

## 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



## ‘Without enforcement, footpaths cannot be reclaimed’

V. JAGADEESAN

**M**inister for Municipal Administration & Water Supply K.N. Nehru's recent announcement that the Greater Chennai Corporation will develop an infrastructure for non-motorised transport (NMT), covering 200 km of roads at an estimated cost of ₹200 crore is welcome. With the aim of providing pedestrian safety and beautifying the city, the project envisages wider footpaths, well-designed intersections and street furniture.

But the sad reality is the footpaths, developed under Singara Chennai Scheme of the Greater Chennai Corporation, have never



Motorists driving on the footpath at T.Nagar. The images were taken on April 4. PHOTOS: AKHILA EASWARAN

served their purpose. The stretch of South Usman Road from Shiva Vishnu temple to Pothys near Ranganathan Street and Thyagaraya Road (Pondy Bazaar) are a few examples of unfriendly footpaths. They are completely taken

over by vendors and pedestrians walk on the road endangering their limb and life. Besides, motorists drive on the footpath.

V. Jagadeesan  
Metha Nagar

## ‘Extension of S23 bus service is not helping’

Citing poor patronage, Metropolitan Transport Corporation has extended the service of small bus service S23 (Iyyapanthangal - Kumananchavadi via Oil Mill Road, Noombal, Puliyanbedu and Goparasannallur). Now, the extended route covers Porur and Poonamalle. Regular commuters find this move unhelpful as the wait for the bus has become longer.

Just a couple of buses are dedicated to this route and the frequency was one service per hour earlier and now with the extension of the route, commuters wait for an hour-and-a-half. This would only reduce the patronage of the service.

The underlying principle of a small bus service is to cover interior areas which are not served by regular buses. But S23 extension violates this principle by operating on Porur and Poonamalle stretches of Mount Poonamalle High Road, a State Highway well served by regular buses.

It should be noted that following several representations made by residents' associations, this service was restored last month



Small bus S23.  
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

after a five-year hiatus.

MTC should devote a few more buses to this route or split the route: One from Porur to Kumananchavadi via Iyyapanthangal and Noombal and another from Iyyapanthangal to Poonamalle via Kumananchavadi and Noombal

P Senthil Kumar,  
Iyyapanthangal

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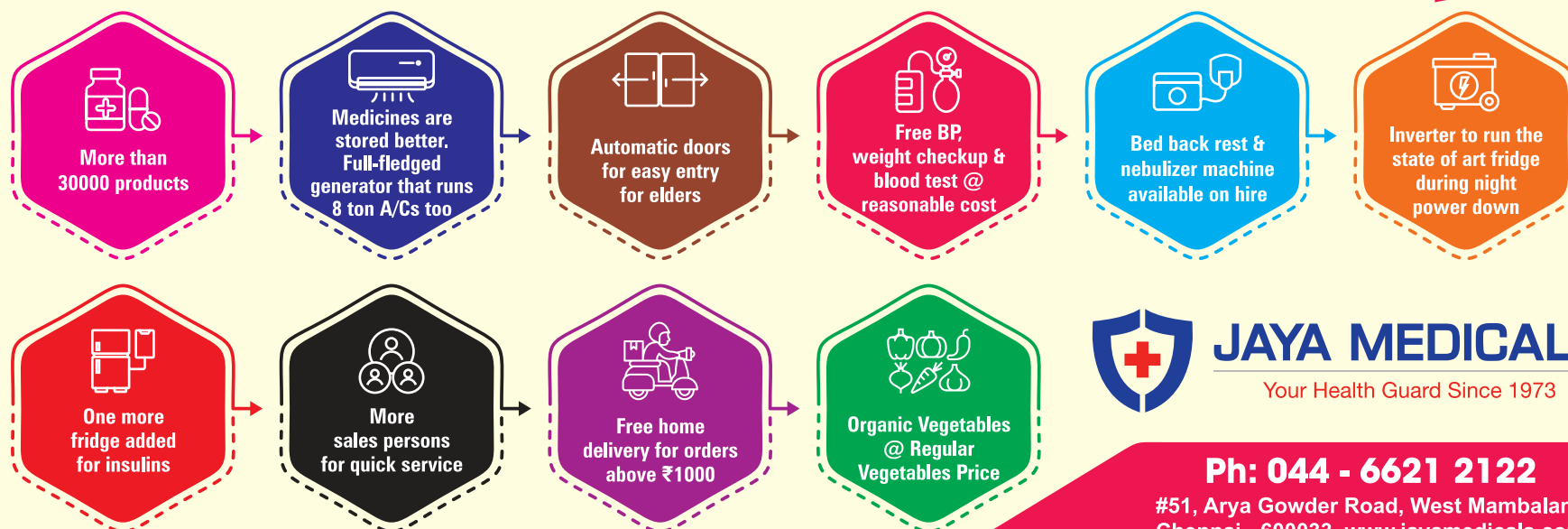
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(Clockwise from left) When the tree was standing tall and majestic; pieces of the dead tree now; and the tree following its restoration after Cyclone Michaung. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND PRINCE FREDERICK



