

## TAMBARAM

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

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



### LIKE OWNER, LIKE DOG

G.K.M. Kabbir has donated blood 35 times so far, and he has drawn up an uncompromising blood-donation schedule for his canine pets too **P7**



### ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER

Meet the conservancy workers who endeared themselves to residents through their acts of honesty **P4&5**

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## Watch your steps



K. Selvam, a resident of St. Thomas Mount, shared this picture. He says the pedestrian pathway on North Parade Road, near the compound wall of the golf course in St. Thomas Mount has three broken manholes that endanger safety of pedestrians.

## 'Barricade the tracks at Vandalur'

**M. PONVAIKO AND S. PERIYASAMY**

Southern Railway should construct a wall along GST Road to prevent people from trespassing on to the tracks at Vandalur station.

A few years ago, when the Railway began constructing walls along the railway tracks, the stretch located along the Vandalur station entrance was left out for reasons unknown.

The "unauthorised passage-way" is studded with stones and strewn with trash. It must be barricaded.

Through Venkatesapuram First Street, pedestrians go to Lakshmi Nagar, Lakshmi Garden and Kurinji Nagar.

The area near First Street should also be barricaded.

Pedestrians including children should use the footbridge at the station and walk through Anna Street in Kurinji Nagar to reach the four localities.

The Railway should provide escalators at the foot overbridge. Af-

ter a change in train running is made, commuters jump from the platform and cross the tracks to reach other platforms.

Railway Protection Force should man the tracks along Walajabad Road as many people cross the tracks to board trains and go to GST Road and adjoining areas. The narrow gap below the Vandalur flyover-grade separator (railway gate) should also be barricaded.

**M. Ponvaiko and S. Periyasamy** are residents of Vandalur



## 'An ABC centre is needed in Perumbakkam'

**N.K. RAJA**

Stray dogs and cattle have increased in Perumbakkam. Five persons including children in Shri VaRADhapuram were attacked and bit by strays.

On a regular day, pedestrians would encounter around 10 dogs before reaching Medavakkam High Road in Perumbakkam.

Perumbakkam Village Pan-chayat, the Saint Thomas Mount Panchayat Union, and Chengalpat-tu District Collectorate should open an Animal Birth Control (ABC) centre in Perumbakkam.

It has been learned that Tambar-ram City Municipal Corporation has procured vehicles to impound stray cattle under its jurisdiction.



The civic body should send the vehicle to Perumbakkam as well to impound cattle left free on the road. In September 2024, I sent a memorandum to the Chengalpattu District Collectorate to implement the anti-rabies vaccination and sterilisation programme for stray dogs in Perumbakkam. I took up the is-

sue with the 'Public Information Office at Chengalpattu District Collectorate to find out whether the office has received the petition and what action has been taken.

**N. K. Raja** is president of Nesamani Nagar Residents' Welfare Association, Perumbakkam.

## 'Fear on account of a pack of stray dogs'

**A. KRISHNAN**

Yeshwanth Nagar is a prime residential area in Madambakkam, which comes under Tambaran City Municipal Corporation. A pack of stray dogs have created a sense

of fear and insecurity among resi-dents.

On April 25, around 4 a.m., a pack of dogs entered a home and damaged the cars parked inside the portico. The dogs bit the co-lant-circulating hoses, electrical

wires and damaged the bonnet covers and plastic panels, resulting in loss of thousands of rupees.

Similar incidents have hap-pened in the last six months. Even the insurance companies have in-structed that the claim for the same reason is no longer possible.

**A. Krishnan** is a resident of Madambakkam.

## 'Announcement in route 91 bus is incorrect'

**R. ILLANGOVAN RAJENDRAN**

I recently travelled to Tambaran by bus number 91 (Thiruvannmiyur-Tambaran West).

The GPS-based automatic announcements from Thiruvannmiyur to Chennai One Spe-cial Economic Zone (SEZ) on Pallavaram - Thoraiapakkam 200-Feet Radial Road, Thorai-pakkam were correct.

After that the announce-ments till Saravana Stores hal-tover on GST Road in Chromepet were incorrect.

