

MYLAPORE

Mandaveli » R A Puram » Royapettah » Chindtripet » Royapuram » Korukkupet » Ennore » Luz » Alwarpet » Triplicane » Central
Washermenpet » Tondiarpet » Manali » M.R.C.Nagar » Teynampet » Mount Road » Broadway » Kondithope » Tiruvotiyur



READERS WRITE ABOUT CIVIC ISSUES

'Choultry pandal makes pavement inaccessible'
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STEPS TO SUSTAINABILITY

In collaboration with TNPCB, Stella Maris College conducted a campaign against use of single-use plastics, throwing light on 28 varieties of them **P7**

Bus services shifted out of Mandaveli terminus

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation has moved services out of the Mandaveli bus terminus, redistributing them to three locations in Mandaveli.

The arrangement, which came into effect on August 27, was made to enable the work to modernise the bus terminus and construct a shopping complex at the terminal area.

Route numbers 21, 41D, S17, 49K and S5 will originate from Mandaveli MRTS railway station on Sringeri Mutt Road; 49F from Foreshore Estate bus terminus; and 12M and 5B from near Luz Corner.

The monthly pass renewal centre and free bus tokens for senior citizens will be distributed at the Foreshore Estate bus terminus, says a press release issued by MTC.

▼
The vacated Mandaveli bus terminus.
PHOTO:SRINATH M



▼
The temporary halting point at Sringeri Mutt Road near Mandaveli MRTS station; and Parimala and Yashwanth.
PHOTOS:SRINATH M

Over to Sringeri Mutt Road

M. SRINATH

Setting foot in the Mandaveli bus terminus around rush hour should now evoke a sense of unreality to anyone accustomed to its bustle. The usual frisson of excitement that runs the facility at this hour is missing. There is an overpowering starkness with not a wheel in sight, except for those machines stationed to uproot structures and

pave the way for a renovation exercise. A few metal barricades bearing the icon of a man with a shovel stand in readiness.

The bustle has been transferred – temporarily – to Sringeri Mutt Road, the section of the road near the Mandaveli MRTS Station. This will be the halting point for a few services (21, 41D, S17, 49K and S5) identified with the Mandaveli bus terminus. These services will return to the bus terminus once it is

renovated and smartened up. Regulars hope this exercise unfolds at a fast clip.

The shifting of the services entails having to cover added ground for some foot soldiers. For some of them, keeping time is absolutely important.

Parimala, a resident of Teynampet works as a helper in a house near the Mandaveli post office. She travels by 41D to her stomping ground. Walking all the way from



Sringeri Mutt Road to her workplace adds to the time and burden.

On August 30, when the new arrangement was just two days old, Yashwanth, a college student, was caught on the wrong foot.

He was aware of the changes, but unaware that his regular wheels (route number 49F) would originate from the Foreshore Estate Bus Terminus. He had headed to Sringeri Mutt Road, and was a picture of disappointment. Due to the lack of space for buses to be stationed at Sringeri Mutt Road, the frequency of services has reportedly been reduced.

A temporary time keeper's booth has been established.

As this arrangement was ushered in during an extended weekend, there was no traffic congestion on account of these buses being stationed near Mandaveli MRTS station. Monday (September 1) might have a different picture to offer.





Entries invited for Made of Chennai photography contest

The Hindu has announced the launch of *The Hindu* Made of Chennai Photography Contest 2025, inviting shutterbugs to capture the city's festive spirit through their lens. With the theme "Celebrations of Chennai", the contest encourages participants to showcase how the city comes alive in its streets,

traditions and everyday moments of joy.

The last date to send in entries is September 13, 2025.

The Hindu Made of Chennai is presented by Casagrand and powered by SRM; the initiative is held in association with Union Bank of India. The contest is supported by Tata Tea

Chakra Gold and Tata Coffee as Associate Partners, while Big FM, Fever FM and Radio One are on board as Radio Partners. Madras Photo Bloggers are the Expert Partner for the contest.

Participants can register by scanning the QR code. The top 50 winners will be rewarded..