# The mighty baobab at Egmore is gone

The death of the tree was discovered when the Forest Department was taking a count of the heritage trees in Chennai

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes, one would come to the awareness of an event long after it had occurred. And sometimes, even that discovery would be made incidentally. The death of a baobab at the Egmore Museum came to light long after the giant tree gave up its ghost. The discovery happened when someone had visited the museum, ironically, to greet this baobab tree, take its measurements, note down its GPS coordinates. That someone – who was from the forest department – out to take stock of something that was believed to be full of the sap of life, was thrust into the role of a “coroner”.

T.D. Babu, a trustee of tree conservation NGO Nizhal, reveals that this discovery was made when the Forest Department was doing a round of the trees that had been identified as qualifying for heritage tree status. The exercise was being carried out to finalise the list and



have these trees declared to be having heritage value and have a hedge of protection placed firmly around them.

“We were shocked that one more giant tree has been lost in our city due to insensitivity and ignorance. The baobab tree can easily

live for 1000 years. It is so sad it was not allowed to live its full life span. Many such green sentinels vanish regularly without getting noticed,” says Babu.

During cyclone Michaung, this baobab tree slumped; and it was helped back to its “feet” and res-



tored by PWD.

Babu says Nizhal is one of the entities associated with the Forest Department in this exercise to

identify heritage trees. “We had prepared a list of heritage trees in Chennai as early as 2013,” says Babu.

On the factors that would have caused the death of this baobab, Babu says: “They were dumping garbage around it. The continued presence of moisture could have been the baobab’s undoing. The pieces they had been thrown away are trying to sprout, but will die soon as it is getting infected with fungus.

“Forest department can make an attempt to plant these pieces to see if they will grow vegetatively, as there is a sign of life in the thrown branches, before it becomes food for fungus and termites. The main tree is dead; but having these branches sprout into new trees can be some consolation that offshoots of the mother tree are with us.”

Babu notes that the Forest Department has initiated a move “to freeze the identified trees to quickly declare the heritage trees of Chennai. This would really help in protecting our heritage trees.”

## The losses

T.D. Babu, trustee of tree conservation NGO Nizhal lists out the heritage trees Chennai has lost in recent years.

“A few trees we have lost: Mavaligam near Rettaimalai Srinivasan Memorial; Vennangu near Rajaji memorial, baobab trees at Greaves Road and M.A.Chidambaram cricket stadium, besides the one inside the Egmore Museum; Etti maram at the parking area of Semmozhipoonga, Kaatu vadhuma in front of Semmozhi Poonga, Vaadha narayana on MG Road in Besant nagar, Siruthai pattai maram on TTK road, Illupai inside Lady Willingdon Institute of Advance Study in Education campus, Kamarajar Salai.”



## READERS WRITE



That staircase and the ramp of the bridge over Adyar river at West Jhaffer Khanpet is unfriendly to pedestrians. Its staircase is uneven with broken tiles and there are no hand railings. Further, the ramp which is along the staircase is too steep and cables lie exposed. Therefore it is hardly used.

Next, the road along the ramp of the bridge leading to the underpass needs mending as its margins are battered and the footpath is broken.

*P. Sudhakar, secretary,  
Federation of Residential Welfare Associations, West Jhaffer Khanpet*

## ‘Staircase at bridge in Jhaffer Khanpet is unsafe’



The staircase and ramp of the bridge in West Jhaffer Khanpet; and the road along the ramp of the bridge.  
PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B



## ‘Live electricity cables run low’

Overhead live electricity wires passing over two houses at Second Street at Vijay Nagar in Valasaravakkam are too close for comfort.

