

MYLAPORE

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Alumni shut the gate on invading rainwater

Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College installs a floodgate thanks to a contribution made by the alumni



The flood barrier at the college's entrance. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

LIFFY THOMAS

Have you noticed an aluminium gate standing in front of the main entrance of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College on PS Sivasamy Salai in Mylapore? This additional gate, of recent origin, is a floodgate the college management procured before the monsoon to prevent rainwater from invading the campus. The college's alumni funded this exercise.

For some years, the college has been pursuing the issue of inundation with civic agencies including Greater Chennai Corporation and Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewage Board as water from surrounding areas would enter the campus during heavy rains. Often, it wouldn't be just rainwater, but rainwater mixed with sewage, probably sewage.

"Work was carried out on the floodwater drainage network in the area but we have not seen the desired result. The engineers were of the opinion that nothing more can be done as this is a low-lying area," says Swami Dhyananagamyananda, secretary, RKMVC.

With a gush of water often mixed with sludge the campus would come under sheets of dirty water. "Every now and then

when the rain relents, water would be pumped out with the help of a pumping station nearby. But we wanted a long-term solution and that is when I came across this floodgate barrier," says the secretary.

The college is immensely happy with this new stop gate at the entrance that ensures water from outside stays outside. "There is water in the college in the event of rain but it is our own water not sewage-mixed sludge flowing into our compound," says the secretary.

The gate can be assembled and dismantled. "This gate was made possible with the contribution of alumni," says the Secretary, grateful for the support he got once he posted the message in the alumni website.

Connecting with old students

Ever since a dedicated website alumni.rkmvc.ac.in was opened in 2023, the platform has connected many classmates.

"We have 4,000 old students registered with us so far and we want more old students to connect with us," says V. Krishnan, chief coordinator, Alumni Association Governing Body. The portal, he says, is used by members to post their requirements, share opportunities and contribute towards the alma mater's growth.

Work was carried out on the floodwater drainage network in the area but we have not seen the desired result.



SWAMI DHYANAGAMYANANDA

Global Alumni Meet of Vivekananda College on December 20

Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College Alumni Association is gearing up for its third Global Alumni Meet, scheduled to be held on December 20 (from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.) at the college campus in Mylapore.

The event would also celebrate 80 years of the educational institution, with a host of activities which include interactions with revered gurus, nostalgic visits to classrooms and opportunities for socialising among fellow alumni.

The first Global Alumni Meet was held in 2023 with 300 old students taking part in it. Since then the number of former students attending the meet has been on the rise.

This time, through a digital application one can confirm their participation and the organisers are expecting at least 600 alumni to attend the event.

A governing board and an executive team are making all arrangements including connecting with old students, getting articles for a souvenir that will be released and for other activities on the D-Day.

According to a press release, E. S. L. Narasimhan (alumnus, B.A. Physics, 1964 and Former Governor of Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Andhra-Telangana combined) will be the chief guest.

N. Hariharan (alumnus, B.Com., 1974; Chairman and CEO, NWI Management LP, New York, USA) will deliver the keynote address. Swami Dhyananagamyananda, secretary, RKMVC will preside over the event.

Interested alumni can visit www.alumni.rkmvc.ac.in to register.



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Dr. Venkatachalam Veerappan

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Dr. Venkatachalam Veerappan is the Consultant Surgical Oncologist, HIPEC and Robotic Surgeon at VS Hospitals, Chennai. Graduated from Kilpauk and Madras medical college, he has got more than 15 gold medals in his UG and PG days. Having special interest in cancer research and development, he was awarded the youngest scholar award by the Tamil Nadu Dr.MGR medical university and he was sponsored to represent India at GLOBAL OBESITY SUMMIT, held at Mississippi in 2011. He is a passionate minimally invasive surgeon who practices precision surgery with better oncological outcomes. His special interest is in Breast, Head & Neck, Gastrointestinal and Gynaecological and pelvic oncology. He is also a national faculty at various student & faculty training programs in the field of oncology.

