

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



NO PAID PUBLIC TOILETS IN CHENNAI

A 'No Fee Zone' board will be installed at toilets run by Greater Chennai Corporation **P4**



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Before discarding something that has outlived its usefulness to you, consider sending it to any of these groups **P5**



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TVK Nagar residents welcome reintroduction of 37B



K.P. NARENDRAKUMAR

Residents of Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar and surrounding areas are happy about the re-introduction of route number 37B from TVK Nagar to Vadapalani via Ayanavaram, Kilpauk and Valluvar Kotam to reach Vadapalani.

This old route was in demand from the commuters and residents of TVK Nagar

and nearby areas. This route number has been a boon to office goers. It resonates with past students of Pachaiyappa's College. Residents hope MTC authorities would consider reintroducing another service – route number 38 from TVK Nagar to Thiruvetriur. Doing so would ensure better coverage of areas in North Chennai from North West of Chennai.

K. P. Narendrakumar is a resident of Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar

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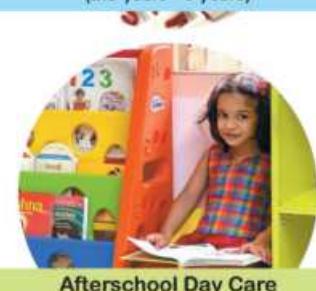
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Ambattur association seeks access to NHAI's bypass road from Pattravakkam service lane



L. KANTHIMATHI

United Welfare Associations of Ambattur has made a representation to the Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari, this October seeking a road to access Perungalur - Puz-

hal Chennai Bypass Road from its service lane in Pattravakkam, near Kallikuppam, a neighbourhood in Ambattur.

The association's request aims to decongest traffic on the Ambattur section of CTH Road by diverting traffic via the bypass road by accessing it from Pattravakkam.

"The Amabattur section of CTH Road is narrow and witnesses heavy traffic and it moves at a snail's pace during peak hours. Hence, we are seeking an access to the bypass road which is nearby. In such an arrangement, the traffic towards Ambattur Industrial Estate, Porur, Tambaram and beyond may not

have to take the CTH Road. At present, these commuters take CTH Road and access the Chennai Bypass Road from the service lane near Ambattur Industrial Estate, that is near West Mogappair. We suggest that this traffic be diverted via the bypass road by enabling an access point in Patravakkam. That

Perungalur - Puzhal Chennai Bypass Road and its service lane in Pattravakkam.
PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

will emerge as another prominent route and will make a world of a difference on the Ambattur section of CTH Road," says S. Suresh, the association's president.

The association also factors in the metro rail work (Koyambedu-Avadi-Pattabiram corridor) that is expected to commence on CTH Road in a year and that can aggravate the traffic snarls and this is another reason for seeking an access point to the bypass road from Pattravakkam.

The association has also made a representation in this regard to the following authorities in recent months: Member of Parliament (Sriperumbudur Constituency) T.R. Baalu; Ambattur MLA Joseph Samuel; Regional Office of National Highways Authority of India; and Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority.

"We suggested to the NHAI officials that installation of a beam at the entrance of the proposed link road will only ensure that the local residents benefit and commercial vehicles cannot evade the nearby Surpet tollgate," says R. Sathiavel, the association's general secretary. The association also pointed out enabling access to the bypass road will also decongest Karukku Main Road, another key road in Ambattur.

READERS WRITE

'Waste is not cleared at regular intervals in Kannapalayam'



Unkempt Kannapalayam Main Road near Paruthipattu in Avadi. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

M. ARUNAGIRI

Solid waste management is poor on Kannapalayam Main Road near Paruthipattu in Avadi. Pile ups of waste could be found along both sides of the road. Here, waste is not cleared

at regular intervals. When cleared, it is done in a reckless manner. That is the accumulated waste is being pushed into the Coovum rives that flows along the road. We also notice this issue has cropped up only after Kannapalayam got merged with Avadi Corporation this Ja-

nuary. Earlier, when it was a village panchayat, this place was clean. It is an important road as it connects Avadi Poonamallee Main Road and Thandurai Road. Complaints to officials elicited no response.

