

T. NAGAR

Saidapet » West Mambalam » Vadapalani » Porur » Kattupakkam » Irungattukottai » Nungambakkam » Manapakkam » Ashok Nagar » Valasaravakkam
Gerugambakkam » Mangadu » Choolaimedu » Egmore » K K Nagar » Kodambakkam » Virugambakkam » Somangalam » Poonamallee » Chetpet



A 'REPAIR STATION' FOR TOILETS

From deep cleaning to timely refurbishments, this initiative ensures toilets in Triplicane remain functional and hygienic **P5**



COLOURS OF NATURE: STRAIGHT TO THE PALETTE

Royapuram resident Juwairiya H teaches children how to explore the outdoors and collect materials to create art that is natural and sustainable **P6**

'Are we waiting for a monsoon mishap?'

Residents of Sait Colony Second Street in Egmore want GCC to uproot a precariously leaning tree before a cyclone does that with devastating results

ANANTHARAM

At Sait Colony Second Street in Egmore, an Internet cable, a tree and a lamppost seem set to demonstrate the domino effect. The Internet cable is holding up a dangerously leaning tree. If the cable gives way, the tree would likely slump to the ground bringing the lamppost (marked "no. 312") along with it, the leaning tree already having disturbed the lamppost slightly off its footings.

When we asked the local Greater Chennai Corporation workers to remove the tree, they lopped off a few branches, noting they would not be able to uproot the tree.

Interestingly, the head of the lamppost, one bearing the panels to fit in the lamp, is missing. When we sought that this be remedied and a lamp be installed, our request was rejected by the field staff, who noted that the lamppost would fall anytime.

Shouldn't that realisation cause them to either remove the lamppost or take necessary steps to strengthen it and make it functional?

The most worrisome part of it is that right where the lamppost stands, a van or two is stationed every day to pick up students of Don Bosco School on Casa Major Road. It is a designated spot for students to board a van. Sait Colony Second Street branches off Tamizh Salai (also known as Halls Road), which is perpendicular to Casa Major Road.

With the NE Monsoon at the door, laxity in addressing this issue can prove costly.

(Ananthram is a resident of Sait Colony Second Street, Egmore)



THE WOBBLY THINGS

Junction boxes at Greams Road on verge of a collapse



Before collapsing, a person involuntarily displays signs indicating an imminent fall. A glassy look. Clammy skin. Slurring speech. Staggering. A majority of signs can be lost on those in the vicinity. Before one knows it, thud! Those around can usually be excused for not putting out a restraining and cushioning arm. On Greams Road (landmark: on the pavement right outside the premises where Anderson Diagnostics & Labs is located), two inanimate entities seem set for a collapse. And there would be no excuse for letting them slump to the ground, as they have been silently telegraphing their precarious situation to everyone crossing their path. The junction boxes are not adequately supported and they are leaning forward like someone seeking to catch a whispered gossip. The brackets meant to secure them to the concrete base are themselves not entirely secured. The junction boxes' tilting posture cannot be missed as that is the equivalent of someone staggering before fainting and slumping to the ground. Usually, staggering is not missed; but in this case, it is. It is being ignored. Heavy rains and gusty conditions may ensure they are not ignored anymore. They need to be secured before they fall on someone sitting right under it. The images were taken on October 10, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Monsoon and tree care

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

An illness seldom bursts on the scene like a burglar, suddenly and unannounced. It would be present in some insidious form before developing into something that demands urgent intervention. Frequent check-ups will stop it in its tracks. That applies not only to illnesses afflicting humans, but also those of an arboreal nature.

