

T. NAGAR

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Work under Karambakkam Underground Sewerage Scheme nearing completion

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board is carrying out an underground sewage drain work at the entrance of Chettiar Agaram Road, near the Vangaram section of Perungalathur - Puzhal Chennai Bypass. Hence, motorists using Chettiar Agaram Road to access Iyyapanthangal have been diverted through Indira Nagar. According to a CMWSSB official, the work is being carried out under Karambakkam Underground Sewerage Scheme at an estimated cost of ₹101.9 crore which is loaned from Asian Development Bank.

This scheme is part of the Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Programme. CMWSSB officials say, the project aims to provide underground sewage drainage facility for



areas in Karambakkam which includes Eri Karai, Ponni Amman Kovil Street, Thandalam, and Mettukuppam. "The work should be ready by this April. This project will benefit a population of 38,500 and it also takes into account the population expected by 2050, that is around 95,700. The sewage station at Ganga Nagar is being upgraded from a capacity of 4.62 MLD to 11.48 MLD," says the official.

Text by L. Kanthimathi



CMWSSB's underground sewerage drain work being carried out at Chettiar Agaram Road. PHOTOS: VEDHAN M

READERS WRITE

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 postal address and contact number

'Police patrolling is needed at Iyyapanthangal'

Two cases of theft occurred at Fourth Main Road at VGN Nagar in Iyyapanthangal recently. In one incident, a car was stolen a fortnight ago and in the other that occurred last week, devices from a mobile shop were stolen. In the case of second incident, CCTV footage shows the criminal was driving a motorcycle without a number plate so that tracking him down is made difficult. At this juncture, we request the police to the patrol the neighbourhood. Police patrolling has reduced considerably in the neighbourhoods in the last five years. This area comes under the T15 SRMC Police Station.



PHOTO USED FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

*P Senthil Kumar,
Iyyapanthangal*

Pedestrians out on a limb



Pedestrians find it difficult to cross the Mugaliwakkam stretch of Mount Poonamallee High Road; to be specific, the section between the Metro rail pillars 212 and 213. IT parks and commercial establishments of renowned brands are in the vicinity. Hence, it is a busy spot which witnesses continuous flow of vehicles. Therefore, regular users see the need for a pedestrian signal with a zebra-crossing. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B



Garbage woes

Greater Chennai Corporation is using the area near the intersection of Sri Devi Kuppam Main Road and Arcot Road in Valasarawakkam to segregate garbage. The public find it quite unpleasant due to the foul smell and unsanitary condition.

GCC is requested to shift this spot considering the good number of residential neighbourhoods in the vicinity which includes Thirupathy Nagar, New Colony, and Majestic Colony.

*Anitha Lesley
Valasarawakkam*



'Too many speed breakers for a short distance'

There are 10 speed breakers within a stretch of 500 feet at Sri Karumariamman Road at Padmavathy Nagar in Iyappanthangal. Further, they are not clearly visible and hence raises the risk of accidents.

*Premkumar
Iyappanthangal*

Sri Karumariamman Road at Padmavathy Nagar in Iyappanthangal.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



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THE READING ROOM

The IT Corridor in Chennai has its own annual literary festival, a thriving book reading club and regular book swap events. In addition, its gated communities are warming up to the idea of establishing reading nooks. Based on their experiences, a primer on how to start and sustain a community library **P2&3**



A VISION FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Meet Miranda Tomkinson, a deafblind lecturer with multiple postgraduate degrees, who recently received the CavinKare Ability Award **P4**

'Commuters miss these two bus services immensely'



Where deluxe services of 47 and 47A are concerned, commuters have to disembark at Valluvar Kottam and Sterling Road halts and depend on share autos headed towards Mogappair and Anna Nagar West.