M. Arunagiri is a resident of Avadi.

'These name boards serve no purpose'

D. SURESH

The name boards of streets in Manikandapuram (a neighbourhood in Thirumullaivoyal in Avadi) need to be replaced as they are faded and don't serve the purpose. Also a good number of roads and streets lack name boards making it difficult for new visitors. This can hinder emergency services from locating the addresses quickly.

D. Suresh is a resident of Thirumullaivoyal



The name boards of streets in Manikandapuram in Thirumullaivoyal.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FACILITY

Government's workhub in Agaram a big draw

Established under Mudhalvar Padaippagam project, this co-working space-cum-learning centre recently celebrated its first anniversary; around the same time, another facility of this kind was born in Periyar Nagar

L. KANTHIMATHI

The co-working space-cum-learning centre established by Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority under the State Government's Mudhalvar Padaippagam project at Jaganathan Street in Agaram, Kolathur has completed one year. Swanky, clean and the slots coming at affordable rates, the centre stays buzzing through the day.

Maintained by Greater Chennai Corporation, the three-storey facility boasts 51 co-working slots, 38 slots for learners, three conference halls, two of which can take in four persons each and the other one, six persons.

Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar resident Narmadha Kumar and Villivakkam resident Dinesh Mangaleswaran work at IT companies on Old Mahabalipuram Road. They have opted for work-from-home (WFH) and prefer working at the Mudhalvar Padaippagam's co-working space to their own space at home, the latter being beset with disturbances.

Narmadha says her office wanted to stop offering her the WFH option as official calls were getting increasingly disrupted by goings-on at her home. "I was asked to come to office and work. Thankfully, I

learnt about Mudhalvar Padaippagam's co-working space and it is six months since I started using a slot there; no complaints from my office anymore," says Narmadha, adding that commuting from Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar to Taramani would be a drain on her money and time.

Dinesh Mangaleswaran, whose office is in Perungudi, says: "Earlier, I was using private co-working spaces where slots came at an exorbitant fee. The slot here comes at one tenth of that cost."

Software consultant Rajasekaran B marks Mudhalvar Padaippagam's co-working space high on comfort, thanks to ergonomically designed chairs and desks; and the maintenance is top-drawer in his estimation. "Food is not allowed inside, nor is footwear," he says.

Purasawalkam resident Karthick V., who prepares for Staff Selection Commission exams, says: "I am using this facility ever since it was inaugurated. Some of the private spaces I have been to, entertain new customers even after they have run out of space. In one private co-working facility, I had to sit on the floor and study; that never happens at the Mudhalvar Padaippagam's learning centre."

A new facility at Periyar Nagar
On November 14, a new Mudhalvar

Padaippagam was inaugurated, this time at Karthikeyan Road at Periyar Nagar.

Set up on the premises of the Full-Time Branch Library of the State Government, it has a learning centre with 80 slots, and no co-working space.

Booking details

Both the co-working space and the learning centre of a Mudhalvar Padaippagam function from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. on all days of the year including government holidays. Prior reservation is mandatory; only online booking via GCC portal is possible.

Time slots for the learning centre are: 6 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. / 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. / 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. / 6 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. / 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. The fee for the learning centre is ₹5 per slot.

Time slots for the co-working centre are: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m./ 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. The fee is ₹50 per slot. Availing a co-working centre for an entire day (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) costs ₹100. At a co-working centre, one can book a slot for an entire month for a fee of ₹ 2,500.

The conference hall with the capacity to accommodate four persons comes at ₹150 per hour; and the one with a capacity to accommodate six persons at ₹250 per hour.



The facilities at Agaram and Periyar Nagar in Kolathur.

PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B



No paid public toilets in Chennai

A 'No Fee Zone' board will be installed at toilets run by Greater Chennai Corporation

LIFFY THOMAS

Public toilets within Greater Chennai Corporation limits will soon start sporting a new board that reads 'No Fee Zone' to emphasise that these facilities must not charge users for using them. On November 19, Mayor R. Priya unveiled a special stamp for World Toilet Day and 'No Fee Zone' signage to reinforce that every public toilet in Chennai is free.

