

## ANNA NAGAR

Purasawalkam » Villivakkam » Kolathur » Nazarathpettai » Pattabiram » Maduravoyal » Koyambedu » Tiruverkadu » Puzhal » Kilpauk » Perambur » Mogappair  
Avadi » Ayyapakkam » Tiruninravur » Nerkundram » Moolakadai » Ayanavaram » Retteri » Padi » Ambattur » Tirumullaivoil » Aminjikarai » Vysarpadi » Red Hills



### 'MANUFACTURING' A CYCLING MOVEMENT IN MANALI

Kothari Petrochemicals in Manali did not just tell its employees to cycle to work; it enabled them to do so. **P4**



### AN INVITATION TO ANOTHER WAVE OF STUDENTS

As RYA Book Bank invites new students to register with it, the window of opportunity open this year till August 31, one cannot help notice what made this long-standing charity a synonym for free college textbooks. **P6**

## READERS WRITE

### LPG crematorium in Anna Nagar gets a facelift



Greater Chennai Corporation has given its LPG crematorium at Velangadu in Anna Nagar a facelift. The improvement work has gone beyond the actual LPG crematorium – constructed by Udaavum Karangal – and impacted the spaces around it as well.

The premises of the crematorium has been beautified with a new garden, a park with seating facilities and many other amenities. The works are in the finishing stage.

These features have really enhanced the look of the Velangadu LPG crematorium.

This crematorium is situated near the Joint Transport Commissioner Office Chennai North Zone.

*Anosh Nishter Sadat*



Parked vehicles block access to the ramp at Thirunindravur railway station.  
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### Thirunindravur railway station: ramp rendered unusable

**S. MURUGAIYAN**

**A**t the Thirunindravur railway station, unauthorised parking has rendered a special pathway to the ticket booking centre created for the differently-abled and senior citizens unusable.

This approach path is enhanced with a ramp keeping these users in mind. Most of the time, a row of vehicles are parked in front of the ramp. Southern Railway should look into this issue.

*S. Murugaiyan, president, Thirunandravur Rail Passengers Welfare Association*

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## MTC introduces new route: 73A

It connects Avadi and Koyambedu via Annanur, Athipet, Ayanambakkam, Keel Ayanambakkam and Maduravoyal on Poonamallee High Road



73A bus on the flyover near Annanur railway station. PHOTO: VEDHAN M

**M**etropolitan Transport Corporation has introduced a new bus route connecting Avadi and Koyambedu via Annanur. Called 73A, the service covers Valluvar Street at Devi Nagar, Shiva Shakthi Nagar, Annanur railway station, Ayapakkam (TNHB Colony Second Main Road and MGR Puram) Thirpuathi Kodai Road at Kalaivanar Nagar, Vanagaram - Ambattur Road (Athipet, Ayanambakkam and Keel Ayanambakkam) and Maduravoyal on Poonamallee High Road.

According to MTC sources, it is three weeks since the new route

was introduced and a single bus has been devoted for the route. From Koyambedu to Avadi and vice versa, the bus is operated six times each way every day. The first and last trip from Koyambedu is at 6.40 a.m. and 7.40 p.m. respectively and the first and last trip from Avadi is at 5 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. respectively.

The service aims to benefit Annanur region which has not been served by MTC all these years. Citing a railway level-crossing, buses were not operated. Now, a bus service has been introduced because a flyover over the track is in place now. Though residents welcome

the service, they are unhappy about the frequency as they have to wait for two hours for a bus.

"This is the first bus service for Annanur. Services could have been introduced decades ago by designing routes that avoid track crossings. Now, although a service has finally been introduced, it is of little use if commuters have to wait for two hours," says N. Ramesan, a long-time resident. There are several buses connecting Avadi and Koyambedu via CTH Road. Commuters suggest that the MTC consider diverting some of these buses through Annanur.

Text by L. Kanthinmathi

## READERS WRITE

### 'Park at Paruthipattu poorly maintained'

The Avadi Corporation park at Paruthipattu on Avadi-Poonamalle High Road sports unruly, unmated vegetation inviting snakes and other reptiles. Snake-spotting happens regularly on the walkway.

Parts of the walkway are broken; the electrical fittings are dangerously exposed. The fountain is out of order for the past couple of years and the water stagnant in it is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The toilets are unhygienic and they are locked most of the time.

