

ANNA NAGAR

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## ‘Remove sluice gates at Nullah’

Anna Nagar residents federation thanks GCC for the provision of a sump and pump facility, and linking SWDs from four roads to a culvert



The sump and pump facility. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

R. SUKUMAR

**F**ederation of Anna Nagar Residents Associations (FOARA) has placed three demands on the table before Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC). One, early completion of the desilting of Otteri Nullah and the stormwater drains. Two, parking of three 100 HP motors, two at Sixth Avenue and one at Second Main Road. Three, en-

suring the shutters across Otteri Nullah near Third Avenue are kept open during this monsoon as they are one of the major reasons for flooding in the central parts of Anna Nagar. In the long run, FOARA wants the shutters to be done away with.

In the same breath, the Federation thanked GCC for having set up a sump and pump facility together with a generator last month at S Block in Anna Nagar. The sump is

of 25,000-litre capacity and the pump is powered by two 10HP motors. R Block, Z Block and S Block, low-lying and water logging-prone and close to Otteri Nullah, will benefit from this measure.

It also thanked GCC for linking stormwater drains from Fourth Main Road, Fifth Main Road, Sixth Avenue and W Block-Sixth Street to a 1.5-km-long culvert, running under Third Avenue. Constructed by Water Resources Department a decade ago, this culvert stretches Otteri Nullah near K4 Anna Nagar police station to Cooum near K3 Aminjikarai Police Station. But the culvert had been less than effective due to the stormwater drains from the above-mentioned roads not being linked to it.

The linking of the SWDs was carried out towards the end of the last NE monsoon.

R. Sukumar is the president of Federation of Anna Nagar Residents Associations (FOARA)

## Desilting work under way; restraining wall needed



L. BALAMURUGAN

The amphibian vehicle has retired for the day, but in the manner of a “resident-employee”, is camping out at the “office” to resume the work the following day. The images show dredging work at the section of the Otteri Nullah that flows past a four-road junction (Konnur High Road, Stranhans Road, Cooks Road and Brick Kiln Road). One cannot but notice the lack of a will to raise a restraining wall around the Otteri Nullah as it flows by the side of a busy junction. One can see barricades placed by the side of the Nullah at Konnur High Road; but a res-



training wall is needed.

The images were taken on October 31, 2025.

Photos: L. Balamurugan

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▼ Garbage being dumped with impunity on an interior section of McNichols Road in Dasspuram, Chetpet.

Here is how the spot looked in the afternoon of October 31, 2025.

PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Haresh observes that people from elsewhere also dump garbage at this spot. It is a congregating point for litterbugs. The Association has reportedly complained to Greater Chennai Corporation times without number, but the stalemate continues. The dumping of garbage is so persistent that it outstrips the frequency with which it is cleared. In the afternoon of October 31, when *The Hindu Downtown* took a look at this patch, garbage of various stripes were found, suggesting that it arrives from many coordinates.

The two garbage bins look battle-scarred with erosion of metal noticed at the bottom. They are “weakened” from age, not “overwork”, as the dumping happens more around the garbage bins than in them.

#### ‘Lack of effective measures’

Haresh points out that the squalid patch is found right outside the compound wall of a school, Auxilium Girls Higher Secondary School, and as one proceeds further, there are three other major schools tucked away in the interiors. He finds it mystifying that effective measures are not being taken to check garbage dumping of this scale in a school zone. He adds that this road is a route being taken to reach a few hospitals.

When *The Hindu Downtown* got in touch with a Greater Chennai Corporation official familiar with the developments in that section on November 1 and apprised them about the issue, they said Corporation would have the issue addressed. According to a GCC official, in Zones four, seven and eight, transferring the management of conservancy operations to a private agency is likely to happen in January, 2026.

This section comes under Zone 8.