Public toilets in the city have largely been free barring some of them where janitors have charged a small fee, so what is new?

"Many have even carried a board saying 'free toilet' but some would deliberately hide the board or collect a fee illegally which we want to prevent completely. The 'No Fee Zone' board will be placed at such a height that it can be seen easily by



anyone. They are aware that they have free access," says an official from the Special Projects Department of Greater Chennai Corporation. "There are no paid toilets maintained by GCC."

The lollipop-style signboards will be complemented by badges



worn by janitors and stickers on toilet doors to state that no fee will be collected for using a public toilet.

GCC has assigned concessionaires across Zones I to XV for construction, maintenance and technology integration of toilets.

"When the DBFO (design, build, finance and operate) model was being discussed with stakeholders, GCC decided that these signages will help in clarifying any ambiguity among users and make people more aware of the facts," says V.R.

Should it be free or paid?

Some users feel it is better to levy a small fee for using a public toilet to demand better services, many others think no one must be denied access to a facility for not paying up. An inclusive city begins with a free public toilet.

Courts have also argued that public toilets with adequate facilities should be provided free of cost as access to them is considered a basic right essential for human dignity, and charging for using them can be seen as a barrier to this fundamental necessity, says a report in *The Hindu*.

During the launch of "No Fee Zone" signage on World Toilet Day.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hari Balaji, CEO, Urban PCT Three (Ferrgra), the concessionaire responsible for maintaining toilets coming under Zones VII to X (excluding Marina).

There are three other firms that have been assigned by GCC to manage toilets under the public private partnership model.

Under the new arrangement, companies managing toilets are required to follow certain SOPs and have KPIs (key performance indicators) to be met. Each toilet is judged daily on cleanliness, odour control, water availability, lighting, safety, functional fixtures, manpower deployment, complaint closure and accessibility standards. "These toilets will be inspected by a third party," says the GCC official.

Signage boards with QR codes and phone numbers have to be fixed on every facility for users to raise a complaint.

"Earlier, one agency was involved in construction and another in maintenance. Under the new arrangement, the same firm takes care of operation and maintenance for a period of eight years which will fix accountability," says Hari.

Toastmasters take the time to enjoy, take stock and relaunch themselves

From humble beginnings in April 2004 to an inspiring 1000th meeting on November 16, 2025, Chennai Toastmasters Club (CTM) showcased the spirit of growth, grit and greatness. What started as a single club has evolved into a huge community that has shaped hundreds of confident communicators and leaders across South India.

This milestone meeting was not just a celebration – it was a tribute to every member, past and present, who has built this movement and representatives from across Chennai gathered to connect and celebrate this shared journey. Around hundred toastmasters and guests attended the event. The chief coordinators of these celebrations were Toastmaster Nanda Kumar and Toastmaster Ravi Kumar who led the program with aplomb.

The meeting kickstarted with a countdown by Toastmaster Muthu Vishal and presided by Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) Sunil

Baffna. The meeting was hosted by Toastmaster Manoj Kumar Venkataraman and Toastmaster Rahul Soni. The top administrative echelon of District 120 led by DTM Parthasarathy P.D., graced the event to honour the club's achievements. They presented a plaque to honour the club for its commitment; it was a happy moment when all its past and present members gathered on stage to receive this award.

The chief guest, Ravi Ramanathan of Ramanathan's Effective Public Speaking Institute, was conferred the "DTM Abraham Zachariah" Award for outstanding service in the field of public speaking. The late DTM Abraham Zachariah had been one of CTM's most respected stalwarts since its inception. Toastmaster Jimmy Pathrose announced this momentous award and the entire leadership team presented it to Ramanathan, says the release.

Ramanathan's address traced his own growth and that of his institute – both pioneers in Chennai's



At the 1000th meeting of Chennai Toastmasters Club. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

public speaking landscape for over six decades.

True to the Toastmasters tradition, the meeting featured the ever-popular Table Topics session – with a twist; creatively hosted by Toastmaster Abhirame Ayyappan. The members from the audience were invited to participate in it, making it both fun and interactive.

