

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



A MILESTONE MEETING FOR THESE TOASTMASTERS

Chennai Toastmasters Club, which meets every Sunday in Anna Nagar, will be having its 1000th meeting today. **P2**



JAPANESE SPARROWHAWK SIGHTED IN CHENNAI

A sighting of a Japanese sparrowhawk with photos from the Adyar Estuary on November 7 marks the first evidential documentation of the bird in mainland India. **P6**

'Key roads in Perambur prone to accidents'

Citizens group seeks rumblers at vulnerable stretches



RAGHUKUMAR CHODAMANI

Two separate accidents occurred on Perambur High Road - North (near City Union Bank and Pranav apartment) around the third week of October and both turned out to be disastrous but fortunately no lives were lost.

Several accidents including a fatal one and close calls have occurred on this same spot earlier. In all these cases, motorists had rammed into the median.

From time to time, Perambur Neighbourhood Development Forum has been raising questions about safety for motorists around these spots. It has been requesting Greater Chennai Corporation to complete the median work on the road.

The construction of a median began in December 2020. The plan was to have a median for the entire length of the road - Perambur railway station at one end and Stephen Road junction at the other.

But the work was stopped within a couple of weeks since it began and thereafter, there has been no

The median on Perambur High Road - North near City Union Bank where many accidents have occurred.

progress to this day.

This incomplete median is doing more harm than good, especially near City Union Bank.

As a safety measure, traffic police have installed reflective boards and solar-powered flash lights. But they have been broken and dislodged whenever vehicles ram into it. Here, the median work should be completed and the road widened.

Perambur High Road - South

Likewise, Perambur High Road - South has also become unsafe in recent times due to increase in traffic. Here again, two separate fatal accidents occurred during the third week of October. One near the Mangalapuram entrance of Mursoli Maran flyover and other near Jamalia (near Sengai Sivam bridge). In both the incidents, motorists rammed into the median.

Perambur Neighbourhood Development Forum has been seeking speed breakers or rumblers on both these main roads at vulnerable spots to caution the commuters of the danger ahead. But our efforts have been fruitless.

Raghukumar Choodamani is the convener of Perambur Neighbourhood Development Forum

An influx of new 'residents' in Anna Nagar East

**V. GOVINDARAJAN
LAKSHMIKANTH BASKARAN**

Residents of Blocks A to K in Anna Nagar East began to hear what sounded like chirps of baby birds from the trees lining First Avenue and Second Main Road. Certainty dawned soon. They were young ones birthed by Black-crowned night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), which had formed a colony, one defined by 50-plus nests. The colony has now grown to around 100 nests. We heard the sounds of baby birds and could see the parents flying back and forth between nearby water bodies (Retteri is two to three kilometres away) and the nests with



food for the juveniles.

The nesting and young-rearing activity have been happening in the last few weeks, and interestingly, the bursting of crackers during Deepavali, did not cause them to turn their mantle and rump on the place and abandon

it.

Residents welcome these big birds and according to our lights, this is the first time black-crowned night herons have formed a colony in Anna Nagar East. We need to wait and see if this practice of nesting and rais-



Black-crowned night herons, adults and juveniles. PHOTOS: LAKSHMIKANTH BASKARAN

ing the young in these trees on First Avenue and Second Main Road would continue.

V. Govindarajan and Lakshmiakanth Baskaran are residents of Anna Nagar East and members of Vishnupuram Birding Circle

Revisiting an old initiative

In 2016, officials of the Forest Department and local residents came together at Revenue Office Quarters in Anna Nagar to save bird hatchlings.

The sight of hatchlings falling on the roads and dying moved residents, so they put up nets tied to trees to protect the birds that were at risk of falling.

According to a report in *The Hindu*, birds had built over 1,000 nests on the trees in the thickly populated residential area. Resident-volunteers helped the department staff fix the nets.



A milestone meeting for these *Toastmasters*

Chennai Toastmasters Club, which meets every Sunday in Anna Nagar, will be having its 1000th meeting today; the grand meetup, to take place at Sterling Club in Nungambakkam, is open to registration from outsiders

Toastmasters meet every Sunday with their respective club members. Today, Chennai Toastmasters Club (CTM) would also be meeting up as usual, but there would be something unusual about the meeting, hugely unusual. For it is not every Sunday that you get to call your meeting, "the 1000th". Today, these Toastmasters can: it is CTM's 1000th meeting since its inception in 2004.