'Choultry pandal makes pavement inaccessible'

Following renovation of Vyasarpadi Vinayaga Mudaliar Choultry aka Bomma Chathiram at South Mada Street in Mylapore, the entrance was fenced by erecting a pandal.

The expanse of the pandal being such that it ended up denying people access to the footpath. Initially, there was enough reason to

believe this pandal was a temporary arrangement.

Not anymore. Several months have passed, and the pandal stays put, firm and rooted.

Word has it that the management of this choultry had done this to prevent the entry of vendors on this pavement.

Baskar Seshadri, Mylapore

'Car parking lot is poorly maintained'



The car parking lot at Chennai Central railway station is poorly maintained. It has an earthen floor, and is prone to water stagnation during rains.

D. Suresh,
Thirumullaivoyal

Two decades by the roadside



V. Nagaraj has been running his tailoring business on the pavement near Luz junction under the MRTS bridge, near the Corporation office for nearly 20 years.

Text and Photo: R. Kasim Razvi, Mylapore

'Space around view cutter is unhygienic'



This image was taken at the entrance of Boat Club Road in RA Puram. This corner once open with a well-laid pavement is now an ideal location for urination, thanks to the installation of a metallic view cutter around transformer.

Krishnaswami Ramamurthi
RA Puram 4th Main Road
Raja Annamalai Puram



'Have this auto in Triplicane towed away'

A rundown autorickshaw has been standing in a state of abandonment at Bharathi Salai in Thiruvallikeni (Opposite Hotel Sangeetha) for eons. Will the authorities concerned look into this matter and have the autorickshaw towed away?

C. R. Sainathan,
Tiruvallikeni

One for the album



Mandaveli resident V. K. Ramadesikan, who retired as professor of Biochemistry from Madras Medical College, shared this picture of his MBBS batch of 1975 from Madras Medical College that recently came together on old MMC campus to celebrate their Golden Jubilee Reunion. A total of 63 classmates from the batch gathered for this event. The Dean of Madras Medical College was invited as a chief guest and Medical Superintendent of GGH too joined. Group photographs were taken with the iconic Anatomy Block, popularly known as the "Red Fort," and the historic Seminar Hall – the first building of the college established in 1835 – in the background.



Little Krishnas and Radhas dazzle the audience

The annual event organised by *The Hindu Downtown* enjoyed a good response with 700 children taking part in it



A dance performance and audience at Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Close to 700 children participated in 'Maya Kannan' - Janmashtami Contest 2025 organised by *The Hindu Downtown* for children in the age group of three to eight years, in keeping with the festive spirit of the season. Sixty-six winners from across the five zones of *Downtown* (Adyar, Anna Nagar, Mylapore, T. Nagar and Tambaram) were felicitated on August 24 at an event held at Shri Krishnaswamy

College for Women in Anna Nagar. The contest had a good response with participants asked to dress up as Krishna or Radha and perform a dance or sing or recite slokas in praise of the Lord. The children showed impressive involvement; and their enthusiasm was infectious.

The parents and sponsors appreciated *The Hindu* Group for organising events of this nature to uphold time-honoured traditions. There was an excellent Baratha-

Ageing gracefully

Platform for senior citizens crosses a milestone

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

On World Elders Day (October 1), PoornaShakti completes two years of entertaining, empowering and engaging senior citizens. Founded by lifeskill trainer and humorist Usha Ramky, the former banker describes PoornaShakti as a 'gate-way to graceful ageing'.

Her experiences around her made Usha start this YouTube channel that targets Tamil-speaking audience above the age of 55. "Many seniors begin to feel lonely, that is when I thought of doing something to make them feel part of the society," says Usha, who is in her mid-50s.

Her research also found that



many of them spent their time connected with digital platforms, so PoornaShakti started by offering them engaging content online.

Sample these. Yesteryear actor ARS (A.R. Srinivasan) conducts an interview with Usha on how he



Tamizh Thiruvizha

On September 14, PoornaShakti is organising 'Tamizh Thiruvizha - celebrating culture with seniors' at St. Raphaels School in Mylapore. The event will have traditional games, competitions, food and entertainment. There is no registration fee. While entries are closed for cookery, folk song and dance, they are still accepting names for Rangoli competition. Those working in the area of elder care are also invited to put on stalls at the venue.