Another highlight was the "Coffee Table Conversation" hosted by Toastmaster Abilash Suresh, where Charter Member DTM Nina John and Toastmaster Sridhar Ranganathan shared perspectives on how Toastmasters continues to

provide skills and value addition, even among Gen Z and beyond.

CTM members showcased their diverse talents – a dance performance by Toastmaster Vallimeena Ramanathan and a humorous skit by the club members brought excitement among the audience.

In true Toastmasters tradition, appreciation took centre stage when the members were recognised for their outstanding contributions to the club, ably announced by Toastmaster Suman Mishra, says the release.

To mark the occasion, the new-s

tal presented the first copy to District 120 Director DTM Parthasarathy. A soft copy of the magazine is available for those who wish to read members' reflection.

A Speechcraft program (practical sessions on fundamentals of communication) aligned with milestone celebrations was coordinated by TM Lakshminarayana Sathyanarayana, inspiring the participants to hone their public speaking skills.

All those interested in attending Chennai Toastmaster's club meeting can call any of these two numbers 94441 86014/ 9884996963.

SUSTAINABILITY

Adding a reuse value to used things

Before discarding something that has outlived its usefulness to you, consider sending it to any of these groups

LIFFY THOMAS

Old spectacles find new eyes

Old spectacles including those that have gone out of fashion are usually discarded, consigned to the garbage bins. A small number of non-profits and optical shops stop these spectacles from being wasted in this manner. They collect these spectacles and hand them over to organisations that can help in recycling them.

Kapleshwar Optics in T. Nagar, for instance, has a collection box for people to drop their old spectacles. They are generally picked up by a team from Lions Optical Bank.

Sankara Nethralaya has its own in-house optical service at College Road where old spectacles can be dropped. Based on the condition of the frame, they are repurposed to be reused by a needy patient coming to the hospital.

Likewise, outlets of GKB Opticals and Kalpvruksha Seva Trust in West Mambalam encourage peo-



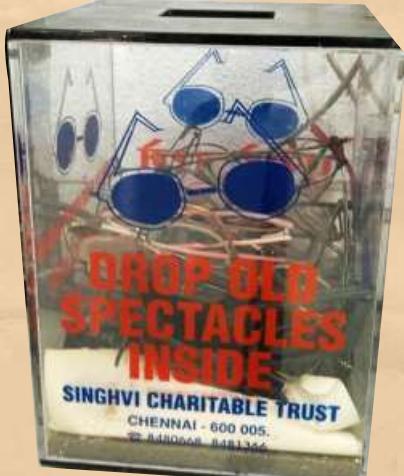
ple to give away their spectacles that are lying unused at home.

A note on Lenskart.com says that it runs an exchange programme that allows one to donate old glasses to someone in need via the Lenskart Foundation and get an exchange value on a new pair of glasses. All eyeglasses and sunglasses, irrespective of whether they were purchased from Lenskart or not are eligible for this offer, says the note.

The lens from the frames of donated spectacles are removed and after minor repairs, refitted and made ready for reuse. These spectacles are categorised on the basis of power and kept aside for camps.

Unlike in the west, donation of old spectacles is losing traction out here for reasons such as cost incurred in refurbishing them.

For many years, Chennai-based Singhvi Charitable Trust was collecting old glasses from outlets, refurbishing them and distributing them at camps. Now, they only give away new spectacles.



'SADS' making people happy

Be it an oversized pair of shoes that you got as a gift or stationery received as return gifts or furniture not matching your living room, Share at Door Step (SADS) is ready to pick them up at your doorsteps and ensure they reach someone genuinely in need of them.

The pan-India non-profit that also caters to Chennai encourages people to donate their reusable items by availing the "doorstep pick up" option. The items thus collected are delivered to those who need them.

The charges for pick-up depend on the location, volume and mode of pickup.

The donations in kind reach the beneficiaries; through verified trusted partner NGOs, they are audited on a regular basis, says a note on the website.

For details, visit <https://shareatdoorstep.com>

A bank providing medical equipment



and oxygen concentrators are among the most sought-after items by families.