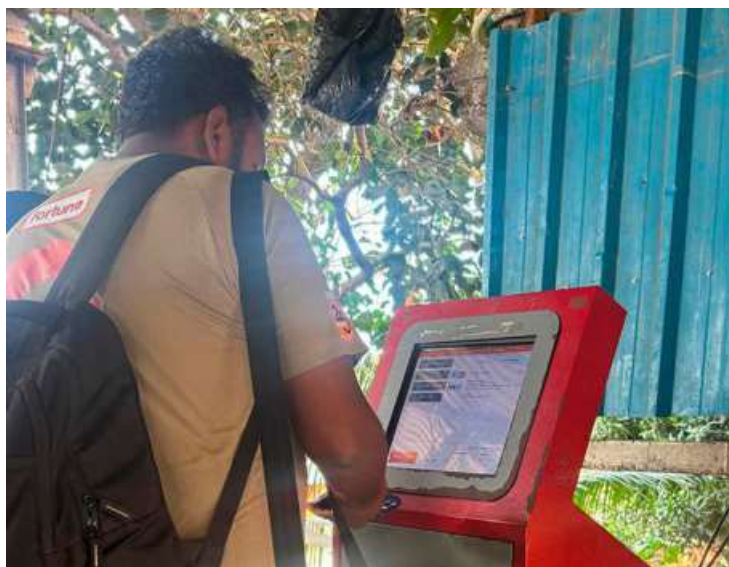
These commuters miss two bus services – as do many commuters from other parts of the city. These services are 47D and A47. Years ago, 47D, connecting Thiruvanniyur and Avadi; and later A47, covering much ground including Ambattur and Padi, and Anna Nagar and Thirumullai-

voyal, were inescapable. 47D and A47 were part of the landscape. Commuters from Adyar, Besant Nagar, and Thiruvanniyur regions were glad they could travel directly towards Anna Nagar, Ambattur and Avadi.

Gradually, both route numbers became thin on the ground, showing up on the roads infrequently. There is no sign of either now. 47D plies once in a blue moon and as a cut service (47C from T. Nagar to Ambattur Old Terminus). Now, in these regions, 47 (Besant Nagar and Thiruvanniyur – Villivakkam) or 47A (Thiruvanniyur – ICF) are a more noticeable presence. And these two are no substitutes for the other two. Apart from reintroducing services of 47D and A47, MTC should also improve the services of 147A, B, and C towards J. J. Nagar (East and West), and Ambattur Old Terminus.

S. Lakshmi Surendran,
Nungambakkam.

A welcome measure at Egmore railway station



Egmore railway station along Gandhi Irwin Road has got a new Automatic Ticket Vending Machine (ATVM). On Fe-

bruary 25, the machine was set up, providing much relief to passengers.

Following the shifting of the tick-

et counter from the railway station building on the station premises along Poonamallee High Road, near Railway Protection Force Station, commuters had to walk a good distance from Gandhi Irwin Road to the counter and the suburban platforms.

Now, commuters can renew their seasonal passes, recharge their smart card, print mobile tickets and obtain platform tickets without that unnecessary trudge.

Passengers can book tickets for other stations and check the train availability from Egmore railway station. The machine can be operated in Tamil, Hindi and English.

S. Sathish, a commuter, says, "This has come as a huge relief, but commuters need to be educated on how to use the machine. Southern Railway should create awareness in this regard."

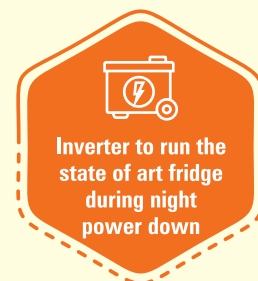
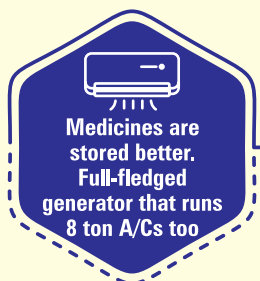
To renew the season ticket, the commuters must submit their UTS Number, print their mobile ticket, give their mobile number and booking ID. Platform tickets can also be obtained through the machine.

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The reading room



MASOWN Library (2012) @ Mantri Synergy

In 2012, when the first residents piled into Mantri Synergy in Padur, the library also moved in. Deeming a library an essential feature of community living, not an add-on, a group of women put together efforts to create one. This library – the shelves sparse, but the intent rich – was the first brushstroke on the blank canvas of community engagement. While the shelves got busier with generous donations of books from residents, the library began to go beyond the hushed quiet of a reading space. The hours were now punctuated with practised pauses of storytelling sessions, and the deafening roar of victories being celebrated over board games.