The Kamakshi Hospital stop in Pallikaranai was announced as Thoraiapakkam check post.

Similarly, the Sunnambu Ko-lathur stop was announced as Shree Nagar, and Kovilambakkam as Sunnambu Kolathur.

The Kauvery Hospital bus stop in Kovilambakkam was an-nounced as Eechanagdu junc-tion. Listening to the announce-ments, some commutes disembarked at the wrong stop.

MTC should look into this is-sue and take necessary action.

On GST Road, there is men-tion of a haltover for the Kadaperi region but no facility has been created. Commuters either walk from Tambaran Sanatorium or Tambaran West.

**R. Ilangoval Rajendran** is a resident of Kottivakkam

## 'Buses should halt at earmarked areas'



Route numbers 118, 500, and 500P must stop at the area earmarked for them at Tambaran West haltover.

A good number of route numbers, including 66K, 91R, 21G, 55D, E18, G18, 515, 515A, and 515M, pass through and start from the haltover and witness good traffic.

Drivers of 118, 500, and 500P buses halt at the areas marked for the above-mentioned route numbers, forcing commutes to run amidst the crowd and the traffic. A section of commutes stand at the entry point to board the buses.

It would also be good if officials were deployed to manage the traffic.

**L. Sriram Lakshmanan** is a resi-dent of Tambaran (West)

## 'Revised AC train schedule is disappointing'

**P. SATHYANARAYANAN**

On April 20, the Chennai Division of Southern Railway invited commutes to provide suggestions on the timings of air-conditioned electric train ser-vices. Based on the inputs, Southern Railway has revised the AC train pat-tern and introduced additional ser-vices.

Many commutes have also sought an increase in services in the

mornings towards Chengalpattu, but Southern Railway has withdrawn the existing service, which is disappoint-ing. Southern Railway should operate trains from Chennai Beach in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The fares should also be reduced. The railway should also explore the option of offering concession to senior citizens.

**P. Sathyana-rayanan** is a resident of Guindy

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# STATUS REPORT



The platform at Pazhavanthangal railway station. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Water board replaces UGD pipes in Nanganallur region

The Federation of Nanganallur Welfare Associations has thanked T. M. Anbarasan, Alandur MLA for playing a pivotal role in replacing the Underground Drainage System pipes in the region.

The State Government had allocated ₹ 128 crores for the work which covers four regions: Nanganallur, Alandur, Pazhavanthangal and Adamakkam.

V. Rama Rao, a social activist and Advisor of the Federation, says the pipes were laid more than two decades ago and had to be replaced. "As of now, the work has been completed on Fourth Main Road and is in progress on 46th Street. It will take around a year to complete the work in the four regions," said Rama Rao.

## 'Construct a cut-and-cover channel along the lake's western side'

Members of Chitlapakkam Muthulakshmi Nagar Welfare Association have written to the CM's Cell requesting that a cut-and-cover drain network be constructed along the western side of Chitlapakkam Lake.

The canal along Periyar Street, East Tambaram – Tambaram Sanatorium, is marked by stagnant waste water and trash. It should be made part of a cut-and-cover drain network.

Currently, the water from the canal is contaminating the

ground water and is a health hazard and a breeding ground for the mosquitoes.

L. Sundararman, president of the association, says, "The network should be constructed and linked to a sewage collection well at the lake's southern side. Tambaram City Municipal Corporation is clearing the trash from the canal, but leaves the collected trash on the lake's bunds."

Text: T.S. Atul Swaminathan



The canal along Periyar Street. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## 'Facilitate escalators in the footbridge'

Pedestrians crossing Anna Salai and GST Road in Mairimalai Nagar (MM Nagar) have requested the State Highways Department to install escalators at the footbridge.

Motorists come from all directions, paying scant regard for safety of pedestrians.

V. Sowmya Venkatasubramanian, says, "The traffic police remain a mute spectator to the chaos. The footbridge should have been connected to the foot-

bridge at the MM Nagar railway station.