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Shaky tree fuels fear; Bharathi Salai blocked on the evening of December 3



On December 3, 2025, in the late evening hours, traffic on a section of Bharathi salai (from the junction Chella Pillayar Street to the point where Zam Bazaar police station is located) was not allowed, or selectively allowed (only motorcycles with destinations on this section). Vehicles, including buses were diverted. Fear of a collapse of a Peepal tree that had entwined itself around an old dilapidated building (opposite Zam Bazaar police station) had caused this move. According to a Greater Chennai Corporation official familiar with the incident and the developments around it, due to heavy rain, the old building had shifted, and the peepal tree was leaning dangerously. The police informed the local GCC officials about this and the latter rushed to the spot to have the tree cut and removed. This section of the road was blocked at around 7 p.m. and the blockade continued well into the night. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

READERS WRITE

Raniammal, the flower vendor near Srinivasa Perumal temple, is no



BASKAR SESHADRI

If you are a regular to Srinivasa Perumal Temple in Mylapore, you must have seen Raniammal. The flower vendor migrated from Manali decades ago to settle down in the neighbourhood after her husband passed away.

She was not educated and there was no choice except to run a small business as she was not interested in engaging herself as a domestic worker. She started selling flowers and made the stretch outside the temple

her space.

With a small bench and flowers spread on them, she went about conducting her business for decades. There was little competition and the flower vendor Raniammal did well.

There was a taboo that a widow should not sell flowers and that too in front of a temple, but she did not bother.

On November 30, she passed away due to age-related ailment. She was 85. This familiar stranger will be missed.

Baskar Seshadri is a resident of Mylapore

STEMI steals the show

The annual science expo of St. Michael's Academy in Adyar was held on December 1. "Science: The Spark of Today—Sustain, Innovate and Ignite," showcased the creativity and scientific spirit of young learners.

A highlight this year was STEMI, a student-designed robot that can speak and walk. Created under the mentorship of Shahbaz Ali Khan, an ISRO-registered space tutor, STEMI is powered by an AI chatbot and answered questions posed by the chief guest and students.

Professor Deepa Venkitesh, a renowned expert in photonics and optical communication from



IIT Madras, was the chief guest.

She inspired the students to continue exploring and experimenting with curiosity.

The expo showcased a variety of models and experiments, highlighting scientific inquiry, in-

novation, and hands-on learning.

The students received prizes for outstanding projects and for motivating others to continue striving for excellence in scientific exploration.



'Key subway remains unsafe'

KAMAL JOSHUA

The subway on Nelson Manickam Road was waterlogged following the recent rains. However, water seepage from the walls will continue even after the rains. This is the status any time of the year, including sum-

mer. Further, the road is battered. All these make the subway unsafe for motorcyclists. Therefore, Greater Chennai Corporation should carry out a proper repair work aimed at providing a lasting solution. If feasible, the subway should be widened, because it witnesses heavy traffic.

Kamal Joshua is resident of Chetpet

EVENTS

Mandaveli Raja Street to host kolam competition

The theme-based event is open to groups from other neighbourhoods as well

Mandaveli Raja Street Residents' Welfare Association is gearing up to host its signature Pongal festival featuring a variety of cultural activities that celebrate Tamil heritage and community spirit.

The highlight of the event is the theme-based kolam (rangoli) competition, based on the theme "Media World", which will be conducted at Raja Street in Mandaveli on January 11.

The Association welcomes teams from Raja

Street as well as other neighbourhoods to join this vibrant celebration of tradition and creativity, says a press release. The theme-based competition will be conducted under three categories. One, Raja Street residents; two, guest participants from other areas; and three, kids teams.

Following the competition, the street will come alive with traditional games and cultural performances, culminating in the decoration of a common 'Pongal Paanai'. Kolams will be judged by a panel and sponsored prizes will be awarded to the most outstanding entries.