Chennai Toastmasters Club (CTM), which largely serves Anna Nagar and surrounding areas though people from elsewhere are also associated with it, is directly affiliated with Toastmasters International.

According to a press release, CTM has the distinction of being

the first Toastmasters Club in Tamil Nadu. A community club open to all, CTM has contributed to the remarkable growth of the Toastmasters movement in the region, which now boasts more than 175 clubs across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

CTM is often referred to as the "Lighthouse Club" of Tamil Nadu – for a good reason. Its early members laid the foundation for the Toastmasters movement in the State by shaping core principles, practices and processes. Over the years, the club has produced numerous district leaders and champions, further strengthening its legacy, the press release adds.

Today, CTM comprises approximately 40 active members, each embodying the Toastmasters spirit



of growth, learning, and camaraderie. Members represent a diverse spectrum of backgrounds, ranging from students to homemakers,

CTM is often referred to as the "Lighthouse Club" of Tamil Nadu – for a good reason. Its early members laid the foundation for the Toastmasters movement in the State by shaping core principles, practices and processes

from chartered accountants to IT professionals and entrepreneurs, and from Gen Z youth to senior citizens. The club has played a significant role in facilitating both personal and professional development, with many members going on to excel in corporate and entrepreneurial domains, says the release.

As Chennai Toastmasters Club is

set to walk past – nay, talk past – the significant milestone of a 1000 meetings, it needs to be noted that only a few clubs worldwide have achieved this distinction.

CTM boasts an enviable pageant of acclaimed Toastmasters over the years. The list includes Nina John, professional speaker, coach and author; and late Abraham Zachariah, chartered accountant and member of WCC Board of Studies and several other institutions.

All those interested in attending CTM's milestone meeting can call any of these two numbers (94441 86014 / 99620 50708) or register at <https://tinyurl.com/CTM1000>. On-the-spot registration at the venue (Sterling Club, Railway Officers Club, Sterling Road, Nungambakkam) is also possible.

STATUS REPORT

READERS WRITE

'Danger lurking in Porur service lane'



The drain at the service lane near Vanagaram Toll plaza. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

SANGEETHA D

The service lane of Chennai Bypass near Vanagaram toll plaza (also known as Porur toll plaza) is unsafe: in some sections of the service lane, the drains are wide open. They are not even barricaded. It is frightening to use this

stretch as the risk of slipping into an open drain is high. The lanes are narrow and witness heavy traffic.

With vehicles passing close by and the drains remaining completely exposed, pedestrians are forced to walk just inches away from the dangerous spot.

These pedestrians are also at the risk of being hit by vehicles. The lane becomes quite slippery during rains. The open drains can be missed. This is the status for over two years. These drains should be covered at the earliest.

Sangeetha D is a resident of Porur



The transformer on Mogappair Eri Scheme First Main Road in Mogappair. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Fence this transformer'

BADRINATH K.

Greater Chennai Corporation is requested to fence the transformer on Mogappair Eri Scheme First Main Road in Mogappair. The spot around the transformer is misused to dump waste. It is fencing transformers with aesthetic view cutters across the city. I request the aforementioned transformer also to benefit from this exercise as it is located near a school.

Badrinath K. is a resident of Mogappair

'Purpose of having first-class compartments in suburban trains is defeated'

S. MURUGAIAN

Railway authorities are requested to carry out regular ticket checks of commuters in first-class compartments in suburban trains. A good number of commuters without holding first-class tickets travel in first class compartments.

This not only causes inconvenience to genuine first-class ticket holders but also undermines the purpose of maintaining separate travel classes for passenger comfort. This violation is quite rampant during peak hours.

S. Murugaiyan is the president of Thiruninravur Rail Passengers Welfare Association



Perambur's famous Maths teacher is no more

R. Janardhanan founded KRM Group of Educational Institutions; he was fondly called 'RJ Master'



RJ Master with former President APJ Abdul Kalam during an event at the school. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Well-known mathematics teacher and founder of Kaligi Ranganathan Montford Group of Educational Institutions, R. Janardhanan, passed away on November 12 in the city. He was 90 years old.

Fondly called "RJ Master", he started the school more than five decades ago in Perambur and named it after his parents, Kaligi Ammal and Ranganathan Chettiar.