At one time, the junction used to be manned by private company staff. Pedestrians want the Highways to maintain the footbridge.

The steps and walkway are dusty, strewn with trash and rusty. The stainless steel sheets (between the steps) are torn and rusty, and missing.

Text by T.S. Atul Swaminathan



## Sky is the roof at the station

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

A month ago at Pazhavanthangal railway station, shelters were removed from a section of platform one and a common area (along platforms one and two) for redevelopment work. But till date they have not been replaced or a new one installed.

V. Rama Rao, director of the Traffic and Transportation Forum in Chennai, and the office-bearers of the Federation of Nanganallur Welfare Associations, S. Chandra Bose, president and V. V. Kumaravelu, general secretary, have requested the Divisional

Railway Manager (DRM), Chennai, to facilitate shelters as soon as possible.

Rama Rao says, "Commuters are finding it extremely difficult and are standing in the open. A few commuters take shelter at the refreshment stall."

The slabs and the benches (except for one) do not go with shelters.

Commuters sit on the benches and slabs along the equipment; when they spot the train, they rush to board it. They can trip and fall and get hurt.

On the platform towards Chengalpattu, the space is reduced. Commuters walk close to the moving trains.

## A handy facility at the zoo



Arignar Anna Zoological Park has introduced a new ticket vending machine for the convenience of visitors.  
PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

## MTC renumbers bus services

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation has renumbered seven bus routes on an area basis. The route map of the route numbers will remain unchanged. The details of the bus routes are as follows.

Route Numbers: 121F (Madhavaram to Tambaram) will ply as 170A, 121H (Kaviyarasu Kannadasan Nagar - Tambaram) as 170T, 11G Extension (Iyyappathangal - Broadway) as 11M, 18A Extension (Broadway - Kilambakkam) as 18A, 91K (Thiruvanmiyur - Kilambakkam) as 91, 66X (Poonamallee - Guduvancherry) as 66PX, and 121H Extension (Kaviyarasu Kannadasan Nagar - Kilambakkam) as 170TX, according to a release issued by the transport corporation.

**S. Ravi:**  
a bond that got stronger



**Bomma Devi:**  
'adopted' by a neighbourhood

The day dawned in drab, customary colours for this conservancy worker, but ended with a lustre that has not dimmed to this day. Bomma Devi, posted at Srinivasapuram in Foreshore Estate, found herself face-to-face with a resident – a differently-abled woman beside herself with anxiety as only someone who has lost a one-sovereign gold chain can be. The resident surmised the chain got inadvertently swept into the garbage.

"We had just started our work," recalls Devi, "but I promised her I would keep an eye out for the chain." Devi went beyond the promise: she sorted out the garbage thoroughly, and found the valuable piece of yellow metal. When Devi took the one-sovereign gold chain to the resident, the latter was overwhelmed with gratitude and she could not stop proclaiming Devi's honesty to anyone with ears that crossed her path. As the day ended, Devi had a sense of being accepted by the residents as their own; she felt belonged. Displays of gratitude and admiration have not ceased: many a morning, after sweeping the streets near the beach, she would be greeted not with an empty hand, but one holding a warm cup of tea or a refreshing glass of juice. These gestures, though small, speak volumes of the bond she has forged with the community.

Even after scraping the bottom of his savings, S. Ravi found himself distressingly short of what it took to keep his grandson in college. The college fees had to be arranged; and it was, in the nick of time, with help pouring in from expected quarters. Residents of Mandaveli Raja Street stepped in with financial support towards payment of the grandson's fees.

Why would these residents be so generous in their offer of support to Ravi?

Let us set the clock back by 11 months, and replay a scene from Mandaveli Raja Street.

A late breakfast following an early shift has the desirability of an oasis discovered after a long trudge through a desert. S. Ravi, was settling in for that kind of a breakfast, when his hand was "stayed" mid-air between the plate and the palate. Homemakers from a nearby household had searched high and low for a five-sovereign gold chain in vain, and as a last resort, were now turning to the only place they had not brought under their dragnet – the garbage bin – and the only man who can turn hope into reality. Without a second thought, Ravi put his meal aside. Calmly and carefully, he began sorting through the waste pile he had just collected.