"We ask users to use a medical equipment for 30-45 days and return or renew it at least once so that they can keep it for a longer period of time," says Aashish Kumar Jain CS, trustee of RYA Cosmo Elite Foundation, adding that at least 4,000 people have benefited from the bank over the years.

A man desperately seeks a wheelchair for a family member for a short-term use, and it does not prove an easy search. Having witnessed this, a bunch of his friends from RYA Cosmo Elite Foundation start a medical equipment bank. This was ten years ago, and now, this bank boasts a horde of medical equipment at any given time, and it operates from a garage in Pulianthope. The medical equipment are either bought new or received as donation.

These medical equipment are lent on a no-cost basis to those in critical care at home. Wheelchairs, medical beds

Physiotherapy devices are among the latest medical items to be added to the e-bank. Aashish says once a member of Rotaract Club was keen on supporting this initiative and he requested that the message on the bank accepting gently used items be circulated so that those in need are benefited. "We need support both in cash and kind, but one big help we would like to offer people is removing the burden of keeping medical items that are not needed any more and passing it on to someone in need," says Aashish.

To check availability of items in the e-bank, call 7550077700

Clothes and bicycles

* Sevai Karangal collects used bicycles and donates them to students in rural areas where public transport is inadequate; IIT-Madras is a major donor in this initiative. For details, WhatsApp 9840873859.

* Thuli receives gently used clothes and accessories, repurposes and offers them to the underprivileged. Its collection centre is at Kasturba Nagar. Call 6380306662.

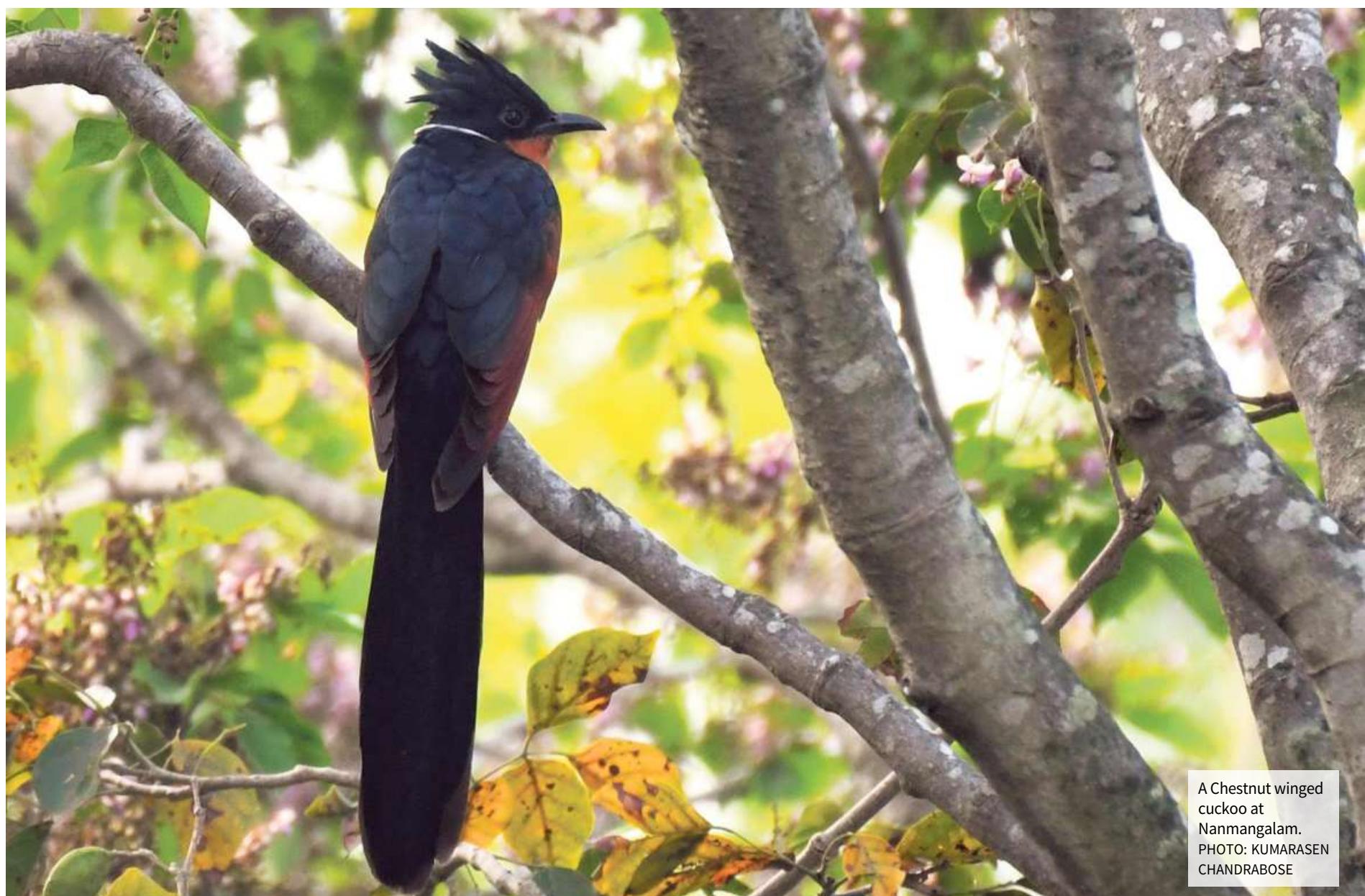
* Rajasthan Cosmo Club Foundation picks up gently used clothes from the doorsteps; call 9962299622.