The name Montford was christened in memory of two statesmen – Simon de Montford, an English soldier known for his disciplinarian ways and good conduct in the English Army, and Saint Louis Marie De Montford, a renowned educationist who offered all-round education for the overall development of the young, says a note on the school website.

Born in a farmer's family, it was with grit, determination and perseverance that Janardhanan took

the school to great heights. He served as dean, chairman and senior principal.

He gave up his government job to start the school with the accent placed firmly on holistic development.

From a modest number, today KRM Group of Schools runs four institutions affiliated to CBSE, two matriculation and one special school.

A note shared with *The Hindu* Downtown says RJ Master never allowed anyone to go without food as he knew the value of food for physical and mental wellbeing.

RJ Master was a sought-after mathematics teachers and taught the subject with life examples, he would correlate Tamil poems, English articles and explain maths concepts, and sing songs in class and teach formulas. Even in his 80s, he used to take maths classes for higher classes; such was his love for the subject.

RJ Master's children RJ Thayumanaswamy is CEO of KRM Group of Schools and daughter RJ Kothai Praveen is the correspondent of KRM Special School.

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 contact number.

LIFFY THOMAS

A gazette notification dated October 31, 2025 by the Housing and Urban Development Department of Tamil Nadu issuing amendments to the Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019 augurs well for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the state, and certainly in Chennai, a burgeoning metropolis with a galloping growth in the housing sector.

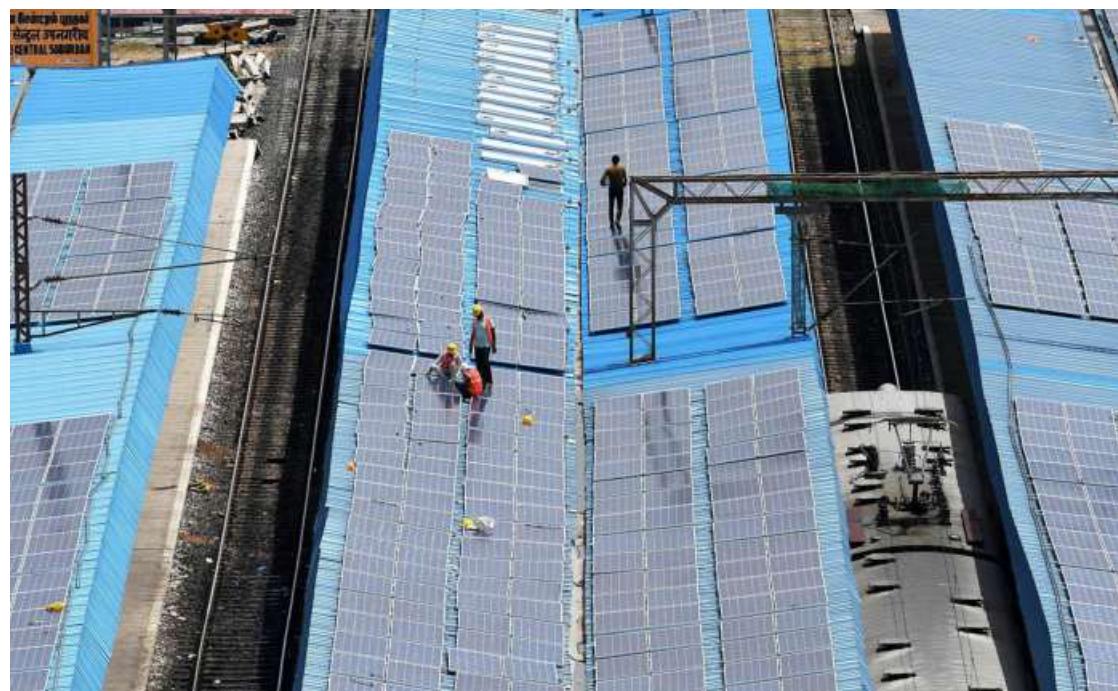
In residential buildings, a charging point for electric vehicles needs to be provided in every car parking and two wheeler parking space. In buildings where the number of dwelling units exceeds 50, car and two-wheeler parking space earmarked for visitors shall be provided with fast charging points. However, buildings up to 14 m in height not exceeding eight dwelling units or 750 square meters of built-up area are exempt from this requirement.

Those working in the renewable energy space note that before apartment complexes start drawing up plans to provide EV infrastructure, it would help to first invest in solar panels and this would be a strategic move. The synergy between the two technologies can create a sustainable energy ecosystem along with huge savings on the electricity bill.