Bit by bit, layer by layer, he shifted through the mess – until a soft glint of gold shone from beneath the rubbish. He handed it to the family, their relief and gratitude knowing no bounds.

Moved by Ravi's honesty and effort, residents of Mandaveli Raja Street passed the hat around, collecting ₹8,000 to give away to Ravi as a token of appreciation.

"It is not just about the money," Ravi says. "When people care, you feel like you belong. That is what matters. If I ever go hungry or need anything, I know they would be there for me."

Urbaser Sumeet conservancy workers.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Antony Samy:**  
being of help to someone brings joy

One morning in September 2024, while Antony Samy was at his stomping ground in KK Nagar, he found himself having to accommodate a special, unusual request in his workday duties. A security guard from Windsors Park Apartments brought him news of a lost diamond necklace, worth ₹5 lakh, mistakenly thrown away with the trash. The owner, distraught, had turned to the guard for help, who in turn sought Antony's assistance.

With permission from his supervisor, Antony sifted through the discarded rubbish. And after a few minutes, his efforts fructified – there was the unmistakable glint of diamonds in the refuse. Antony says the act of retrieving the diamond necklace and giving it to the resident filled him with immense joy.

Antony, a BOV operator and on Urbaser Sumeet's payrolls for the last five years, notes that the episode remains one of his cherished memories.

# One good turn deserves another

They did not seem to be made for the spotlight, but they made their way to it by giving more than what their work demanded of them. Meet the conservancy workers who endeared themselves to residents through their acts of honesty. And when grounded by life's unexpected battles, these foot soldiers have found an uplifting hand in these residents

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL



## Brand ambassadors: unappointed but unrivalled

### Valuables:

RETRIEVED AND RETURNED

Cash & cheques:

₹1,40,500

Gold items:

₹19,63,802.40

Mobile phones:

₹5,73,000

Bags:

₹70,600

Wallets:

₹1,200

Other electronics:

₹8,000

TOTAL

₹27,56,102.40

Hari Balaji, head - information, education and communication, Urbaser Sumeet notes that these acts have brought residents and conservancy workers closer in many neighbourhoods. There is many an instance of how residents – particularly, in areas such as Adyar and T. Nagar – offer tea and refreshments to these workers, allow them to use their restrooms and even invite them to dine at restaurants such as Adyar Anand Bhavan and Geetham with their families.

In Adyar, the residents' association invited a conservancy worker to hoist the national flag on Independence Day. "When RWAs do that – that is a revolution," says C. Namachivayam, a resident of Adyar.

Urbaser Sumeet runs internal recognition programmes such as "Everyday Heroes" (honouring two workers per zone monthly with a dinner at a resort in ECR) and "Emerging Leaders" (identifies and places mid-level staff in management pipelines). It also bolsters the educational aspirations of workers' children.

"Many workers' children drop out after Class 12 due to financial constraints" says Hari Balaji, adding that the organisation steps in with counselling, admission support and help in exam preparation. Their annual talent show, judged by panels from Vijay TV and Adithya TV, showcases performances by conservancy workers' children.

### Thinking out of the box

A reel shared on Urbaser Sumeet's official Instagram page discusses how the conservancy staff attached to Urbaser Sumeet's Zone 11 (Valasaravakkam) operations thought out of the box while planning this year's Labour Day celebration. The team comprising BOV (Battery-Operated Vehicle) operators deflected attention from themselves and made a cause the central theme of Labour Day. They donated a 43-inch Android television to the Adyar Cancer Hospital. Over time, the workers had been setting aside money earned from selling recyclable scrap they collected during their daily rounds.

When the idea first came up, the team approached their Zonal Manager, Mohanakrishnan Ethiraj, who offered guidance and support. With his help, the workers coordinated the purchase and planned the donation as a Labour Day contribution.

Around ten staff members visited the hospital in person to hand over the television.

A local scrap dealer, hearing about the initiative, offered his support too, donating two 240-litre and two 120-litre waste bins to the hospital.

