

## TAMBARAM

Chromepet » Pallavaram » Tambaram West » Rajakilpakkam » Mannivakkam » Guindy » Keelkattalai » Nanganallur » Guduvanchery » Hasthinapuram » Pammal » Tambaram East

Medavakkam » Srinivasa Nagar » Kathipara Junction » Kovilambakkam » Sadasivam Nagar » Potheri » Selaiyur » Sembakkam » St. Thomas Mount » Madipakkam » Urappakkam » Paranur

## Dilapidated weir in Periya Eri needs to be reconstructed

Federation of Mudichur Residents' Welfare Associations highlighted this issue at the recent Grama Sabha

The weir in Mudichur Lake. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.



T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

The Federation of Mudichur Residents' Welfare Associations has requested the Water Resources Department to reconstruct the check dam in the Mudichur Lake.

A check dam stores rainwater during the monsoon season, preventing it from flowing away and making it available for later use.

P. Damodaran, president of the association, says, "For the past four years, we have given petitions to the WRD, Public Works' Department, Revenue Department, Chengalpattu District Collectorate, Kancheepuram District Collectorate, Mud-



ichur Village Panchayat, and St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union to do the needful. If the check dam breaks, the water will flow into Mudichur Seekana Eri and the adjoining residential localities, causing flooding."

Through borewells along the lake, water is supplied to the region's panchayat tanks that supplies drinking water to residents. On May 1, the Federation raised the issue at the Grama Sabha meeting.

Residents pointed out that rather than taking steps to construct the weir, the lake bund is being strengthened. The

bund is formed on the broken revetment walls.

Seemai Karuvelam trees along the lake

should be uprooted, and dense vegetation should be weeded out to increase the water-holding capacity.

Along Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the southern side, people have dumped trash in

the lake and on the revetment walls. Vegetation has sprouted on the walls and the water-holding area, including water hyacinth.

Cab drivers and those travelling on ORR use the lake as a washroom.

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## ‘Avoid using **Medavakkam flyover** as jogging track’



PALLAW KUMAR

Medavakkam flyover has significantly eased traffic congestion at the junction for motorists proceeding towards Sholinganallur and Vengaiwasal.

However, a number of people are using the flyover as a jogging track and to exercise during early morning hours. While the intention to stay fit is commendable, this practice poses serious safety risks for pedestrians and motorists who are forced to navigate around

Picture used for representational purposes only.

them. Using the high-traffic flyover for fitness is unsafe and should be discouraged.

I urge early morning walkers and joggers to avoid this overpass for public safety and traffic flow.

Further, I request the traffic police to address this issue through increased patrolling, signage or community awareness campaigns.

The lack of open public spaces in Vijaynagar is a growing concern. A park where residents can walk, jog, and exercise is urgently needed. I urge the local administration to consider allocating space and resources for such a facility soon.

*Pallaw Kumar is a resident of Medavakkam*



**‘U-turn at Tambaram station should be free of parked vehicles’**

THIAGARAJAN PAKKIRISAMY

Tambaram Railway Station is now a terminal for south-bound trains. Hundreds of passengers alight from trains at the station. Many people come in their cars either

to see off their relatives or to receive them at the eastern side of the station. But taking a ‘U-turn’ near a shrine is a herculean task as auto drivers block the area.

The Southern Railway should deploy Railway Protection Force personnel to regulate the movement of vehicles at this U-turn.

A paid parking lot near the footbridge, with space for at least 20 cars can be opened. An early solution is needed in this matter.

*Thiagarajan Pakkirisamy is a retired professor*

## ‘Establish a **rain gauge station** at Chitlapakkam Lake’

K. DAYANAND KRISHNAN

The Water Resources Department should establish a rain gauge station with a control room at the Chitlapakkam Lake.

The sluice gates should be automated for opening and closing in sync with flow meters, water level, sensors and according to rainfall.

The motorised arrangement will allow the inlet gates to open and close from the control room according to rainfall and flows.