Already, Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules 2019 mandates that at least one third of terrace space be reserved for placement of solar photovoltaic panels to get a completion certifi-

Let the sun shine on your EV moves

With Tamil Nadu expecting apartments of a certain size to integrate EV charging infrastructure into its workaday reality, communities would do well to tap into solar energy to make the bill palatable



File photo of solar panels installed at the Moore Market suburban station complex.

cate from CMDA.

Ashok Kumar, president, Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Developers Association, gives three reasons why

they are pushing for greater adoption of solar energy.

For domestic use, consumers can avail a subsidy under Prime Mi-

nister Surya Ghar Scheme for a minimum of 3 kW photovoltaic solar plant. "Since the GST tax slab was revised, the entire cost of installing

a solar power unit has come down by another 5%," says Ashok. "The excess energy generated is fed into the grid, so one can use solar energy 24x7 and that energy can be used to charge an EV vehicle."

Residential vs commercial tariff

Krutivas Pushkar, managing director of Pushkar Properties and a member of Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI), says today solar and EV infrastructure are sought-after amenities in residential projects, but some factors are hindering their progress. For instance, TNEB takes more than six months to get a solar unit installed on the rooftop connected to the grid.

"When you are coming up with a residential project with a solar unit on the rooftop, the common areas in the blocks (which include lifts/lights/landscaping/borewell motors) come under the commercial tariff, where the rates are much higher than what is charged under residential tariff," says Krutivas.

So even if a community has been harnessing the power of the sun, they do not get "unit to unit" deduction. "You produce whatever you want and give it to the grid, the TNEB gives you ₹3.80 per unit rebate, whereas for the commercial tariff, a charge of around ₹8 per unit is borne by the residents association. This is something CREDAI is fighting as we want the common areas in the residential block to be brought under residential tariff or it will not encourage people to switch to this renewable source of energy," says Krutivas.

Power comes at zero cost

Praveen Kumar P.A. invested in a rooftop solar unit in 2021; in the years that followed, the demand for power increased with the arrival of two electric vehicles. Still, the family enjoys a nil electricity bill; and the initial investment has been covered



Praveen Kumar P.A. says the solar rooftop has been placed in such a manner that there is no wastage of space

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Praveen Kumar P.A.'s electricity bill is easy on his domestic budget. It is an almost nil power bill despite two electrical vehicles being in the picture. He has to thank the 8 kW solar roof unit he has installed on the terrace of his 13-unit apartment complex for the heart-warming number on the power bill.

In 2021, when Praveen purchased a flat in Velachery, he convinced the other owners to allow him to use the terrace space to in-

stall solar panels. It is an elevated structure so that roof space is not wasted and also helps neighbours to use the space under the panel as drying and leisure space.

Initially, the family went in for four kW, deciding they will increase the capacity when they invest in electric vehicles they added another four kW.

In November 2024, an electric scooter arrived, followed by an electric car in April 2025. With these arrivals, the solar unit was scaled up.

The 8 kW solar system gener-

ates 32 units a day (kilo watt hours) and every billing cycle (once in two months) it generates close to 2000 units.

"My car when fully charged supports me for 500 km and takes 70 units per charge," says the businessman who is in his early 30s.

"Our four-bedroom flat consumes 2,000 units on an average and going with the Government

charge of ₹11 for anything above 1000 units I should be incurring a bi-monthly bill of ₹ 22,000," he explains.

Since 2023, he pays a minimum amount of ₹800 for using solar (as per the rule that for every 100 per kW)

"That's a fixed bill," he says.

Praveen has more numbers to show that the ₹4 lakh investment he made in 2021 for the 8 kW solar

plant is proving to be profitable.

"I covered the investment cost in three years. The best part of having a rooftop solar unit is that it has a life span of 25 years as there are no batteries to maintain and other components come with a warranty," he adds.

Over the years, inspired by Praveen, six other families in the community have invested in rooftop solar units.

SUSTAINABILITY

KIDS craft change

Around Children's Day, little nimble fingers demonstrated how art forms that use eco-friendly and even discarded materials can be part of everyday living as well as celebrations

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL



Undoing a knotty problem

Thirteen-year-old Keshavanath Shankar stumbled into macramé a year and a half ago, when idle hours at home and the absence of a television demanded a more creative diversion. Crochet proving difficult, he began experimenting with knots after noticing friends and online creators working with macramé. "It just felt comfortable," he says of the craft that has since become his daily practice.