To participate, WhatsApp name and age to 89254 11120.

has adjusted to his life at 90. And then a retired teacher, Shantha Krishnamurthy, who at 85 does craft work that keeps her mind and hands active, is in focus.

Besides inspiring stories of seniors, there are devotional songs,

retro music and other programmes on the channel. There are other videos that talk about food, life and diet through personal stories.

"We upload content twice a week, and in these two years we

Mylapore zone winners



▼ Shraddha Srinivasan



▼ Anumita Meenakshi

natyam group performance by the students of Shri Krishnaswamy Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Anna Nagar. The winners were felicitated by Y.V. Nirajan Krishna from Gopuram products, T. Manimalai, principal of Shri Krishnaswamy Matriculation Higher secondary school and other special guests.

The title partner for the event was Gopuram Turmeric Powder and Kumkum; the food partner was Madras Coffee House, and the venue partner was Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women, Anna Nagar; Water Partner was Repute Water; the Tech Partner was Hilaptop.com. Gift Sponsors were DIFA, Lalwani, Medimix, My Resale Plot.com, Naga, P S Tamarind, RAS Chekku Oil and Vivekanandha Sarees.

▼ Usha Ramky and during a fitness fest organised by PoornaShakti.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

have 340 videos and shots that can be viewed anytime and is free of cost," says Usha, who shuttles between her home in Teynampet and Kancheepuram.

PoornaShakti also tries to engage seniors offline through events. Through PoornaShakti awards, eminent personalities were honoured. There is fitness fest for elders.

They have also had two editions of digital Marghazi music season, where Carnatic music enthusiasts share videos of their music that witnessed a good response. Usha says her journey in the last two years has been satisfying but she still has a long way to go.

"I want those who are in their mid-50s to help those in the 80s, it could even be with a friendly chat with them on a regular basis," she says.

PRINCE FREDERICK

Walks decoding neighbourhoods have a thick cladding of facts, usually ferreted out of yellowing documents. Emotions come into play only as the accompanist, never the guitar-strumming, crooning frontman. Facts and feelings meet without getting entwined. A walk titled "Chetpet" takes a detour from this standard format, having almost every fact infused with emotion. Designed as a community-led walk, that infusion is not just acceptable, but desirable.

Authored by Yein Udaan, a non-profit in the education sector, this walk is still softly trodden, being just two outings old. In October 2024 and for Women's Day in 2025, the walk was conducted in collaboration with Madras Inherited, which seeks to preserve and celebrate the heritage of the city.

Ashmita Athreya, lead storyteller and head of operations at Madras Inherited, observes that her organisation imparted to the Yein Udaan team, largely composed of members from an "invisible" part of Chetpet, an understanding of what makes a walk stick in the head long after the shuffle of curious feet had died down; how to delineate the route and integrate storytelling into it. "This is structured as a cultural walk. Community history is central to it. It is a sharing of stories about the community," Ashmita explains.