*K. Dayanand Krishnan is a resident of Chitlapakkam*



Entry gates at a CMRL station in Chennai.  
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## ‘Increase the **display screen’s font size**’

P. SATHYANARAYANAN.

At Chennai Metro Rail stations across the city, the font size of the display screen at the entry and exit gates is not friendly to senior citizens. I am referring to the screen that displays the remaining amount when entering the terminal and the balance af-

ter a journey. I am a senior citizen and have difficulty seeing the letters on the screen.

Commuters, especially senior citizens, have to ask the staff at the ticket counters for the remaining balance every time.

We have to wait in line at busy stations for a long time. If there is no sufficient balance, the wait is

reasonable. We can either charge or top up the card.

I have made complaints in this regard to the CMRL staff, who said they would look into this issue and rectify it.

*P. Sathyanarayanan is a social activist, a resident of Guindy, and a member of the Senior Citizens’ Forum in Chennai.*

## ‘Unsafe for motorcyclists’

IYNESH KUMAR K K

To drop off and pick up children from Zion International School at VSJ Nagar in Puthur, motorists must negotiate Seventh Cross Street.

At the street’s entry point, there is an open culvert, a sewage canal. Motorcyclists risk falling into the canal when riding along the culvert.

A TASMAL outlet is also located 50 metres from the school’s main gate. The outlet and the open sewage canal are unsafe for children and parents.

*K K Iynesh Kumar is a resident of Puthur*



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## When will Southern Railway commence pedestrian tunnel **work**?

S. VASUDEVAN.

Along Radha Nagar subway carriageway, the State Highway Department has finished constructing the staircases.

It has earmarked an area on the walls along the walkway for the Southern Railway to build a tunnel, on a common area along platforms 1 and 2 at the Chromepet railway station, connecting the walkway and the staircases.

Southern Railway is yet to commence this work.

If Southern Railway does not do what is needed from it, pedestrians from Radha Nagar Main Road heading towards GST Road and vice versa will only use the walkway.

If Level Crossing gate 27 is not closed, commuters from GST Road and Radha Nagar Main Road will cross and walk along the tracks to reach platforms and enter electric trains, risking their lives.

*S. Vasudevan is a resident of Chromepet*



Southern Railway should construct a tunnel in the platform’s common area for safe access to the walkway in the Radha Nagar subway. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT





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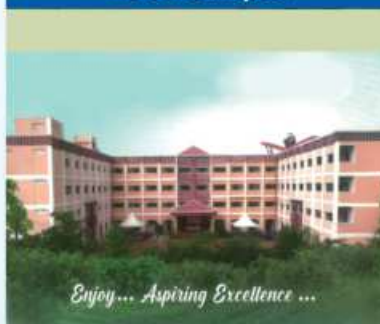
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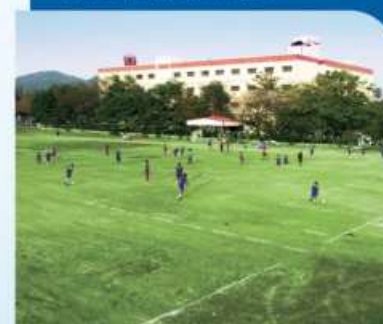
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\*Conditions Apply



Ahead of International Plant Health Day (May 12), a look at how an institution in Chennai has set a template for teaching regenerative farming practices to students

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

**A**t APL Global School in Thoraipakkam, the classroom “extends” into the garden with a gardening initiative having travelled swiftly from the periphery of learning to the centre stage.

In 2017, it sprouted as a club initiative by Maya Ganesh, a multi-hyphenate with regenerative farming as one of her specialisations, and soon put out promising shoots that developed into study branches. The initiative now stands robust as a full-fledged regenerative gardening curriculum that reaches students of every grade in tailored and measured forms.

“We do not have traditional landscaping here,” says Shalini N, architect and garden coordinator at APL. “Instead, we have turned our open spaces into edible landscapes. Every plant is chosen not for beauty, but for its utility and ecological value.”