## A lesson on lack of **civic sense**

At a school zone in an interior section of McNichols Road, residents from near and far dump multiple categories of waste around the garbage bins, making for an unsavoury environment

PRINCE FREDERICK

In O. Henry’s short story *Last Leaf*, a view from the window of a hospital room energises a pneumonic patient. The last leaf on an ivy telegraphs the idea of hope to the beleaguered patient. The tiny sliver of life on an otherwise denuded plant ends up causing a turnaround in her condition and leading to her full recovery. The view from the windows of a gated community on interior McNichols Road in Dasspuram, a whistling distance away from Pachaiyappa’s College Hostel Road, has the opposite effect on those behind those windows. The squalor found around two garbage bins telegraph a sense of despondency to residents of the community, Dewside Manor. “Due to the nauseating



pile of garbage, many, particularly seniors, have shut out this view, keeping the windows latched,” says Haresh Malhotra, an EC member of

Those in flats that afford a view of both roads are content keeping open the windows overlooking Nowroji Road East-West.

Dewside Manor association.

The gated community is wedged into the intersection of McNichols Road and Nowroji Road East-West.

## ‘Bins near electricity transformer should be removed’



▼ The bins at Pallam Street in Ambattur. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

S. NATARAJAN

The garbage bins at the entrance of Pallam Street in Ambattur (Ward 81 in Zone 7 Ambattur) need to be removed as there is an electricity transformer close by. This raises the risk of a fire accident.

Another reason is they are placed near the junction of CTH Road, an arterial road, (which comes under the purview of

the State Highways Department) which witnesses heavy traffic.

These bins are a hindrance to hassle-free movement for motorists taking a turn at the junction.

Further, the spot is flyblown and ridden with stench. Most of the days (as shown in the photo which was taken on October 26, 2025) the bins are upside down.

S. Natarajan is a resident of Ambattur

## You can be our volunteer-writer

Dear readers, you can be our volunteer-writer by writing to us about issues and events in your neighbourhood. You should send the write-ups to downtownfeedback @thehindu.co.in. Letters must carry the contact number.







## Look for the *number*

Madras Cemeteries Board Trust is completing an exercise to number the graves at the Kilpauk Cemetery; the initiative will be extended to the cemetery at Kasimedu

LIFFY THOMAS

**K**ilpauk Cemetery is numbering its graves. Started last year, the initiative is now on the home stretch. The exercise is aimed at helping people head to the graves of their dear departed without difficulty.

When a cemetery is bursting at the seams, clutter is inevitable, and locating a family grave can be a challenge.

One of the oldest and biggest in Chennai, Kilpauk Cemetery has been battling space crunch and resultant problems. It launched this initiative to mitigate the effect this situation can have on families maintaining a grave at the cemetery. It goes hand in hand with documenting and digitising records of families with a grave at the cemetery.

The 15-acre cemetery has been divided into 34 zones as part of the numbering exercise, with each section having 600 graves.

"Each of these graves is owned by a family and would have had five



▼ The cemetery has been divided into 34 zones.

to ten burials carried out in it," says S. Bosco Alangar Raj, treasurer of the Madras Cemeteries Board Trust, which maintains the Kilpauk Cemetery.

The exercise will help the Trust maintain records and also make it easy for people when they come in

search of their family tomb. Due to increasing space crunch, there is often confusion in identifying a tomb. The cemetery has graves starting from 1903 for Christian denominations such as Roman Catholic, Protestants and Church of South India, and is among the early movers in terms of adopting a multi-tier vault system and ash burials.

Digitising its records is an ongoing exercise, one that kickstarted in 2005-2006. Bosco Alangar Raj says the major challenge before the team was to cross-check details mentioned in the records before assigning a number on the grave. Because of the size of the graveyard, updating the records has been slow.

"In the future, when we issue a receipt as part of burial or grave maintenance, the number and zone will also be entered. It becomes a record for the future," he says.

In a month's time, we plan to extend this numbering exercise to the cemetery in Kasimedu, the other cemetery maintained by the Trust, adds Bosco.

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**P**eople who would roll up their sleeves and tidy up a cemetery in a spirit of volunteerism are scarce. When those maintaining a graveyard find such people on the horizon they cannot be grateful enough for their good fortune.

Last month, those in charge of the 217-year-old St. Patrick's Cemetery on Pallavan Salai found reason for such gratitude. Around two dozen volunteers from parishes under the Archdiocese of Madras Mylapore hunkered down to a cleaning work at the cemetery, which is a vast expanse.