Lalitha Sundaram, who moved into the community in 2017, and is hugely engaged with the functioning of the

library, sees the small table with a spread of puzzles and board games, as a tool aiding child development. “It is heartening to see children play in groups, learning to take turns and follow rules,” remarks Lalitha.

Giving a near-accurate figure, this library would have around 1500 books. Though the library thrives on book donations, the occasional purchase helps fill the gaps. Magazines in Malayalam and Telugu find their place alongside English novels. With the library expanding, the lack of a trained librarian was proving a thorn

in its side. The reliance on voluntary effort was skewed glaringly out of proportion. A newly appointed librarian, Ramya Johnson, now in the saddle, this problem has been addressed. It has eased the burden

on those like Purnima Shankar who is known for meticulously arranging books according to their genres.

MASOWN Library can be singled out for special mention just for its ambience. But that does not seem to be sufficient for the library to experience a steady patter of young feet. It is not as patronised by children and young adults as Lalitha would like it to be.

“Unfortunately, I have not noticed much change in reading habits among adolescents,” Lalitha admits in an almost defeated tone. But in a trice, she goes back to striking a positive note. Plans are under way to make the library more inviting, providing it with better lighting, more seating, and perhaps even adding an e-library component to it. Book talks, author interactions and storytelling sessions are on the horizon, with the hope of drawing more people in.



Lessons Learnt

1. Break the silence, make it lively
2. Do not delay hiring an expert
3. Find new ways to increase patronage

The IT Corridor in Chennai has its own annual literary festival, a thriving book reading club and regular book swap events. In addition, its gated communities are warming up to the idea of establishing reading nooks. Based on their experiences, a primer on how to start and sustain a community library

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Old Mahabalipuram Road has a close kinship with technology, as its monicker “IT Corridor” implies. Given the belief that physical books are losing out to technology, essentially screens, efforts in the OMR region to promote the former are bound to pique curiosity. Past the first look, that curiosity survives, in fact deepens. These efforts are not fitful; underneath them runs a leavening of deep intent. Here is compelling data. In 2024, the Federation of OMR Resident Associations (FOMRRA), which can speak for around 200 gated communities across OMR, launched OMR Litfest, essentially celebrating physical books. FOMRRA fosters an active book club, Bookworms. From footnotes in large community gatherings, FOMRRA’s “Book Swaps” have long risen to the dignity of standalone events. Even more irresistible is the move by gated communities to raise “book houses” within their cloistered environs. Recently, FOMRRA ran an informal survey of libraries at the gated communities in OMR rustling up a questionnaire in its WhatsApp group. It shared its findings with *The Hindu Downtown*: model community libraries exist on the IT Corridor. A good number of gated communities yet to invest in a full-fledged, modern community library are keen on doing so, but feel hampered by the lack of knowhow. Here are lessons from three community libraries on OMR, two established and the other barely out of the blocks, for any gated community anywhere that might want to add an effectively-run and much-patronised book house to its amenities.

Books & Beyond (2025) @ Jains Pebble Brook

Books & Beyond, the library at Jains Pebble Brook in Thoraipakkam, let out its first shrill cry as recently as January 2025. The baby might be a bit wobbly on its feet, but its eyes are fixed firm on the goals, its vision precociously sharpened by “early training”. It is not only up and running, but running in the right direction, taking a digital route straightaway. As Praveen Kumar P.S., among the avid book lovers at Jains Pebble Brook who are steering the initiative powered by its Association’s managing committee, explains: “With the Librarika app in place, members can browse the catalogue online, note the book’s accession number, locate it on the rack, check it out, and be on their way – all within a minute.”