To register, visit
<https://forms.gle/yg94leiHvDB1SiHA7>
Or call 9841033715, 9940056069.



Gold appraisal training

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is organising a workshop on gold appraisal from December 15 to 19 at its premises at SIDCO Industrial Estate in Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session covers the following: concepts in metallurgy with focus on gold and silver, difference bet-



ween karat and carat, methods for calculating gold purity, and jewel loan assessment procedures.

Hands-on training in jewellery making is also part of the programme. Hallmarking procedures and standards will be covered.

The programme aims to prepare the participants to set up an enterprise in gem and jewellery sector. Further, they will find part-time job opportunities in banks as gold assayer, adds the press release.

Those aged 18 years and above with a minimum qualification of class 10 can apply. Hostel facility is available at first-come, first-served basis. Prior registration is mandatory.

For details, call 9360221280 / 9840114680.



PLAN YOUR WEEK

Christmas Sunday Market

Jupiter Events will host a 'Christmas Sunday Market' on December 21 at Abirami Chidambaram Community Hall in Kotturpuram, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The exhibition will support local businesses. More than a market, the event will be a chance to connect, enjoy, and expand, a press release said.

The market will showcase fashion, lifestyle, apparel, jewellery, accessories, home décor, organic and eco-friendly products, home linens, wedding essentials, snacks and mocktails.

The entry is free. For details, call 98411 88334.

Sleeping on the job at Royapettah High Road



Two garbage bins at Royapettah High Road in Royapettah seem to be having a lie-down. It is 11.20 p.m. If garbage bins had beating hearts, one would want to see them retire for the day. A garbage bin's mandate is to be at the ready all the time, and graciously accept what is offered to it. These bins had been divested of the day's "collection" after being eased into the hydraulic arms of a garbage truck; and ruthlessly cast aside. There are two bins, but only one bay. The bay is occupied not by any of the bins, but leachate. The image was taken on December 3, 2025.

PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

Music group to pay tribute to actor Dharmendra

Satrangi's next presentation 'Tribute to the Icon' will be held on December 14 from 5:45 p.m. onwards at TEACH Auditorium, Taramani.

This programme will feature memorable songs from movies of legendary actor Dharmendra such as Loafer, Sholay, Charas, Chupke Chupke, Dream Girl, Jugnu, Blackmail, Mere Humdum Mere Dost and Do Chor.

The event will be presented by Promod, Smriti and Abhishek on pre recorded tracks. Tickets for this event are priced at ₹500 and ₹300 and will be home-delivered on calling 9884778073.

Drama workshop in Santhome

A two-day art and drama workshop by TALK ACT productions will be held on December 27 and 28 in Santhome. The sessions are designed for children aged from 6 to 15 years.

The workshop aims to build creativity, confidence, communication, and performance skills through a blend of art-based activities and theatre exercises.

Conducted by Tasneem Unjhawala, the programme also includes guided play reading, hands-on activities, materials for all participants, and preparation for a short performance.

For details, call 9025146101



Photo exhibition at Art Houz

The valedictory function of the seventh edition of Chennai Photowalk's 'Eye of Madras 7.0' will be held on December 7 from 5.30 p.m. onwards at Art Houz Gallery, Sterling Road, Nungambakkam.

The photo exhibition features the spirit and stories of Chennai.

Around the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3), tracking the workaday trajectory of three organisations in Chennai, two of which foster artistic creativity among children and young adults with special needs. And the third one brings saleability to their artworks



The making of neurodivergent artists

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

The drip paint mug can walk straight into any upscale showroom that sells art-based utilitarian items, and plonk itself in the display. It would not be stopped at the door. It would make a great corporate gift. The design of paint frozen in an act of dripping underlines such meticulous calculation and skill that it can be the subject of a design lecture at a fine arts college. This artist had designed this mug exclusively for The Indian Twist which makes a variety of items that solemnise a marriage between artistic and utilitarian value. And there is a factor adding greater value to it. The artist is Rupak Munje. A name readily recognised, Rupak is a poster boy for art by the neurodivergent, art that can share display space with art of the highest water from the neurotypical. While in the business of making and selling these products, The Indian Twist is simultaneously in the process of making Rupaks. It supports art by the neurodivergent.