There are no CCTV cameras, a necessity as anti-social elements are known to linger around the park.

V. N. Sainath, Avadi



## A small but significant change

Small bus services S43 and S44 join the regular buses at the makeshift terminus near ICF on Konnur High Road

**S**mall bus services S43 (Villivakkam-Pudhur) and S44 (Villivakkam-Perambur) associated with the Villivakkam bus terminus (on Reddy Street, off MTH Road) now operate from the temporary terminus near ICF on Konnur High Road, as do a slew of other services.



Villivakkam bus terminus near ICF on Konnur High Road.

According to MTC sources, it is a fortnight since small buses are being operated from the temporary terminus, which became operational three months ago, to facilitate Metro Rail construction work at Reddy Street.

Until recently, the afore-men-

tioned small buses were being operated from the lanes near Reddy Street. This arrangement proving inconvenient to them, commuters sought that the small buses also start their runs from the temporary terminus.

Keeping the regular buses and small buses in separate locations meant that commuters would have to switch between the two or depend on autorickshaws to cover some of the distance, says a commuter, adding "Both small buses provide connectivity to the interior areas of Villivakkam and nearby areas such as Jawahar Nagar, Poompuhar Nagar, GKM Colony, Teachers Colony and Ambattur-Puzhal Road. A good number of office-goers rely on both regular and small bus services every day; given that, operating both from the same place makes more sense and is helpful."



The pond-cum-park at GKM Colony in Kolathur.

### A park around a pond at Kolathur

Greater Chennai Corporation has inaugurated a pond-cum-park at GKM Colony 24th A Street (also known as Amman Koil Street) in Ward 69 at Kolathur on May 27. Spread across 2.53 acre, General Kumaramangalam Pond-cum-Park, as it is called, was deepened and restored at a cost ₹289.40 lakh allocated under Chennai Mega City Development Mission, says a GCC official.

The park which features a badminton court, an enclosure for yoga, a selfie point and a play area for children and a waterfall (obviously artificial) was developed at a cost of ₹147 lakh allocated under the Greater Chennai Corporation's Capital Fund. Built around the waterbody, the walkway is 480 metres long, and is linked with native trees and plants.



# Recognition for two referees from North Chennai

K. KEERTHIVASAN

**F**ootball referees R. Venkatesh and P. Vairamuthu are trusted friends, having toured various parts of India for several national tournaments together.

Residents of Perambur and Puliyanthope respectively, the two friends made Chennai proud when they received the "best male referee award" from the All-India Football Federation at its awards function held in Bhubaneswar in early May. Venkatesh won the best referee award while Vairamuthu bagged the best assistant referee award.

In fact, their refereeing journey started together. Both became Tamil Nadu referees in 2009 and Na-



tional referees in 2014. In 2018, Venkatesh became an International referee and Vairamuthu achieved the distinction a year later.

"It feels great to receive the AIFF award for the second successive year. It was because of my consistency and solid decision-making abilities," says Venkatesh.

Venkatesh has this to say about Vairamuthu – "he knows when to

interfere and when not to interfere with the referee's decision. He has played a supportive role."

And Vairamuthu has this to say about Venkatesh – "he takes control of the situation on the field and is very good in his decisions."

Assistant referee Vairamuthu, who got the award in 2019, was happy to receive it again. "Of course, it feels great," he said.

The two are keen on participating in many international tournaments and are of the view that if VAR (video assistant referee) is a match official in football, who assists the referee by reviewing decisions using video footage and providing advice to the on-field referee based on those reviews) is introduced in India, referees' growth will be faster.

## Yadesh Babu to participate in World University Games

M.S. Yadesh Babu from Chennai has been selected to participate in the World University Games set to be held in Berlin, Germany, from July 14 to 24. The 21-year-old has been a trainee of the SDAT-Dolphin Swimming Academy in Mogappair since 2016. Earlier this year, Yadesh won two silver medals in the 38th National Games 2025 held in Uttarakhand in the men's 50 metre breaststroke and 4x100 freestyle relay. He also won a silver medal in the senior nationals in the 50m breaststroke and a bronze in the relay. At the All India inter-university event, he



won a gold medal (100m breaststroke) and two silvers (50m breaststroke and relay).