Keshavanath works exclusively with sustainably sourced cotton

cords from Craft Affairs. "Even the cotton is eco-friendly," he notes, aligning his materials with the sustainability principles taught to him. He primarily makes pouches and keychains that are priced between ₹60 and ₹250 though larger pieces such as wall hangings and bottle holders demand considerably more time and effort.

His process is exacting. He begins by measuring and cutting cords before knotting them into their final form. "I enjoy almost every part, except the last bit where I

have to tie every single knot and cut it," he admits. Bigger customised orders come with challenges: "I pull the threads so many times that my skin starts shedding." Mistakes, however small, are never ignored. "I undo every knot until it is fixed."

For Keshavanath, sustainability is a responsibility. "My generation deserves a cleaner world," he says. His message to buyers is simple: choose products that are stylish and eco-friendly – creations that do not add to the planet's burden.

diamonds," she explains, "but if they want, they can customise it."

Palm leaves, the state tree of Tamil Nadu, are celebrated not only for their cultural significance but also for their ecological benefits. Biodegradable, naturally durable, and requiring no chemical treatment, they have emerged as a sustainable alternative in contemporary craft. "Since it's natural, it forms a thin layer of dust. You have to dust it with a paintbrush every time," Thara explains, highlighting both the material's charm and its quirks.

For Thara, the craft is more than a creative pursuit. "It makes me feel calm and improves my concentration," she says. Encouraged by her mother – "She said I could do it again if I committed to it", Thara has continued to refine her skills.

Just ahead of the exhibition, where she was going to teach visitors, Thara said: "I want to teach them. If they want, they can learn, and if they want, they can buy it."



Leafing through art

At ten years, P.S. Thara, from Kasturba Nagar, Adyar and a student at St. Patrick's High School (CISCE) is already carving a niche for herself in the world of sustainable craft. Her journey began at the age of nine during an Organic Farmers Market exhibition in Kasturba Na-

What if children are empowered to take on the mantle of teachers, and adults are at the receiving end of knowledge transfer. What if children school their elders in the grammar of conscious living. What if children are conversant with the idioms of sustainability, source discards and transform them into desirable, eco-friendly, everyday utilitarian objects and eye-catching decor. On

November 15, at the time of this article going to press, Kid's Kraft Carnival 2025 – Edition 2 (organised by Boutique Bougainvillea and The Kraft Faktor) was under way in Velachery, demonstrating that these what-ifs can be realities. Around a dozen children in the 10 to 15 age bracket were holding sessions on a variety of art-based practices defined by sustainable processes. The children showed the attendees how to make origami-based decor, quilled wall decor,

quilled jewellery, artwork on upcycled boards, clay-based art and palm-leaf decor. Various other art forms were also in attendance (crochet, macrame and decoupage among them) and all of them were viewed through the lens of sustainability and the eyes of the young ones that have mastered them through sustained practice. Some of these children have taken these skillsets beyond weekend sessions to build brands that fuse sustainability with art.

Decoupage for the planet

With scraps of paper, old sheets, and dried flowers, 10-year-old Maya Ram, a Grade 5 student at Adyar Theosophical Society, turns everyday objects into decoupage creations. Decoupage, the craft of layering paper and fabric to decorate surfaces, allows her to repurpose discarded materials into functional décor.

Using torn tissue papers, old bedsheets, dried flowers, and leftover materials, Maya applies layers onto circular pots to create sustainable décor. "I have also decomposed tissue papers with leaves, flowers, floral designs, and other patterns," says Maya, a resident of Indira Nagar, Adyar. She can also personalise items: "If a customer wants something specific, like a dog design, I can try to find decomposed tissue paper or fabric for them, though it will cost a little more."

She carefully applies the papers to circular pots, a process that demands patience and attention. "The paper is rectangular, but the pot is circular, so it is hard to place it correctly without

bubbles," she says. Each piece takes between one and one-and-a-half hours, depending on size and design, and she finishes them with a sealant, choosing eco-friendly options wherever possible.

Maya began her practice at seven, creating items for charity with guidance from her mother. "My mother helped me with pricing since I did not know how to do it," she recalls. Now she is developing her own brand, Fuss-pots, with the tagline: "Be fussy, be eco-friendly" calculating prices based on materials and effort.