Member of Chennai District Green Committee T.D. Babu advises continual attention to the health of trees for prevention of tree falls during cyclonic conditions. That diligence usually lacking, the next best thing is to identify trees on "uncertain footings" around monsoon time and take remedial measures to ensure they cause any

harm during cyclones. He begins: "Avenue trees with overgrown branches need to be pruned. Priority needs to be given to copperpod, gulmohar and rain trees. Their stability has to be assessed and based on the assessment, the load of the trees can be reduced, particularly those trees that are overloaded with branches on one side." Generally, tall trees especially kaatu vadumai (*Sterculia foetida*) can be trunk-pruned as it can withstand trunk pruning at 20 feet." There are then trees that might be suffering from diseases of the "gums", their support being eroded by construction of stormwater drains networks. A data of trees likely to have been weakened on account of SWD construction needs to be obtained and acted upon. "Many trees might be destabilised due to the recent

SWD work close to their trunk damaging their roots. Such trees' branches can be pruned to stabilise them, leaving minimal branches and thereby preventing the fall."

Babu adds: "In general, dead trees have to be removed as they might absorb water during rains, becoming heavier and fall."

In private gardens

Babu on what owners of private gardens should pay attention to: "In private premises or gardens having coconut trees, dry leaves and mature coconuts are to be removed before monsoon; tall mature *Millingtonia hortensis* (Indian corkwood), *Sterculus foetida* (kaatu vadumai) and *Monooon longifolium* (netulingam) trees can have trunk pruning if the trees are tall and weak. Other indigenous trees with huge branches hanging can have lateral pruning (moderate or slight pruning)."

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FESTIVITY



Knocking on their doors, pulling on their heartstrings

The Hindu Downtown Kolu Kondattam is more than a contest; it signifies a deep connection with Chennai and its people. Here are highlights from this year's edition of the event



from residents of Chennai, as in the previous years. At this event that felicitated those who made it to the podium as well as those who almost made it there, the joy was multifarious in its manifestation.

There was the gentle glow of satisfaction for members of The Hindu Group (THG) who worked indefatigably behind the scenes to make this happen. There was a sense of pride for those who partnered with THG to celebrate once again an event that has found a permanent space on the city's cultural calendar. *The Hindu Downtown* "Made of Chennai Kolu Kondattam 2025" ushered in a new category,

"Corporate Kolu Contest" inviting corporate houses and institutions to enter the fray. The corporate kolu winners are: United India Insurance Co.; Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research; and Sindhi Model Matriculation Higher Secondary School.

In another novelty, actor Neelima Rani, who had been signed up for this event, set foot in the homes that housed five kolus that won prizes. It was a surprise the THG team had planned for top winners across the five zones of

The Hindu Downtown. It was unwrapped for the contestants only in the moment when Neelima and the THG team were at this doorsteps. Until that moment, they did not know they were on their way to the podium. The look of bewilderment being replaced by beaming smiles was a treat for the eyes. That moment signified what *The Hindu Downtown* as well as its Kolu Kondattam is all about: being connected with the people of Chennai and participating in the details of their lives in a manner that makes them feel enriched and supported.

In an edition of the contest years ago, a group of influencers had been signed up to visit the kolus that were well put together by contestants. Reinstalling this feature in this year's contest proved to be a great decision.

Moment of glory

The felicitation ceremony on October 13 took an unhurried course, beginning with a captivating Bharatanatyam performance by students of Sri Kalakshi School of Dance.

Three winners and eleven consolation prize winners were select-

Last Sunday, at P.T. Thyagaraya Auditorium in T. Nagar, the epilogue to *The Hindu Downtown* "Made of Chennai Kolu Kondattam 2025" was scripted and staged, and it turned out to be an event absolutely fitting for a contest that had attracted enthusiastic participation

Glimpses of the felicitation ceremony; actor Neelima Rani at a contestant's home; and the first three winners from this zone.

PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



ed from each of the five zones of *The Hindu Downtown*.

Gift sponsors were Medimix, Naga, P.S. Tamarind, Vivekananda Sarees, Narpavi, DIFA, RAS Chekku Oil, Maestro Electric Cooker and Cotton House.

