

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



HELMET TALK

A BIS standard specifically for bicycle helmets is in place now. Cyclists on what needs to be done next **P4**



THE BATTLE AGAINST CANINE DISTEMPER

This deadly viral disease thrives due to a lack of awareness about it, as also the prohibitive costs of vaccines and immunoglobulin injections needed to combat it. A visit to an unusual ward at BMAD treating infected dogs **P5**

READERS WRITE



'Park being misused as quarters for workers'

A Greater Chennai Corporation children's park at Rayala Nagar in Ramapuram (Ward 155) functions more as a "warehouse" for construction material and a makeshift accommodation for workers than a park. This practice which began on the sidelines of GCC's integrated stormwater drain project has continued to this day. Complaints to GCC and the ward councillor have not remedied the situation.

P.V. Kishore, president, Rayala Nagar Residents Welfare Association



The park at Rayala Nagar in Ramapuram on May 22, 2025. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

Porur lake: is a clean-up long overdue?



Dense growth of water hyacinth in Porur lake on May 23, 2025. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

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A matter of heart and art

A son pays a tribute to his departed artist-parents by showcasing their artworks at an exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

From May 28, Lalit Kala Akademi features an art exhibition titled 'Together in love and in art', showcasing the works of artist couple A. Anjaneyulu and A.B. Geetha Anjaneyulu. Art teachers (Anjaneyulu retired from Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School in Mylapore, and Geetha from Vidyodaya Higher Secondary School in Nungambakkam), they inspired students to produce works of art beyond the regular school work.

The event is a son's tribute to the body of work left behind by his parents. Both passed away in their early 60s.

"Mom was one year junior to dad at Government College of Fine Arts in Egmore where they first met and discovered a shared love for teaching art," recalls A. Venkatakrishnan, also an alumnus of the college.

Both came from humble backgrounds to make a career in art in the late 50s. Anjaneyulu left his village with ₹100 to pursue a course at the College of Fine Arts. He shared an accommodation by paying ₹10 a month and also supported himself by working part-time as an artist for local magazines.

"Dad was a workaholic, he used to visit homes to conduct art classes after his school hours and pursue his creative interests. He was an active member of the Cholamandal Artists Village," says Venka-



A. Anjaneyulu and A.B. Geetha Anjaneyulu; a Batik work; and a photo taken at Geetha's farewell at Vidyodaya Higher Secondary School. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

takrishnan, who is into digital film restoration.

Geetha was influenced by her father, who served as the chief editor of *Municipal Gazette* to pursue art. "There were only three female students in my mom's batch then," he says adding that Geetha specialised in Tanjore paintings.

Close to 40 artworks will be on display at the venue, all showcasing different aspects of art and nuggets of information from the artist couple's life. Anjaneyulu specialised in Batik, a traditional dyeing technique that uses wax-resist patterns on fabric. "So elaborate and time-consuming is this process, one carried out with heated wax brush, that my parents would book a night

show at Pilot Theatre and return to complete one more stage," says Venkatakrishnan.

Meena Muthiah, the Kumara Rani of Chettinad, used to conduct workshops that Anjaneyulu would be a part of. "At one event, dad drew an instant sketch of M.F. Husain who was also present at the event, which will also be showcased," he says. With contemporaries such as Aadhimoolam, Selvaraj and other senior artists, Anjaneyulu has been part of group exhibitions across India. "This is their first solo exhibition, and many students have different memories of them which I want them to relive by looking at their works," says Venkatakrishnan. He says all artists love their works to be displayed at Lalit Kala Akademi and this is a fitting tribute to them.

The event will be inaugurated on May 28 at 5.30 p.m. by artist and actor Sivakumar, who was Geetha's batchmate, and Trotsky Marudu, art director and VFX creative director.

The exhibition will be on view from May 29 to June 3 (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.) at Lalit Kala Akademi on Greaves Road.



West Mambalam residents distribute buttermilk

Vivekanandapuram First Street Narpani Mandram, a voluntary group of Vivekanandapuram First Street Residents Welfare Association in West Mambalam, has started its month-long buttermilk distribution drive in view of the peak summer.

