

IT CORRIDOR

Adyar » Kanathur » Kelambakkam » Navalur » Semmencherry » Thoraipakkam » Velachery » IIT Madras » Kandanchavadi » Kottivakkam

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



FOLLOWING URBAN RAPTORS

Project Raptor Watch 2.0 by Madras Naturalists' Society in the Chennai Metropolitan Area has spread its wings and achieved elevation **P4&5**



THE LONG WAIT FOR AN E-SEVA CENTRE IN PERUMBAKKAM

The building meant to be used for this purpose is under lock and key for more than a year **P7**



Some of the projects that were displayed in the open house.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Art of analog photography

The Forum Art Gallery is hosting 'Alt: Analog', an exhibition celebrating the timeless art of analog photography. Featuring works by talented artists from India and the U.K., this showcase is the culmination of the CPB-Photoworks Darkroom Residency, supported by the British Council.

This exhibition brings together three artists who explore the evocative medium of analog photography: Holly Birtles (London, UK); Arun (Chennai) and Soham Joshi (Brighton, UK).



This residency is a pioneering initiative that bridges two vibrant photography ecosystems, fostering cultural exchange and collaborative art-making between India and the UK, said a release.

The exhibition is on till February 15 at Forum Art Gallery, Adyar.

Monday to Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
For details, call 8884122112

A school project brings local context to global challenges

A new programme for students underscores the importance of localising the climate change narrative



spaces now occupied by fuel stations, hotels and hospitals were once thriving waterbodies.

In the project 'Impact on the Fishing Community' students investigated the changes in fishing practices over the years, drawing connections to climate change and its cascading effects.

In the third project 'The History and Decline of the Buckingham Canal' students traced the canal's origins and its pivotal role in local economies through visits to the Connemara Library and conversations with older residents.

The final project 'Food and Lifestyle Evolution' revolved around understanding the food habits and lifestyle evolution of the local community in Kottivakkam. The students explored how traditional practices were deeply interwoven with the region's natural resources.

Through their journeys into Kottivakkam's past and present, our students have not only gained knowledge but have also become torch-bearers for a more sustainable future, added the release.

Sunnyside, an experiential learning school in Palavakkam, embarked on a transformative journey to address climate change education with a refreshing perspective. They launched 'Climate Nexus Programme' to bring the discourse on climate change to the local context so that children not only understand its implications but also connect with it meaningfully.

Two educators, Rahul Sridharan and Maya Sheshadri, were brought on board. Together, they redefined how climate education is approached by weaving in local stories, ecological histories, and community voices, said a release.

The programme focused on taking the students out of the classroom which included nature walks, field trips to ecologically sensitive areas, interviews with local communities, and deep dives into historical and environmental archives.

The results of these explorations culminated in an open house where students showcased four key projects.

In 'Ecological History of Kottivakkam' students rediscovered waterbodies. They found that

SUZUKI

Avenis NOW WITH **STRIKING NEW COLOURS**

ALL - NEW EDGY GRAPHICS

NATWEST SUZUKI 92 4005 4005 LB ROAD, ADYAR

Powered by **SEI** Ultra light and robust 125cc engine

E20 COMPLIANT

In restart mode

By the time an ambitious community initiative achieves critical mass, those driving it will experience the queasiness that goes with high-altitude climbing. Imagine managing that uphill task only to find themselves being swept thousands of metres downhill in an avalanche, and lying alongside the initiative that is now a mangled mess. Resident groups that drove community initiatives admirably and brought them to maturity experienced that sickening thud, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. Talk to any residents welfare association, and they would have use for this line: "We did this, and it was running smoothly and the pandemic slammed the brakes on it."

Certain misfortunes cannot be foreseen, much less prevented. Here are initiatives that had to give up the ghost suddenly on account of the pandemic, but reincarnated later putting on fresh flesh and a new vigour and renewed purpose. In some cases, the restart lacks the punch it has, but the residents are labouring to start again the right way

Raja Street: considerable ground waits to be covered



The Urbin advantage; and the RK Nagraa waste collection camp last month-

Ganga Sridhar of Raja Street Residents Welfare Association notes that they started off with the Urbin concept, Kabadiwalla Connect parking an Urbin in a six-unit apartment Dwaraka.

The Urbin found wider use, being placed outside this apartment during weekends for residents from across the neighbourhood – the RWA accounts Raja Street, Raja Street Extension and Velayutha Raja Street – to drop their dry waste. Every 8 to 10 days, the recycler would arrive to collect the dry waste that had filled up the Urbin.