T. Nagar Zone results

Winner: Hemalatha Prakash

First Runner-up:

Bhanumathy S

Second Runner-up:

Sai Sudha Chandramouli

Consolation prizes: Tarishya; Janani Hariharan; Prabha R; Lakshmi Kannan; Subha Narayanan; Ramya V; Geetha Sudharsan; Usha N; S Jayanthi; Nirmala Jaisankar; and Hariharan G

'Improve water holding capacity of pond in Lambert Nagar'



The pond in Virugambakkam. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

With the permission of the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board, the Greater Chennai Corporation cleaned the pond at Lambert Nagar last year before the onset of north-east monsoon. It made a world of a difference by mitigating inundation in this neighbourhood.

Therefore, we request the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board and Greater Chennai Corporation to carry out a similar exercise this year and also remove the debris occupying the pond and improve its water holding capacity.

In case of heavy rains, water from the pond overflows and causes severe inundation and it takes a few days for the water to recede. Also, there have been instances of water entering the houses when the pond overflows. Hence, considering the safety of the people at large, appropriate measures should be taken without much delay. We also request the Greater Chennai Corporation to clean the stormwater drains in the region

N Sachidanandam, president, Federation of V K Street Residents' Associations, Virugambakkam



Arcot Road. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

'A section of Arcot Road lacks lights'

The section of Arcot Road from Porur to Vadapalani lacks street lights. Ever since the construction of Metro Rail began on Arcot Road a few years ago, most of the street

lights were removed and the road was lit by the temporary lights set up by CMRL for its construction site. But those temporary lights have also been removed a few

months ago. May be there is no need for them any more. People rely on the lights of the commercial establishments. The authorities concerned are requested to do the needful.

S.N. Rajaram, Saligramam



'Road needs mending'

While cycling to school, a student lost balance and fell at Bajanaikoil Street in Choolaimedu last week. He fell because the road was uneven and battered. The stormwater drain construction that began this July progressed at a slow pace and got completed only last week.

The recent rains have rendered

the road slushy. The problem will aggravate during heavy rains. Further, cables and unsafe electricity boxes are the other issues on the road. Greater Chennai Corporation should do the needful at the earliest to ensure safety.

*V. Johan Dhanakumar
Choolaimedu*



Bajanaikoil Street in Choolaimedu on October 17, 2025. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B



'Key junctions on Thirumalai Road are unsafe'



The two junctions of Thirumalai Road in T Nagar – one at the intersection of Bazullah Road and the other at Habibullah Road – are unsafe. In the case of Bazullah Road junction, Thirumalai Road is a curve and therefore the risk of accidents is high. Given the number of schools in the vicinity, appropriate safety measures such as speed

breakers, CCTVs, and traffic signals are necessary. Stringent measures should be taken against those who drive at a reckless speed.

N. Ravikkumar, Nungambakkam

SUSTAINABILITY

INTERNATIONAL REPAIR DAY: OCTOBER 18

A 'repair station' for toilets

From deep cleaning to timely refurbishments, this initiative ensures toilets in Triplicane remain functional and hygienic

LIFFY THOMAS

Repairing and maintaining existing toilets is more sustainable than adding new ones. Design firm Recycle Bin (known for conducting the

International Toilet Fest) believes in it and Toilet Repair Cafe (TRC) has entered its second year since inception.

Launched as a pilot programme in Triplicane with 23 public toilets, the initiative is gearing up to cover a new set of toilets in the Che-



A vehicle that serves as an ally.

pauk constituency.

Under this initiative started in association with Cheer NGO, WASHlab and Greater Chennai Corporation, a centralised hub has been established for all toilet maintenance needs. A vehicle is pressed into service to carry out cleaning work at desig-

nated toilets, and also attend to complaints raised by residents through a common helpline number.

"Instead of building new infrastructure every now and then, we should work on improving and empowering the human resources around the toilet. That think-

ing got us started on TRC," says Shebin George, an architect with Recycle Bin. The team is working on building a skill bank from the community. "These are people who are trained in various aspects of toilet maintenance so that it generates employment for them. For example, someone who has graduated from an ITI can be a toilet coordinator," says Shebin.