Beyond selling, Maya encourages environmental awareness, refurbishing old pots and showing how everyday items can have a second life. "I want buyers to see how sustainable products can also be décor," she says.

She also adapts her designs to meet personal requests, experimenting with shapes, patterns and customised themes. She points out that each project teaches her new skills in planning, pricing and sourcing responsibly.



Japanese sparrowhawk sighted in Chennai

Breeding in East Asia and wintering in South East Asia, this bird is known to show up in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A sighting of a Japanese sparrowhawk with photos from the Adyar Estuary on November 7 marks the first evidential documentation of the bird in mainland India

PRINCE FREDERICK

Touch upon this topic about the Adyar Estuary, and one ends up in an ouroboric, cyclical reasoning. The conclusion takes one to the starting point which feeds back into the same conclusion. It is the chicken-and-egg conundrum in a birding contest.

The T20I strike rate Abishek Sharma currently enjoys among batters, the Adyar Estuary enjoys among birding patches in and around Chennai in terms of hyperticks (sightings of unexpected feathers). Every birder worth their pair of binoculars would have clocked in numerous hours at the Adyar Estuary. And that begets the conundrumical question: do birders flock to the Adyar Estuary in large numbers because it throws up avian surprises regularly or does the Adyar Estuary throw up avian surprises regularly because birders flock to it in large numbers?

Forget its overall rare bird stats. Over the last couple of months, the Adyar Estuary has hosted a Saunders's tern (in fact, two) for a while, supported what seems an Isabelline wheatear's day-trip to Chennai; and in the week that went by, it had a dalliance with a Japanese sparrowhawk.

No mistyping there; a Japanese sparrowhawk indeed. The lucky pair of eyes that peered through the binoculars belongs to Ramanan R.V., a Madras Naturalists Society (MNS) member and a birder.

The encounter with the Accipiter hawk happened in the liminal zone at the Adyar Estuary



where one breathes in the same air that caresses the broken bridge and the peripheral part of the compound wall enclosing the Theosophical Society campus. This part of the Estuary can be christened "unexpected birds check-in counter", given the enviable aggregate of such sightings it boasts.

Ramanan shares the details of the encounter with *The Hindu Downtown*: "On the morning of November 7, around 6.30 a.m., there was a commotion inside the TS campus. Drongos were shouting, chasing some bird and

then all of a sudden this bird came out and it started chasing a green bee-eater. It went on two sorties trying to catch the green bee-eater, but was unsuccessful in the attempt. Initially I was looking through the binoculars and I thought it was the usual Shikra. Then I noticed it was on the leaner side and slightly smaller than a Shikra. I then took my camera and captured a few shots of the raptor."

Ramanan went to the patch on two subsequent days, but the bird did not show up.

Ramanan notes that photos of the bird were "subsequently shared with 'ProjectRaptor-Watch' of the Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS) for assistance with identification. The initial impression, given the location, was that of a Eurasian sparrowhawk (Acci-



The Japanese sparrowhawk photographed by Madras Naturalists Society member Ramanan R.V. at Adyar Estuary on November 7, 2025.

Recent rare avian sightings at Adyar Estuary

Saunders's tern: For around three weeks in September
Isabelline wheatear: October 2
Japanese sparrowhawk: November 7

luminaries on raptors.

The Japanese sparrowhawk shuttles between its breeding home in East Asia, which includes China, Japan, Korea and Siberia and its wintering home in South-east Asia.

Ramanan elaborates, "Within the Indian subcontinent, its occurrence has been documented as a migrant and winter visitor primarily, if not exclusively, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This is the first photographic sight record of the species from mainland India. There are records from Walong and Namdapha in Arunachal Pradesh. Without documentation, these records are just claims. This is the first time we are documenting the sighting of a Japanese sparrowhawk in mainland India and then showing it."

piter nisus). However, a detailed analysis of the photographs by the group confirmed the bird's identity as an immature Japanese sparrowhawk (*Tachyspiza gulalis*). Both are members of the family accipitridae.

Ramanan remarks that the photographs came under the knitted brows of Gnanakan Kesavabharathi and Nirav Bhatt,

Identification pointers

Here are selective points from the observations Gnanakan Kesavabharathi made based on the photos of the Japanese sparrowhawk Ramanan R.V. shared with him. These are identification pointers that rule out "lookalikes".

