhibition and sale (December 27 and 28) at Contemporary Art Gallery in Government Museum, Egmore. The exhibition concludes today.

Organised by artist Jaffer, the exhibition will host many talented artists and craftspersons who are unable to conduct solo exhibitions to showcase their works due to the cost factor. According to a press re-

lease, Jaffer is gathering all these artists and craftspersons from various places, including remote areas, to exhibit their paintings and craft works.

Besides providing them with a platform to announce their skills to the world, this event will help them economically, as the artworks and craftsworks would be up for sale.

J.A. Premkumar, Deputy Editor (retired), *The Hindu* was the chief guest.

## Discourse on Tiruppavai

A discourse on Tiruppavai will be held from January 1 to 14 at its premise at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, East Mada Street, Mylapore.

Time: At 7 a.m.

According to a press release, Dr. Sudha Seshayyan will render the discourse with vocal support by Samanvitha G. Sasidaran. The programme is open to all.

Restored Victoria Public Hall opens its doors for the public



Heritage lovers have a new place to visit in Chennai. The renovated Victoria Public Hall was reopened for the public recently. Built in the 1880s to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, the brick-red Indo-Saracenic building was once a gathering place for reformers, artists and all citizens. It houses musical instruments used in the Sangam period and models of rickshaws, scooters, boats that ferried on the Buckingham Canal and trams. According to [gcservices.in/victoriapublichall/visit](http://gcservices.in/victoriapublichall/), the public including students on study tours are welcome to take a tour of this place located near Ripon Building, EVR Periyar Salai all days of the week except Tuesday when the Hall is closed. Timings: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The page offers details of some of the prominent speakers who spoke at Victoria Hall to the birth of the Town Hall. PHOTOS: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

## Mylapore Festival is back

Five events have been inked in for January 3 and 4

The annual Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival 2026 is back. Five events have been slated for the coming weekend (January 3 and 4, 2026).

The main events of the festival are from January 8 to 11.

On January 3, Dayakattam contest starts at 4 p.m. at the hall inside Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls School in Mylapore. This contest is open to all and free, with no pre-registration - children and adults will play together as teams. A Food Walk curated by Sridhar Venkataraman at 4.30 p.m. will take participants to a set of popular and less-known joints in an area in Mylapore. Starts at the gate of Indian

Bank, west end of North Mada Street.

On January 4, K R Jambunathan will take guests on his 'Nooks of Mylapore' Walk, sharing anecdotes of life and times of the area in the 1960s and 70s. Open to all, no pre-registration required. Starts opposite Mylapore Police Station on Kutchery Road. A Pallankuzhi contest starts at 1.45 p.m. at the hall inside Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls School, Mylapore. The Mylapore Quiz will be held at 4 p.m. on at the Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls School. The quiz will focus on heritage, landmarks, people and lifestyle, all focused on Mylapore.

For details, visit <https://mylaporefestival.in/2026/>

## Workshop on organic farming

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on organic farming of vegetable crops on December 30. According to a press release, the session focuses on chemical-free methods to nourish soil and management of pests and plant diseases. Participants will also learn about certification of organic products.

Another workshop on chocolate making will be held on December 31. Participants will learn about making various flavours of chocolates made from fruits and dry fruits.

Both the sessions will be held at its premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy.

For details, call 044 - 29530048



# Colleges as civil service coaching hubs

An increasing number of colleges in Chennai run study circles on their premises to help students prepare for UPSC and TNPSC exams

LIFFY THOMAS

From January 2026, in Chennai, those aspiring to crack competitive examinations that would open doors to civil services jobs have an added place to visit to sharpen their edge – the IAS study circle established by Annai Veilankanni college at its premises in Saidapet. While offering coaching to its arts and science students at a “subsidised” fee, the college rolls out the red carpet to aspirants in their neighbourhood.

Both arts and science and engineering colleges running their in-house academies/ study circles that serve as a pathway to a career in civil services is not a new trend, just that the number of institutions offering this option has been on the increase over the years.

From government colleges to self-financing institutions, a focused group or centre providing coaching, mock tests, inviting expert speakers and offering personalised guidance for success in examinations conducted by UPSC and TNPSC has become an important talking point.