## Ensuring the safety of cyclists

Ahead of International Bicycle Day, an appeal by a cyclist on steps that need to be taken to keep the roads safe for their tribe

PRIYA DARSHINI TARAKKAD ARJUNAN

**A** year ago, a young life was snuffed out on GST Road due to an accident involving a car and a cycle. Hit by the car, the young cyclist was thrown off the saddle. Earlier, a couple of years ago, another cyclist was fatally knocked down by a vehicle that was proceeding on the wrong side of the road.

Early this year, a young woman was hit by a speeding car near MEPZ Oregadum. Despite being rushed to the hospital, her memory and cognitive power diminished due to the head injuries she sustained. And it has taken a full four months for her to come back to normality.

Likewise, two girls cycling to school on Theosophical Society Road in Besant Nagar met with an accident due to a pothole, and were hit by a minibus. One of the girls lost her life, and the other sustained serious injuries.

Every other day, we come across such instances of cyclists being hit by speeding cars, bikes, lorries and buses in Chennai. While some of these incidents have been recorded by the police, many go undocumented.

These incidents illustrate that despite following safety rules such as wearing safety gear, reflective clothes, having headlights and taillights and using hand signals, cyclists are vulnerable on our roads.

While International Bicycling Day (June 3) is more about advocating cycling for its positive impact, we want road safety to be the overarching message.

Many cities are making major changes to their infrastructure, urban development plans and policies to protect the interests of cyclists and other non-motorised transport users. Chennai



must also take a leaf out of their books.

Currently, many of the city's roads are in a shambles due to Chennai Metro work. Owing to this and other reasons, the number of cyclists in Chennai has also dwindled.

Even on roads such as the ECR, GST Road and OMR where some demarcation was created for cyclists, these lines have disappeared with time.

The Greater Chennai Traffic Police ran a campaign "Zero is Good" appealing to people to be safe on roads to ensure there are zero accidents. However, its life and effects were short-lived.

We need many such initiatives, particularly those promoting a culture of safe bicycling, to be run on a regular basis.

### Our demands

- Every road in the city – arterial or otherwise – must have a lane for slow-moving traffic such as bicycles and be maintained well. Other motorists encroaching upon the lane should be penalised.
- Wrong side driving violations must be handled with an iron hand as these are big threats to cyclists.
- Safe parking spots must be made

available for cyclists as most people avoid taking the cycle for short distance commutes for fear of losing their bicycle despite having it locked.

- A stronger enforcement of road rules and speed limits is needed, especially during the hours when school and college students need to use the road, so that children can take to the saddle safely.

- All roads that are not children-friendly must be explicitly marked.

- Provide better lighting.
- Stricter laws that treat the cyclist and pedestrian on par with other road users must be proposed to safeguard the interests of cyclists.

- Schools should inculcate a sense of vehicular equity in the minds of children so they learn and practise on-road etiquette early on.

- The Government must come forward for collaborative efforts with passionate organisations that are making concerted efforts to make people take up cycling and other non-motorised transportation forms.

- Bicycle tourism in the city could be promoted.

(Priya Darshini Tarakkad Arjunan is a member of Chennai Cyclists)

## New academy for Heyball

Former international cue sports player Neena Praveen has always dreamt of producing many world class players from her state of Tamil Nadu.

The 42-year-old made the first step recently by starting an academy called 'Chennai 147 Sports Academy' in Velachery.

A total of seven tables have been constructed in 3,000 square feet, including three standard tables, two Heyball (a hybrid of snooker & pool) tables and two American pool tables.

In a press release, Neena said that this is the first place in Tamil Nadu where a table is being set up and training given for the game of Heyball, which is rapidly becoming popular all

over the world, attracting many players and offering a lot of prize money.

Neena further said that her goal is to have someone from Tamil Nadu win a medal in the Heyball game, which is expected to be included in the Olympics.

J. Meghanatha Reddy, Member Secretary of Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, said: "It is very rare that sportspersons who excel in sports and achieve achievements work in a way that helps the sports sector again. In that regard, it is commendable that Neena Praveen, who excels in the game of snooker, has started this academy to train this sport and produce excellent players."

Revisiting two initiatives that are aimed at encouraging people to cycle to work

LIFFY THOMAS

**K**othari Petrochemicals in Manali did not just tell its employees to cycle to work; it enabled them to do so.

It gifted Hercules cycles to over 140 employees on its rolls on National Safety Day in March 2022. The management's request to its staff: pedal to work at least once a week. Incentives nudging employees to take the eco-friendly route followed.