Chintadripet, Vepery, Park Town and Narasingapuram were among the parishes that contributed to this "workforce". Notably, this exercise is not a one-off thing: these volunteers have agreed to meet once a month for clean-up work at the cemetery.

The parish priest of Our Lady of Dolours Chapel Father Prakash, who is also responsible for maintaining the St. Patrick's Cemetery, which is attached to the chapel, notes that the most challenging work at the cemetery is checking the growth of weeds, especially when it rains. Even useful trees require pruning.

"Last month, volunteers pruned tree branches and also re-



## Volunteers spruce up *graveyard*

St. Patrick's Cemetery on Pallavan Salai in Park Town now has a group that would carry out a monthly drive to keep the space sparkling clean

moved thorny bushes," says the priest adding that they also engage workers in keeping the nine-and-a-half-acre wide cemetery clean.

But many a time, that is just not enough.

"Unless we have a dedicated team of people who monitor the

graveyard, managing its activities becomes difficult," he says.

R. Ranjith, a resident of Chintadripet who has family members buried in the cemetery, says he was motivated to sign up as a volunteer seeing the various measures being taken to improve the place. "When you visit a grave to



pray and find the place overrun with bushes it leaves you disturbed; so I thought of doing my bit whenever I can," says Ranjith.

The historic cemetery, which has 3000 plots/graves, some dating back to the 1800s, has undergone a number of changes in the last one year ever since Father Prakash took charge of its maintenance. "All kinds of illegal activities were happening in this space; with the help of various groups including political leaders and police we fought and overturned this situation," he says.

In April 2025, *The Hindu Downtown* carried a feature about the facelift the place received with a compound wall, solar-powered lights, concrete pathways, and new saplings. The local police now go on rounds at the cemetery twice a day to keep a vigil of the place.

"You need to keep the graveyard welcoming through the year. And with the support of many people who have joined the WhatsApp group we are hoping to keep these initiatives running," says Father Prakash.

The church has also introduced a cemetery card and requests relatives whose family members are buried in the cemetery to renew it every year with a fee of ₹ 800.

To volunteer, call 80560 55781



# When rusty old telephone boxes become canvases

A resident of Anna Nagar East, Shobha V. Manickam has been bringing art to these communication facilities on Second Main Road, where her apartment is located. She has found allies in this mission

LIFFY THOMAS

Anna Nagar resident Shobha V. Manickam likes to refresh lacklustre things with art no matter where they are found. This inclination drew her to old, rusted BSNL junction boxes on Second Main Road in Anna Nagar East, where her apartment is located.

A sustainability advocate, Shobha had brought art to the common garden at her apartment complex, coopting discarded toilet cisterns, bath tubs, X-ray films, glass panes, tiles and plastic sheets into an exercise marked by an array of installations capped off with paintings.

Two years ago, unhappy to see the telephone junction units outside her apartment complex wearing a rusty, drab look, Shobha asked the maintenance section of the department if they could give it a fresh coat of paint. "They replied that any such work was subject to a budget being allocated for it, and none was on the way. So, with their permission, I got the front portion of one of the boxes painted but that faded with time," says Shobha, who is 76 years old.

Some months ago, she renewed the exercise. The fact that she had found allies helped matters.

Removing rust from the telephone units was a daunting task and Shobha was wondering since



last year how to go about this work. "The new watchman Shankaralingam who joined duty showed interest in the paintings I had done



Themes based on nature are painted and the rusty box. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

around our building. I asked him if he could help me scrub out the rust, he agreed. And with his help, the boxes were treated to two coats of anti-rust paint. He did it without asking for payment and worked only during his off-duty hours. I paid him and offered to also teach him simple sketching and painting," says Shobha.

All her beautification drives are done with waste materials and leftover acrylic wall paints given by friends and neighbours. This time, her immediate neighbour and friend Sokkalingam, who painted his flat last year, gave her the leftover paint.

Nature is her favourite theme and this time she went one step ahead to promote another initiative by a Chennai resident who has been encouraging people to grow

sunflowers.

"Shefali Dadabhoy has embarked on this beautiful movement of involving people to plant sunflowers since the city is a sun blessed city. With limited sun space in our building, I planted just two pots, but I wanted to spread the message. So I put this message to grow sunflowers in the two boxes that are facing the roadside," she says.