### A street that adds invisible homes to its address book

Charity begins at home. And charity has an added, glittering ring of meaning to it when it is practised in the extended home, rewarding those one might be excused for not recognising, let alone rewarding. Acting on this thinking, Mandaveli Raja Street has ended up with more homes than are registered with a door number. These are the homes of the foot soldiers – the workers and their families – that keep residents' lives running smoothly like a well-oiled machine. These homes might be physically scattered, located across the metro, but have a soulful connection with Mandaveli Raja Street. Every Labour Day, says Ganga Sridhar (a committee member of Mandaveli Raja Street Residents Welfare Association), a gratitude that residents feel through the year is expressed in the full glare of public attention. This year, the association invited 50 workers – including conservancy staff, auto drivers, vendors, and household helpers – for a special Labour Day lunch. Buttermilk was served to anyone who dropped in at the event, even passersby.

"Our efforts go beyond Labour Day," says Ganga. "We try to help whenever there is a need. We even conduct a free Women's Day health check-up in collaboration with Spectrum Clinic, where our conservancy workers receive full blood tests and consultations with a gynaecologist."



er. These are the people who make our lives tension-free." Over the years, the Association has built meaningful relationships with many of these workers. When Ravi, their door-to-door waste collector, returned a resident's lost gold chain, he was honoured during their Independence Day celebration. Later, when his grandson needed financial help for his education, the residents helped with the fees. And during a cyclone, when the Istri Kadai woman's shop was damaged, the community rebuilt her shop, buying her a new ironing machine, and offering support through the Lions Club.

"It is not just about conservancy workers," Ganga adds. "It is about every person who makes this community work – be it the Istri Kadai lady, the post-woman, or the street's regular auto driver."

## Kendriya Vidyalaya schools to take students on a road safety trip

From the coming academic year, an audio-visual programme will teach students how to be safe on the road



File photo used for representational purpose only

LIFFY THOMAS

foundational, middle and senior secondary classes.

After teachers play the videos in the classroom, the programme requires students to take an online assessment to test their understanding. "It is an online quiz where those scoring more than 80% will get a certificate. Those who do not make that cut can repeat the test till they get that score," says Meenakshi Kukreja, director, SIAM.

The web-based Learning Management System (LMS) developed by SIAM has been integrated into KVS academic activities.

Depending on the age group, the interactive activities are aimed at helping students sharpen their decision-making skills and identify if a shown action is right or wrong.

Meenakshi says the MoU with KVS was signed two years ago and a lot of thought has gone into making the content engaging so as to inspire children to be responsible road users.

"India is among countries that are on the top of the table in terms of road-related fatalities. Education is one pillar of road safety. Through LMS system we will be awarding schools that have completed the six modules together with the assessment tests in the shortest time or got maximum number of students enrolled," says Meenakshi.

Twenty-five assistant commissioners have been trained on how to run this programme in their respective States.



## Bypass road work nearing completion

Marking an almost half-circle from Padur to Thaiyur, the road eases congestion at bottlenecks such as the one at Kelambakkam on OMR

**PRINCE FREDERICK**

**W**ork on the bypass from Padur to Thaiyur, being carried out by Tamil Nadu Road Development Company, is nearing completion.

There are tell-tale signs of a project being wrapped up – the kerb stones in the medians are being



A tour of the facility.  
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

painted, the medians and the earthen lanes adjoining the carriageways are being greened. Reflector

poles have been erected by the side of the road.

The bypass in fact is already entertaining vehicular traffic, vehicles flowing down the road on both sides of the bridge. Even the bridge which sails over two waterbodies is in its completed form except for a few minor threads that need to be tucked in. According to a TNRDC source, a mid-May deadline has been pencilled in.

With points of departure from OMR at Padur and Thaiyur, the road circles back to OMR, its course tracing something of a half-circle.

The benefit of the facility is likely to be felt the most during weekends when the Kovalam to Kelambakkam road would be choc-a-block with traffic with people returning in the evening after having unwinded on East Coast Road.

Is a major problem brewing?