And that "route" is well-travelled. In addition, the company has been taking other routes to energy conservation and pollution control. All these efforts have resulted in a plethora of recognitions for Kothari Petrochemicals including the National Award for Excellence in Energy Management 2024 by the Confederation of Indian Industries. The biggest encouragement however comes from the fact that neighbouring companies in Manali emulate its example by gifting bicycles to their employees.

"Once a month, usually on the fourth Saturday, we observe "No Bike Day" encouraging employees

# 'Manufacturing' a cycling movement in Manali



Employees of Kothari Petrochemicals take part in an awareness rally.

to pedal to work or use public transport," says Premapiriyam P., vice-president, Kothari Petrochemicals.

Next, the company switched to vehicles running on liquefied natural gas (LNG) for employee transportation. Two electrical cars were added to the fleet, and a fork lift was converted from diesel to electrical.

Employees who bicycle to work the maximum number of days in a month are incentivised with cash awards and carbon offset certificates.

DOWNTOWN  
SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

## Company encourages employees to cycle to work

The Manali plant of Kothari Petrochemicals gifts its workforce a bicycle and wants them to pedal to work once a week.

LIFFY THOMAS

**W**hen fuel prices are on the rise, employees of the Manali plant of Kothari Petrochemicals could not have asked for a better gift than their employer. The company recently rewarded its workers by gifting them a bicycle each.

The message was loud and clear: stay fit and do your bit for the environment.

The plant has 142

employees on its rolls, and right from then at the beginning level to the highest level of the same: a bicycle.

"We have already distributed 80 bicycles and the remaining 60 will arrive in the next 15 to 20 days," says V. Mangayarkarai, senior manager (Human Resources) and HRBP, Kothari Petrochemicals, adding that the cycles were distributed at an event held to observe National Safety Day.

The company has been



promoting green modes of transport among its workforce for a few years now. Last year, in pursuit of the same, the company organised a cycle rally to encourage employees to pedal to work.

"We only had a few employees coming by bicycle, and thus is where we decided to gift all of them a bicycle," says Mangayarkarai.

**S**udgets," says Srinivasan. The team believes keeping that employee inspire each other work. "We slowly start asking employees to switch to bicycles. Once they get on a road to then enter it in to the days," says Mangayarkarai. "Our main aim is to force the switch to bicycles, evaluation should be available."

How good is the infrastructure in the neighbourhood for our cycle to work? says Mangayarkarai. "If people cycle to work, the authority can make the infrastructure and even ask for a sega-

Carbon dioxide emission has been reduced by 650 kilos on account of employees commuting by

bicycle, says data shared by the company.

With a good number of em-



ployees living within a five to seven km radius of the plant, the management had a solid reason to push for a bicycle commute.

Once an employee pedals to work for a minimum of 10 days, a carbon dioxide math is done and certificates and gifts are given accordingly.

M. Rajavel, whole time director, Kothari Petrochemicals, says currently 20-25% of employees bicycle to work on a regular basis and they want to raise this percentage by another 50% this year.

"It is also important to understand the bottlenecks that employees face while cycling, which could be due to bad roads or chaotic traffic in the city, so I have asked the team to study the reasons. If their concerns can be addressed by the company then we will take it up or we can represent it to the Corporation," says Rajavel.

The management will be purchasing another round of bicycles to be given to employees who have joined the organisation in the recent years.

## A feeder service between a Metro station and a college

**W**hen the new academic year kicks off at M.O.P. Vaishnav College in June, the students and staff will have the advantage of taking a feeder service from the closest Metro Rail station to the college campus on Nungambakkam.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited is offering this service to support the college's "No Vehicle Day" launched in August 2024.

"CMRL authorities got in touch with us and wanted a schedule in advance for them to arrange a service for the benefit of students, which we plan to take up from June," says Archana Prasad, principal, M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women.

Currently, DMS or Thousand Lights are the closest metro stations accessed by a majority of the students. The shuttle

service, if implemented well, would encourage more students to ditch their vehicles on other days of the week as well to rely on public transport - which was also the larger goal of keeping vehicles off the campus every last Thursday of the month, later changed to any one day in the month, based on students' feedback.