Shobha hopes to inspire others to be more mindful about how they deal with garbage and discarded items. In fact Shobha does not want her picture to go with this initiative; she would rather be known by her art and the message she is trying to put across.

"Garbage, waste articles dumped on roadsides reflect the poor civic sense of the residents. If each of us do our bit then we would be sending out a message to everyone around us," says the septuagenarian. And the results are there for all to enjoy.

## 'New traffic signal yet to be made operational'

N. CHITTI BABU

A traffic signal was installed at the junction of Sri Panchali Amman Koil Street and Poonamallee High Road in Arumbakkam during the first week of September. But it has not been set in operation to this day. The junction witnesses heavy traffic because Sri Panchali Amman Koil Street which is an interior road connects two arterial roads: Poonamallee High Road and Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road.

Being a long time resident of Arumbakkam, I notice a steady in-

crease in vehicular traffic at this junction in the last few years.

The junction has become chaotic and prone to accidents. Pedestrians are at peril here. Traffic police are deployed during peak hours on some days. If they are not around, the junction is quite unsafe. A residents association of this neighbourhood has been seeking a traffic signal at this spot for nearly six years and we are happy that it has been provided. But it should be set in operation at the earliest.

N. Chitti Babu is a resident of Arumbakkam

Sri Panchali Amman Koil Street junction on Poonamallee High Road in Arumbakkam. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B





## 'Three roads in Thiruverkadu need **urgent attention**'



**P. SENTHIL KUMAR**

**T**hiruverkadu Municipality relaid Pillayarmadathangal Road, near Noombal, with bitumen just a couple of months

ago. With the recent rains (hardly severe), it has developed a pothole. Two other roads near Noombal — Velappanchavadi Noombal Main Road and Ambedkar Road — need to be relaid. Both the roads are



Ambedkar Road, Noombal — Velappanchavadi Noombal Main Road, and (inset) Pillayarmadathangal Road. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

marked with potholes and several requests to relay them have not yielded the desired result. The condition of these roads has worsened following the recent rains.

All the three roads are important as they link Poonamallee High Road and Mount Poonamallee Road. Besides, they are wide enough for the movement of buses. If maintained well, Metropolitan Transport Corporation can operate buses by introducing new routes

connecting Iyyppanthangal and Avadi via Noombal and Paruthipattu.

These roads, which are under the purview of Thiruverkadu Municipality, should be taken over by the State Highways. Because citing fund crunch, the Municipality is not attending to these roads and it is the people who suffer on account of this neglect.

**P. Senthil Kumar,**  
Iyyappanthangal

## In support of the girl child



The Theatre Club students of Bhaktavatsalam Memorial College For Women, in association with the NCC Unit, enacted a street play at Korattur Bus Terminus on October 30 to create awareness among the public to protect the girl child against harassment in common places.

A signature campaign sought public to pledge their support. The students also asked the public to take oath to raise their voice against any discrimination.

## EMU services restored

The Chennai Division of the Southern Railway has restored six electric train services due to a change in the schedule of train number 16102 and the change in the termination of train number 16160.

The EMU train services, now restored to their original schedule, are as follows.

Train Number: 40040, Tambaram - Chennai Beach at 11 a.m., 40047,

Chennai Beach - Tambaram at 12.15 p.m., 42501, Chengalpattu - Gummidipundi at 09.50 a.m. (the train will depart from Tambaram at 10.45 a.m.), 40043, Chennai Beach - Tambaram at 11.52 a.m., 40045, Chennai Beach - Tambaram, at 12.02 p.m., and 40533, Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu, at 12.28 p.m., stated a release from the Southern Railway.

On Sundays, the passenger special service operated between Tambaram - Chennai Beach -

Tambaram stands cancelled with effect from October 26, the release added.

## Free eye camp through November

In observance of World Diabetes Day, Radhatri Nethralaya is conducting a diabetic retinopathy screening camp. According to a press release, it is a free camp that will be conducted through

out November. It will be held at Radhatri Nethralaya, 12, Hindi Prachara Sabha street, T. Nagar. Time: From 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. For details, call 9445438681. The camp was inaugurated last

week and pamphlets on diabetic retinopathy were distributed. According to a press release, the camp is held with the support of the Rotary Club of Chennai Towers.