The Chennai-based company (@theindiantwist) sells online thereby surmounting the geographical barrier to commerce. Here is a quick run of their product line – a variety of bags, cushion covers, coffee mugs, beer mugs, coasters, notebooks, artisanal fabric gift envelopes, calendars, mini photo albums, aprons, fridge magnets, paper weights, wine bags and so on. There is a quirkiness to how these everyday things are designed.

The design team at The Indian Twist works on the spontaneous artworks by children and young adults from A Brush With Art (@abwa_chennai) and The CanBridge Academy (@thecanbridgeacademy), works them into its product line, thereby transforms these artworks into a state of saleability. The CanBridge Academy provides life skill training to young adults with autism. And ABWA promotes “ex-



pression of natural art in children with special needs”.

At The Indian Twist, the production process also supports women in shelter homes who stitch bags, earning income and gaining confidence. The residents of The Banyan (India) have a hand in some of the products designed by The Indian Twist.

Shuba Kuila, founder of The Indian Twist, notes that the final product does not obfuscate the artist's authentic expression. For Shuba, a part of this creative work is the creation of joy. The fulfilment derives partly from the children's delight that is evident when they spot their creations on display at events, pressing them to their chests with pride.

Shuba observes that The Indian Twist's approach emphasises merit over charity, ensuring that neurodivergent artists are valued for their creativity and aesthetic con-



tribution, not their circumstances.

Here is a peek into how these artists are made at the organisations associated with The Indian twist.



A drip paint mug, a calendar and a bag made by The Indian Twist with the help of neurodivergent artists; from the 'drawing board' at A Brush With Art and The CanBridge Academy.



Mala Chinnappa, mother of a neurodivergent adult and a long time facilitator at A Brush With Art, begins “When a child first comes in, we begin with dry mediums like crayons. Fluid mediums can overstimulate. We simply watch them. They realise this is not a class. They are free to do what they want.”

The art sessions are structured around agency. One child draws buses with architectural precision but omits the driver every time. “Human beings disrupt his grid,” she explains. “So he edits them out.” Another covers sheets with a single colour until the page becomes an uninterrupted field. Some cut paper with near mathematical accuracy. Others tear it rhythmically, almost as a form of sensory release. These are data points about how each child pro-

cesses the world. Over months, she observes measurable changes. Sitting tolerance expands from ten minutes to over forty. Colour choices shift from impulsive to deliberate. Compositions gain structure. Impulsivity reduces. Confidence becomes observable rather than assumed.

At The CanBridge Academy, co-founder Kavitha Krishnamoorthy has worked with many neurodivergent individuals across ages. Patterns, she says, are often their preferred language. Visual patterns, musical rhythms, repetitive motions are not signs of monotony but anchors for regulation.

“Even finger painting becomes movement,” she explains. “Sweeps, arcs, repetitions. Their body leads the art, not the other way around.”

She cautions against reading emotions through colour choices, an interpretation common in neurotypical frameworks but inaccurate here. Emotional communication is frequently physical rather than symbolic. A child who arrives distressed may pound clay until his system stabilises. A young adult plays a xylophone with rapid beats when excited and slow, spaced notes when low. Emotion is expressed through speed, pressure, repetition, and bodily rhythm.

Contrary to stereotypes, attention is rarely the concern. What disrupts focus is not the child but the instruction. “They focus intensely,” she says. “The problem begins only when adults impose structure or when the task becomes monotonous.”

Across weeks and months, the changes are consistent. Restlessness diminishes. Emotional regulation improves. Trust widens. Independence builds. Over time, a recognisable artistic identity emerges, not shaped by imitation but by sensory accuracy.