While a majority of institutions offer these classes at no cost, some levy a nominal fee. Many of them do not promise intensive coaching, just a launch pad. This academic year, A.M. Jain College in Meenambakkam opened two study circles, one for careers in armed forces and the other for UPSC coaching, both offered free of cost.

“In a class of 40 if one cracks the exam then it motivates the others. The preparation for the exam is such that there is greater collaboration among students and there is a plenty of resources available on the campus for students to get much out of it. We only see students gaining by preparing for such examinations,” says M. Raanya, dean, AM Jain College. A faculty related to the subject is asked to handhold the students. “We ensure there is separate remuneration for any value-added course a faculty takes up,” she says.

For those keen on intensive training, A.M. Jain College has a MoU with an external academy that comes to the campus to train students at a cost.

For students focused on cracking the exam, the college grants them on-duty leave to prepare before exams or gives a re-test if they have missed an internal exam, says the Dean of A.M. Jain College.

Colleges opening their doors for external coaching academies and roping in guest speakers means students save on the addi-



Students of A.M. Jain College who aspire to civil services jobs immersed in a discussion. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tional travel they would have to undertake to access these resources.

Last year, Guru Nanak College set up a committee to support students keen on a career in the civil services.

The website of KCG Tech says

its Civil Service Aspiration Club conducts classes every alternate week for two hours, which includes exam preparation and talks from UPSC achievers and high-ranking civil servants. Easwari Engineering College calls its programme Civil Services Training

Programme. CTTE College in Perambur is increasingly focusing on helping its students excel in Group II and IV exams.

Janani G, a Union Public Service Commission aspirant and a tutor at academies, says, “When I graduated from engineering college 12

years ago, we did not have such avenues being opened to us. There may not be many success stories from colleges, but that is fine as long as students are getting exposure even while pursuing under graduation.”

### With government funding

Even before Chennai began to witness a craze for civil services, Queen Mary’s College started providing free training since 2001 for

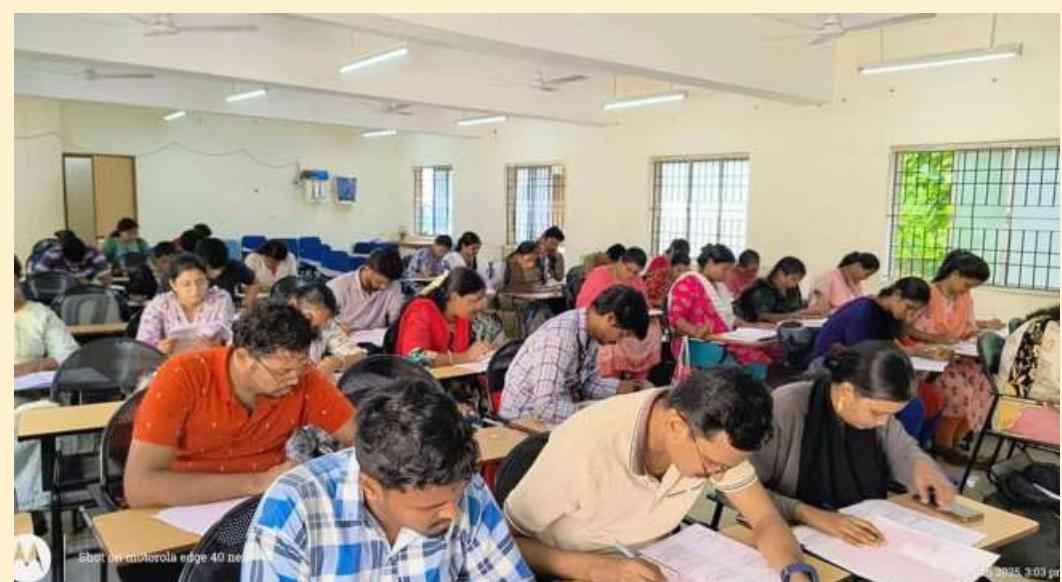
**Colleges opening their doors for external coaching academies and roping in guest speakers means students save on the additional travel they would have to undertake to access these resources**

women graduates who are selected through an entrance exam and interview. The free coaching centre is funded by the government of Tamil Nadu. But more still needs to be done. Despite having Anna Nagar, which is hailed as a magnet for civil service coaching centres and colleges grooming students to think of a career in UPSC, Chennai is yet to see a string of success stories. Delhi continues to see the highest number of successful UPSC candidates.