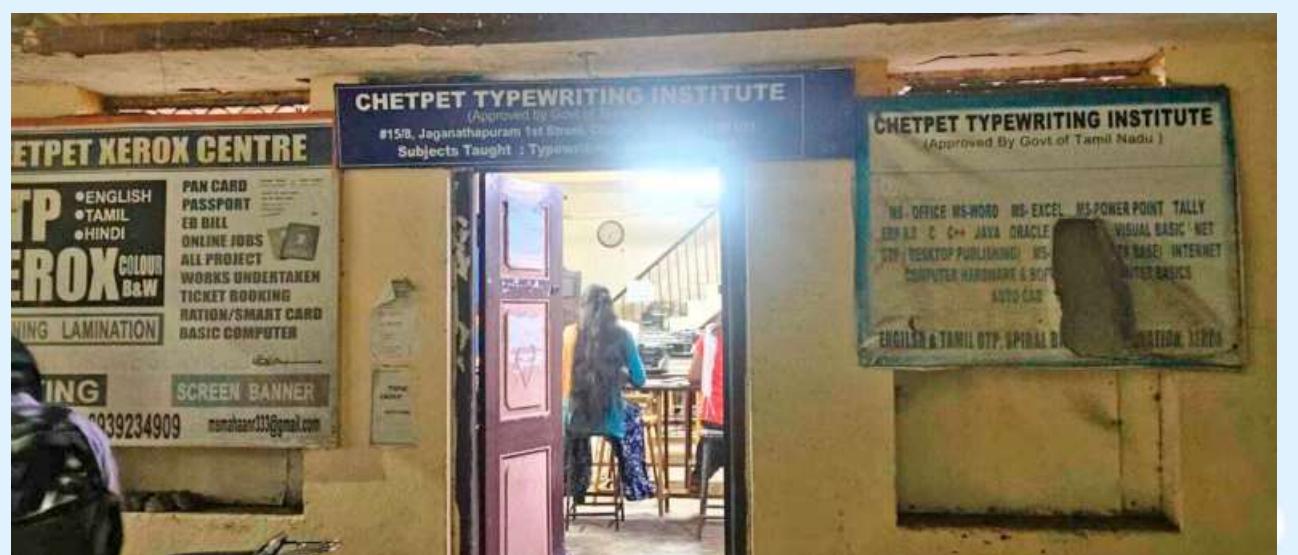
Last week, a diluted version of "Chetpet" was organised off the cuff for *The Hindu Downtown*. It was led by those who derive their identity from this Chetpet, which lies on the northern side of McNichols Road. Symbolically, on the leeward side, if one is aware that on the opposite side lies the upscale Harrington Road with its grid of car-lined avenues and a scatter of educational institutions whose uniform, parents would give their right arm for their children to wear.

On this side, invite yourself to Jaganathapuram, Brindavanan, Mangalapuram and MS Nagar, low-income neighbourhoods with a majority of homes battling poverty on an everyday basis, measuring success by how well they scraped through the long day. The average monthly income of the households here falls in the range of ₹4,000 to ₹8,000, remarks Vedika Agarwal, founder of Yein Udaan, which runs three after-school learning spaces for children in the community with a kindergarten unit thrown into the mix. Vedika adds that in a significant number of homes, the men fritter away the family's earnings on alcohol, and some of these men also shirk work, placing finances under further stress. Domestic violence is rife. And back home from school, children are faced with an unsafe and unconducive environment for studies, Vedika elaborates. This side of Chetpet is



Spotlight on an invisible landscape

A community-led walk fashioned by Yein Udaan with the help of Madras Inherited seeks to capture the spirit and aspirations of the people in a portion of Chetpet that is unknown to the wider world, except for its historic Dhobikhana



(Clockwise from top left) a 2012-dated file photo of the Dhobikhana in Chetpet; the Yein Udaan team on the recent walk; the walk in October 2024; and the one for women's day in 2025; the old typewriting institute. PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN, PRINCE FREDERICK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

Yein Udaan as volunteers. Vennila is employed at the non-profit as social worker for the last three years.

And the fifth one is Vedika Agarwal. The Yein Udaan founder is an outsider holding a "green card" in this Chetpet by virtue of her work, one that brings a rare empathy to its children. Given her privileged background, Vedika's decision to carve out a career in this urban slum with social fractures has left people in her circle and outside surprised as well as impressed. Her work rooted in what comes across as a deep care for the children of this area (watch her TED talk at KC High in 2023 on YouTube), insid-

ers instinctively treat her as their own. She is 'Vedika miss' not only to the nearly 350 children currently at the three after-school learning centres, but also to their parents and grandparents. Due to Vedika's popularity in these neighbourhoods, the walk moves in fits and starts, much like a drive in rush-hour traffic on nearby Sterling Road and McNichols Road, being interrupted by exchange of pleasantries.