Pointer one: "Lack of black-tipped outer primaries eliminates Chinese sparrowhawk."

Pointer two: "Based on the number of black-barring in the primaries (especially P8) and the number of primary fingers, we can eliminate Eurasian sparrowhawk. Also mesial stripe was not visible in all image angles. In initial review, I could not count

primaries right with available images and mistook the gap in outer primary as missing primary. Eurasian sparrowhawk in all ages have good protruding P5 finger."

Pointer three: "Based on the indistinct mesial stripe, the number of bands in P8 (less than six in Besra) and considering they are residents with not much of movements recorded, we can eliminate Besra as well."

Building up the the identification profile with these pointers, Gnanakan Kesavabharathi concludes: "Leaving us the best contender as Japanese sparrowhawk, for which all these elimination pointers fit in."

STATUS REPORT



Traffic congestion on the section of CTH Road from TI Cycle factory to TI School junction in Ambattur.
PHOTOS: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

This junction waits for a mending exercise



'Bridge in Ambattur should be widened'

A. RAJIN

The section of CTH Road from TI School Road junction to TI Cycles factory in Ambattur gets heavily congested during peak hours and traffic moves at a snail's pace. It should be noted this section of the road is a bridge over a railway track. Each of these points – that is the junction and the factory – are located at each end of the bridge.

Traffic police have come up with an arrangement recently aimed at enabling a hassle free movement of vehicles on this stretch. They decongest the stretch by stopping the vehicles at each of these points alternatively and are allowed to move ahead. This is done only during peak hours in the morning and evening.

This is a welcome move but not a lasting solution as it entails manual intervention and therefore cannot be



sustained. If the traffic police is not available on some day for some reason this regulation cannot be carried out. The ideal solution is to widen the bridge.

A project to widen the bridge was announced some time in 2013 and it was learnt from the dailies that it was

stalled due to hurdles in land acquisition. Officials and elected representatives inspected the bridge in November 2022 and fund was also allocated to start the widening work. However, there was no progress after that.

A. Rajin is a resident of Ambattur

Inter-school competitions for Library Week

Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth College for Women (CTTE) is celebrating National Library Week and Children's Day with inter-school competitions on November 28 at its campus in Perumbur.

The competitions will cover a diverse range of activities designed to develop 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. The events include oratorical competition - "Mind Matters" on the topic "Discipline - Boon or Bane?"; Essay Writing - "Pen of the Young Mind" on "Reading or Movies - Which Is Healthier for the Mind?"; Essay / Reflective Writing - "Bridging Generations" on "Geriatric - The Generation Gap Between Children and Grandparents"; Group Discussion - "Impact of Social Media on School Children"; Poster Writing - "Green Chennai, Clean Tomorrow" on "Disposal of Garbage in Future Chennai". Registration for the competitions is open until November 21. For details, contact Sumuki Padmanabhan at 99625 59107

The junction of Kanniyamman Koil Street and Pillayar Koil Street on Village Road in Ambattur is battered. Here, a dried plantain stem serves as a sign of caution about a deep pit on the road.

According to regular users of the junction, this is the status for the past few months.

Village Road connects Avin Dairy Road and CTH Road and witnesses heavy traffic.

The images were taken on November 10, 2025.



Best Bargains

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IOCL organises graffiti design contest to mark vigilance week



As part of Vigilance Awareness Week, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) organised a Graffiti Design Contest across four colleges in Chennai. Aimed at promoting the theme of vigilance and integrity among students, this contest by IOCL was supported by *The Hindu*

Future India Club. The colleges that participated in the event are: Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women; Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty's Hindu College; Shri Shankarlal Sundarbai Shasun Jain College for Women; and Anna

Veilankanni's College of Arts and Science. This year's theme is "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility".

The event was graced by D. Sureshkumar, general manager (vigilance), and Senthamil Selvan, general manager (lubes), from IOCL. They interacted with students and shared valuable insights on the importance of vigilance in everyday life. They also administered the Vigilance Pledge to all participants, reinforcing the commitment to transparency and ethical practices.

P.B. Vaneetha, Principal of Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women, along with all Heads of Departments, were present and extended their support to this initiative aimed at fostering awareness and responsibility among the youth.

VS Hospitals launches HOPE

VS Hospitals, a cancer care center in the city, has launched a Holistic Oncology Program for Excellence (HOPE). This framework uniquely blends targeted treatment methods with AI-powered nutrition support.