The monsoon brings life to our gardens, but can also leave compost bins waterlogged and messy.
Residents on how not to compost during the monsoon

Rainy season demands smarter composting

LIFFY THOMAS

'Do not give any chance for water to enter the bins'

The adoption of waste management initiatives in a community depends on how they are implemented, perceived and sustained. That is lesson from The Summit, a 30-flat apartment complex at 1st Avenue in Sastri Nagar, Adyar.

In 2019, Latha Mahalingam spearheaded an initiative to ensure no wet waste leaves the gates of the apartment by persuading the association to invest in *in-situ* composting.

"It was around the same time that Greater Chennai Corporation was insisting that communities (those that came under the bulk waste generator category) take care of the waste they generated, so that gave a huge impetus to my campaign," says Latha, secretary of The Summit Apartment Owners Association.

After carrying out a study of apartments in Adyar where composting was adopted, two 800-litre My Green Bins were bought to the community. From flyers to messages on the WhatsApp group, segregation of waste was emphasised strongly. The housekeeping team was trained on steps they needed to take once waste was collected.

The community has been religiously composting waste; even during pandemic and heavy rains they never gave the bins a rest.

The apartment is at a higher level than the road, so even during floods they never faced an issue. The bins on wheels are kept at a height, ensuring no water enters them.

Latha says regular maintenance and follow-up are reasons the initiative is still going strong. The compost bins are cleaned after every cycle.

During monsoon, The Summit's housekeeping team ensures the harvested compost is used. "Earlier we used to take it to the terrace and dry it. Now, we empty it directly on the ground or give it to the plants," she says.

Another golden rule they follow is ensuring the lid is closed tight and giving no scope for water to enter. The bins do not even have a roof over their head.

"Now I have relinquished my position from this and the facility manager, Chenniangiri K takes care of everything. It about setting every in place for the right culture to set in," she says.

'Used mud pots can do wonders'



'We make sure water does not stagnate in compost pits'



For Deephika S. and her extended family residing in Perambur, composting during monsoon does not pose any additional challenge due to various strategies they have adopted over the years.

Besides the kitchen waste that is generated from the independent house, the family composts dog poop from its two pets and vegetable waste received from two pushcart vendors who conduct business in the area.

A 4x2 feet pit dug on the ground and closed with a wooden plank serves as the bigger compost pit, but this is only put to use when the mud flower pots, six to seven of them, that are used as compost 'bin' are full.

"During rains, we ensure there is no soil erosion from the pots so an extra layer of soil is added," says Deepika, a Chartered Accountant by profession.

The family's experience from their own backyard shows that composting is quicker during monsoon as long as there is no water stagnation. "Moisture is a friend of compost-

ing, so the process happens as in other seasons; only that we need to ensure the right balance," she says. On slightly sunny days, remove the cover to let the compost breathe. Proper aeration prevents the compost from becoming soggy and supports effective decomposition. The family members also ensure the drainage holes in the compost bin are clear to let excess water escape.

This prevents the compost from becoming soggy. The pots are under a shade and layered with cocoa peat and kept for breakdown. "We did not find much success with ready-made bins sold in the market, which sometimes leaves behind a smell. I find the red pot the best bet for composting as it has a lot of moisture content and air circulation is also good," says Deepika adding that they grow a variety of greens, brinjal, tomatoes and lemon. The 'black gold' generated after a month goes back to their own plants. "We noticed the quality of compost being good when it is made with fruits and vegetable waste alone," she says.

'Maintain the right ratio'

One key factor to keep in mind while composting this time of the year is to ensure carbon and nitrogen ratio is 30:1. Most of the waste that

we generate at home contains more of carbon, so add nitrogen supplement either through cow dung slurry or urea (depending on the kind of composting you are following). If your site is in an open space, ensure it is covered but do leave it open at times when it is slightly sunny. Smell is a challenge most people complain during monsoon,

so make sure there is no water stagnation as leachate leaves a foul smell.