Tangedco raise the wires to a safer height.

Besides, necessary measures should be taken to provide underground cable facility here.

*J Senthil Vel  
Valasaravakkam*

## Waiting for a mending exercise

The Porur section of Arcot Road on April 4. This stretch is battered and regulars want it mended at the earliest because it is narrow and the ongoing metro rail construction has reduced the road width further. This stretch witnesses heavy traffic as it provides connectivity to Kundrathur and Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road.

PHOTO : VELANKANNI RAJ B



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Residents on the nitty-gritty of welcoming solar power into their homes and how different the EB bill looks now

LIFFY THOMAS

From the terrace of John Praveen's villa, one can see sloped panels stretch away, glinting in the sun. These are John's neighbours at a gated community in Sholinganallur; and they have gone solar just as John has.

Since June 2023, when he installed a 9.8 KW solar power plant, John has not paid anything towards electricity consumption except for the minimal network charges for a grid-tied solar power system. He is not practising austerity: he is generous with the use of his ACs and various other gadgets.

"Prior to switching to solar power, electricity bills in summer months would hover around ₹20,000 (bi-monthly). Now our bi-monthly bill ranges between ₹ 800 and ₹ 900, which is the basic network charge we are covered under," says John. The family was inspired to adopt solar power by a school project on affordable and clean energy their son was assigned.

John was also inspired by his father-in-law in Kerala who was an early adopter of solar technology with a solar inverter system.

Switching to solar power has been an immensely satisfying experience for this family of four. Here is the math of it. "Our solar plant has so far generated 27 KWh of electricity, equivalent to 27,000 units annually. The environmental impact, as per the solar inverter app, is significant: 15.4 trees planted (carbon offset equivalent), 27.7 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and 11.12 tons of coal saved," he explains.

#### The question of maintenance

Many houses that have invested in rooftop solar plants point out that the key to keeping the electricity bill to a minimal lies in how the panels are maintained.

Many service providers offer annual maintenance contract where the panels are cleaned periodically, and even warranty for five to eight years.

At John's home, the panels are washed every

fortnight with a hose pipe and spray gun to remove any dust and bird droppings. "The panels need to be kept clean for best efficiency," says John.

T.H. Jothi Kumar, who has a six panel 3 KV plant installed above the lift room of his apartment in Pallikaranai, says before zeroing in on the vendor he read reviews of them. "It is important to not just rely on recent feedback but those written more than five months ago," says Jothi Kumar. Hard objects such as stones could damage the solar panel and they need to be protected from such things. "Our solar panels come with a lighting arrestor, which safeguards the equipment from voltage spikes, so check if the vendor has provided one or ask for it," says Jothi Kumar.

R.Balaji, director, GESA Power, an authorised vendor, say they discourage consumers from investing in solar if their bi-monthly bill is less than 400 units.

"We require a minimum of 80-100 sq.ft. space on the terrace to install one kilowatt of solar. If the terrace is not able to accommodate that then we identify other spots where sunlight will be maximum," says Balaji, an authorised partner for Tata Power Solar.

Other nagging doubts from consumers have to do with metering and the functioning of the solar plant during monsoon. A 3KW solar plant is the basic one can go in for if 600 units is the bimonthly consumption.

"If one installs 1KW of solar it generates 4 units a day and between 5 and 6 units during peak season, which is good enough. Generation happens from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and increases during afternoons," says Balaji.

Tangedco replaces the main EB with bi-directional metres and also charges an amount for this. Stressing on the need to choose an approved vendor, Balaji says under the terms of agreement they are required to serve the customer for five years. "Tangedco can revoke us if a complaint is made by a consumer," he adds.

DESIGN: M. ARIVARASU

# Basking in the sun

## Help for RWAs to set up solar plants

## Taking stock of a government scheme a year down the line

Until February 2025, a total of 26,755 domestic consumers in Tamil Nadu had installed solar rooftops availing the Prime Minister Surya Ghar subsidy scheme, launched during the same time last year.

Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) officials say more ground needs to be covered.

Prabhakaran Veeraarasu, environmental engineer and member Poovalagin Nanbargal, says solar rooftop is critical for energy transition and the state government should consider incentivising con-

sumers and also encourage more R&D in battery storage. "While there is some awareness on solar rooftop, there are hurdles that prevent people from switching to solar energy," says Prabhakaran. Currently, the Government is working on a tool that will simplify the process of installing a solar plant.