The hospital has also established a dedicated Department of Precision Oncology. These initiatives work together to improve diagnosis, reduce treatment burdens, boost survival rates, and enhance the quality of life for patients and their families, said a release. Rohini Molleti, actress and social worker, launched the initiatives in the presence of Dr. S.

Subramanian, senior medical oncologist, and founder of the hospital; Dr. Nithya Sridharan, associate director and senior consultant, medical oncology; and Dr. Vijay G., consultant, adult and paediatric medical oncologist.

The hospital signed an MoU with Tweak and Eat, a US-based health and wellness AI company, to provide its patients with real-time personalised meal plans and ongoing dietary adjustments during and after treatment, said the release.

Dr. Subramanian said, "Our HOPE model is built on the belief that healing is never a straight line. It requires medical accuracy, emotional strength, good nutrition, rehabilitation, and social support working in unison."

Baashyaam achieves a milestone



Baashyaam Constructions achieved a remarkable milestone on October 31. The real estate company completed handing over of flats for 120 residents on a single day at an event, according to a press release. These residents will soon be moving into The Peak in Ashok Nagar. Comprising a total of 240 units, the high-rise adds.



apartment has a clubhouse, grand entrance lobby, elegant main lobby, well-equipped gymnasium, indoor games area, multipurpose hall and an elevated swimming pool. The event demonstrates a commitment to excellence, punctual delivery, and customer satisfaction, the release adds.

New grievance redressal mode

QR code-based system to lodge complaints against catering stalls in railway stations

Chennai Division of Southern Railway has launched a QR code-based system to register complaints or share feedback regarding catering stalls. According to a press release, complaints regarding overcharging, deficiency in service, food quality, quantity, non-availability of food and water, and hygiene can be registered through this QR code-enabled system.

How it works

QR code will be displayed at all the

catering stalls. It is unique to each shop. Upon scanning, essential details such as the stall's location and station code will be provided and will be directed to the Railmadad portal, the official grievance redressal platform of Indian Railways. To ensure secure access, passengers are required to enter their mobile number and authenticate via a one-time password. Once authenticated, they can select the grievance type, provide a brief description and submit. A message acknowledging the receipt of the complaint along with a unique reference number would be sent to the registered mobile number allowing passengers to track the status of their complaint. The same

would be sent to alert Catering Inspectors and Station Managers, enabling them to attend to the complaint promptly.

How does the new mode help
The complainant will not go wrong or commit mistakes in furnishing details about the stall as that is taken care by the unique QR code. Next, this enables instant registration of a complaint. Also, the system strengthens the monitoring of catering units, adds the release.

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Applications invited

The Chennai Division of the Southern Railway has invited applications from interested candidates for the Mobile Unreserved Ticketing System (M-UTS) Sahayaks.

The M-UTS Sahayaks' Scheme launched recently at Chennai Central Railway Station is proving to be beneficial to passengers by making unreserved ticketing faster, more convenient, and digitally accessible, said a release. The M-UTS Sahayaks are authorised personnel trained in mobile ticketing and have been issuing unreserved tickets through the M-UTS mobile application. The Railway is planning to extend it to other busy railway stations across the division.

The application process will open on November 26, and forms can be downloaded from the Southern Railway's official website. Preference will be given to local applicants.

Applications can be downloaded at https://sr.indianrailways.gov.in/sr/notice/1762348518026_Press%20notification%20-%2020051125.pdf, says a release from the Southern Railway.

Finals of inter-school quiz today

Battle of Brains, an inter-school quiz competition, reaches its thrilling finale on November 16 at Image Auditorium, MRC Nagar from 6 p.m. onwards. The top six school teams that have battled their way through the zonal and semifinal rounds will vie for the title and exciting prizes worth ₹4 lakhs, said a release.

Organised by Casagrand, in association with Nexus Consulting, the 'Battle of Brains' - Chennai edition witnessed participation from over 800 students representing more than 100 schools.

Free camp in Anna Nagar

Sugam Psychological Counselling and Research Center is conducting a free camp for assessment of mental well being of individuals aged 13 to 23 years on November 22 and 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. After assessment of emotional health, a brief individual guidance will be provided by certified psychologist, said a release.

The camp will take place at the centre on 18th Main Road, Anna Nagar. For registration, contact 9444084946. The camp will be conducted by team of certified psychologists.