Having a compost heap of one metre height is ideal to kill pathogens and it helps in the decomposing process.

E. Parameswari
professor in
Environmental Science,
Tamil Nadu Agriculture
University

Madras Naturalists Society members and school-going children from Chennai, Amoggh Vjay Chatty and Aaditya S Rajesh spot and photograph a Plaintive cuckoo, which is a vagrant in south India



Two boys document rare bird

PRINCE FREDERICK

No rap on the knuckles probably for Amoggh Vjay Chatty if caught talking with his classmates while seated at his flip-top desk and the teacher is scrawling on the board. After all, he was born "Chatty". The human world might be forgiving if Amoggh uttered a word where silence is demanded, his unmissable surname coming to his rescue, making light of the situation, but the wild would not. The Grade 10 student of PSBB Millennium school in Semmancherry obviously has to shush himself while in the bush looking for birds, which he does in his leisure with two other Chattys – parents Sriram Chatty and Radhika Chatty.

On November 30, the three Chattys were looking for birds far from their hearth. The destination was the sprawling Odiyur lake on East Coast Road (near Paramankeni) on the way to Puducherry. The birding group was actually larger

with a non-Chatty in it. And the day ended up belonging to one of the Chattys – Amoggh – and the non-Chatty, Aaditya S Rajesh. The senior Chattys had their wheels all to themselves. Being peers Amoggh (15) and Aaditya (16) had flocked together in another set of wheels, a car driven by Aaditya's uncle. Aaditya wears uniform different from Amoggh's to school, studying in Grade 11 at Maharishi Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary school in Chetpet. During weekends, the boys have a common uniform, birding camouflage fatigues. Both Aaditya are members of Madras Naturalists Society and introduced early to birding by their families.

The purpose of the visit to Odiyur lake was to watch pelagic birds. Amid the repeating patterns of life are plans re-scripting themselves, throwing up highlights diametrically opposite to what was foreseen. And one needs to be thankful for that. Amoggh and Aaditya are. There were sightings of pelagics, but what dominated the boys' excited chatter on the way back to Chennai was a land-lubber of

a bird – a Plaintive cuckoo, which had no business poking around Odaiyur lake, in fact, in any part of South India. In India, this bird is meant to be seen in its north-eastern parts, until a "Jonathan Livingstone Seagull" among them shows up in an unexpected patch.

It was a joint sighting with both boys documenting the female Plaintive cuckoo with their cameras. The bird was first seen through the window of a moving car. It was perched on a shrub by the Odaiyur lake. With the car stopped and parked, the duo started clicking away, capturing it even as it shifted perches in the shrubs.

The feathers were unlike anything else they had seen before; and they did not have a name for it. Amoggh says it was IDed as Plaintive cuckoo through a couple of online birding groups. "The experts consulted are Sunil Kumar Unni from Chennai; Adesh Shivkar from Mumbai; and Ashwin V. from Bengaluru," Amoggh notes. The record is up on eBird.

Umesh Mani, a seasoned birder and a member of Madras Naturalists Society, on

the rarity of Plaintive cuckoo in these parts: "Plaintive cuckoo is a bird of the North-east, and rarely seen down South – the books show only occasional records. I have seen it just once earlier in Chennai, some 10-12 years back. It is definitely rare here, although I think that could partly be due to the fact that it may be easily confused with the hepatic morph of the Grey-bellied cuckoo (which is quite often seen here), especially if the underparts are not seen clearly." There was a time when the Grey-bellied cuckoo was considered a Plaintive cuckoo's "cousin", being viewed as a subspecies. It is a long time since the Grey-bellied cuckoo was jettisoned from the Plaintive cuckoo family, and accorded separate family status.

In their identification notes, the experts pointedly discussed features differentiating this female Plaintive cuckoo from a female Grey-bellied cuckoo.