The SOPs each toilet has to be follow include deep cleaning of toilets, wearing of safety gears, specifying the role of janitors, maintaining a checklist of items a toilet must be equipped with and classifying the nature of repairs.

Besides attending to complaints in a timely manner, deep cleaning of toilets is undertaken by a separate team once in 15 days. The janitor takes care of the day-to-day

cleanliness. In case addressing a complaint entails undertaking a major work then the local engineer and deputy commissioner works are informed.

The project has trained and employed local sanitation workers, offering them the tools and skills needed to maintain and repair public toilets.

Shebin says TRC is a model that empowers the community and is cost efficient with impact being visible on the ground.

"To build a TRC one needs a space that also fulfils the purpose of advocacy (TRC Nodal Hub- Advocacy platform)," he says adding that WASHlab works on eight verticals in the sanitation and toilet space, operation and maintenance being one (the others include design as a social tool, inclusivity and governance).

An elaborate mending exercise

In an event at Mandavelipakkam on October 25, Saahas will feature a range of skilled workers giving a variety of broken things a new run

Saahas, the Bengaluru-based non-profit working in the space of solid waste management and circular economy, is hosting its first repair event in Chennai as part of International Repair Day, observed on October 18.

The day-long event called "Repair Pannalama? - Chennai Edition" will be held on October 25 at the auditorium of St. Anthony's Girls Higher Secondary School in Mandavelipakkam.

Through the event, Saahas aims to revive and popularise the repair culture, integrating it as a life skill amongst communities. In Bengaluru, Saahas has been hosting city-wide events to celebrate Repair since 2024, and Chennai is among cities to which it has extended this event, says a press release.

The event will have a 'Repair Arena' where vendors for shoe repair, bag repair, umbrella repair, clothes alterations, zip fixing, small appliances' repair and knife sharpening will be available. Residents can bring broken things from their homes and give them a new life.

Free workshops on sustaina-



ble living including home composting and cloth upcycling, a kids arena where games on sustainable living for children (examples: waste segregation and disposable v/s reusables car game will be conducted).

A corner featuring sustainable gifting will showcase earth-friendly products such as pre-loved clothes, chemical-free personal care products and upcycled decorations.

For further details, contact Smita Kulkarni (9845832311)/ Shamini (9176561066)/ Senthil (90030 33460)



Putting abandoned electrical items back to work

Repair Cafe Chennai Initiative along with Wasted 360 Solutions will host a camp on October 25 in T. Nagar

Tough abandoned, some electrical items can be given new spark of life. All it takes is a bit of tinkering; or the addition of a new component.

On October 25, a small group of troubleshooting experts from Re-

pair Cafe Chennai Initiative will be seen working on such electrical and electronic items received by Wasted 360 Solutions, an NGO working on creative waste management solutions, during its recent collection drives.

The team will figure out how many of these discarded items can be repaired and brought back to life. "Unlike our usual workshops, this one will not have any participants. We are planning to bring in just our mentors, experts who can together troubleshoot and fix these items. We have been inviting tinkerers whom we have worked with in the past and are known to our circles," says Meenalochani S. who leads the Chennai chapter.

Started in June 2024 as a home-based repair workshop, organised by homeschooling parents in collaboration with Repair Cafe Collective India, the chapter has held five events so far and plans to increase the count.

The software professional turned homemaker initiated the chapter seeing the curiosity shown by her children in fixing things. Today, they have five members and many volunteers helping them.

They are looking for mentors and volunteers skilled in mending a wide range of things – electrical, carpentry, utensils, semi-precious jewellery, bicycles, laptops and mobiles.

"Whether you are a professional or a home-based repairer, we have plenty of gig opportunities. One must be passionate about sharing the knowledge they have," says Meena.