"This summer intervention is in its eighth year. It began on April 28 the year and will continue till the end of this month. We do this, during the Agni Nakshathram period, with the financial support of our residents. This year, a sum of ₹50,000 has been collected. Around 200 litres of buttermilk is distributed to the public every day. This includes MTC drivers and conductors and conservancy workers of Greater Chennai Corporation," says S. Murali, the group's founder.



One-minute film competition on disability

Ability Foundation is inviting nominations for the one-minute film competition on disability, "60 Seconds to Fame!". The theme is "Through Your Lens: A Celebration of Disability Inclusion." An esteemed jury of filmmakers will review the entries, and the best three films will be awarded. The shortlisted films will also be showcased during the AbilityFEST: India International Disability Film Festival, which is to take place at Chennai from July 7 to 10, 2025.

For details, visit www.abilityfoundation.org or call 9840055848.



Link Road spruced up: will consistent effort be made to keep it clean?

Link Road (the one connecting Ethiraj Salai and Dams Road) has been spruced up. In its edition dated May 11, 2025, *The Hindu Downtown* had highlighted the squalor that characterised the road.

The blight was all-pervasive. Weeds were smothering the plants. The pathway resembled a plate abandoned mid-meal and forgotten for eternity. A blotch of leftover food was stuck to a section of the pavement. Garbage was piled up. Discarded automobile-related upholstery greeted the eye.

Now, as this image taken on May 22, 2025 shows, the plants have been freed of the stranglehold the weeds had on them. With the removal of offscourings, the pavement is "visible". One only hopes the pavement continues to receive the redemptive touch of the broom every day.

Photo: Prince Frederick

CMDA to renovate Iyyappanthangal bus terminus

According to an MTC official, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority will carry out the work at a cost of ₹18.93 crore.

"The terminus will be completely revamped. Bhumi Puja was performed on March 22," said the official.

Regular commuters welcomed this project and said a facelift was badly needed. They wanted the problem of waterlogging during rains to be

addressed.

Confederation of Iyyappanthangal Residents Welfare Associations suggested closing of the entrance at Ramachandran Nagar Main Road considering the inconvenience the bus drivers experience.

"The terminus is located at the junction of Mount Poonamallee High Road and Ramachandran Nagar Main Road which is narrow. It has got two

entrances, one on each of these roads. The one on Mount Poonamallee High Road is used for entry of buses and the other for exit. There is no problem with the entry point. But the exit entrance poses a lot of inconvenience to the bus drivers. Because it lies at the junction of the roads. This should be moved to a convenient location," says the confederation's coordinator, P. Senthil Kumar.



A bus exiting the terminus in Iyyappanthangal on Mount-Poonamallee Road. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

Free yoga therapy for people with Parkinson's

Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation is introducing free weekly yoga therapy sessions in Besant Nagar. The Foundation conducts several outreach programmes to raise awareness about the disorder and offers resources. It also runs a supportive care centre that offers free physiotherapy sessions, counselling, and dance and movement therapy.

Parivarthan's yoga therapy sessions will be conducted by trained yoga therapists familiar with Parkinson's, and each session will be tailored to the needs of the participant. These yoga therapy sessions are offered at no cost as a part of Parivarthan's mission to make holistic care accessible to all, said a press release.

Interested participants can call 96000 52531 to book an appointment.



Yoga programme

Satyam Yoga Trust will conduct a four-week yoga programme from May 30 at Thiruveethi Amman temple on Thiru Veethi Amman Kovil Street in Velachery. The programme will be held from May 31 at Shri Sudarshan Terrace Hall, B-2, Lakshmi Nagar Main Road, Nanganallur. Time: From 5.30 a.m. to 7 a.m. According to a press release, no fee will be charged. The trust follows the curriculum and tradition of Bihar School of Yoga. For details, call 98412 27709 / 94450 51015 (Nanganallur) and 87544 99334 / 94450 51015 (Velachery).

Awareness through music at Anna Nagar Tower Park

As part of Multiple Sclerosis Day, MSSSI - Chennai chapter is organising an event titled "Speak, Sing, Support" on May 30 at Anna Nagar Tower Park.

The MS Day event is aimed at creating awareness and will include a joyful music session to celebrate resilience.