* Little Drops, a home for the homeless destitute at Paraniputhur, accepts anything from people. It encourages apartments to organise a collection drive and sends a van for the items to be transported. Call 9884080869/ 9884080864.



An old question resurfaces

Recently, an injured Chestnut winged cuckoo was rescued at Oliver Road in Mylapore; and inevitably, there was speculation about how much this species, a passage migrant in these parts, loves to spend the winter in Chennai



A Chestnut winged cuckoo at Nanmangalam.
PHOTO: KUMARASEN CHANDRABOSE

PRINCE FREDERICK

Recently, on its Instagram page, Urbaser Sumeet raised a hymn of praise to a conservancy worker within its fold. Not a verse in that praise struck a superfluous note. Udaykumar, the conservancy worker, rescued an injured bird, pulling it out of the jaws of death after it had come between the jaws of a canine. While on his beat, clearing garbage on Oliver Road in Zone 9, a resident had told him about a bird bitten by a dog and cowering in the neighbouring house. The reel shows Udaykumar narrating the sequence of events that led to the bird's recovery: how he took the bird, the injury from the bite on the side of its neck evident, to a vet, informed his office and finally, handed the bird over to the forest department. If it had not been a Chestnut winged cuckoo (CWC),

the story would have ended then and there as a heart-warming act of kindness. No sequel to it.

The sight of this CWC in the reel held gently by Udaykumar, with bare hands and with gloved hands could not but put this writer in mind of an observation ornithologist V. Santharam had made in the context of the discussion about the CWC.

He had made the observation in an article in *The Hindu* titled, "How much of a passage migrant is the Chestnut winged cuckoo?" (dated November 22, 2020). He gave two time capsules in which CWC is usually sighted in Chennai – November–December and during March–April on the return migration. He recalled two instances of rescuing a Crested winged cuckoo in the Santhome of the 1980s when he was the resident of the neighbourhood. On both occasions, the CWC had flown into a house, and crows

had launched into it. In one of those two instances, it had made a "crashlanding" next door in Santharam's neighbour's house.

In a conversation connected with this article, the ornithologist shared that again in the same time period, a resident of north Chennai brought a rescued CWC to his office in Nungambakkam, seeking his help. At that time, Santharam was working with UBS Publishers which had an office in Nungambakkam.

The recent incident at Oliver Road provides an object lesson about this CWC trait (getting disoriented and flying into houses) for the current generation.

It probably could come as a surprise to many young birders. A considerable part of what one hears about the CWC from birders is about how it has started patronising certain patches. For five years, winter after winter,

there have been accounts of CWC sightings happening almost on an appointed date (putting it without hyperbole, around a particular time of year) at Nanmangalam reserve forest.