Vedika points to what are line houses where optimisation of space is at play. Part of a row-house format or not, most houses across the four neighbourhoods are matchbox-sized: from the outside,

The wider world has little interest for this part of Chetpet. And it stays largely in oblivion. This section draws outside eyes for its Dhobikhana, the second oldest in the country having been established in 1902 as the "Madras Municipal Dhobikhana", its foundation stone laid on December 8 that year by Colonel Sir George Moore. Even this attention is short-spanned and seasonal, usually unfurled around Madras Day, and with the shifting of the news cycle, this Chetpet gets buried again deep in a mass grave of headlines

one can see how cramped the space inside would be. In dysfunctional households, such living spaces disperse tensions between father and mother instantly to the children. Vedika and her team take it upon themselves to engage with such families in the interest of the children's studies and holistic development. And that often means having tough conversations.

In Jaganathapuram, one has a glimpse of the Dhobikhana. With one phase under renovation, the entire Dhobikhana has come under a veil and is now off-limits. The renovation extends beyond the workspace to include living quarters. Vennila notes some of the families have moved out temporarily, and some others are staying on, having found rental accommodation elsewhere within the locality. She adds that in another part of the locality, what was a market (loosely called "fish market") was pulled down to raise a facility for

those in the traditional laundering business to conduct it.

Vennila reveals that during the two walks, a nonagenarian-lady familiar with the Dhobikhana dwelt on the daily grind of the families that depend on it for sustenance. Entire families are engaged in this work, the children pitching in before they leave for school and after they return home. Vennila notes that those working in the Dhobikhana constitute just one segment of residents. Among the rest of the populace, a majority work as daily wagers.

Another stop is an Yein Udaan learning centre, located on the first floor of a building and it has been taken on rent. Vedika volunteers information about the space: previously, a school (Lourde Nursery) functioned for over two decades up till the pandemic struck, which proved its death blow. The pandemic led to changes in topography, Vedika goes on, pointing to slightly bigger houses, some of them compact apartments. Rendered jobless due to the fallout of the pandemic, some residents sold their properties. Vennila notes the presence of an old typewriting institute – Chetpet Typewriting Institute, said to be five decades old – provides a sense of continuity.

At the afore-mentioned first-floor learning centre, children have their noses buried in books. But a break is round that corner, when those same noses would be buried in plates of snacks. Vedika remarks these are healthy eats made at homes of Yein Udaan staff, taking turns. Twenty-four out of 28 staffers are from the community. The payment they receive for making these eats augments their income; and resources are ploughed back into the community. It is a practice of circular economy, she adds.

What follows is a brief stop at Ambedkar Playground which sports a football turf; and some of the children from the after-school learning programme, including girls, are being coached by members of a non-profit, Life Is A Ball, that uses sports, particularly football for empowerment. Vennila remarks that decades ago, this Chetpet would have a regular taste of gangster violence, recalling an incident she witnessed as a seven-year-old from behind the half-open doors of her house. Thirty-seven now, she observes the area is a far cry from that reality, being peaceful. "Decades ago, residents seeking to keep youngsters from falling into bad influences would organise kabbadi tournaments," she shares.

The walk ends where it began at the Yein Udaan learning centre on McNichols Road, a facility whose exterior with its brick design leaves one in no doubt about its former life. It was the Chetpet police station before the personnel moved to a well-appointed facility on Mayor Ramanathan Salai. The old building functions as an Yein Udaan learning centre.

ILLUSTRATION:
SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

Apartments have to get their 'Act' together

LIFFY THOMAS

A year since Tamil Nadu Apartment Ownership Rules 2024 prepared by the Housing and Urban Development Department came into effect, many apartment complexes in Chennai are yet to complete the process involving registration or renewal of association status.

Tamil Nadu Gazette dated September 24, 2024 requires owners of units in an apartment (starting from four-flat apartments to massive multiple-tower societies) to submit "Form-A" towards initial registration. It wants apartments with multiple blocks/towers in a compound to form a federation, and make bye-laws. Irrespective of the size of the apartment, flat owners are required to appoint an auditor, submit audited accounts and balance sheets.

The Act provides an impetus to redevelopment projects, allowing owners to demolish a building if there is consensus

from two-third of apartment owners. Likewise, it empowers the association to take action against residents erring to pay their maintenance bills. There are many features in favour of owners, but communities *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to note the process is being delayed due to challenges in the system. Some communities cite lack of awareness and many are said to be buying time.