For some time now, Nedunchezian Salai in Sholinganallur has been wearing a "cast" at the point where it reaches out to Rajiv Gandhi Salai, on account of a niggling glitch in the CMWSSB pipeline network. It was crimping the movement of vehicular traffic. On May 2, water was gushing out of the troubled spot, it was closed temporarily, reportedly on a request from the T-16 Semmancherry traffic police. It was a temporary measure and the patch was going to be opened up for more thoroughgoing CMWSSB remedial work. According to a traffic police personnel, if the work proves quite a handful and the road gets closed on account of it, a major traffic issue would rear its head.

PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

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## Garbage fires: a feature of the morning commute

A resident highlights a bane that plagues Sthalapakkam, Ponmar, Thalambur and surrounding areas

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**N**eighbourhoods tucked into the inner creases what lies just outside south Chennai, many of them sandwiched between what can loosely be described as OMR and Tambaram landmasses are visibly plagued by an ailment: poor solid waste management.

On the daily commute to work, Bernice Jacinth finds fresh evidence of an indifferent and even cavalier attitude to waste management, particularly in Sthalapakkam, Ponmar, Thalambur, Ottiyambakkam and Madurapakkam. She is distressed by the sight of carelessly discarded plastics, single-use plastics; and even more by the sight of such garbage being set to fire. She keeps record of these anomalies with a GPS camera. She recently made a complaint on Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board's online grievance redressal system, and the response has left her outraged and hugely disappointed.

"The complaint (number 162505450) has been closed with-



Images from Sthalapakkam and Ponmar.

PHOTOS: BERNICE JACINTH

current status reads "closed".

There is a preponderance of plastics in the garbage pile-ups, largely single-use plastics, in the roadside garbage pileups that are set to fire. And that, according to Bernice, raises another question. Is the ban on single-use plastics being enforced strictly in these outlying parts of the Chennai Metropolitan Area, she wants to know.

out any comments/ resolution. The burning in Ponmar and Sthalapakkam continues," says Bernice, who has shared a screenshot of the complaint, whose

# VOLUNTEERING

## Like owner, like dog

G.K.M. Kabbir has donated blood 35 times so far, and he has drawn up an uncompromising blood-donation schedule for his canine pets too

LIFFY THOMAS

**E**very blood donor is a hero and that includes the one with four legs. In G.K.M. Kabbir's home, there are currently four donors who move about on four legs – these are his canine pets, Rowdy, Cocoa, Racket (belonging to Kanni breed) and Rusty Kutti (Chippiparai).

Kabbir has drawn up an uncompromising blood-donation schedule for them – they experience the gentle piercing of a retractable needle every three months.

"All my dogs are donors," says Kabbir, a retired process audit consultant who lives in Chintadripet.

"I have had more than 30 dogs over the years with eight dogs at my home in one time," says Kabbir.

He began to get his dogs to sup-

port blood donation drives ten years ago.

A friend's dog had met with an accident and Kabbir received a frantic call seeking blood. The dog was in the emergency and Kabbir rushed with Rusty to the Department of Clinics at Madras Veterinary Hospital in Vepery.

Rusty, a Chippiparai breed had been adopted by Kabbir and his family and lived with them for 14 years until its death.

"I still remember the scene at the hospital ward. Family members were in tears as their dog was really serious. It was a miracle to see the dog being saved and a memorable one for me too," says Kabbir, who has himself donated blood (obviously, for human patients) 35 times.

Over the years, Rusty has been a



G.K.M. Kabbir with his pets.  
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### Donate blood, get incentives

"We need more pet owners to volunteer to get their dogs to donate blood and we are happy to give them a red carpet treatment for their gesture," says G. Bharanidharan of Chennai Small Animal Veterinarians Association (CSAVA).

Launched in 2022, the blood donors club brings together dog owners and veterinarians for medical assistance.