Hooked on Books at TCPS in Sholinganalur is a heavyweight among community libraries and tapping into their expertise was a just a request and six kilometres away. That request was made and that distance covered. Praveen notes the library building team at Jains Pebble Brook found support in the wisdom shared by their counterparts in TPCS, and slowly pieced together the blueprint for their

own version of a reading haven. He adds they took a leaf or two out of Murgan Learning Library (a commercial entity) as well.

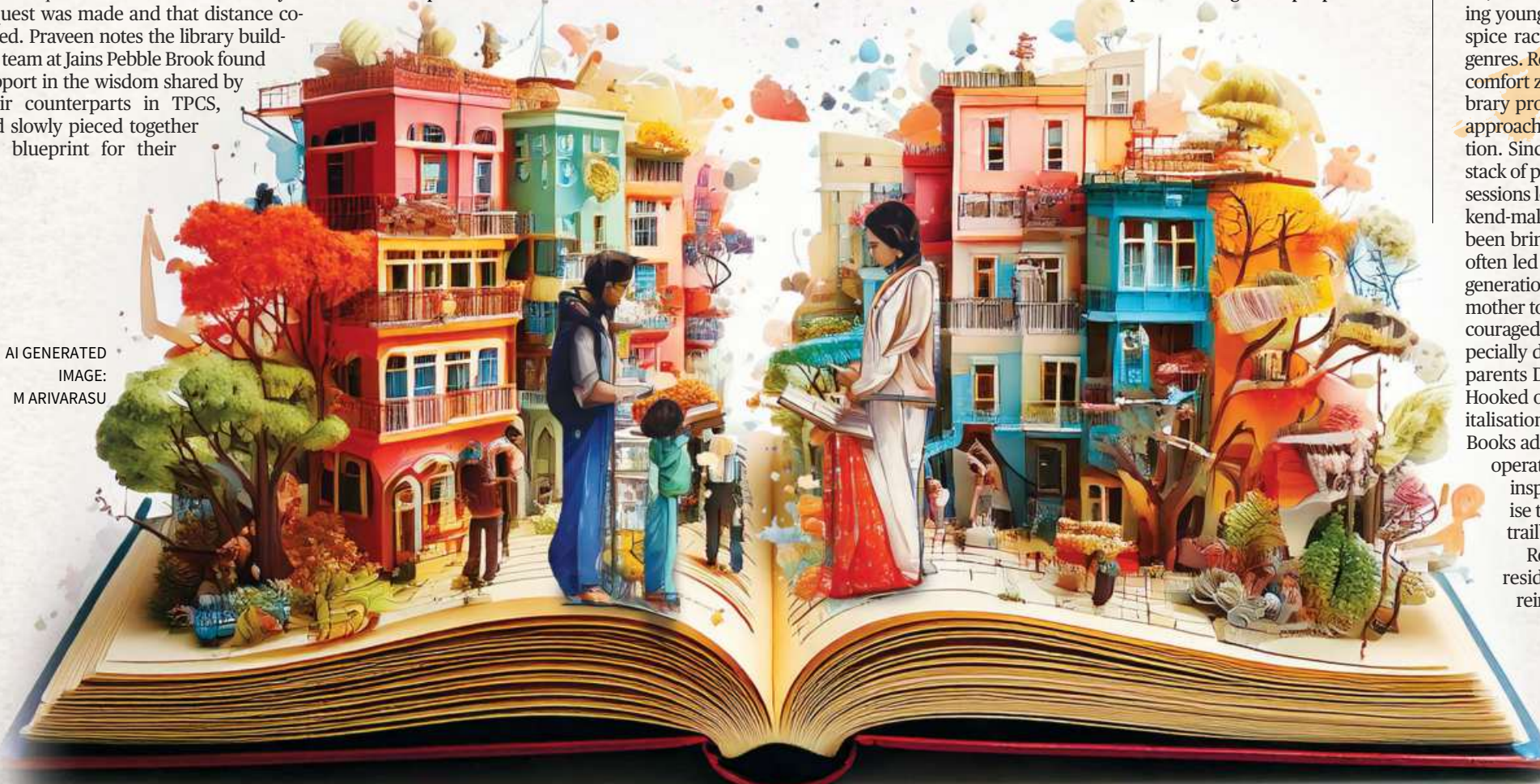
The room allotted for the library was of restricted dimensions, nor did it boast any remarkable interiors. On hindsight, these were needless concerns. The shelves are populated by 347 titles with something on tap for every age group; there is room for hundreds of titles to join in. With proper planning of space, any room is always more expansive than it seems at first sight. Children did not notice the lacklustre interiors; they have taken to the library: small groups of children wander in, curious eyes scanning the shelves. Conversations sparked by books are