With the pandemic, this exercise came to a standstill, as the Urbin was not allowed to be kept outside.

The six households at the apartment have persisted with the practice of depositing plastic dry waste in the Urbin.

Ganga points out one positive trend: "In the entire street, whoever had started segregating waste continued to do so even during the pandemic; and they still continue the practice. Those who had been composting at home still do."

The neighbouring RK Nagar conducts regular drives to collect dry waste and e-waste. Whenever they launch a collection drive, Ganga posts the info in the neighbourhood groups, and her friends and neighbours make use of it to rid themselves of the e-waste and the dry waste they have collected diligently and kept with them responsibly.

Ganga points out that these exercises by RK Nagar are having a positive effect on Raja Street, encouraging those treating their household waste responsibly to continue the good work.

But there is still considerable work to be done. Ganga notes compliance in terms of segregation is considerably low, because this neighbourhood is thickly populated and it is difficult to reach it in its entirety with a waste-management message.

There are addresses with a warren of small-sized houses. There are also hostels. Reaching these units is the challenge the RWA is up against.



Foundation matters

Gayathri Jayaraman, treasurer of the residents welfare association at Karpagam Gardens off Besant Avenue notes that before the pandemic struck, the neighbourhood had attained an impressive level of compliance in terms of source segregation of waste. Two residents welfare associations not too far away from Karpagam Gardens – one in Kasturba Nagar and the other in Valmiki Nagar – had wielded a positive influence on it. The foundation of effective waste management practices had been laid deep. Residents had been provided with a green bin (for wet waste) and a red bin (for reject waste) and a bag for dry waste. Emulating Kasturba Nagar and Valmiki Nagar associations, Karpagam Garden representatives tasked with implementation of waste management practices would accompany waste collection vehicles and staff from door to door to ensure compliance.

Gayathri points out that



due to this, the neighbourhood managed to bounce back after the pandemic and now, the compliance level is 70 p.c., not on par with what it had achieved before the pandemic, but certainly not deplorable either.

Six woolly necked storks put in an appearance at Nemmeli



Woolly-necked stork at Nemmeli on January 5, 2025.

PHOTO: E. ARUN KUMAR

cond half denoting "bishop" in Latin (though in its current usage, *episcopus* is largely wrapped up in a secular meaning, "overseer"). The black patch on the its head (offset by its woolly white neck) resembling the skull cap – *zucchetto* – worn by Catholic clergymen is the reason.

The bird is also loosely called *episcopus*. And a flock of six *episcopi* ushered in a still-new New Year during a solemn worship of nature that E. Arun Kumar, an OMR-based birder, participated in.

The sighting of six woolly-necked storks, in the words of Arun Kumar himself: "In the late evening of January 4, I sighted six woolly-necked storks in the waters at the Nemelli section of the Great Salt Lake. It was not long before they took off for a they pylon where all of them settled down. I went back the next day to check on them in better lighting and found the same flock of six birds. The great salt lake had very good activity of ducks with hundreds of Northern Pintail, Eurasian Wagtails and Northern shovelers among the congregation of birds. There was also a hundred plus flock of rosy starlings. When admiring them I chanced upon the woolly-necked storks."

The woolly-necked stork is a near threatened species.

PRINCE FREDERICK

The human species revels in having things in its own image; this obsession sometimes manifests as a desire to name parts of the outside world in a manner that bring them closer to its reality. So, you have birds going around, bearing curious name badges. A species sporting such a badge (more on its binomial name later) showed up recently in a space considered

Nemmeli. Past the salterns on the road from Nemmeli (East Coast Road) to Thirupur (Old Mahabalipuram Road), the scenery shifts to an expanse of green, stretches of paddy fields -- probably an incentive for these birds to hit these parts.

On the field, the woolly-necked stork stands out for a neck that seems to have been rolled up in a fabric of wool. In the field guide, its scientific name *Ciconia episcopus* stokes curiosity on account of its se-

Pongal celebrated at gated community



▼ Residents of Kottur Villa, Kotturpuram celebrated the Pongal festival with great fervour on January 12 on the premises of their gated community. Gow pooja, Kolam and pot painting competition were part of the celebrations.

'Salute to Mother' programme to be held on January 23

Sri Krishna Sweets is organising the 14th edition of Salute to Mothers programme in which mothers of celebrities are honoured. Salute to Mothers programme will be held at Narada Gana Sabha (from 5.45 p.m. onwards) on January 23.

Justice R. Hemalatha, judge, High Court of Madras, S. Sivasankari, writer and Major General M. Indrabalan will be the chief guests.