They are also looking for workshop managers to help coordinate events. Hosting DIY repair workshops across the city once in every three months is the plan.

Write to them at repaircafe.tiruandchennai@gmail.com

Follow them on Instagram: @repaircafe.tiruandchennai



Juwairiya during a painting session at home; some of the paintings created with paint made with natural pigments.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Sometimes, I ask them questions to help them adjust – adding a little more flour or water until it's just right," says Juwairiya. Safety is also a priority, as the process involves handling fire. "Adult supervision is crucial, but we also encourage independence without stepping in too much," she notes.

Juwairiya manages to replicate the same processes in the online homeschooling support programme offered by the Dharmapuri-based alternative school Pividham, which reaches children in various geographies including Dubai, Singapore and Delhi. Juwairiya is a facilitator for Pividham's online programme.

Parents accompany the youngest participants on their pre-session nature walks. "We begin with stories, questions and provocations," she explains. "If a child asks a question, we respond with another question. It is not about answers; it is about sparking thought, letting imagination run the lesson plan."

Beyond paint, the "curriculum" gets into composting, bio-enzyme making, cloth upcycling and paper recycling.

"Adults often worry it is messy, or a waste of time," she admits. "But when a child sees colour emerge from something they picked themselves, their eyes light up. That is learning that cannot be measured."

Unschooling philosophy

At home, Juwairiya, a mother of two, follows an unschooling philosophy, where the child's curiosity leads. "Unschooling does not mean isolation," she clarifies. "It is about letting interests flourish. Sometimes, the greatest lessons happen outdoors beyond four walls and schedules."

Her quest for meaningful education had led her far from the hum of conventional classrooms and into Nagarkoodal village in Dharmapuri, home to Pividham - an alternative school. Here, the philosophy is as earthy as the soil itself: children create what they consume.

"It was Pividham that changed everything for me," she recalls. "I learned how to upcycle paper, make natural gum, and create paints from nature. Their focus on sustainability wasn't just a lesson; it was a lifestyle."

Unable to place her children there due to distance, she enrolled in Pividham's Learning Facilitator Programme (LFP), a programme that would quietly overturn her understanding of teaching. "Children, especially in their early years, think and learn with their hands long before they engage with text. That insight reshaped my approach entirely," she says.

The course immersed her in hands-on modules – from paper upcycling and foraged art to ink and gum making. On completion, she began co-learning with children, letting curiosity, rather than curriculum, chart the course. And she is continuing to learn along with the children she teaches.

Colours of nature: straight to the palette

Royapuram resident Juwairiya H teaches children how to explore the outdoors and collect materials to create art that is natural and sustainable

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Imagine there is no curriculum; only curiosity driving the learning. Imagine there is no preset route; only exploration charting the course. Put those almost-Lennonesque ideas together and you get a programme that encourages children to explore nature and coax materials out of it to make natural paints and gum and create foraged art. As should be evident to anyone, this programme militates against the assembly line. There is no telling what natural colour would be turned out; the consistency with which the gum would trickle; or the shape the artwork from foraged items would take. All of these would take you to the doorsteps of a rather unusual (but not unlikely) world Juwairiya H has created for children. Moored in Royapuram, Juwairiya (a Montessori-trained teacher, Zentangle artist and biotechnology graduate) conducts this programme in person as well as remotely.

But first things first. The programme is structured in a manner

that breaks structured, predictable learning.

Each session begins with the children taking a silent nature walk with unplanned pauses to accommodate a scavenger hunt. "We do not buy anything," explains Juwairiya. "Everything we use comes from nature. It is playful and unpredictable. Often, we do not know what colour will bloom and that uncertainty is part of the magic." The children are encouraged to bring leaves, petals, roots and seeds. Back in the workstation, they get to work with what they have collected. The paint-mak-

ing is supported by a simple base: maida flour whisked into a slurry and boiled into perfect paint-like consistency. Multiple roads to creativity, some predictable and others unpredictable, extend out of there.