The events will begin at 5.30 p.m. at the Tower Park on 3rd Main Road, Anna Nagar

T20 championship for 'dads'

Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation is conducting "Super Dads Cricket T20 Championship", an exclusive cricket tournament for men aged 35 years and above (born on or before May 1, 1990) from May 26. The tournament will follow a league-cum-knockout format and will be played with a white ball. Attractive cash prizes and trophies will be presented.

For registrations, call 72000 60626

Workshop on beekeeping

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on beekeeping and mushroom cultivation on May 29 and 30 respectively. Both the workshops will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 2953 0048.

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A BIS standard specifically for bicycle helmets is in place now. Cyclists on what needs to be done next

Helmet talk

LIFFY THOMAS

Enjoy riding bicycles? Did you know the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has come up with a specific standard for helmets for cyclists, skate boarders and roller skaters – for the first time, and it is coded “IS 18808”. The move by BIS to nudge all stakeholders to promote ISI-marked helmet is crucial for a country where helmet use for non-powered vehicles is only voluntary (bicycles do not come under Motor Vehicles Act).

G. Bhavani, senior director and head of Chennai branch of Bureau of Indian Standards, says BIS has brought this standard in 2025 exclusively for bicycle riders, skateboarders and roller skaters. In April, the Bureau conducted its first awareness workshop in Chennai and continues to reach stakeholders including cycling groups such as WCCG - Chennai Cyclists, Cycling Yogis and Chennai Runners.

“Through Manak Manthan, a monthly initiative of BIS, we take up a standard that was recently revised or formulated or is under development. We reach out to all stakeholders including consumers, manufactures, regulators and laboratories for suggestions. Manufacturers of this product can apply for BIS certification for this new Indian Standard, for which BIS is in the process of reaching out to the relevant associations for raising awareness,” says Bhavani.

BIS certification gives an assurance of quality of the product to the consumer.

“We certify after the manufacturers meet certain criteria. Later, the



company is allowed to manufacture and market the helmet with an ISI mark,” says Bhavani.

In Chennai, most cycling and running groups promote use of helmets.

“In all our group rides and events, one thing is clear – “no helmet, no ride”, says Sudarsana Rao of Vibrant Velachery.

Rao notes that if there is a rule by the government then use of helmets and its standards will also improve.

“Unlike the helmets worn by motorcyclists, not everybody sells cycle helmets. They are only available in specialised shops and are different from the ones used by motorcyclists,” says Rao, adding that Clubs such as theirs can do a lot to promote helmet use.

Most bicycle helmets are made using PVC, polystyrene and allied material. They are durable, lightweight yet robust and promise reliable performance.

Bicycle retail outlets note a majority of helmets sold by them are im-

ported and come with good safety standards, with prices from ₹3,500 onwards. “Manufacturing helmets for cyclists is a niche market and unless there is good volume there may not be many takers,” says Ashwin G., partner, 5AM Bicycle Studio.

Helmet manufacturing companies point out there will be a market in India as many cities are creating cycling infrastructure and there is greater awareness about the benefits of this eco-friendly mode of transport.

“Today, we are largely dependent on the foreign market for helmet design, which must change,” says Bijoy Bharathan, general manager, Turtle Helmet. The Government must also reduce the GST on safety gears such as helmets so as to encourage more people to buy one, says Bharathan.

Lessons from other parts of the globe

Quality helmets reduce the risk of death by over six times, and reduces the risk of brain injury by up to 74%, says a report by World Health Organisation.

However, availability of affordable helmets is a barrier for some people. In its toolkit on promoting cycling and walking, WHO notes that ensuring effective helmet use requires measures such as developing and passing helmet-use legislation, public education, and active law enforcement.

Many countries have introduced mandatory helmet laws for cyclists, including children. For example, Australia was among the first to introduce nationwide helmet regulations in the early 1990s. Canada and Argentina enforce helmet use for cyclists in certain regions and the Netherlands requires helmet use only for e-bikes that exceed the speed limit of 25 km. These policies are typically part of broader road safety strategies aimed at reducing traffic-related injuries.