Ahead of International Plant Health Day (May 12), this initiative can serve as a reminder that ensuring plant health is ensuring human health and planet health.

### The genesis

“It began as a club,” recalls founder Gita Jagannathan, “but with Maya’s vision and dedication, it soon evolved into a structured part of our curriculum. Environmental education is central to our ethos. We see farming not as an extracurricular activity but as a means to understand the self, society and the environment.”

The regenerative gardening curriculum is multi-tiered to suit different learning stages.

Kindergartners take “Garden Walks,” exploring biodiversity in age-appropriate language.

Primary students get five to six annual sessions in organic farming.

Middle and senior school students can opt for deeper regenerative agriculture modules through the unique subject “Expressions”.

### Seed by seed

A live seed bank is central to APL’s



## A farm at the school



A tour of the farming activities at APL Global. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

regenerative agriculture initiative. Started after the pandemic, the bank preserves open-pollinated and heirloom seed varieties. “We never use hybrid seeds. Our seeds come from regenerative farmers across India – from Yarowway

Farm, Hooga Seeds, and Sahaja Seeds,” explains Shalini, who came on board in 2020 and now nurtures what was started and perfected by Maya ever since the latter moved out of Chennai.

Each seed undergoes a cycle of



growing, harvesting, cleaning, drying and testing. Students are involved in each step, says Shalini.

“After saving seeds, we test them ourselves before sharing. Once, we sourced white bitter gourd seeds. The expected yield was large fruit – but we got smaller, low-yield ones. That trial helped us assess and improve seed quality.”

Seeds are not just stored – they are shared. With teachers, students, and even farmers across India through informal networks and WhatsApp groups. Some teachers now grow terrace gardens using seeds from the seed bank.

### An inclusive mindset

The programme is inclined towards inclusion. It is also multi-disciplinary in its approach.

The Kamalam Division, created for neurodivergent students, not only includes them but also celebrates them in the gardening ecosystem.

“These students have shown a deep affinity for seed saving,” says Maya. “It is meditative, sensory, and calming—making it an effective therapeutic tool. This year, many

seeds in our bank were saved by our special education students,” says Shalini. The tactile and repetitive nature of seed sorting helps them build focus, motor skills, and a sense of accomplishment. Their labels – often handwritten – now mark jars filled with red pumpkin, beans, ridge gourd and more.

The garden also doubles as a living lab. Biology students observe plant anatomy first-hand. Photography Club captures dew-drenched greens. Global Perspectives classes use composting to teach sustainability. Pencil shavings, once discarded, now become compost experiments. The soil, like the curriculum, is always alive.

The seed bank is also inclusive in access, not just in participation. Any teacher, parent or student who wants to start a home garden can take seeds freely. “All we ask is that they send back a few seeds if their crop grows well,” says Shalini. “That way the cycle continues.”

### Harvest days

The School Garden Produce Sale is a small yet vibrant initiative that functions much like a mini-marketplace, exclusively within the school campus. Held on alternate Fridays, this event is designed to share the seasonal bounty of the school’s garden with the school community, while subtly promoting sustainability, healthy eating and awareness about farm-to-table concepts.

Each cycle begins with a harvest day, typically managed by the garden team. A list of fresh items—ranging from herbs, greens, and vegetables to the occasional processed product like turmeric powder – is compiled and circulated via email to the teachers. “The response is always overwhelming,” says Shalini. “The produce sells out in ten minutes,” says Shalini. “Prices are nominal—₹10 to ₹45.”

APL’s commitment to regenerative farming practices is spilling over beyond its campus. “We have submitted a proposal to the Tamil Nadu education department,” says Gita, “suggesting that every school in the state have a farming space – just like rainwater harvesting was once mandated.”

The team is also ready to assist other institutions. “We offer support for design, seed sourcing, and setup,” says Shalini. “We are open to workshops too, if there is interest.”