beginning to weave new threads into the community’s social fabric. Praveen recalls a couple of memorable moments – a senior resident finding a rare book he had not seen in ages and gushing over the find; and a retired headmaster volunteering to conduct storytelling sessions. Books & Beyond has storytelling sessions, book clubs and writing workshops on the horizon.

Lessons learnt

1. Digitalise the system straightaway
2. Seek out the experts
3. Space is never a constraint
4. Do not judge a book by its cover

AI GENERATED
IMAGE:
M ARIVARASU



Lessons Learnt

1. A library should not be an afterthought
2. A library belongs to every resident
3. Aim at a staggeringly diverse collection
4. Launch reading challenges; run campaigns
5. Ensure continuous process improvement
6. Create space regularly for new titles
7. Ensure knowledge transfer



Hooked on Books (2012) @ The Central Park South

The idea of establishing a library took root even before this apartment, The Central Park South (TCPS) in Sholinganalur, was fully built, with one room thoughtfully kept salted away for this purpose. The library’s founding members scoured local markets for books, cherry-picking the titles that would line the shelves. Residents pitched in with book donations, slowly transforming the space into a treasure chest of stories. Each book added was tantamount to a seed planted; and over time, the collection flourished into a garden of knowledge. Today, Hooked on Books, as the library is called, is viewed as a benchmark for community-serving reading facilities.

The library has thrived on the goodwill of its residents, winning steadfast volunteers (Aruna Venkateswaran, Poornima Surianarayanan and Supriya Santhanam, to name a few) who have made a difference. Aruna, who joined the community in 2017, says with a smile: “Anyone can volunteer to open the library. That is what makes it special – it belongs to everyone.”

Hooked on Books ticks the box for diversity many times over. The children’s section is a vibrant tapestry of imagination, holding 1,400 books across reading levels (L0 to L5), 700 young fiction titles, and 90 young adult fiction books – a total of 2,200 books fuelling young minds. The adult section resembles a carefully curated spice rack, offering 575 fiction and 800 non-fiction titles across genres. Reading challenges (not contests) nudge readers out of their comfort zones; any child who completes a challenge will find the library procuring the books in their wishlist for them to read. This approach makes the journey of reading as delightful as the destination. Since its beginning in 2012, Hooked on Books has had a full stack of programmes: reading challenges, library bingo, storytelling sessions led by different age groups, book-based treasure hunt, bookend-making sessions and themed art workshops. The library has been bringing multiple generations together. Storytelling sessions, often led by senior residents or parents, become moments where generations connect, with stories passed down in both English and mother tongues, adding layers of cultural richness. Children are encouraged to borrow books for their parents and grandparents, especially during special occasions such as Mother’s Day and Grandparents Day. Poornima Surianarayanan is credited with wheeling Hooked on Books into the digital realm, assiduously achieving digitalisation of library processes. During the pandemic, Hooked on Books adopted the Librarika app and with this digital leap, kept its operations running with state-mandated restrictions. This move inspired neighbouring communities to follow suit and digitalise their library operations, further solidifying TCPS’s role as a trailblazer in community reading initiatives.

Regular decluttering book sales by Hooked on Books allow residents to purchase books at nominal rates, with proceeds reinvested in fresh titles.

Association president Rakesh Ohri’s leadership style giving successive in-charges of the library a free run, the expertise has been consistently built, and even when someone relocates to a different address, the baton is passed effectively – as was the case when Supriya Santhanam, who had contributed immensely to the library’s development, left for Bengaluru.