A group of cyclists on OMR.
FILE PHOTO

The battle against canine distemper

This deadly viral disease thrives due to a lack of awareness about it, as also the prohibitive costs of vaccines and immunoglobulin injections needed to combat it. A visit to an unusual ward at BMAD treating infected dogs



Two dogs being treated for canine distemper at Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD).
PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

PRINCE FREDERICK

Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) runs an isolation ward, alfresco – right outside its premises in Besant Nagar. A blue colour-coated corrugated roofing sheet is fastened on to a metal structure that sits on the compound wall snugly with the support of what approximates to sturdy C clamps. IV fluid packets dangle from hooks that hang from a supporting metal rod in the makeshift roofing. Fluids are being administered to Scar and Rama (canine residents of MRC Nagar and Avadi respectively) that are curled up on a table, their human-relatives standing by their side and watching them attentively.

At first sight, the uninitiated would equate the open-air ward with stepmotherly treatment to these canines. A closer look brings a board into view; and with that, a message which includes imperatives barked out in bold letters.

The message having been read, a clearer picture emerges. Here is the text: “Canine Distemper (CD) is a contagious disease. It spreads among unvaccinated dogs through contact among unvaccinated dogs through contact and air. DO NOT touch other dogs. DO NOT let your dog loiter around this premises.”

Scar and Rama are being treated for canine distemper, and given the contagious nature of the disease, the other dogs visiting BMAD for a consultation need to be kept at a safe distance from them – hence, the alfresco, removed ward.

Canine distemper treatment costs on the higher side due to the prohibitive price of the injections that ought to be administered to infected and at-risk dogs. These dogs are given immunoglobulins through Canglob D injections.

Canglob has a post-exposure dose. It also has a prophylactic dose for dogs feared to have been exposed to this viral disease, says Dr. Josika Navukkarasu, chief vete-

rinarian at BMAD.

“A typical case would be a household with two dogs, one showing signs of canine distemper and the other not showing the signs. The one without signs of CD can be started on the prophylactic dose (in other words, pre-exposure dose),” Dr. Josika explains.

“The thing with canine distemper is that even after you give immunoglobulin, there is a high chance that the dog will not make it,” she notes, elaborating that it is a pan-tropic virus as it affects every system in the body. “My advice is that going for vaccine is the best way to deal with CD. One vaccine will not do: in puppyhood, they would need close to three doses of distemper vaccine.”

Dr. Josika reveals that vaccination and treatment for distemper provided at BMAD are chargeable, but offered at a nominal cost. She adds that the economically disadvantaged can pay whatever they can, “but the vaccine cost itself is so high that unless we have people

or companies sponsoring vaccines it is difficult to do everything for free.”

CD works on the basis of outbreaks: it is highly infectious and contagious, she says and illustrates it: “In one road, if there are 20 dogs, and one of them contracts CD, definitely another five or six will also contract the disease.”

How can the community support the treatment of dogs with CD?

“If donors donate towards Canglob, we can give Canglob at a further subsidised rate, even free for people who cannot afford it,” says Dr. Josika. “If they want to donate specifically towards Canglob, they can make a general donation, and mention through our Instagram page or WhatsApp number that they have donated so much and want it to go towards Canglob.”

BMAD’s Instagram handle is @besantmemorialanimaldispensary and its email ID is bmadts@gmail.com

Treat it as dress rehearsal for the monsoon

Gentle, out-of-season showers can be a learning platform. They can open our eyes to problems with our rainwater management system that can prove costly if left unaddressed

Gearing up for Southwest monsoon

The State government has announced that it is gearing up to face the Southwest monsoon. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently asked all departments to work on a war footing, and also asked officials to speed up and complete desilting work. In the light of this, we invite readers to write to us about areas marked by waterlogging that need immediate attention. Letters must be sent to downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in.



Rainwater being cleared off a section of OMR in Sholinganallur on May 24, 2025.
PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

When May 24 dawned, a bunch of workers in Sholinganallur on Rajiv Gandhi Salai (landmark: 32 Dental Clinic) hurriedly left their regular post to man another, temporarily.

Overnight showers had these workers (whose regular tasks have to do Metro Rail construction) scurrying to clear a small “pond” of rainwater that had accumulated

on the carriageway.

As CRML is active on the road, it is the responsibility of the CMRL-L&T team to address such niggles. The stormwater drain refusing to receive the rainwater with open arms, it had to be armtwisted to let the unexpected, unseasonal guest in.