Most resident associations were previously registered under Societies Act. Now they have to migrate to Tamil Nadu Apartment Act and begin by completing requirements in "Form A".

Ragamalika Apartments in Mandaveli, a registered association, is finding it difficult to renew its registration as per the new Act. While the Act is clear, they are unsure where and how to process it and whether any acknowledgement will be provided. Apartments with less than 15 units say too much documentation discourages them from getting the association registered.

Real estate consultants say they are getting more inquiries from owners of buildings seeking to take up redevelopment in helping register the association, as also those looking for help in drafting bye-laws.

Ongoing projects

Six years ago, House of Hiranan-dani in Egattur formed a registered body involving nine towers. Now the gated community has 14 towers and more are under different stages of construction. The Act requires them to form a federation but as the developer is still working on projects, the current association has time in hand.

On the need for a federation, Raghavan Murti, an active member of the gated community, says, when the builder leaves the scene, there are roads, club house and other common amenities that have to be maintained. "We need a common body when dispute arises or to negotiate issues between associations, so a federation has to take shape sometime," he says.

Validation for this gated community's governance model

From the get-go, a gated community in Kolathur – Orchid Springs – has been following "a federal model of community governance". That has made the gated community ready for the Tamil Nadu Apartment Ownership Rules 2024 nine years in advance. One of its requirements is that communities with multiple towers and blocks have an association for each of the blocks/towers and an overarching federation over them.

According to Ganapathy Suresh, founding president, Orchid Springs All Owners Association, the community has been following this model since residents started moving in to the community from 2015 onwards. This is indeed impressive when set against a backdrop where similar gated communities are still only chewing the cud over this stipulation, now almost a year old.

Under this model, each block has their own president, secretary and treasurer and maintenance fee is handled by the respective association.

An amount required for the upkeep of common amenities is paid to the Federation, which is like an apex body that is represented by three members from each block.

Orchid Springs has more than 2000 flats spread across eight blocks.

"In such a decentralised approach, there is better accountability, transparency and a low probability of pilferage," says Ganapathy, adding that every association keeps account of their money.

This system works well for tenants as well. "The flats in ev-

ery block are of different sizes, ranging from 600 sq.ft. to 5,000 sq.ft., and the financial status of every resident would be different. So maintenance is charged based on the size of the flat and the amenity one is availing," says Ganapathy. He had advocated a similar system at Gokulam Flats in Nolambur, which has 4,500 flats and 17 associations, before he moved into this community in Kolathur.

The decentralised approach also ensures there are more office bearers in the Federation who should have more say in matters concerning residents.

In such a decentralised approach, there is better accountability, transparency and a low probability of pilferage

He says the Act empowers owners to take legal action against residents erring in paying their maintenance bills.

The gated community is still working on completing the process towards registration that the Tamil Nadu Apartment Owners Act mandates. Three blocks have submitted Form A (an important step in the registration process).

Once all the eight blocks get their Form A done, the next step would be to apply for Form B.

"All apartments must follow this seriously otherwise the State Government has the power to disqualify the old association or freeze accounts," says Ganapathy, adding that the new Act gives more power to residents associations.



Steps to sustainability

In collaboration with TNPCB, Stella Maris College conducted a campaign against use of single-use plastics, throwing light on 28 varieties of them and suggesting alternatives to them as well

On August 26, 2025, the Enviro Club of Stella Maris College and the Stella Maris Sustainable Development Students' Hub in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board organised 'Sustainable Steps', an awareness programme on single-use plastic free initiatives, in the presence of the Deans of Student Affairs and the Faculty Advisors of the Enviro Club, Stella Maris College.

According to a press release, as part of 'Sustainable Steps', students

took part in a pledge to stop using single-use plastics. This was succeeded by a rally during which the Green Brigade led the way on two-wheelers and students and faculty members followed on foot carrying cloth bags, in alignment with the Tamil Nadu Government's Meendum Manjapai Campaign.

The programme culminated in an awareness session by R. Menaga, AEE and John of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (Chennai South) during which 94 participants were informed about 28 single-use plastics that are banned by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, says the press release. Ecofriendly alternatives to each of them were discussed and pamphlets containing this information were distributed to the participants. The winners of a slogan-writing competition and a poster-making competition received their prize certificates from the representatives of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, the release adds.