Driven by a purpose

Bookspace at CEEBROS Boulevard is for all age groups. But it is particularly alive to the need to reduce children’s screen time. A close look at the community library as it is parked in its milestone tenth year

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

The library at CEEBROS Boulevard in Thoraipakkam bears a name that almost gives away a recondite information, an information lodged largely with those who have seen the facility assume the character it now flaunts. Bookspace, as the library is called, was forged in a space glaringly atypical of a reading room. It was something of a by-place, seemingly built just for the purpose of being rudely ignored. The first thing one noticed about this ill-lit, uninviting room was how it hosted drainage pipes and electrical wiring, celebrating them as one would a childhood buddy who shows up after time immemorial. Viewed in the glow of this backstory, the name Bookspace seems bent on erasing the space’s rather lacklustre past, doesn’t it? It actually need not try that hard: since its birth in 2015 (with the space smartened up beyond belief), its processes have left nobody in any doubt about what it is – a delectable space for books and even community, particularly for its young residents.

Not too far from its milestone 10th year celebration, Bookspace is grappling with the questions that interest and plague every other community library – how to ensure it stays relevant to the younger generations in the community?

The library’s design makes one objective stand out like an obese tome among thin-as-air booklets: getting children to reduce screen time. The library sports a dedicated children’s section with tables and chairs encouraging young readers to not scoot after borrowing a book, but stay put and read it on-site.

“Books can shape young minds, but it is the space and conversations around them that create lasting memories,” says Shyamala.

Shyamala observes that while children aged up to 13 are a regular presence at Bookspace, older children are a rarity. The latter drift away due to increasing screen time.

There has been an episode in Bookspace’s history when children and young adults stepped up to keep its operations running – yes, you have read that right. It happened when the community faced difficulties in appointing a permanent librarian. In response, residents – including children aged 12 and above and young adults – volunteered to take on librarian du-



At Bookspace

ties. Initially, adults intended to manage the library themselves. However, the unexpected enthusiasm from children, teenagers and young adults prompted a more inclusive approach. A message seeking volunteers was posted on the community forum, resulting in six to seven teenagers and four to five young adults stepping forward. The system remains in place, with young volunteers filling in whenever the current librarian, a college student, is unavailable due to academic commitments, Shyamala points out. Volunteers such as Dhana Raghavan, Ragini Raj and Shyamala have made sure the library is promoted as a creative hub, particularly for children and young adults. A Book Club that meets every Friday has on its bill of fare, storytelling sessions, book narrations and even games structured around the printed word. Even more for the benefit of young readers, every four to five months, the library organises quiz, drawing, painting and essay writing contests.

In addition to having a library that is alive to the aspirations of the young, the community previously published a monthly newsletter titled *Boulevard Buzz*. Curated by young residents under the editorial guidance of Ragini Raj, the newsletter featured poems, short stories, narratives and profiles of residents who have managed notable achievements. Contributions flew in from children aged six to 18, with one teenage girl serving as the acting editor. The initiative ceased on account of the pandemic due to a lack of volunteers, though there are plans to revive it.

Looking ahead, Bookspace aims to introduce audiobook sessions but remains committed to encouraging interactions with physical books. They plan to host projector-based storytelling sessions where volunteers read and explain stories to children, fostering a sense of community and learning.



Meet Miranda Tomkinson, a deafblind lecturer with multiple postgraduate degrees, who recently received the Cavinkare Ability Award

A vision for a better future

LIFFY THOMAS

What does it mean to be a lecturer without vision and hearing? Interviewing 45-five-year-old Miranda Tomkinson, who recently was among the awardees at the 23rd edition of the Cavinkare Ability Awards, was a humbling experience for this journalist.

Miranda Tomkinson is a lecturer (on contract) in the Department of Special Education at National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), taking classes for diploma, B.Ed and M.Ed courses with a majority of the class being populated by able-bodied students.

Miranda speaks fluent English but cannot hear. He is independent and uses public transport for the commute to his workspace in Mutukadu on East Coast Road from his home in Kottivakkam.