According to the one supervising the effort to clear the rainwater, the inlet channel was blocked. Meandering pipes and a motor were paired to first suck and then regurgitate the rainwater into the drain. Out-of-season rains can

be an irritant due to their unannounced arrival, but a judicious approach would be to view them as a dress rehearsal for the monsoon. They provide an opportunity to identify the holes in the rainwater management system and plug them well ahead of the day of reckoning.

Though the showers were gentle, besides accumulation of rainwater, the water spread by moving tyres colluded with sand to slushy surface, particularly at bus stop, causing commuters to tip toe their way to their buses.



Kazura Garden in Neelankarai following the May 19 downpour.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

‘SWD and sewage drain works move at a snail’s pace’

Eight months on, the works to construct an underground sewage drain and a stormwater drain at Kazura Garden in Neelankarai on East Coast Road are far from reaching their logical end. The roads are battered due to the ongoing, tardy-paced works, First Main Road and Eight Cross Street being the worst affected. Following the May 19 downpour, First Main Road got slushy, ‘trapping’ a van. The same day, a company within the neighbourhood organ-

ised transport for its staff to reach ECR as the roads could not be navigated by feet.

The residents association of Kazura Garden reiterates a demand it has been placing before Greater Chennai Corporation and Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board since the last North East monsoon: complete your respective works at the earliest possible date.

Srilakshmi Mohan Rao, president, Kazura Garden Welfare Association, Neelankarai



After the downpour

Conservancy staff clear the lanes at the State Secretariat after the recent rains.

PHOTO: RAGHUNATHAN SR

A sore point about St. Thomas Mount station

The revamped station comes with a slew of amenities; the picture would have been even better if the FOB had come complete with a lift or escalators attached to it

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

On May 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the St. Thomas Mount railway station along with 102 other stations across the country under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The station comes with enhanced passenger amenities such as improved seating, display boards and advanced lighting, but there is one



thing a section of commuters were desperately looking for – a lift or an escalator attached to the foot over-bridge.

R. Ravi, a commuter, points out that commuters have at least 75 steps to take before boarding trains

towards Tambaram, Chengalpattu and Chennai Beach. Metro train commuters also take the footbridge to board trains from the Alandur metro station.

Unlike Chromepet, Pallavaram, Tambaram Sanatorium and Guin-



The passageway connecting the Saint Thomas Mount subway and the suburban train platforms is b-blocked. Photo: Special Arrangement

dy stations, the terminal has two footbridges, one along the old and the other along the new ticket counter building. The second footbridge is located at the starting point for trains to Tambaram, Chengalpattu and Thirumalpur and the end point for trains to Chennai Beach.

“There is much space along the

first footbridge to install escalators,” says M. Martin, a commuter.

The St. Thomas Mount subway walkway has been barricaded. Commuters must use the staircases or walk until the platform area ends (towards Chennai Beach), cross the track, and exit through the building along the double-discharge platform.

MCE conducts sports day



The Meenakshi College of Engineering, K.K. Nagar, earlier this month organised its annual sports day for 2024-2025 at Rajarathinam Stadium in Egmore. The event featured inaugural and valedictory functions attended by faculty members and students.

N. Senthil Kumar, chairman of the Anna University Sports Board, was the inaugural function's chief guest, inspiring students to pursue physical fitness and sportsmanship alongside academic excellence.

The stadium witnessed enthusiastic participation by students in a wide range of track and field events, demonstrating their athletic skills, determination and team spirit in spite of the scorching sun.



The valedictory function was held in the afternoon. S. R. Jangid, former Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, graced the ceremony.

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering won the overall championship trophy, and the Department of Architecture bagged the runner-up trophy.

Montessori teacher training programme

The Indian Montessori Training Courses, Chennai, will be starting its 54th regular batch in Montessori teacher training.

The training will commence on July 9 and lasts for 10 months. It will be held from Monday to Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 2.15 p.m., and Friday - 9.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., with online classes on Monday and Friday.

Successful candidates will be awarded a diploma by the Indian Montessori Centre, Bangalore, said a press release.

The course is a unique career opportunity to learn, understand and make a difference in a child's life, the release adds.

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