## Fashioning civil servants for 25 years

For the last 25 years, Directorate of Employment and Training has been running ‘Study Circles’ that function at all the district employment and career guidance centres in the State. These centres assist aspirants in various competitive examinations including UPSC, TNPSC and RRB by conducting mock tests and inviting experts to conduct sessions. According to www.tnvelaiavaippu.gov.in, free coaching is offered to the differently-abled aspirants by engaging sign language interpreters and Braille assistance is given to the visually challenged.

Coaching classes are also conducted at various universities and affiliated arts and science colleges to help economically weak students studying in the final year. In 2024 and 2025, at least 10 students who attended classes at the



Candidates take a mock test at the Study Circle.

Study Circle have cleared TNPSC examinations. One can avail these classes on all weekdays (between

10 a.m. and 1 p.m.). They also have a library with a good collection of books. The Study Circle is

located at Alandur Road, Thiruvikka Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 94999 66026.

# Handcrafted wishes

In a few days, there would be a burst of greetings. They would resonate with different wavelengths of emotion and effort. Simple and insincere. Simple but sincere. Complex yet insincere. Complex and sincere. That last category would encompass physical greeting cards that come at some price to the sender, the cost more hidden than revealed. These are customised and handcrafted cards; if the reader fancies sending them when 2026 dawns, they might want to pick the brains of these two residents of Chennai, one a corporate professional and the other yet to outgrow the school uniform



Jyotsna K and a couple of her works; and (below) Kavya Aravind and a display of some of the greeting cards she crafted. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



days, obviously given her corporate job, with free hours snatched out of those days. But Jyotsna also runs marathons with these greetings. Scrap books with ten to twelve pages take several days, while resin elements require up to six days simply to dry. "Waiting becomes part of the experience," says Jyotsna, a resident of Adyar. "When someone orders a New Year card early, it already shows care."

Personalisation is ever an unpredictable child, there is no telling what new demand it has tucked in its armpit. Some customers arrive with reference reels saved on their phones, but many come with stories instead. "They tell me about their journey, their relationship, their memories," she says. These narratives are translated visually through photographs, handwritten messages, song references, dates and timelines. "It is never just decoration. It is about their story."

Handmade greeting cards start at ₹200, while scrapbooks are priced per page depending on

fort, multiple revisions, and quality material. Only the maker understands the patience involved."

Jyotsna notices that younger customers respond strongly to handmade New Year greetings. "Gen Z values emotional connection," she says. "They want something intentional. Something that feels chosen, not forwarded."

## Warmth on paper

At age 11, a child would not be expected to carry projects from craft class at school over to the home, let alone carry the weight of a craft-based brand on their slender shoulders.

Kavya Aravind, 11 years old, carries the latter responsibility without flinching from its rigours. A student of Velachery-based Sunshine Chennai Senior Secondary School, Kavya runs Krafty Kings, quilling greeting cards, patiently coaxing flowers, trees and festive motifs (an immediate example being Christmas trees) out of thin paper strips. Greeting card making fits into the margins of her days shaped around school, homework and weekends – the support she receives from her parents ensures she does the balancing act commendably well.

"I started making greeting cards when I was in third grade," Kavya says. She learnt the art of quilling from a neighbour, beginning with a simple card adorned with quilled flowers. While not placing a cap on creativity, Kavya respects the power of seasonality while crafting greeting cards. For example, Christmas and New Year have their unique idioms, flavours and even tropes. She settles designs into the language of the season without a frown. "My friends asked me to make a Christmas greeting card with a tree," she says, as if such requests were inevitable.

Simple greeting cards can be completed in twenty to thirty minutes; the one with intricate designs, close to an hour. The tools are modest. Paper. Quilling strips. Glue. A slender quilling tool. Yet the smallest step often proves the most unforgiving. "The sticking part is the most difficult," Kavya admits. "If we do not put the right amount of glue, it will come off and we have to start again."

Kavya prices her greeting cards at ₹ 200; and canvas wall hangers at ₹ 250. Orders now arrive through WhatsApp groups.



week. It's not always easy to balance both, but doing something I truly love brings immense joy and keeps me going."