Ashwin observed: "The main thing is the barred tail. And generally stronger barring throughout, including on the throat and breast. Also more rufous on the throat and breast than Grey-bellied."

Amoggh shares the observations made by Sunil and Adesh: "The tail has dark barrings and underparts less white, that points to a female (rufous) Plaintive Cuckoo. Grey-bellied has a cleaner tail and more white underparts. Also, grey bellied does not have the rufous wash on throat (above breast), whereas this bird does."

'Guru's legacy is unmatched'

M.S.
Gurumurthy
(in white hat)



M. S. Gurumurthy, who was instrumental in conducting the All-India YSCA cricket tournament, passed away last month

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In cricketing circles, M. S. Gurumurthy, affectionately called 'Guru', was as popular as any cricketer, past or present in and around the area of Moosa Street in T. Nagar.

For 55 years, he was instrumental in conducting the All-India YSCA cricket tournament with pinpoint precision. This was no child's play, as anybody who is into organising an All-India sports event would tell you. Several cricketers have played in the YSCA tournament and former India and Tamil Nadu cricketers seldom

failed to attend the YSCA annual day.

Meticulous as he was, Guru (83 years) who was also a coach, was particular that there was no delay in conducting events. As a person too, he was liked by one and all for his genial nature.

Gurumurthy's son Jayendra Gurumurthy has vowed to continue his father's legacy.

At a condolence meeting held in Chennai recently, Kasi Viswanathan, CEO of Chennai Super Kings recalled his long association with Guru and the latter's contribution to cricket. He also spoke about the regular supply of good talent from YSCA to Tamil Nadu cricket.

Fourth R.K. Memorial TT Tournament conducted



The fourth R.K. Swamy Memorial Table Tennis Tournament was held on November 27 and 28 at Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School, which is managed by the National Boys and Girls Education Society (NBGES). The event saw participation from several schools, with students demonstrating exceptional table tennis skills and sportsmanship.

The tournament was inaugurated by V.M. Ravi Venkatesh, a renowned table tennis professional, on November 27. The inaugural function was also graced by V.S. Subramanian, former secretary, SSK MHSS, and principals of host school and CBSE Kalalaya.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by K. Srivatsa Chakaravarthy, a distinguished table tennis player, as

the chief guest. Srinivasan K. Swamy, president, NBGES; M.S. Jayasri, principal, SSK CBSE; Janaki, AHM, Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Hr. Sec. School; Srikanth, coach, Radha Swamy Centre of Excellence; and S.K. Uma Shankar, principal of SSK MHSS were among those who took part.

Prizes and certificates were awarded to the winners by K. Srivatsa Chakaravarthy and Srinivasan K. Swamy.

Luxury boutique hotel ready for the festive season

The Palomar by Crossway, a luxury boutique hotel at Akkarai - Sholinganallur on East Coast Road, is designed for every kind of traveller.

Combined with stay, diverse dining, and a collection of spaces, the hotel offers rooms in superior, deluxe and twin categories.

Guests can enjoy a variety of amenities, including a swimming pool, fitness centre, atrium, rooftop and well-equipped meeting and conference facilities, said a release. Cappella, its international cuisine restaurant, offers flavours from around the world.

The 'Spotted Deer' is famous for its musical evenings, offering a space for both new and familiar artists.

For events, Zol Garden provides an intimate venue that easily accommodates weddings, receptions, baby showers and pop-up markets.



This festive season, The Palomar Cappella will host Christmas eve dinner and brunch, and New Year's eve dinner, and brunch. The hotel will ring in 2026 at Spotted Deer with a night of live music and Palomar's exclusive stay packages combine a dinner with a luxurious room experience, added the release.

For reservations and enquiries, call 89258 48868.

Workshop on mushroom cultivation

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on mushroom cultivation on December 11. Another workshop on making camphor and incense sticks will be held on December 12.