"Donors will be given annual vaccination and deworming coupons and other freebies from any of our 120 private clinics in Chennai that are registered with us. If a person from Ambattur needs blood for his pet, we will connect them to a clinic in the neighbourhood," says Dr Bharanidharan. To sign up, call 73050 73050

## Academy honours IAS achievers



The KingMakers IAS Academy recently held a felicitation ceremony to honour the 2024 Indian Civil Services Examination winners. The annual examination by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) determines candidates for various elite government positions, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service. More than 130 students from the academy cleared the examination. The candidates who were felicitated include S. Saranya, who secured 125th rank; Harikrishnan K (784); Thanigai Arasan (259); S. Sai Kiran (298); Kavin Mozhi M V (546); Arun Prakash M

(639); Karan Ayyappa (691); and Kiran P (862). Keerthika, who secured the 21st rank in the TNPSC Group 1 examination, was also recognised. The candidates were presented with commemorative mementos, said a release. Several distinguished retired officials and civil servants graced the event. They offered guidance to the aspiring officers about the responsibilities and opportunities that come with a career in the civil services. The next batch of training are scheduled to begin in May, June and July. Graduates and those pursuing higher studies are welcome. For details, call 94442 27273.

## GRT opens in Guduvancheri



GRT Jewellers has opened its 63rd branch in Guduvancheri. Located on GST Road, Nandivaram, near Guduvancheri bus terminus, the showroom offers customers various benefits.

Customers can avail of ₹250 less per gram on gold jewellery, ₹75 extra per gram on old gold exchanges, and ₹12,500 off per carat on diamond value, said a release. Additional offers include 25 percent off on making charges on silver articles and anklets, 10 percent off on the uncut diamond value, added the release.

iversity's Animal Blood Bank at Madras Veterinary Hospital.

Most of Kabbir's dogs are healthy so he makes it a point to get them into this habit after they turn one-and-a-half years old.

The only criterion Kabbir insists upon is that the doctor is well-trained in the job. "It pains me to see the dog getting multiple pricks to get the vein, so I am selective about the hospital," says Kabbir. In most cases, donors arrange an auto

or they come in their vehicle.

After every life-saving act, the pets are treated with food supplement or a medicine is given to help them recover quickly. Kabbir has made many friends over the years by volunteering for canine blood donation.

Says Kabbir: "One has become a close friend after one of my dogs saved theirs, so when I was abroad they took care of my dog for five days."

## Best Bargains

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## Colleagues and neighbours

Here is why the Little stint and the Kentish plover stick together: right now, they are sharing space at a saltern in Thaiyur



These images of Little stints and Kentish plovers were taken during the end of April and early part of May in 2025 at a saltern in Thaiyur, near Kelambakkam. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



PRINCE FREDERICK

**T**ake in this familiar scenario; and that might make it easier to figure out why the Little stints and Kentish plovers hang out together. Two colleagues are in the same department, and they have taken residence in the quarters provided by their office (a situation usually playing out in government jobs in India). They head out for work and hit the trail back home around the same hours, and therefore end up taking the same route both ways, and become travel companions.

Now shift the focus to a saltern in Thaiyur near Kelambakkam. The wintering season is in its fag end, and during the end of April and early part of May in 2025, one has been greeted by sights of Little stints sharing space with Kentish plovers.

Similarity in their dining habits and shared routes to the wintering grounds and back to the breeding grounds make them compatible and they are at home in each other's company.

Whoever said familiarity breeds contempt has never been introduced to the Little stint and the Kentish plover.



### A flagpole that stands 100 feet tall

St. Joseph's Educational Institutions has installed a 100-feet-tall national flagpole to instil patriotism, discipline and social responsibility among students. Standing tall as a tribute to India's rich culture, unity, and the sacrifices of its freedom fighters, the flag inspires a spirit of national pride, says a press release.

The flag was hoisted by B. Babu Manoharan, chairman of St. Joseph's Group. Executive director B. Sasi Sekar also graced the event.

### Workshop on Bonsai

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on chocolate making on May 8. According to a press release, preparation of chocolates of various flavours including mango, pineapple, and dry fruits will be demonstrated.

Another session on Bonsai, the art of growing trees in pots and containers, will be held on May 9. Both the workshops will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 29530048.

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