Kumarasen Chandrabose is among birders in Sembakkam, Nanmangalam and surrounding areas that have been documenting the arrival of the CWC at Nanmangalam for the last five years.

In the early years of the Chestnut winged cuckoo's engagement with the Nanmangalam forest, tyres from a distant land rolled in. Reportedly, birders from Bangalore queued up one day at Nanmangalam for a glimpse of the bird..

Cut to now, the relative regularity of CWC sightings in various other parts Chennai and its vicinity make a compelling case for asking an old question all over again – no marks for guessing

what it is. Let us get to it in a minute. AM Aravind has reported a CWC sighting from Puzhuthivalam. Sundaravel Palanivel has seen it at a patch of Pallikaranai in Kamakotti Nagar, just a chirp away from his home. He then caught up with the species in Kumizhi near Guduvanchery. Jithesh Babu had a "meetup" with the bird in Karikali. There have been sightings of the CWC in Adyar, one recently by Kumaresan Chandrabose. And then the Oliver Road incident.

This writer puts the same question to Santharam, five years later – how much of a passage migrant is the Chestnut winged cuckoo. Without taking a nanosecond to think it over, the ornithologist shoots back the same answer. "It is a passage migrant; but some of them could be staying on in Chennai for the winter." Who knows, probably more of them than before.

During the workshop



'Women are increasingly targeted in cyber crime'

Seminar by WHY TAP at MOP Vaishnav College for Women was aimed at creating awareness about this issue among students

WHY TAP, the training and placement division of WHY Global Services, recently conducted a seminar on cyber awareness security at MOP Vaishnav College for Women.

The seminar was aimed to prevent young women from falling into the trap of cybercrime, who are increasingly targeted by online threats, identity theft, cyber-stalking, impersonation, and financial scams.

Sathishkumar Kannan, a certified ethical hacker and founder of WHY Global Services, conducted the seminar.

The session equipped young women with practical knowledge to identify, prevent, and respond to cyber threats, said a release.

During the seminar, students were introduced to real-world cyberattack methodologies, in-

cluding phishing and identity-based threats.

A significant focus of the session was women's digital safety.

Sathishkumar Kannan emphasised practical steps to stay protected, including verifying online identities, safeguarding personal photos, and knowing when and how to report cyber incidents to authorities. "As a cybersecurity expert, I believe that protecting women online is not merely a technical challenge; it is a societal duty. Colleges, parents, and institutions must work together to build digital resilience in young adults," he said.

Twenty young student writers get a platform

The annual day celebration of Chennai Public School witnessed a series of events

Chennai Public School at Thirumazhisai came alive with colour, creativity and celebration as it hosted the annual day, 'Spectra '25' on the theme 'A Journey Through Time'.

The event took the audience on a captivating journey through human history - from the spark of curiosity to the age of innovation, brought to life through dazzling performances by students of all grades, said a release.

Sandhya Pentareddy, executive director of VIT Vellore, lit the traditional lamp to mark the celebration's inauguration, in the presence of Aishwarya D, trustee, and Renuka Nallamar Balaji, principal.

Sandhya Pentareddy urged students to embrace compassion, envi-

ronmental consciousness, and resilience in a changing world.

The highlight of the evening was the release of 'Lantern Tales', an anthology authored by 20 young student writers. Darshini Kannan of Class XII was felicitated for her outstanding contribution to the publication.

Academic and co-curricular achievers were honoured on the occasion. The evening concluded with a spectacular cultural extravaganza performed by more than 650 students from primary, middle, and high school, a lively mix of dance, drama, and technology that showcased the spirit of progress through the ages, added a release from the institution.



Meet and greet event to welcome Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka



(From left to right) Rajesh Radhakrishnan, Mohammed Asif Ali, Krithiga, Ganesanathan Geathiswaran, Satish Jupiter, Dr J Radhakrishnan.

A meet-and-greet evening to welcome Ganesanathan Geathiswaran, Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, was recently organised in the city.