He says Tamil Nadu government plans to ensure 20,000 MW of solar power capacity and 10,000 MW of battery storage by 2030.

Many consumers and vendors *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to say wrinkles in the processes pertaining to submission of the application process and getting the reimburse-

ment have been ironed out in the last one year.

Tangedco's five zones have been initiating various activities to create awareness among people about solar energy.

In March 2025, the Chennai North Circle under Tangedco started a grievance meeting exclusively to address concerns of consumers and vendors regarding solar rooftop.

"After the regular grievance meeting that Tangedco organises, we have set aside time from 3 p.m. to meet domestic consumers and vendors," says Jayachandran, superintendent engineer (north circle),

standing that a separate WhatsApp group has also been formed with vendors.

Under the circle, the department has processed maximum applications from Perumbur area covering Agaram and Periyar Nagar.

Once an application is received in the portal, Tangedco has to submit a feasibility report where the capacity of the existing meter is also verified.

Besides all the documentation, a GPS-enabled photo of the consumer standing next to the solar panel, and an agreement with the vendor and the consumer are required to get the refund.

The scheme subsidises 60 per

### Get help

[www.pmsuryaghar.gov.in](http://www.pmsuryaghar.gov.in) offers step-by-step guidance on how to submit an application. The site also lists registered vendors and financing options

Visit the local Tangedco office to seek clarity about solar power systems

Tangedco conducts grievance meetings in various zones with separate slots for consumers seeking information about solar rooftop installations

## The challenge posed by a shared terrace

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Restrictive roof space, shared ownership of the terrace and lack of buy-in from residents make solar adoption in apartments a massive challenge.

For the last two months, N. Balakrishnan, a vendor listed in the PM Surya Ghar scheme, has been waiting to get the "no objection certificate" from a customer in T. Nagar who is keen on investing in a rooftop photovoltaic (RTPV) plant.

"The customer lives in a 14-unit apartment in T. Nagar; he had been inspired to switch to solar power by the example set by his father who has installed a 10 KV solar plant in his independent house. This apartment's terrace is not being used by residents to dry clothes but it has a water tank and cable lines run over it. Other residents are not ready to allow him to install the solar plant," says Balakrishnan of Shiva Shakti Solar.

**A study says Chennai accounts for 25% of the electricity consumption in Tamil Nadu but its rooftop solar power contribution is on the lower side**

For a basic 3 KV solar plant to be installed, the vendor has to study if the remaining space on the terrace will permit other residents to install a similar facility in the future if they desire. "At least five residents have to agree to it by signing on a form provided by TANGEDCO along with signatures on their Aadhar copy and electricity bill," says Balakrishnan, adding that he has been called for one more round of talks.

Bigger the number of units in an apartment, the more the challenge in getting personal solar connections installed on the rooftop.

Some years ago, Jeth Nagar Resident Welfare Association in Mandaveli tried installing an RTPV system for common ser-

vices and consumption but it did not work out for various reasons, one of them being persuading the eight households sharing the roof space to agree to have solar plants installed.

A few years ago, Balakrishnan says, a dealer had to remove the solar plant in a new project as others in the complex objected to having such a facility. In another case in Nanganallur, an owner had a private terrace so it was easy to install the solar plant.

However, he says, in a few cases installing solar plant for one owner has also turned advantageous as other flats in the street wanted to go in for a similar facility.

"Getting consensus from all residents in apartment complexes over adopting rooftop solar power is a tedious process," agrees Hari Subbush Kumar, senior programme manager, Asar Social Impact Advisors Pvt. Ltd., a partner company in a report prepared by C40 on implementation of solar rooftop in Chennai.

The study says that Chennai accounts for 25% of the electricity consumption in Tamil Nadu but its rooftop solar power contribution is on the lower side. Due to high prevalence of multi-storey buildings and multiple electricity connections in the same building, the progress in rooftop photo voltaic adoption has been slow, says the report.

Absence of a "group net metering regime" in the state was also cited as a hurdle. For tenants, persuading landlords to let them to install rooftop solar plant is often a massive challenge.

Hari says they are working with large apartment communities and developers to resolve various teething issues in green energy adoption. Asar along with its partners has also been encouraging RWAs to adopt rooftop solar power for common amenities so that it brings down the maintenance charges for all residents.