## May Day: 'Guardians of Cleanliness' awards presented

On May 1st, as part of International Workers Day, Chitlapakkam Rising honoured sanitary workers for their selfless service. Around 97 workers from Wards 34, 43 and 44 of Sembakkam Zone were honoured with a hot pack and a sweet box. Workers were presented with the 'Guardians of Cleanliness' award.

The Crescent Crescendo Music Academy in Hasthinapuram played and sang songs on the day's theme.

K. Vasanthakumari Kamalakannan, mayor, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, took part.

### Grocery kits distributed

Similarly, Chitlapakkam Anna Nagar (West) Residents' Welfare Association honoured 80 sanitary workers of Wards 43 and 44, Sembakkam zone with grocery kits. S. Chandrasekaran, association secretary, and S. R. Raja, Tambaram MLA, were present.

## Handloom expo in Chromepet till May 25

The Gandhi Handloom is organising an exhibition of Rajasthan handlooms and handicrafts till May 25 at Chromepet. At the expo, the public can shop for fancy sarees, bedspreads, pillow covers, wooden and marble

toys, doormats, shirts and furniture. The expo is held at Selvam Mahal, Radha Nagar Main Road, Chromepet, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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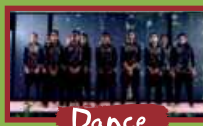
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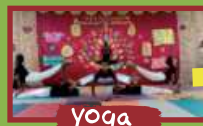
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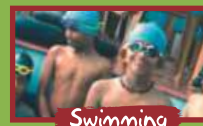
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## WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY (MAY 10)

## A hat trick

The section of Great Salt Lake in Kalavakkam on OMR is relatively under-birded; here is fresh reason for birders to be regular in visiting this patch, particularly during the migratory season

PRINCE FREDERICK

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A result-altering three back-to-back goals in the additional moments of a football match. Three sixes in a row in the final over of a 20-20 tipping the scale. Or, three less-seen migratory birds sighted on the same day within inches of each other, at the tail-end of a wintering season.

Sathish Kumar, an IT professional during the week and a birder during the weekend, experienced the very last scenario.

His jaw dropped during a birding trip to Great Salt Lake (GSL) last weekend and it is yet to snap back to its normal position.

On May 3, 2025, at the salt pans in GSL opposite SSN College in Kalavakkam, Sathish saw a Gull-billed tern, a Slender-billed gull and a Spotted redshank.

He has photographed all three with the Slender-billed gull and the Spotted redshank even filling one frame.

Sathish Kumar considers the sighting of the Spotted redshank extraordinary. It was a 'lifer' to him. In birding terms, a lifer marks the first time someone sees a par-



ticular bird species in the field.

The Spotted redshank and Common redshank have more similarities than dissimilarities, but the latter are sufficiently pronounced for a birder to not confuse one for the other.

When Sathish saw the lone Spotted redshank, there were a few Common redshanks in the waters too.

The Spotted redshank he spotted on May 3 had slipped into its breeding plumage.

In its breeding plumage, from crown to belly, including the nape and throat, the Spotted redshank develops a deep dark grey. Its legs also replace red with dark grey.

One of the diagnostic features



A Slender billed gull; a Spotted redshank and a Gull billed tern at Great Salt Lake opposite SSN College in Kalavakkam on Rajiv Gandhi Salai on May 3, 2025.

PHOTOS: SATHISH KUMAR

distinguishing it from the Common redshank (also a winter visitor in these parts): the colour and the



shape of the beak.

In the Common redshank, the beak is shorter, and the black and the red are distributed uniformly between the upper and lower mandibles. The base of the beak is red and the tip, black. In the Spotted redshank, the beak is longer, thin-

ner and the tip sharper, and the lower mandible has a touch of red at the base. The rest of the lower mandible and the whole of the upper mandible are black.

Another feature of the Spotted redshank is the slight curve to the beak.