Engineering college distributes scholarships



Meenakshi College of Engineering, K.K. Nagar (West), recently conducted induction day for the first-year students of B.E., B.Tech., B.Arch., MBA, and MCA programmes.

G. Ra. Gokul, college chairman, motivated the students to make the best use of opportunities, emphasising the importance of discipline, innovation, and holistic development.

The event also included introductions to academic regulations, student support systems, and co-curric-

ular activities, said a release.

Scholarships worth ₹75 lakhs were distributed to more than 100 first-year students of the above-mentioned academic programmes in the name of founder-trustees A. N. Radhakrishnan Scholarship (for boys) and Meenakshi Ammal Scholarship (for girls).

Other dignitaries who took part in the event are N. Rengarajan, executive director; and Charles Godwin; and Ganesh Venkatraman, principal.

CPCL donates tricycle

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited has donated a tricycle to a partially differently-abled rag-picker, Annaparvathy, a resident of Nathampedu village in Thiruvallur district. According to a press release, the donation is part of CPCL's 15-day cleanliness drive called Swachhata Pakhwada. Aged 48, Annaparvathy (alias Pavithra) has spent over two decades in the informal waste management sector.

Health camp conducted

More than 900 people benefited from a free multi-speciality health camp conducted in memory of R. S. Jhaver, founder of Tablets (India) Limited, at Captain Mahal in Tondiarpet. Eye screening, cataract sur-

gery and spectacles were given to the needy as part of the camp, said a release. Dental checkup, sugar test, Echo were among others services that people could avail at the camp.

English Association inaugurated at JBAS College

The Department of English (Afternoon Session) of Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women inaugurated its English Association and Club on August 22. Hanif Hurairah, writer and director based in Bengaluru, was the chief guest and inaugurated the association and the departmental club. His book 'The Man from the Time Machine' is set to release in phases, with the first release held at the college. Firdouse Jahan, Vice-Principal (Afternoon Session) and Sarwath Unisa, Head of the Department of English, launched the chapter "Chintu's Bicycle", a short story from within the book that highlights the importance of learning through experience. The theatre group of the department also performed Mahesh Dattani's play "Where There's a Will".

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PLAN YOUR WEEK

Workshop on hospital compliance

Sha (Med) Compliance and Services Private Limited is organising a one-day workshop on 'Hospital Compliance' on September 6 at Teach auditorium, Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu, Taramani.

Hospitals from across the State, retired government officials from the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Tamil Nadu Police, and the Greater Chennai Corporation, are participating, said a release.

Dr. H. V. Hande, former Health Minister of Tamil Nadu, will inaugurate the 'Hospital License and Compliance Software'.

Dr. Hande will be bestowed with the 'Beeshma of Healthcare Services' award by Tamilisai Soundararajan, former Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

Registration is free but mandatory. Contact 7305368552. Email id: shashospitallicense@gmail.com

Solo performances by young artistes

Rukminidevi Natyakshetra Foundation celebrates 'Aananda 2025', an exploration of young artistes in Carnatic vocal and Bharatanatyam, on September 5 at Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra, Thiruvannmiyur.

At Aananda 2025, students who have been dedicated to their art for more than a decade are given the opportunity to present solo performances. Through these presentations, they not only celebrate their own journey but also inspire the fellow students to pursue arts with equal passion and commitment.

Performers are Shreya Ravikumar (Carnatic Vocal) and R. K. Raghavraj (Bharatanatyam).

An outreach programme to save Captain Cotton Canal

An awareness rally by students of Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth College for Women sent out a message to the community

The Departments of Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry at Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth College for Women organised an awareness programme focused on urban cleanliness and ecological restoration. The initiative included a rally and



human chain formation along St. Mary's Road, concluding at the historically significant yet environmentally threatened Captain Cotton Canal in Vyasarpadi.