"Turmeric gives yellow, limestone with turmeric makes red, and flowers or leaves produce unpredictable shades," Juwairiya explains. Seasonal changes and availability of ingredients in a local environment influence paint colours, and experimentation is encouraged. Blue pea flowers and bougainvillea are frequently used in natural paint mak-

ing. She collects both used and unused paper, turning it into pulp for new paper or functional items like bowls to be used to keep natural paints. Children often paint with fingers or brushes made from twigs and fibres.

Gum making might seem like a simple process, but it teaches much more than just sticking things together. "It's very basic, really – just maida and water but the technique matters," explains Juwairiya, who guides students through the process. The flour is mixed with water until smooth, then gently boiled until it reaches the perfect gum-like consistency. "Continuous stirring is essential," she adds, "otherwise lumps form, and the texture isn't right."

For her young students, understanding the correct consistency can be a challenge, especially in an online setting. "I give clear instructions and check their work step by step.

An artist's take

For G. Sooriyamoorthy, a sculptor and artist with over 25 years of experience, acrylics might remain the primary medium of artistic expression in painting, but that does not stop him from appreciating the raw character that natural pigments bring to a piece of art. "They give a beautiful, organic texture that is hard to replicate with synthetic paints," he observes.

And one need not marvel that colour can be obtained directly from nature. He explains: "Take beetroot, for example; once the colour gets on your hand, it is hard to wash off. That kind of natural strength is remarkable."

Heart lessons for children

Heart Wise Quiz 2025, organised in commemoration of World Heart Day, concluded with enthusiasm on October 12, 2025 at Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals auditorium in Palikaranai.

According to a press release, the quiz brought together students from classes V to IX across the city, aiming to create awareness about heart health, nutrition and healthy living from a young age.

Dr. T.G. Sivarajani, director, Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals, interacted with the semi-finalists in a light-hearted and interactive manner, emphasising the triad mantra for healthy living – food, exercise and sleep. She shared practical tips

on balanced eating, simple strength-training routines, and maintaining proper sleep in sync with the circadian rhythm, the release says.

Dr. Senthil Raj, consultant cardiologist, engaged the children in a gentle and friendly interaction that put them at ease, offering insights on heart health and lifestyle choices.

The grand finale saw six finalists compete in a spirited battle of knowledge and quick thinking, impressing everyone with their awareness and enthusiasm.

Winners: 1st Prize: Nirighna Peetha, Sivananda Rajaram Senior School (Class 8); 2nd Prize: Navellen M. Sivakumaran, PSBB KK Nagar



Dr.TG Sivarajani, Director, Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals (extreme right) and Dr. Senthil Raj T ,Consultant Cardiologist (second from left) with the winners of Heart Wise quiz.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(Class 7); 3rd Prize: Srinand Suresh Kumar Warrier, Velammal Bodhi Campus, Kolapakkam (Class 8)

Runner-ups: Dhaksh A, Velammal Bodhi Campus, Kolapakkam (Class 8); Rakshita Krishnakumar, TIPS, Perungudi (Class 8); and Aarav Ramesh, Mount Litera Zee School, OMR (Class 5)

All finalists and semi-finalists received certificates for their spirited participation. The event was presented by Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals, powered by X Quiz IT , Media Partner: News 7 Tamil, and curated by Zigma.

Over 15,000 receive degrees at SRMIST convocation



As many as 15,105 students were given their degrees at the 21st Convocation of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) held recently. Among them were 5,779 women and two transpersons, the university said.

The list included 299 rank holders, 224 of whom were women. As many as 388 students earned their PhD, while 7,938 students

completed their post-graduation. T.R. Paarivendhar, founder-chancellor, SRMIST, said that the University has a total of nearly one lakh students spread across its various campuses in the country and employs about 30,000 persons. He said that a total of 25,000 students would be getting their degrees across India this year.