Hari adds that many resident welfare associations are not registered under the TN Apartment Ownership Act, preventing them from availing subsidies for rooftop solar plants in common areas.





## Prajnya 'leaves the scene', but promises continued support

Known for its work to sensitise people about gender-based violence, the non-profit had a 17-year run

LIFFY THOMAS

**P**rajnya Trust, a Chennai-based non-profit organisation working on issues related to peace, justice and security, has closed its operations and account. March 31, 2025 was its last day.

"Starting very small, everyday has been a surprise, every tomorrow has been a challenge and still, we have walked far enough that looking back fills us with pride," reads a note on its website prajnya.in.

For 17 years, Prajnya has been a go-to institution when it came to clarity on issues related to gender equality and peace education.

In Chennai, many will associate Prajnya with its annual 16-day campaign against gender violence held at various locations to raise awareness of the different ways in which women are vulnerable to violence, at home, at their place of work, on campuses and in public spaces.

Since 2008, Prajnya has also been documenting its "16 Days Campaign" where it encourages one to browse through its calendars, materials and campaign reports.

The Prajnya Resource Centre on Women in Politics and Policy charted its own path. From inviting photographs from users on several facets of a woman's life and reality to intercollegiate quiz contests on wo-



File photo of a "16-day campaign against gender violence" organised by Prajnya Trust at Vidya Sagar in Kotturpuram

men in South Asia to its monthly talk series, each made a point to make the work of women more visible.

Its research and public educational activities took shape with its strong network of partners and community support, evident from the long list of names of alumni, interns and campaign coordinators it has mentioned on its platform.

Recalling her long association with Prajnya as a volunteer, Anupama Srinivasan says while everybody talks about gender violence here is one organisation that did

more than that. "One of the first things that Prajnya did in Chennai and then showed the way for other cities is make people take action in small ways. Everyone need not work in terms of changing policy or law but there are tangible actions that can be taken in our own families, communities and neighbourhoods to address gender based violence. This was a great takeaway for me and a lesson in civic engagement that local actions can actually make a difference. My favourite Prajnya programme that I did was when we went to apartments and

had conversations about gender-based violence with men and women," says Anupama, deputy director at Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH). These are conversations that became crucial to raise awareness, challenge societal norms, and empower survivors.

In a LinkedIn post, founder Swarna Rajagopalan, shares that Prajnya's 17 years has been fun, challenging and painful. "But 17, with only the support of the community, and no corporate money,

no government backing, no donor pressure and the freedom to try and fail, is still something to be proud of."

The Trust had earlier run a fundraiser campaign to raise funds for its work, where it mentioned that the "shoestring budget" with which they take up work is not sustainable.

Swarna clarifies that money is not the only reason Prajnya closed. "Money is a facilitator for other things that were important. We did a lot of work without money in our early years, because people gave their time and talent *pro bono* but as the organisation was growing money did not grow. You cannot get people to work endlessly without pay," says Swarna.

She adds, "Civil society organisations or NGOs or social movements are the citizen's final guarantee of human, political, economic and social rights and the main defenders of those rights. If society does not support NGOs, who will stand up for society? We are closing the platform, not giving up on what brought us work and components of our work will continue."

"One of the best gifts that Prajnya leaves is its website and online resources, which will remain accessible for a year or two. We will not deactivate our social media accounts as yet but we will not post here," says the note.

## Workshop on yoga therapy for Parkinson's Disorder

**Y**ogaVahini, a specialised yoga therapy, training and research institute, is organising a free workshop on April 12 on yoga therapy for Parkinson's Disorder (PD).

Parkinson's Disorder is globally the second most prevalent degenerative neurological disorder. Common motor symptoms include tremors, muscle stiffness, and loss of balance. In addition, PD can lead to depression, anxiety, hallucinations and cognitive challenges.

While its exact causes are still being studied, both genetic and environmental factors are believed to play a role, and its prevalence is on the rise, says a release.

The workshop aims to empower yoga therapists, physiotherapists, people with Parkinson's, caregivers and other healthcare professionals on the effec-

tiveness of yoga for PD. Rooted in the teachings of T. Krishnamacharya and T.K.V. Desikachar, the workshop will offer simple, yet practical yoga techniques to address key challenges faced by those with PD.

Additionally, case study presentations will provide real-world insights into the benefits of yoga therapy, added the release.