Jointly hosted by Satish Jupiter and The Park, Chennai, the event saw consuls, expats, government officials, members of diplomatic core and prominent faces of Chennai in attendance to welcome and greet the new Deputy High Commissioner.

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College's anti-drug club wins accolades

CTTE College bags second place in Chennai district for promoting a drug-free Tamil Nadu



Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth College for Women's Anti-Drug Club has been awarded second place in the Chennai District Anti-Drug Club Awards (2024-2025). The honour was conferred by the Department of Prohibition and Excise, Government of Tamil Nadu, under the Chennai District Administration, in recognition of the Club's sustained and impactful efforts towards creating a drug-free Tamil Nadu, said a release. The award ceremony was held at the Chennai District Collector's office on November 3.

The CTTE Anti-Drug Club has been at the forefront of spreading

awareness against substance abuse through street plays, rallies, interactive seminars, and poster campaigns that inspire responsible choices among young people.

A special focus during the year was peer education – training student ambassadors as counsellors to help their peers manage stress and make informed life choices. To mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26, the Club organised a week-long awareness campaign featuring slogan-writing, essay competitions, and short films centred on the theme "Say No to Drugs."

Inviting nominations for Rajasthani-Tamil Seva Awards 2026

Rajasthani Association Tamilnadu is inviting nominations for the second edition of its prestigious 'Rajasthani-Tamil Seva Awards 2026', an initiative to honour exceptional individuals and institutions for their outstanding contributions to the people of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The awards will be presented under eight categories: Agriculture & Rural Development, Arts & Culture, Education & Healthcare, Entrepreneurship & Industry, Environment & Sustainability, Media & Communication, Public Service & Governance, and Social Welfare.

Each award carries a cash prize of ₹2,00,000, along with a trophy and citation, said a release.

Nominations are open to the public till December 5 at www.rajasthanitamil.org.

Individuals, institutions, and practitioners from the public, private or voluntary sectors – irrespective of size, caste, creed, or background – are eligible to apply.

Founded in 1967 the Rajasthani Association Tamilnadu has been a pioneering organisation in social service, cultural promotion, and community welfare.

comed 350 to 400 visitors, turning the campus into a space filled with creativity, courage and joyful learning. Students aged six to 20 proudly presented working models, interactive displays, art projects, and simple experiments from their curriculum. These projects were created by the students along with their teachers, using approaches that encourage thinking, teamwork, and real-life learning, said a release.

A special attraction at the fest was a set of stalls displaying handcrafted items and food products made by children with special needs from various organisations. Every item sold represented hard work, pride, and growing independence.

Pragathi Alt School serves children with learning disabilities as well as those who face challenges in mainstream education. The school provides structured academic support, enabling students to successfully complete their schooling and confidently pursue higher education, added the release.



'Hidden stars' shine bright at festival in school

Students showcase interactive, skill-based projects at Knowledge Fest

Several special schools and mainstream schools attended the annual Knowledge Fest hosted by Pragathi Alt School and Learning Center located in Villivakkam.

This year's Knowledge Fest wel-

Registrations open for kickboxing competition

HammerPro Kickboxing is organising Tamilnadu Kickboxing Championship 2025 for Amateur and Pro Kickboxers in Chennai.

The event is scheduled to be held on December 21, 2025 at Maduravoyal.

According to a press release, the winners of the competition would be presented with a cash prize and a title belt.

Registration is open to all kickboxing fraternity in Chennai, says the press release.

For further details about registration, call 9962188501

Team from Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram wins inter-school quiz



Battle of Brains 2025, an inter-school quiz competition wrapped up with a vibrant grand finale, crowning students from Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram School as the city's new quiz champions. Organised by Casagrand in association with Nexus Consulting, the finale brought together hundreds of enthusiastic students, parents and teachers. Winners across categories were honoured with trophies and prizes worth ₹4 lakh, said a press release.

The finale brought together the teams from B V Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, PSBB KK Nagar and Sandipani Vidyalaya schools, who secured the first, second and third positions respectively.

Curated and conducted by quizmaster Venkatesh Srinivasan, the finale featured rounds covering science, current affairs, culture, visual problem-solving and a dedicated Chennai connect segment, the release added.

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