Mathru Pooja Recital will be performed by Isaikkavi Ramanan. Students of Viswasasanthan School of Bharathanatyam will perform at the event. The students are trained by S.Vijayalakshmi. K.V.Subha, advocate, Chennai, will be the Master of Ceremonies.

This year, the organisers are also honouring a family - Geetha Varadarajan, R.Varadarajan, parents of Major Mukund Varadarajan who dedicated his life during a counter-terrorism operation. More than 100 celebrity mothers have been honoured so far. In this programme celebrities will speak about their mothers.

Waste collection drive on January 25

A waste collection drive will be held on January 25 at Casagrand Elan, a gated community at Thalambur.

According to a press release, clothes, toys, books, bicycles, mattresses and furniture are accepted. For details, call 8870005455.

LAST 5 DAYS (19th - 23rd JAN '25)
THIRUVANMIYUR
BOOK FAIR
At JAYASHRI HALL
11/5, Kalakshetra Road, Ch-41
Attractive Discounts & Offers On All Books

STB DELIVERY KIT THE MATERNITY BLISS

• Baby booties	• Baby blanket
• Baby jabs	• Baby massage mat
• Baby mitten	• Baby nappies
• Baby hood cap	• Baby thottil and net
• Baby bath towel	• Maternity wear trendy
• Baby swaddle	• Maternity bag

BUDGET FRIENDLY

@stbdeliverykit our social / www.stbdeliverykit.com
Mob +91 87546 00468 / Mail id stbdeliverykit@gmail.com

FLAT FOR SALE
9 GUDUVANCHERY
Price start from
3999
per sqft.
FEATURES: ARD Lift Vastu Covered Car Parking
 CCTV Interiors North & East Facing
VJR CONSTRUCTIONS **+91 7904880593** **BOOK NOW**

Here is why those who have saved a road accident victim could think twice before applying for the Good Samaritan award despite a five-fold increase in its reward money

LIFFY THOMAS

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari recently announced five-fold increase in the reward amount for the "Good Samaritan" scheme.

Launched in 2021, this award is extended to anyone who has saved the life of the road accident victim by administering immediate assistance and rushing the person to a hospital or trauma care centre within the Golden Hour. Currently, an award amount of ₹5,000 is given to the Good Samaritan, which the Minister said would be increased to ₹25,000.

As per reports, the Good Samaritan Award money was given to 80 people until December 2022 according to government data tabled in the Parliament.

The Hindu Downtown spoke to a cross-section of NGOs working in the area of road safety and found out the scheme is not popular among most citizens.

The RTO or the traffic police in the jurisdiction where the accident occurred is required to certify the individual as a Good Samaritan and share their details to the Transport Commissioner.

"During our workshops I ask volunteers if they had ever wanted to nominate themselves for the Good Samaritan Award and the response I got was we hand over the accident victim to the ambulance driver and leave the place," says Karthik Venkatesan, manager - training and public affairs, Alert.

He has not come across any person who has applied or won this recognition since it was started.

Most of the workshops that train



people on giving support during the Golden Hour also covers the Good Samaritan Law. "We encourage participants to come forward to be recognised as a Good Samaritan but there are gaps in the system that put off people. One is required to provide contact details to the doctor, introduce oneself as the one who handed over the victim to the hospital but how many of us have the time to stay till the end," says Karthik.

Thozhan, another NGO that regularly runs road safety programmes, says none of its volunteers has been nominated for the Good Samaritan Scheme because the reporting format is hugely complicated.

"In a typical case, a first responder would either leave once the ambulance arrives or wait in the hospital till a family member attends to the victim. The Scheme requires verification from a police personnel which puts off many people," says M. Radhakrishnan, founder of Thozhan.

The Road Transport and High-

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

teers who have helped accident victims but none of them is keen on applying for this Award. "Award is secondary especially when you know there are too many processes to be followed," says Radhakrishnan, adding that they honour those who have helped accident victims every year during its annual day.

Many NGOs have been working with the government to empower private hospitals to attend to an accident case during the Golden Hour.

"Private hospitals do not take accident victims. In many cases, the nearest government hospital is far away which is the reason for increasing fatality rates, so this rule must be relaxed," says Radhakrishnan.

He says the process to submit the application for the Good Samaritan scheme must be simplified. "A majority of accident victims are taken through 108 Ambulance, so why not empower them to verify a first responder?" asks Radhakrishnan.

The nomination for the Award is sent by the Transport Department of the State to the Ministry.