This free workshop is co-facilitated with Dementia Care Foundation (at Curi hospital) as the venue partners and in association with Parivarthan for Parkinson's Foundation, a non-profit working to improve the quality of life of people with PD.

The Dementia Care Foundation, Curi Hospital is at 148, 3rd Floor, Okkiyam Thoraipakkam, OMR.

Time: 9:30am - 1:00 pm  
For registrations call / WhatsApp 98846 42456

## DYING METIERS: LET US USE SOME REUSE CULTURE

When was the last time the mender of plastic buckets knocked on your door?



Plastic buckets with the itsy-bitstiest of cracks are being jettisoned without a second thought. If that comes across as a sweeping statement, it was meant as one. That statement is obviously not entirely truth-aligned, but when was the last time one expected 100 per cent veracity in a hyperbolic utterance? In the classic mould of hyperbolic shockers, this one exaggerates to amplify an observed fact: menders of plastic buckets who advertise their craft as they cycle or walk down streets are a disappearing tribe, that is if they have not already disappeared from the scene. Even in peri-urban areas, one that still holds on to a semblance of a repair-and-reuse culture, these workmen are hardly on the horizon. Here is an exposition of a trade and tradesperson that might signify esoteric wisdom to younger generations but is common, everyday knowledge to those preceding them. These workmen would carry around plastic pieces of different colours to match buckets with gaping hopes or slivers of cracks. They would execute the patchwork with a modest soldering gizmo. The work would be done for a measly compensation, and the trajectory of a bucket headed possibly towards the landfill (if not the street-corner

kayalaan-kadai) would be stopped mid-air. Mending of plastic buckets, wherever it may happen, happens in DIY stations at homes. Mend them and reuse them, and if you are looking for plastic pieces to carry out the patchwork, you may find them in

TEXT AND PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK



# No Spitting campaign launched

**C**hennai streets can expect an explosion of 'No Spitting' signboards now.

StopIndiaSpitting, the movement launched during the pandemic in March 2020, is back in Chennai. To start with, they are making their presence felt in Mylapore.

On April 3, in partnership with Ecoconnectors group of Mylapore and Beautiful Bharat, 10 volunteers set out to kickstart the campaign against public spitting on the streets across Mylapore.

Their goal: making it clear that public spitting is unacceptable by putting up 'No Spitting' signs in prominent spots.

Joined by local residents, the group had conversations with the public, especially security guards, auto drivers and shopkeepers, about the ill effects of spitting. Be-

sides being a source of diseases, spitting can make for the filth on streets, a factor that can impact swachh city rankings, said a press release.

Odette Katrak, co-founder of volunteer group Beautiful Bharat, who is driving this movement, is reactivating the campaign in Chennai with the support of residents. She says that five years after COVID, it is as important to address the scourge of public as spitting can cause TB the same way it enabled the spread of COVID.

Ganga Sridhar of Ecoconnectors and a resident of Raja Street in Mandaveli says they plan to put up signs across Mylapore to start with, to reinforce no-spitting behaviour.

Among places that this volunteer group has so far put up no-spitting signboards are a primary health centre, apartments, shops and auto rickshaws. This will conti-



Posters were displayed on autos.

practice.

"We need to change this with more signs and more conversations on the ground; and every person can play a role with polite requests."

K.L. Balasubramanian chose the park at R.K.Nagar to put No Spitting signs apart from other locations and even autos. "More people tend to spit in open spaces, but spitting in a park where people of all ages come for health reasons, is also a habit to be changed. Children play on the grass unaware that others have spat in the same place. We hope to bring change with signs and conversations," he says.

Public spitting incidentally is one of four criteria in Swachh Surveshan ratings impacting visual cleanliness, the other three being litter, urination and open defecation, added the release.

To activate the campaign in your locality and get signs in specific languages, write to [stopindiaspitting@gmail.com](mailto:stopindiaspitting@gmail.com). Follow them on Instagram at [stopindiaspitting](https://www.instagram.com/stopindiaspitting)

nue in the coming weeks to deter those habituated to spit anywhere without a second thought from doing so, says the press release.

Odette highlights that no spit-

ting signs are not seen, and in the absence of signs or bystanders stepping in with a word of awareness, those with the habit of spitting would continue with the

## SpellBee to bat for human security



SpellBee International has been chosen as the campaign partner of the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS) for the Human Security for All (HS4A) campaign in India.