The principal notes that students' comfort level had to take precedence: if No Vehicle Day fell on an exam day, students

would be handicapped by not using their own vehicle. There could be delay in reaching the college. So, the date and day of No Vehicle Day have been kept flexible.

The initiative runs on the steam of flash mobs and messages on social media earlier on. No campaigns are needed today: just an announcement a day before No Vehicle Day.

Archna says the initial two months the departments tried not to schedule visitors on the campus on the D-Day but now guests are also asked to switch to public transport.

The agenda for the coming academic year is to encourage students to pedal to college and also to get students and staff to switch to e-vehicles, says the principal, adding "on No Vehicle day, e-vehicles are allowed."



# SUSTAINABILITY



## Connecting the dots

Ahead of World Environment Day, here are two stories from Chennai that serve as a reminder that the circular economy thrives when organic linkages between stakeholders are noticed and then strengthened

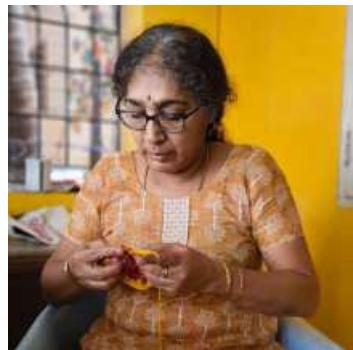
SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Sometimes, one discovers with amused wonder that someone integral to one's landscape and therefore inconspicuous, is pitted in the same battlefield as an ally by default. And the discovery extends to the fact that what they do can be a helpful tie-in to one's own work.

Kavitha Sivakumar, a resident of a gated community in Medavakkam, recently added this truth to her worldview, thanks to a casual conversation with a neighbourhood kabadiwallah, Suryagandhi Kumar. She found out he welcomes sirattai – coconut shell – into his storing house in Pallikaranai, and when a substantial amount of it is aggregated, sells the pile.

Kavitha works with Namma Ooru Foundation (NOF), and she realised straightaway that Suryagandhi and his ilk could further a NOF initiative.

Ever since the team at NOF realised coconut shells go into the making of activated charcoal, useful in water purification, and that there are entities looking for sirattai for the same purpose, Sustainable Sirattai Campaign was born, its details spelt out by NOF founder Nat-arajan.



Recently, NOF notched up 150 kg of coconut shells, having aggregated it for a while, notes Kavitha. The source of coconut shells is currently "responsible citizens and green events". Kavitha now advocates empowering local scrap dealers as aggregators of coconut shells, educating residents on cleaning and storing the shells, and

tapping into apartments for them.

"The biggest hurdle is connecting the dots between households, collectors and buyers. Without proper segregation, most shells end up in dumping grounds."

Hygiene concerns such as mould and pests also deter scrap dealers from collecting shells, she adds. Collecting sirattai, Suryagandhi comes across as an outlier. He buys them at Rs 10 per kilogram and selling at a small profit. "Sirattai is used to make activated charcoal, which helps in melting gold," he explains. Though only a few households contribute regularly, the numbers are growing.

### Every piece of fabric matters

A massive part of humanity would give the thumbs up to this observation. College education of the first



Fabric jewellery created by Vijayalakshmi; Suryagandhi Kumar at his scrap collection shop; and Vijayalakshmi at work.

adept in beaded jewellery, paper quilling, crochet, and finally fabric accessories, particularly fabric jewellery.

People who know Vijayalakshmi would use an epithet to describe her – "creative".

Fabric jewellery is closer to her heart as it is the ne plus ultra of creativity. Besides, it takes care of the smallest pieces of leftover fabric.

Enter Ganga Sridhar, a resident of Mandaveli, a sustainability campaigner and a connoisseur of upcycling-based fashion. An aficionada of Vijayalakshmi's delicate fabric accessories, Ganga was impressed with Vijayalakshmi's ability to turn small-sized fabric pieces into stunning fabric jewellery. Giving her leftover fabric pieces from

cloth that went into making customised kurtis, Ganga urged her, "Can you turn these into earrings or bangles?" During COVID, matching masks became the norm, and Ganga took it a notch higher. She would keep sending fabric to Vijayalakshmi to create accessories that perfectly matched her outfits (and of course, masks too). Making fabric jewellery for the last seven years, Vijayalakshmi now has a full accessory line – earrings, necklaces and bangles – all lightweight, affordable, and eco-friendly. "It is exciting to get exactly what you want by recycling fabric instead of settling for store-bought accessories," Ganga says. "I have recommended Viji's work to many. It is a simple idea with a big impact."