The sessions will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. Prior registration is required. For details, call 044 - 29530048



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Rains leave Marina Beach waterlogged



A view of the Marina Beach on December 2. The heavy rains had caused shops at Marina Beach to be engulfed by water. PHOTO : RAGHUNATHAN SR

Cauvery Ayurveda Gramam opens in Chennai

With over 25 years of trusted service in Tirupur and Coimbatore, Cauvery Ayurveda Gramam has now expanded to Besant Nagar, offering traditional Ayurvedic care rooted in Kerala's legacy.

The centre provides specialised care in spine and back health, along with signature treatments for back pain, disc prolapse and sciatica, according to a press release.

The centre offers treatment for

various lifestyle-based disorders: for IT professionals facing stress, insomnia, posture-related neck and back pain, lifestyle disorders, diabetes, and hypertension; sports and fitness enthusiasts complaining of stiffness, wear-and-tear, ligament injuries, and muscular strengthening; senior citizens needing joint care, gut correction, improved metabolism and better sleep; and corporate leaders looking for physical revitalisation, the release adds. The centre is located at T-28, Seventh Avenue, Anna Velankanni Church Road. Phones: 8072012896, 4445938360.

A delicate brain surgery



Doctors and nurses with the young man on whom the brain surgery was performed. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The neurosurgical team at Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospitals recently carried out a complex emergency brain surgery on a young man.

The man arrived at the hospital with a screwdriver embedded deep inside his skull, which injury experts describe as "extremely rare and often fatal without immediate intervention." A CT scan showed that the screwdriver had punctured a vital motor control area responsible for moving the left side of his body. It was also dangerously close to major blood vessels that, if damaged, could have caused severe bleeding, a release said. This was a race against time. Even a slight delay could have caused permanent paraly-

sis or devastating vascular damage, said Dr. Rahul Srinivasan, a neurosurgeon who performed the surgery. The patient was immediately transferred to the hospital's advanced neurosurgical operating room. Dr. Srinivasan carefully removed the screwdriver and nearby bone fragments without harming vital structures. After surgery, the patient was kept on ventilator support for two days to manage brain swelling and stabilise vital functions. Initially, the patient experienced weakness on the left side of the face, arm and leg. Intensive physiotherapy and neuro-rehabilitation helped him steadily regain strength, the release adds.

Agni college signs pact for an AI center

Agni College of Technology in Thalambur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MiPhi Semiconductors Private Limited to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence and Semiconductor Technologies on its campus.

The collaboration includes the development of a 30-seat MiPhi Operations Center and a cutting-edge AI Laboratory, providing students and faculty with opportunities for advanced research, long-term internships, placements, and exposure to industry-focused

projects, said a release.

Prasad Balakrishnan, chief executive officer of MiPhi Semiconductor Private Limited, stated that this partnership provides a strong talent pipeline and supports the development of highly skilled engineers trained in real-world AI and semiconductor applications, which are critical to India's growing technological ecosystem.

"The CoE will strive to attract students, research collaborators, and the community by enhancing our dedication to forward-looking engineering education and emerging technology sectors."

The initiative aims to enhance students' technical competencies, strengthen faculty development, and open new avenues for collaborative research and innovation, the release added.

Christmas carols at CSI Redeemer Church on December 14



Once again it is Christmas season, and all over the city the sound of Carols ring. One among the many programmes is the much-awaited carols at the CSI Redeemer Church in Anna Nagar, which is an elaborate event of Carols both classical and contemporary.

The event is titled 'Star of God' in the background of a very meaningful poem written by Fred Weatherly and composed by Eric Coates. The Junior choir of the church will also present a few carols. The

choir has been performing for the last 30 years and is one of the well-trained church choirs in the city. The Christmas concert is their signature event that has attracted music lovers of all denominations and religions.

The choir will be conducted by Emmanuel Ponraj with Hannah Jane on the Piano and the Genesis Chamber Orchestra.

When: December 14; 6 p.m.
Contact: 9841447240/ 9841021256

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