Thozhan has many volun-

Other awards

* Every year, in the month of December, ALERT, a non-profit organisation that empowers people to act effectively during a crisis and save lives, invites nominations for its annual "Alert Being Awards".

Individuals and organisations that have created an impact through life-saving acts or initiatives can send their nominations to www.aba.alert.ngo

* The Cheistha Kochhar Good Samaritan Award is being instituted by Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research (C-DEP.org) in memory of Cheistha Kochhar. The award is being instituted at the behest of Sujit Bhattacharya, a young scholar who wants to use the nudge theory that Cheistha used to work on, to bring about change in society, says a note on the website.

The award will be given annually to those who have contributed to the betterment of society and who have consistently helped fellow humans in need. Deserving candidates may be nominated through C-DEP.org for consideration.



The hindrance to offering help

According to a study titled "Exploring the obstacles preventing good samaritans' attending to the road crash victims: A case of a developing nation", legal harassment, the bystander effect, fear of bloodshed, lack of altruism, and knowledge deficits are among obstacles hindering Good Samaritan behaviour.

The authors - Aditya Saxena from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Binayak Choudhury from School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal - surveyed 551 respondents to bring out the study published on Sciedirect.

According to the World Health Organisation, during a road crash, bystanders can save lives in situations where established emergency medical services are not available. They can administer first-aid to the injured and even rush them to the nearest hospital.

The report also notes that there is no study in India that looks into the role of Good Samaritans in road crash incidents.

The study points out that there is a pressing need for public awareness campaigns to educate people about their legal rights and protections as Good Samaritans. Besides, efforts should be directed towards enhancing education and training programmes, particularly targeting individuals with lower levels of education and income.



In association with



The Hindu Lit for Life event is presented by

KIAIndiaandisnassociationwith ChristUniversity.

AssociatePartners: RRDonnelley, BlueStar, BrigadeGroup, NITTE Deemed-to-beUniversity, PROchure, Singer, ChennaiPort Authority & KamarajarPortLtd, UttarakhandTourism, Vajiramand Ravi, IndianBank, Akshayakalpa andICFAIGroup.

RealtyPartner: Casagrand.

BookstorePartner: Crossword.

FoodPartner: WowMomo,

BeveragePartner: Beachville,

RadioPartner: BigFM,

TVPartner: PuthiyaThalaimurai,

GiftPartner: AnandPrakash,

WaterPartner: Repute



The prize distribution ceremony.

Rap battle showcases literary innovation

As part of *The Hindu* Lit for Life, a dynamic rap battle finale was hosted on January 12 at Brigade Xanadu, featuring finalists selected from over 100 entries.

Rappers performed in Tamil and English, delivering impressive lyrical skill and energy that captivated the audience. The event offered a vibrant platform for emerging artistes to showcase their talent, celebrating the evolving art form of rap within the literary space.

Judges: Jords, a British singer and rapper for English; Senthuzhan, rapper for Tamil

The rap battle contest was curated by Catalyst 28. The rap beats by Gurumark from Catalyst 28.

The long wait for an e-seva centre in Perumbakkam region

The building meant to be used for this purpose is under lock and key for more than a year

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Perumbakkam residents have requested the Perumbakkam Village Panchayat to open an e-seva centre on the sprawling panchayat office premises.

N. K. Raja, president of Nesamani Nagar Residents' Welfare Association, says: "More than a year ago, a building was constructed to house the centre, but it is under lock and key."

He says close to 1.5 lakh people reside in the region and are dependent on the



The e-seva centre building in Perumbakkam.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

e-seva centres in the Sholinganallur and Pallikaranai regions.

The public can apply for community certificates, widow pensions, old age pensions, encumbrance certificates, electoral voter identity cards, and changes to details provided by Aadhaar at the e-seva centres.

They can also apply for government documents online.

The Sholinganallur E-

seva facility witnesses a good crowd, so some people go to the centre in Pallikaranai. It takes half a day to apply for the documents, and after a few days one has to again go to collect the documents," says Raja.

Residents have sent many petitions to the CM's Cell to open the centre in Perumbakkam.

A Chengalpattu District Collectorate official said,

"We have written to the State government to open an e-seva centre in the region. The village panchayat authorities and St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union have also written to the government in this regard. But the approval is yet to come. The one-year-old building is used by Tamil Nadu Fibernet Corporation Limited to provide internet services to households in the region."