Miranda navigates the world of communication with special tools, which include a “refreshable braille” that helps him with text messages, and quick application of mind in sticky situations. While on the telephone with him, he would not want the one on the other side of the line to speak as he can only hear vibrations when someone is talking. If the person wanted to say something, he would want them to type in the message. He could however respond to the message by speaking over a voice call.

Miranda’s story is one of sheer

grit. He was born blind and found difficulty in hearing during his middle-school days.

“Teachers those days were not trained to handle students like me but I was good at studies,” says Miranda, adding that his father was deafblind like him.

A happy-go-lucky youth who loved adventures, Miranda studied sociology at Loyola College following which he went on to pursue a B.Ed programme.

“That is when I realised that my hearing loss had gone from bad to worse and I could not listen to lecturers in class,” he recalls.

Miranda switched to distance learning but that also was not easy. “I studied public administration but took five years to complete it as I used human readers to help me with subjects. It was a struggle with technology use not being so prevalent back then,” he says.

Search for a job

Then came the challenge in finding jobs. NIEPMD faculty members helped by connecting him to factories but when that was not successful they encouraged him to pursue a masters programme in education (M.Ed) in special education in multiple disabilities. They would help him by getting copies of the notes and converting it into Braille.

Miranda holds three postgrad-

uate degrees and has cleared the UGC NET exams in Sociology and Education.

In 2013, *The Hindu* wrote about the protracted battle Miranda fought to get a question paper in Braille for an examination conducted by University Grants Commission.

A host of representations to the UGC, an RTI and a case in the Madras High Court paved way for this victory.

However, because of the delay in this case, he lost a fellowship.

“I was also selected for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) but it turned out to be of little use as I had reached the upper limit,” he says.

The pandemic years were a real struggle for Miranda as he was without work and faced isolation

and social distancing.

“I developed a lot of skills because of the challenges I faced, each giving me an opportunity to learn,” says Miranda who dabbles in poetry during his free time.

“In 2022, NIEPMD took me back as a lecturer on a contract basis,” he says.

New teaching methods

With the support of his wife, Miranda has been adopting new teaching



I developed a lot of skills because of the challenges I faced, each giving me an opportunity to learn

methods. Through his blog, YouTube channel, and upcoming book, Miranda advocates for greater inclusion and awareness for individuals with deafblindness and multiple disabilities.

Miranda’s wife Remy Vinutha, who works in the field of rehabilitation, is overjoyed with this award by Ability Foundation. “Many people questioned my choice when I married Miranda, who was diagnosed with Usher Syndrome, so a honour for him is a recognition to me as well,” Remy says, adding how she has been helping him reach a larger audience through his YouTube channel.

Miranda has been advocating for greater inclusion and awareness for individuals with deafblindness and multiple disabilities through different mediums including books, one on inclusion of deafblind in higher education. “I am working on a book that will feature extraordinary persons with disabilities in India, so I want to collect such success stories,” he says.

The lecturer wants to become an author like Helen Keller. “The United States supported Helen Keller. Who will support me?” he asks.

As of now the director and faculty at NIEPMD have been supporting Miranda in many ways including pushing for the four percentage reservation in government jobs for persons with disability to be implemented so that Miranda would at some point get a permanent job.

K. Balabaskar, a lecturer in Adult Independent Living at NIEPMD, says Miranda has come a long way by virtue of his perseverance and resilience. “For persons with multiple disabilities to grow it is equally important that society extends them compassion,” says Balabaskar.



(Clockwise from top left) Miranda Tomkinson receives the Cavinkare Ability Mastery Award; in the classroom; and with wife Remy Vinutha. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Forty entrepreneurs at Women's Bazaar

An annual initiative by C.P. Art Centre, the five-day exhibition opens on March 4

C.P. Art Centre is gearing up for its annual festival - an exhibition of arts, crafts, textiles and food items made and marketed by women entrepreneurs. This is the 32nd year of the Women's Bazaar organised by C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation to provide a platform for women to sell their products. Since 1994, to celebrate International Women's Day, C.P. Art Centre has been organising this annual exhibition, said a release.