Besides making personalised greeting cards for customers, she also teaches how to make them, through workshops. A cache of reels on her Insta page function somewhat like tutorials, dishing out DIY greeting card ideas for special days – Teacher's Day, Father's Day and so on.

Handcrafted cards obviously do

not roll off the assembly line, and they gobble time like a gourmand. On an average, work on a handcrafted card is wrapped up in two

complexity. Pricing often invites questions. "To some people it looks like just paper," she admits. "But behind it is time, creative ef-

## A message in a calendar

IRIS Events hosted the event at Semmozhi Poonga

Iris Events launched its latest project – the IRIS Calendar 2026 – at Semmozhi Poonga in Teynampet recently. The event blended sustainability, cultural heritage and contemporary fashion, setting a benchmark for responsible luxury in the fashion and events industry, said a press release. The calendar celebrates supermodels portrayed as kings and queens from diverse eras, capturing timeless elegance, royal legacy and historical inspiration. Each frame reflects the grandeur of fashion through time while reinforcing Iris Events' commitment to creativity and conscious celebration, ad-

ded the release.

A key highlight of the launch was the thematic fashion show, where featured models showcased saris styled in unique and artistic draping techniques by expert stylists.

The calendar unveiling was graced by distinguished personalities from various walks of life including Gopika Varma, classical dancer; Vidya Gajapathi Raju Singh, Princess of Vijayanagaram; Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran, Global Energy and Climate Innovation Editor, *The Economist*; Srimathy Kesan, Founder and CEO, Space Kidz India; and Dhatsa Dayal, Costume Strategist.



Dignitaries at the launch



### Volunteers spruce up temple

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Sri Krishna Sweets, in coordination with YACD Trust, Gopalapuram, held the 165th 'Paramam Pavithram' (cleaning seva) at Sri Raghavendra Swamy Temple in Triplicane.

More than 70 volunteers, formed into four groups, handled different aspects of the Seva, including cleaning the silver vessels and the temple premises, said a release.

### Applications invited

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC), Chennai, has invited applications from Industrial Training Institute (ITI) students (Mechanic Motor Vehicle, Mechanic Diesel, Electrician, Auto Electrician, Fitter, Turner, Painter, and Welder) for a one-year professional acquaintance in ITI, with a stipend of ₹14,000 per month.

On January 3, 2026, MTC will conduct a special camp from 10 a.m. at the Industrial Training Institute, Chromepet, where students can apply for a one-year training programme, said a release.

### Headmaster of government school honoured at convocation

Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research confers degrees upon 1,257 students

More than 1,200 students (undergraduate and postgraduate courses) and Ph.D. scholars were awarded degrees and doctorates at the two-day 19th annual convocation of Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research (MAHER).

Additionally, 103 meritorious students received medals and certificates in recognition of their outstanding academic performance, said a press release.

The ceremony was held on December 22 and 23 at the Meenakshi Medical College Hospital and Research Institute, Enathur in Kancheepuram district.

Renowned ophthalmologist Dr. Amar Agarwal, chairman of Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, was the chief guest.

He emphasised the importance of



lifelong learning and encouraged graduands to pursue success through hard work, perseverance and discipline. During the two-day ceremony, Professor Nihal Thomas, head of the Centre for Stem Cell Research, Christian Medical College, Vellore, was conferred the 'Degree of Doctor of Science' in recognition of his contribution to the field ofabetiology.

S. Ayyappan, Headmaster of the Government Tribal Residential School, Udumalpet, Tiruppur dis-

trict, was honoured with the 'Jayanthi Radhakrishnan Award' for educating tribal students.

The 'Akash Prabhakar Distinguished Sportsperson Award' was conferred on Shiny Gladssia, a final-year BBA student, for her achievements at the State and National level athletic events.

Jayanthi Radhakrishnan, chancellor of MAHER; Gomathi R, pro-chancellor; and Sureka Varalakshmi, registrar, took part in the ceremony, the release added.

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## Meet the youngest FIDE-rated girl

**Rayanika Shivaram has been consistently outperforming her peers in classical tournaments**

**S**ix-year-old Rayanika Shivaram, a Class I student of Think Rite pre-school in Korattur, has created history by becoming Tamil Nadu's youngest FIDE-rated girl chess player, officially entering the world chess rating list at an exceptionally young age.