According to Garry Jacobs, president of WAAS, this collaboration marks a major step in integrating human security education into schools and higher educational institutions, says a press release.

SpellBee will appoint volunteers and office bearers to lead HS4A initiatives and issue recognition certificates to contributing schools, educators, and students to ensure nationwide participation.

A conference on HS4A implementation will soon be organised, inviting member schools, education leaders, and policymakers to collaborate on the next steps.

## Inner Wheel Club of MRC Nagar gets a new team

The Inner Wheel Club of MRC Nagar was officially installed in a special ceremony led by district chairman Fathima Nasira. Sushma was installed as president and Kavitha as secretary along with other office bearers by District ESO PDC Usha Saraogi.

The club marked the occasion with a charitable donation of a Chemoport machine to support a child battling cancer.



## Visitors to Tower Park take home an inclusive message

An awareness campaign was conducted by Genovate Paediatric Therapy Services at Anna Nagar Tower Park recently to mark World Autism Awareness Day.

The initiative was aimed at educating the public on autism and promoting inclusivity through surveys, interactive exhibits and free screening sessions.

The Genovate staff displayed colourful posters and banners. A survey was conducted to assess

the public's knowledge about autism, administered online and on paper to cater to everyone at the park, said a release. A free screening facility was led by Ida Mary, paediatric occupational therapist and the director of Genovate along with her team. A blank board came alive with the thumbprints of those who participated, pledging to support and take a stand for autism, added the release.

## Short film contest held

The Department of Visual Communication & Film Technology, under the School of Media Studies, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, organised Silver Frames 2025, a short film competition, recently. According to a press release, celebrated artists from film industry were chief guests. They shared their experience and nuances in crafting compelling stories. The artists also provided insights on digital content creation.

Awards were presented in categories such as best director, best editor, best cinematographer, best sound designer and best actor, adds the release.

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# A message in brushstrokes



As part of World Autism Awareness Day, observed on April 02, Indradhanu Educational Trust, a centre for children with developmental challenges, conducted an art exhibition. The expo displayed the works of more than 50 differently abled children (those on the autism spectrum) through their eyes. Their art was more than just a brushstroke. It celebrated uniqueness, where every art told a story of strength, imagination, and boundless potential.

Basith, founder of We Are Your



Voice, and G. Gurunathan, a contemporary artist, inaugurated the expo.

Basith emphasised that parents should listen to and understand the in-

terests of children, especially children with special needs, and ensure that they harness their fullest potential and growth.

## Quiz and games on environment



The Centre for Environmental Studies, Women's Christian College, conducted various events to spread awareness about environment conservation recently. According to a press release, the events included, quiz, photography, and a treasure-hunt game on flora and fauna of the college campus

## Session on export business

Women Entrepreneurs India with the support of Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) is organising session on business opportunities in exporting. According to a press release, the programme will be held on April 7 at FIEO premises at 706, Spencer Plaza, Anna Salai. Time: From 3 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. For details, call 9952013800

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## New blood bank opened

Rotary Club of Madras T. Nagar, in association with The Madras Medical Mission and Shivpyaribai Brijlal Dhoot Charitable Trust, inaugurated the "MMM - Brijlal Ramnath Dhoot Rotary Blood Bank" on April 2 in Mogappair.

This is the first blood bank of the newly carved Rotary District 3233. A host of dignitaries attended the inaugural event including Isak Nazar, District Counsellor, RI District 3233; Veena Jhaver, Managing Trustee, Shivpyaribai Brijlal Dhoot Charitable Trust; and S. Mahaveer Bothra, Governor, RI District 3233.

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## Applications invited for one-year apprenticeship training

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation has invited applications for its one-year apprentice training. Those who have completed B.E., Diploma and Non-Technical Stream (Undergraduate, Mechanical Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, B.A., B.Sc, B.Com, BBA, BBM and B CM) Tamil students in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 can apply.

The students should apply online (<https://nats.education.gov.in>) National Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, before April 22.

## Workshop on organic farming

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a culinary workshop on April 9. According to a press release, preparation of various flavours of jam and squash will demonstrated during the session. Another workshop on organic farming of vegetables crops will be held on April 11. This session includes chemical-free methods of soil nourishment and pests and disease management.

Both the workshops will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 29530048



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