Best Bargains

BUYING

WORKING AND NOT WORKING, A/C, BRASS, STAINLESS STEEL, FRIDGE, OLD COMPUTER, LAPTOP, UPS, BATTERIES, MUSIC SYSTEM, WATER HEATER, GYM ITEMS, WOODEN FURNITURE, SOFA SET, COT, BEURO, DINNING SET

ALL A TO Z SCRAPS

VANITHA TRADERS

9600101534

UPVC WINDOW & DOOR (MANUFACTURER)

PVC DOOR & CUPBOARD

MOSQUITO NET (MANUFACTURER)

• SLIDING DOOR/OPEN DOOR
• VELCRO TYPE
• STAINLESS STEEL MESH

SKYLINE (ALL OVER CHENNAI)

98413 31010

98415 56603

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

May Occur Any Time

So Buy An Adequate HEALTH INSURANCE

Entry Age 0 to 100

Unlimited Coverage Bonus Accumulation Any Room Eligibility Freeze your Age Upto 1L Tax Saving

Fresh / Portability Policy

72006 46544

repute

suitable for office & home

Reasonable Price

Reliable Service

20 Ltr Can

Prompt Delivery

www.reputech2o.com

98845 44444

ARUL ENTERPRISES

• Terrace Leakage

• Bathroom Leakage

• Sun Cooling

• All Leakage Works

30 Years of Experience In Building Water Leakage Works

97899 98239

www.arulwaterproofing.com

நம்பிக்கை-நாணயம்-நேர்மை

BUYING SPOT CASH

Rosewood, Teakwood Furniture
Antique Watch, Pen, Toy's
Old Painting, Brass, Silk Sarees,
Any Antique & Collectable items

Please Contact:

98408 20587

ADVERTISEMENT



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

TIMESNOW.in

TIMESNOW.in Academic Excellence Awards 2025 Tamil Nadu TN Schools, Pre Schools and Education Institutions Survey 2025

The TIMESNOW.in Academic Excellence Awards 2025 event was held on January 10, 2025, at Chennai. This prestigious occasion celebrated the outstanding achievements of schools, preschools, and educational institutions for their exceptional efforts during the 2024-25 academic year. The event was proudly presented by Shrimathi Devkunvar Nanalal Bhatt Vaishnav College For Women, Chennai with the awards ceremony graced by the esteemed Chief Guest, Mary Kom, who felicitated the winners.

			
SAN Academy, Pallikaranai Top Ranked School National - CBSE Curriculum - South Zone	Hindustan International School, Padur Top Ranked School National - CBSE Curriculum - South East Zone	The Indian Public School, Perungudi Top Ranked Global School - South East Zone	Vaeis International School, Injambakkam Excellence in Educational Innovation- International - South Zone
			
Vels Vidyashram, Thalambur Excellence in Educational Innovation - National - South Zone	Anant International Schools, Akkarai Excellence in Student Advancement & Mentoring	SAN Academy, Kamakoti Nagar Top Ranked School in Life Skills Development - South Zone	Hindustan International School, Karapakkam Excellence in Educational Innovation - National - South East Zone
			
i2Global School, Velachery Top Ranked Global School - Central Zone	Kangaroo Kids Preschool, Chennai Best Preschool in Child-Centered Learning	Remo International College, Chennai Best Aviation College	Eurokids Preschool, Chennai Best Preschool in Innovative Curriculum
			
Felix Pilot Training Institute, Chennai Best Pilot Training Institute	Kangaroo Kids Preschool, Chennai Premier Preschool Group Brand	Eurokids Preschool, Chennai Best Chain of Preschools	Dr. MGR University (Faculty of Hotel Management & Culinary Arts) Outstanding Contribution to Hotel Management Education
			
GoStudy, Chennai Best Overseas Education Consultancy	VVT Coaching Centre, Chennai Top NEET Coaching Institute	Anant International Schools, Akkarai Excellence in Student Advancement & Mentoring	Meritus AI Learning Experiences Pvt Ltd Excellence in Tech-Enhanced AI, STEAM/STEM Education
			
Limitless Clothing (M/s Ripples) Best School Uniforms Manufacturer	GoStudy, Chennai Best IELTS, TOEFL & PTE Coaching Institute	SDNB Vaishnav College receives Presenting Sponsor Felicitation from Mary Kom	

NOTE : The current rating is included in the Timesnow.in Education Survey published on 12th January 2025, which also provides a comprehensive methodology. For a deeper understanding, please refer to the full survey report.



PRESENTS
SHRIMATHI DEVKUNVAR
NANALAL BHATT VAISHNAV
COLLEGE FOR WOMEN,
CHENNAI

NEWS PARTNER
TIMESNOW.in
செய்தி