C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice-

Chancellor, SRMIST, highlighted the fact that two transpersons got their undergraduate degrees, which was a pointer to the inclusive environment at the University. While 62 per cent of those graduating were men, 55 per cent of the PhD holders were women.

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, delivered the convocation address.



Annual Day celebration



Various cultural events marked the 24th Annual Day of Jawahar Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar. According to a press release, Dr. Swetha Raghavan, a senior consultant psychiatrist, was the chief guest.

Korean Coffee House comes to Chennai



Dot Korean Coffee House has opened two outlets in Chennai, one in Poonamallee and the other in Mylapore.

The outlet has a variety of coffees to choose from – Korean, Austrian, French, and Canadian filter coffee, says a release.

The cream coffee varieties include maple cream, caramel, vanilla, and peanut cream. The specific cream gives each cup its unique flavour. Iced ball coffee is one of Dot Coffee's special varieties.

The special coffees are priced between ₹40 and ₹90, while the variety called real coffee costs between ₹20 and ₹40. Dot also has cold coffee cans, said the release.

The outlets are open every day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m..

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Festive fervour



Ponds Bazaar in T. Nagar has been decked with lights ahead of Deepavali.
PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B & RAGU R

College celebrates Deepavali with the differently abled

Annai Veilankanni's College of Arts & Science, Saidapet, celebrated Deepavali at Siva Sakthi Homes, a home for the differently-abled in Porur.

According to a press release, clothes were distributed to the residents of the home. Also, groceries and medicines were donated. The residents were entertained with cultural events and games, added the release.



Awareness programme on first aid

Radhatri Nethralaya organised its 13th annual awareness programme on first-aid for eye injuries caused by fire-crackers for school students. According to a press release, the event was held in view of Deepavali. The session was handled by Dr. Vasumathy Ve-

dantham, Medical Director, Radhatri Nethralaya. Around 100 students took part. All the participants were provided with first-aid kits distributed by the chief guest, Archana Ramasundaram, IPS (Retd), and former member of Lokpal, adds the release.



Book vending machine at Central railway station

An automated vending machine to sell books has been set up last week at Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station. It was inaugurated by Shailendra Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Chennai Division of Southern Railway.

According to a press release, it is located near the old concourse which is near the relaxation chair kiosk and the general waiting hall.

The machine has a good collec-

tion of books across various genres and witnesses an impressive sale on October 10, the first day of its installation and the machine had to be restocked, says the release.

Encouraged by the overwhelming response in a short span, the Chennai Division of Southern Railway has plans to install the book vending machine at Tambaram Railway Station and other major stations in the coming months, adds the release.

Workshop on gold appraisal

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME - Tamil Nadu is conducting a training programme on gold appraisal from October 27 to 31 at its premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the following will be covering during the workshop: essential concepts in metallurgy with focus on gold and silver; difference between karat and carat; methods for calculating gold purity; jewel loan assessment procedures; and hallmarking procedures and standards.

This knowledge and skill help one to find opportunities in banks offering gold-backed loans, adds the release.

A session on jewellery-making methods and the essentials of setting up a gem and jewellery business is also part of the programme.

Those above 18 years of age with a minimum qualification of class 10 can apply for the programme. Prior registration is compulsory. For details, call 9840114680 / 9360221280.

Clothes distributed to the visually challenged



Volunteers invited

Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya Samithi, T Nagar, is inviting volunteers to teach English, Tamil, mathematics, science, and social science, to help its students of vocational training programmes, clear class 10 examination.

According to a press release, the educational institution is trying to help them clear the exam so that they will get better job opportunities, adds the release. For details, call 9176624283



Agal Foundation Trust with the support of Rotary Club of Chennai Sarvam organised Deepavali celebration for visually challenged people and their families at Avichi Higher Secondary School in Virugambakkam.

According to a press release, sweets, groceries and clothes were distributed. Various cultural events were part of the event.

Agal Foundation Trust is a non-governmental organisation which works for the upliftment and welfare of the visually-challenged, adds the release.