After years into it, Vijayalakshmi passes her verdict on fabric jewellery: "easy to make, profitable and loved by customers."



An annual books distribution event by RYA Book Bank in the past . FILE PHOTO

As RYA Book Bank invites new students to register with it, the window of opportunity open this year till August 31, one cannot help notice what made this long-standing charity a synonym for free college textbooks in the Chennai Metropolitan Area — digitalisation of its processes

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

If you popped by ryabookbank.com now, you would notice the home-page header has relinquished its top slot, offering it magnanimously to a tangerine-coloured panel. It is the season (one returning every year) when this transfer of power happens. Ensconced at the top, the panel "hollers" at you: "RYA Book Registration Open. New Application Registration Open from 12-05-2025."

## An invitation to another wave of students

The announcement ends with a blinking imperative, one demanding a click of the mouse: the hyperlink leads you to a page where old members can check in with their credentials, and to-be members start the registration process with the Rajasthan Youth Association (RYA) Book Bank.

The student can check off the course and the year for which registrations are open. Proceeding infield, the student has to provide a wide range of details, the highlights being Aadhar card and 12th mark certificate and college details to establish the registrant is a *bona fide* college student seeking textbooks on loan. By the time they wrap up the process — either registering a new member or an old member looking for new textbooks — they have an inkling of what made RYA Book Bank a synonym for cost-free lending of college textbooks in the Chennai Metropolitan Area. Beyond the Rajasthani communi-

ty's commitment to social responsibility and the dedication of the book bank team, there is a clear and undeniable element — digitalisation of mundane processes.

Technology has reduced the workload on the team at RYA Book Bank, which largely consists of volunteers whose time is a freewill gift, and cannot be coaxed out of them, even less demanded.

Casting his mind back to the time when a truckload of processes were carried out manually, Raj Kumar Dugar, past chairman of RYA Book Bank, presents the contrast ushered in by technology: "Students' records are now better maintained, and caution deposit payments (just ₹ 500) have become more convenient. Earlier, payments were made in cash at the office, which was difficult when staff were unavailable. Now, all transactions are processed smoothly through banking channels, eliminating cash handling."

Non-profits struggle with marshalling human resources, and RYA Book bank has demonstrated how technology brings a shedload of invisible hands to the deck. Interactions between the staff and students happen more online than at Atkinson Street in Vepery, where RYA Book Bank is located.

RYA Book bank has impressive numbers to bear this out — be it the number of colleges, beneficiary-students or the textbooks distributed — and much of it was racked up in the last 10-12 years through digital processes.

On the e-registration form, the dropbox for colleges seems to list every college in the Greater Chennai, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu districts, displaying RYA Book Bank's immense reach.

The years behind RYA Book Bank, born in 1963 — do the math and know the distance of this charity run. At any given time, more than 9,000 students are in possession of books provided by the project, says Raj Kumar. He continues: more than 1.45 lakh students have benefited from the project since its

inception, and each year, over 1,500 sets of books are distributed.

Initially, the book bank built the girth of its books inventory by collecting old textbooks from outgoing students, and as this approach was riddled with "if's" (the major 'if' having to do with the willingness of the students who have bought textbooks from the market to part with them), the switch was made to purchasing new textbooks under various disciplines and loaning, collecting and reloaning them till the book displays the effects of age and sustained use and, of course, slips out of the curriculum on account of a syllabus rethink.

Donors are encouraged to support the initiative in any of two ways: Gyan Deep (a donation of ₹11,000 to cover the textbook costs for the entire course of a student in the arts, science and commerce streams) and Vidya Deep (a donation of ₹21,000 for a deserving engineering student for the entire eighth semester).

On the future trajectory of this RYA Book Bank, Raj Kumar notes the project is considering the integration of e-books into its offerings. He is quick to qualify it: "However, it presents certain challenges, especially since students still prefer reading from physical books. The effectiveness of building a robust e-book section is yet to be determined."

For this year, RYA Book Bank registrations close on August 31, 2025.