With her newly secured rating, she is now Tamil Nadu's No. 1 (youngest FIDE-rated girl) and India Rank No. 2 (youngest rated girl in the country).

Rayanika has been consistently outperforming her peers in classical tournaments. She recently delivered strong results in state-level and FIDE-rated events, securing victories against experienced rated players and demonstrating remarkable positional understand-



Rayanika is a student of Think Rite pre-school in Korattur.

ing for her age.

Early predictions suggest she may reach 1400-1500 FIDE rating before completing seven years, positioning her as one of India's most promising players.

S. Shivaram, Rayanika's father, said he wants his daughter to perform well in National age group tournaments.

"She has the potential to become like Indian Grandmaster Divya Deshmukh," he said.

## Medals galore for young gymnast



Manika Thandol, a Class II student of Bhavan Rajaji Vidyasram in Kilpauk, is on a roll. She has been winning medals in gymnasium at various competitions, the most recent being the State Level Invitational Gymnastics Meet 2025 organised by the Tamil Nadu Gymnastics Association. She took part in two categories and won gold in Beam category and silver in Floor category.

Manoj, her coach from Flipstyle Studio in Anna Nagar, has been training her. According to her father Prasanna Murali, Manika developed interest in the sport on her own watching videos and trying to repeat what she learnt, at home.

## Academy students bag 10 medals in swimming



Students of SDAT-Dolphin Swimming Academy delivered a fine performance, clinching 10 medals, including six gold, two silver and two bronze medals across various categories at the National School Games held in New Delhi recently. A.P. Arya Suthar won four gold medals at the National School Games. Arya won gold in the 50m, 100m, and 200m Backstroke

events in the under-14 category. He was also part of the gold-winning 4x100m Medley relay event. In the under-17 category, S. Gokulan won two golds (4x100m medley relay gold and 4x100m freestyle relay) and two silver medals (100m & 200m backstroke). In the under-19, V. Srihari won two bronze medals (4x100 medley relay and 4x100 Freestyle Relay).

## 'Stick magic' on display



▼ Students of RV Hockey Academy and Omega International school with Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh

### BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Boys and girls from RV Hockey Academy and OMEGA International School got a unique opportunity to interact and get trained in basic hockey skills with former and current Indian internationals at a special session organised by JSW Soorma Hockey Club. The programme was held at Sri N.P.V. Ramaswamy Udayar Hockey Centre, located within the Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (SRIHER) campus in Porur.

The young players learnt basic skills, drills and engaged in interactive discussions with former Indian internationals Sardara Singh, Rani Rampal, Arjun Halappa and Jude Felix, along with foreign coaches from JSW Soorma Hockey Club, who shared insights into modern playing

techniques and professional training methods.

Adding to the excitement, the students also got a rare opportunity to interact with Olympians V. Baskaran and Mohammed Riaz, whose presence inspired the youngsters and offered a glimpse into India's rich Olympic hockey legacy.

Indian men's captain and JSW Soorma HC skipper Harmanpreet Singh, who is here for the Hockey India League, beginning at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on January 3, signed autographs. All the activities were an on-ground initiative by JSW Sports' Soorma Hockey Club, that brought together legends of the game, current internationals and young academy players for an afternoon that celebrated both heritage and the future of the sport.

## Workshop on digital marketing using AI tools

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME, is conducting a certified training programme on foundations of AI and digital marketing from January 7 to 9 at its premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the programme aims to help participants understand the core principles of artificial intelligence (AI) and its growing role in the field of digital marketing. The session will focus on Machine Learning, Deep Learning,

and Large Language Models such as ChatGPT.

They include: Jasper, a tool for content generation in social media; Canva AI, a design tool for graphics; SEMrush, a tool for keyword research; and Sprinklr, a social media analytics and engagement tracking tool. Those above 18 years of age with a minimum qualification of class 10 and basic computer knowledge are necessary to take part in the programme.

For details, call 9360221280 / 9840114680 or visit [www.editn.in](http://www.editn.in)

**IRCTC**

Weekend Getaway With Confirmed Train Ticket (SL / 3AC)

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