It started with half-a-dozen women entrepreneurs that later multiplied over the years.



Items displayed include jewelries; craft items such as jute, Chettinad, kurumba, glass paintings, hand bags and purses; textiles

such as saris, salwar kameez, chanderi, Bengal cotton, khadi and many more. The women belong to a variety of backgrounds: from rural

areas, from Chennai's hutments and middle class women. They are self-employed, employ other women and market goods made by

women. The potential of the entrepreneurs varies from pottery to pickle making to weaving and garment manufacturing.

More than 40 women's groups are participating this year. All proceeds from the sales go to the women or the women's organisations, which include Women's India Association (WIA), NAAM Foundation, Porgai Artisans Association - Lambadi community from Tamilnadu, Thoorigai Grama Pengal Kootamaippu, Trichy and those supported by the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, added the release. All expenses are covered by C.P. Art Centre.

Justice Prabha Sridevan (retired), former judge of the Madras High Court, will inaugurate the exhibition on March 4, 2025, at 11 a.m.

The exhibition and sale will take place in the Main, Mini I and Mini II galleries of C.P. Art Centre, 1, Eldams Road, Alwarpet from March 4 to 9, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Lingua Safari: a treat for language buffs



BY A STAFF REPORTER

Classrooms turned into mini literary treats where students recited their poems, tuned in with headphones, spell bees and word battles unfolding in vocab games. It was a literary treat for language buffs as students from grades 6 to 8 participated in the inter-school literary festival "Lingua Safari" hosted by Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Group of Schools at their T Nagar branch on February 22. More than 300 students from schools across Chennai participated in events held in English, Tamil, Hindi and Sanskrit. The lit fest was inaugurated by dean and director of PSBB Group of Schools Sheela Rajendra, who also spoke about how one should be proud of their mother tongue and that proficiency in languages can give one an edge over others. "This middle-school Lit fest is not

just about knowledge, it is about sharpening the four essential language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing," said Durga Chandrasekar, Senior Vice Principal of PSBB.

Students were immersed in poetry analysis, decoding metaphors and imagery, and painting them onto canvases in blues and tangerines. Meanwhile, another classroom had Tamil theatre on environmental issues. Sanskrit verses were recited, and in the Hindi corner, students cracked popular idioms. Journalist and educator Malathy Rangarajan, the chief guest, shared that language skills are important for job opportunities, interviews, and effective communication and mastery of a language can lead to a fulfilling career. The coveted overall trophy went to the PSBB Learning Leadership Academy Bengaluru.

Graduation day held at S.A. Engineering College

More than 1,000 graduates and 50 rank holders received their graduate certificates from E. Balagurusamy, an academic advisor to the Governor of Jharkhand, at the 23rd graduation day of S. A. Engineering College in Thiruverkadu recently.

The academican emphasised that to achieve one's goals it is essential to follow

the six key elements of success: people, passion, purpose, planning, perseverance and performance. He urged the students to dedicate their hard work to the growth of society and the nation. S. Ramachandran, principal, and D. Duraiswamy, chairman of the college, took part.

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On the Vanagaram section of Perungalathur-Puzhal Chennai Bypass, in the carriageway meant for vehicular traffic towards Maduravoyal, wrong-way driving is rampant. The images were taken on February 27. PHOTOS: VEDHAN M

Session on cervical cancer

In commemoration of International Women's Day, Women Entrepreneurs India is organising an awareness programme on cervical cancer on March 9 at New No: 3/148, Old No. 46/3A, Solai Apartment, Mount Poonthamalle Road, Manapakkam, Porur. Time: From 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. According to a press release, team from Ananta Fertility & Women Wellness will be handling the session. The programme will also focus on gynaecological issues. For details, call 044 - 42031721 / 9952013800

Culinary workshop

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a culinary workshop on March 6. According to a press release, the session focuses on preparation of flavour powders using spices which includes: sambar powder, rasam powder, idli podi, and those meant for non-vegetarian cuisines. Another workshop on mushroom cultivation will be held on March 7. Both the sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, Guindy. PH: 044 - 29530048

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