Students' records are now better maintained, and caution deposit payments have become more convenient

# STATUS REPORT



Traffic congestion at the junction of HVF Road and CTH Road in Avadi. PHOTOS: VEDHAN M

## Pedestrians in peril at HVF Road junction

The junction of HVF Road and CTH Road in Avadi is in a state of absolute chaos at any time of the day. According to regulars, the junction has become narrow on account of haphazard

parking of vehicles and encroachments resulting in traffic congestion.

"HVF Road witnesses a good number of vehicles; and CTH Road is a State Highway, bringing in its own volume of traffic. MTC buses are

operated on both the roads. Avadi railway station and MTC bus terminus are in close vicinity. Considering the safety of pedestrians, a traffic signal and pedestrian signal are required here," says a passer-by.



## IYA get its first woman secretary

Anita Suresh Kochar has been appointed as the first woman to hold the post of secretary of the Indian Youth Association (IYA). She becomes the 60th secretary of the Association founded in 1965 to foster unity, community service, and youth engagement among Rajasthani migrants living in Chennai, said a press release.

Uttam Kankaria was appointed as president of IYA.

The oath-taking ceremony was

conducted by Praveen Kumar Tatia, member of the Tamil Nadu State Minorities Commission. Other key executive members appointments include: J. Dilip Bokadia as treasurer; Rajkumar Dugar as managing trustee; and D. Lalithkumar Baghmar as trustee treasurer.

The Indian Youth Charitable Trust, affiliated with IYA, has been providing scholarships to underprivileged students

## Changes in the pattern of train services

As part of the ongoing Engineering Work, a line and signal block has been permitted in the Chennai Central - Gudur section between Kavaraipettai and Gummidi poondi yard on June 2, between 11.15 a.m. and 15.15 p.m.

Consequently, the following are the changes in the pattern of Electrical Multiple Units (EMU)

Complete cancellation of EMU services

Train Numbers: 42601, Chennai Beach - Gummidi poondi at 09.40 a.m., 42413, Moore Market Complex - Sullurpetta at 10.15 a.m., 42013, and 42015, Moore Market Complex - Gummidi poondi at 10.30 a.m. and 11.35 a.m..

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## A picture of squalor



Vendors and eateries in and around Avadi bus terminus dump all kinds of waste in the drains. The images are from HVF Road and CTH Road

PHOTOS: VEDHAN M

### 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.

### Telugu classes

World Telugu Federation is conducting Telugu classes from June 7 at its premises at Ankur Plaza, T. Nagar. For details, call 9841616465 / 7305557322

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### Sustainability fair at Ampa Mall

On June 7 and 8, Ampa Skyone Mall will host Sustainability Fair 2025, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Madras and the Institute for Climate and Environment (ICE) with focus on energy, water, waste and forests/agriculture.

The fair will be a platform to check on how citizens, entrepreneurs and children are responding to the climate crisis with creativity, care, and community, said a release.

Live art and slogan competition for children and a waste management workshop are a few activi-

ties that will be conducted. Ten changemakers will be showcasing their eco-friendly products at the event that will be held from 11 a.m. onwards.

This initiative started in January at a Pongal get-together hosted by Rotarians, where sustainability was the heart of the traditional celebration.

Later in March, ICE took the idea to SDNB Vaishnav College, where two workshops—one on sustainable practices and the other on water management—drew students from Rotaract colleges.

### Dry waste collection drive today

Athulya Senior Care dry waste collection drive is taking place on June 1, 2025 (the timings: from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Pallavaram, Neelankarai and Maduravoyal at Athulya Senior Care centres located there).

Categories include all plastics,

textiles/ fabrics and paper.

Items will be further segregated and sent for donation/ upcycling/ reselling or recycling, says a press release. For details, WhatsApp India Wasted at 97517 55522 or visit the Instagram page @indiawasted

### Pickle-making workshop

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting culinary workshops on June 4 and 5. The sessions focus on preparation of chaat-based items and pickles respectively.

According to a press release, the chat items include *pavbhaji*, *kachoris*, *panipuri*, *sevpoori*, *samosas* and *bhelpoori*.

In the other workshop, pickles will be made from tomatoes, mint,

coriander, ginger and a few more.

Also, another workshop on organic farming of vegetable crops will be held on June 6.

The session will focus on chemical-free ways of pest management and soil nourishment.

All the sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy.

For details, call 044 - 29530048



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