Designed to educate the public

on the environmental and health hazards caused by indiscriminate waste disposal, illegal sewage discharge, and the choking of water channels with plastic waste and water hyacinth, students held pla-

cards, banners, and posters highlighting the urgent need for responsible waste management and preservation of water bodies, said a release.

The Captain Cotton Canal, named after Sir Arthur Thomas Cotton, a pioneering British irrigation engineer known for transforming South India's agricultural landscape through major irrigation projects, was originally part of Chennai's micro-drainage system. Once a functional stormwater outlet protecting localities like Erukkancheri, MKB Nagar, and Vyasarpadi from urban flooding, the canal today suffers from decades of neglect. Clogged with garbage and

Home appliance brand opens a new showroom

Darling, a leading home appliances stores in Tamil Nadu, has opened its 163rd showroom on Rajaji Street in the Tambaram (West) region. S. R. Raja, MLA, Tambaram Assembly Constituency, and K. Vasanth Kumar, Mayor, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, inaugurated the showroom.

Spanning 25,000 square feet, the store offers a diverse range of appliances, including television sets, refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, and mobile phones, said a release. To celebrate the store's opening, discounts are offered on television set, refrigerator, washing machine and air conditioner. At the opening ceremony, several new products were launched, including Haier's 100-inch TV, Samsung's 25 kg washing machine, and V-Guard's new water heater and fan. A unique cooling room where customers can test an air conditioner's performance before making a purchase can be experienced, the release added.

Onam extravaganza at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, East Mada Street, Mylapore, is celebrating Onam with a five-day festival titled Bhavan's "Pon Onam" from September 1 at its Chennai Kendra auditorium.

From captivating Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Chakyarkooth, Thiruvathira dance, Kerala Nadanam, Tholppavakooth, Veeranadanam, Chenda Melam, Onappatt music performances, Sopana Sangeetham to theatre and colourful displays of folk traditions, the celebrations will bring to life Ker-

ala's rich cultural heritage, featuring traditional art forms performed by talented artists from the state, says a press release.

Bhavan's celebration of "Pon Onam" is a heartfelt effort to make every Keralite feel at home, rekindle cherished memories and relive the vibrant spirit of Kerala's beloved festival, the release adds.

The added attraction of the festival will be serving authentic Kerala Onam delicacies every evening free of cost. Admission to the programme is free.

School gets a new STEM Lab

Bala Mandir Schools celebrated their annual day recently a raft of programmes including skits, mime and dance by students.

On the occasion, Praveena Yagnambhat, chief of staff & CSR leader, Boeing South Asia, inaugurated the Boeing Sukanya STEM Lab at Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School. Later, Praveena, who was the chief guest, spent considerable time with the students at each of the workstations in the Lab, says a press release.

The Boeing Sukanya Program was launched in January 2024 focusing on the empowerment of women in aviation, marking a new vision for Boeing's initiatives in India. As part of this programme the Vikalpa Innovation Studio at Bala Mandir Satyamur-



thi School has been upgraded and renamed as "Boeing Sukanya STEM Lab". The upgrades include the introduction of additional aviation kits and a revised curriculum that places greater emphasis on science, math and

aero-modelling concepts. The inauguration of the Lab marks an important milestone for both the Sukanya programme as well as Bala Mandir school, says the press release.

Boeing Company has been

supporting Bala Mandir Schools since early 2023. In the last two years the company has not only provided financial support by funding a part of the teacher salaries but also helped upgrade the Vikalpa Innovation lab which was originally set up by Bala Mandir in 2021. This support was done through Learning Links Foundation, a non-profit organisation which is engaged in the Education sector, the release adds.

The support included improving the infrastructure and provision of various equipment such as 3D printer and DIY kits as well as appointing an Innovation Coach to help and guide the students. The Boeing employees from the Chennai office have also been volunteering their time to support the children in the various activities.

illegal sewage., the canal is a risk to public health, local biodiversity, and urban resilience, said the release.

The programme further strengthened the college's alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals SDGs) by addressing several key environmental priorities. It promoted awareness about water pollution and sanitation, Clean Water and Sanitation. Students expressed a strong desire to continue the momentum with future outreach efforts, including street theatre, clean-up campaigns, and collaboration with civic bodies, added the release.