## The magic number in air conditioners

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The next time you are operating an air conditioner remote look for the magic number 24 and make sure to have it as default setting. To nudge households and businesses to reduce power consumption and carbon emission, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under the Union Minister of Power, has launched a campaign to encourage people to use their ACs at a default setting of 24 degree Celsius.

In South India, Chennai is one of the key cities where this awareness drives will take off with the support of Tangedco as its nodal agency.

"We started the campaign through various methods and will soon extend it with the help of Tangedco, where they

will hold meetings with various stakeholders including manufacturers and dealers involved in this segment to raise awareness," says Chandra Shekhara Reddy, media advisor southern states/ UTs, BEE.

With 1.35 crore consumer base, Chennai is one of the largest in South India and therefore BEE is keen on having this drive in this city.

"With temperature increasing, demand for power is also rising and with Chennai's hot weather this drive is important to protect the environment as well," says Reddy.

According to BEE estimates, increasing the AC temperature by just 1°C can reduce electricity usage by up to 6%. If ACs are set at 24°C nationwide there would be up to 20 billion units of electricity that can be saved annually and carbon emissions could drop by 8.2 million tonnes per year.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency partners with Tangedco to nudge consumers to set their default AC temperature at 24 degree Celsius

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## Chitlapakkam junction: residents not happy with measures to ease congestion



Vehicles parked outside Chitlapakkam lake on May 3 resulting in traffic jam at the junction.  
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Recently, to ease traffic congestion at Chitlapakkam junction, the State Highway Department and the Water Resources Department widened Chitlapakkam First Main Road on the lane towards Tambaram Sanatorium.

However, the exercise has not yielded the desired result. Some residents say the problem has only increased in magnitude.

Visitors to the lake and commercial establishments park their vehicles on the widened section, resulting in congestion.

Chitlapakkam Main Road, Chitlapakkam First Main Road, Chitlapakkam Second Main Road, and Nehru Street converge at the junction.

S. Chandrasekaran, secretary of The Chitlapakkam Anna Nagar (West) Residents' Welfare Association, says: "Due to haphazard parking by motorcyclists, pedestrians have to share space with motorists. The narrow space from Chitlapakkam Third Main Road to First Main Road gets reduced further."

S. Johnson, a pedestrian and a long-

time resident of East Tambaram, says, "When pedestrians walk near the lake's boundary walls, a row of vehicles can be seen. They affect the visibility of motorists coming from Third Main Road, increasing the risk of collisions with pedestrians."

Earlier, motorists could take a free left turn. However, due to vehicular parking, wrong-side driving by motorists from Chromepet and Tambaram Sanatorium has become common. Imagine the plight when ambulances and fire tenders must pass through this junction, ask residents.

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## Lessons on waste management



The Lions Club of Chennai Central Chitlapakkam, in association with the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, conducted an awareness drive for Chitlapakkam residents about segregating solid waste in households. The club president, Baskar, secretary N. Babu, treasurer N. Manimaran, and other members participated in the drive.

## Support for startups

Maha Future Tech Hub of Mahalakshmi Tech Campus signed a Memorandum of Understanding with E16 AI XR Technology Private Limited. The initiative will support startups with resources, incubation, and funding access. The partnership will accelerate research and development, promoting innovation and deeper industry-academia ties, said a release.

R. Ghuhan, vice chairman, Mahalakshmi Tech Campus, and Senthil Kumar, CEO, E16 AI XR Technology Private Limited, Singapore took part.

## Two-day furniture expo

A home furniture expo is being held at Chennai Trade Centre in Nandambakkam on May 11 and 12; 10.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. One can exchange old furniture for new at the expo. Interested customers can take photos of their used furniture and show them to the organisers at the expo, said a press release. Latest trends in home décor, living room sets, bedroom furniture, wallpapers, fashion products, health and beauty products, cosmetics, kitchen accessories and consumer durables are on display. One can avail a discount of 50 percent on all furniture, added the release. For details, call 95661 87502, 93913 91162.

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# HOME FURNITURE



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TIMING : 10.30 AM - 8.30 PM

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