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# The gift of a *livelihood*

Udavum Karangal gifts Y. Rajeswari a pushcart to go about doing her work with dignity

**G**ifting livelihood is the first step towards helping communities. Y. Rajeswari, a resident of a slum dwelling unit in Annai Sathya Nagar who makes her living by selling clothes on the pavement adjacent to Udavum Karangal in Anna Nagar office, recently received such a gift from the afore-mentioned NGO.

Rajeswari has been facing many hardships during rainy days and even otherwise. For some weeks, Vidyaakar, social worker and founder of Udavum Karangal has been noticing her struggle. When he enquired about her plight she divulged details about her living condition. Her husband was jobless and she is the only bread winner of the family; she sells clothes on the pavement.

Upon seeing her dedication, hard work, Vidyaakar gifted a pushcart to Rajeswari as part of the NGO's women's empowerment and community development programme, says a press release. She thanked him for giving her hope to live with dignity.

Udavum Karangal is a 42-year old non-profit organisation with its office at NSK Nagar, Arumbakkam.



## Monsoon helpline

**1913**

for any monsoon-related complaint that has to be attended by Greater Chennai Corporation

Residents can also reach out to GCC through its social media platforms such as X @chennaicorp and Instagram @chennaicorp

**1916**

/ **044-4567 4567** - Besides calling these two dedicated numbers, the public can share their grievances with CMWSSB through their WhatsApp number 8144930308

Call TNEB at **94987 94987** for power-related issues

## Day care centre for people with Parkinson's in Arumbakkam

If you have someone at home who is affected with Parkinson's and are having trouble engaging them through the day, bring them to Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation's Day Care Centre in Arumbakkam. Individuals with Parkinson's can spend a few hours engag-

ing in light activities and connecting with fellow community members. The initiative aims to support caregivers by giving them the flexibility to run errands or take a short break, knowing their loved ones are in a caring environment, says a press release.

Open five days a week (from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), the centre continues Parivarthan's mission to enhance the quality of life for people with Parkinson's through therapy, community and care. For bookings or more information, call 96000 52531.

## Special buses to Sabarimala

The State Express Transport Corporation (SETC), Government of Tamil Nadu, will ply special buses to Sabarimala in view of Mandala Pooja and Makaravilaku from November 16 to January 16, 2026.

The buses will be operated till Pambala. The SETC will operate Ultra Deluxe, air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned seating, and sleeper buses from Koyambedu and Kilambakkam bus terminuses in the city, Tiruchi, Madurai, Puducherry and Cuddalore.

The buses will not be operated from December 26 to 29. The Travancore Devaswom Board has announced that the Sabarimala Sree Ayyappan Temple will be closed from December 27 to 30 till 5 p.m.

SETC has made arrangements for people to book tickets 60 days before the journey date through www.tnsetc.in and the TNSTC official app.

For details, call 9445014452, 9445014424, 9445014463.

## Madras Veterinary College alumni to meet on November 8

Hurricane Vets Charitable Trust, established by the 1988-94 batch alumni of Madras Veterinary College, is organising its 10th anniversary fete on November 8, 2025 (from 5 p.m. onwards) at the Tamil Virtual Academy Auditorium on Gandhi Mandapam Road in Kottur.

According to a press release, the trust has completed 144 projects in the areas of educational assistance, students empowerment, training

and awareness programme, livelihood empowerment, disaster mitigation, hunger reduction, professional development, Covid-19 response, veterinary, medical camps and tribal welfare.

The press release notes that the Trust welcomes philanthropists, educationalists, voluntary workers and students to the celebrations.

For details, call 9445696605/ 9488258662

## Club distributes food at Egmore hospital

Lions Clubs International District 3241M is providing food for the poor and needy patients at the Institute Of Child Health & Hospital for Children, Egmore. According to a press release, it is 365-day programme. Food will be distributed every day from noon to 1.30 p.m.

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\*Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme related documents carefully.