

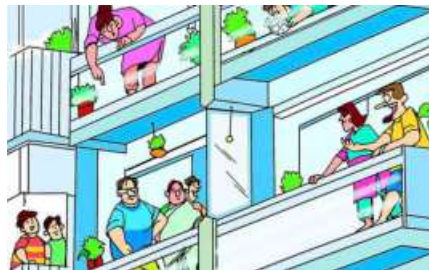
T. NAGAR

Saidapet » West Mambalam » Vadapalani » Porur » Kattupakkam » Irungattukottai » Nungambakkam » Manapakkam » Ashok Nagar » Valasaravakkam
Gerugambakkam » Mangadu » Choolaimedu » Egmore » K K Nagar » Kodambakkam » Virugambakkam » Somangalam » Poonamallee » Chetpet



SPOTLIGHT ON AN INVISIBLE LANDSCAPE

A community-led walk fashioned by Yein Udaan with the help of Madras Inherited seeks to capture the spirit and aspirations of the people in a portion of Chetpet that is unknown to the wider world, except for its historic Dhobikhana **P4&5**



APARTMENTS HAVE TO GET THEIR 'ACT' TOGETHER

The Tamil Nadu Apartment Ownership Rules 2024 provides an impetus to redevelopment projects **P6**

Police regulate fish market in Chintadripet



Following a photo feature in these pages about the traffic congestion created by the rush at the fish market on Arunachalam Street in Chintadripet, the traffic police have started to regulate the stretch between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. The rush usually lasts till 11 a.m. *The Hindu Downtown* reported that despite the opening of the new fish market in the locality, many vendors continued to stay put at the old market, resulting in traffic bottlenecks. Residents wanted vehicles ferrying fish not to be parked on this busy road. This image was taken on August 30 around 10 a.m. PHOTO: R. RAGU

READERS WRITE

'Post office in Ramapuram lacks basic facilities'

K. SUBRAMANIAN

The post office at Bajanai Kovil Street in Ramapuram is a compact facility, too compact for users' comfort. Customers have to wait in the open, that is on the road. It is really challenging during rains. Further, it is managed by a lone staff who has to attend to all kinds of services such as saving schemes, mails and sale of stamps.

This results in long waiting time for the customers, nearly two hours. With no seating facility, senior citizens find it an ordeal. Customers from Ramapuram therefore visit other post offices located in Valasaravakkam, K.K. Nagar or Nandambakkam. Given the traffic congestion on the approach roads, accessing these three is inconvenient.

This post office was set up decades ago when Ramapuram was a village. But today the population has increased and the post office also witnesses good patronage. But the facilities at this post office have not improved.



It should be noted the delivery post office for Ramapuram is Nandambakkam post office which is on Mount Poonamallee High Road. It is learnt from reliable sources that eight of the 12 postmen of Nandambakkam post office are dedicated to Ramapuram. This warrants up-gradation of Ramapuram post office with necessary facilities.

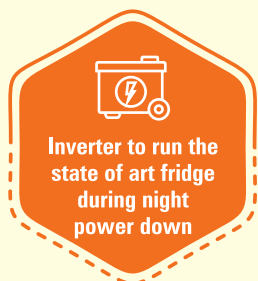
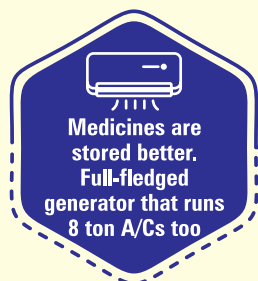
In 2022, Makkal Nala Urumai Sangam, a residents welfare association in Ramapuram gave a representation to the higher officials at the Head Post Office in Anna Salai. Following the representation, official also made an inspection at the sub post office in Bajanai Kovil Street and they were convinced of the need to upgrade it. But after that there has been no progress, to this day.

K. Subramanian, president, Makkal Nala Urumai Sangam, Ramapuram

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A dance performance; and the audience at Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women.

Little Krishnas and Radhas dazzle the audience

The annual event organised by The Hindu Downtown enjoyed a good response with 700 children taking part in it



Close to 700 children participated in 'Maya Kannan' - Janmashtami Contest 2025 organised by *The Hindu Downtown* for children in the age group of three to eight years, in keeping with the festive spirit of the season. Sixty-six winners from across the five zones of



Downtown (Adyar, Anna Nagar, Mylapore, T. Nagar and Tambaram) were felicitated on August 24 at an event held at Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women in Anna Nagar.

The contest had a good response with participants asked to

dress up as Krishna or Radha and perform a dance or sing or recite slokas in praise of the Lord. The children showed impressive involvement; and their enthusiasm was infectious.

The parents and sponsors ap-

T NAGAR ZONE WINNERS



Tanvita. M



Kavinaya. K



Akshara Vinod

School, Anna Nagar. The winners were felicitated by Y.V. Niranjan Krishna from Gopuram products, T. Manimalai, principal of Shri Krishnaswamy Matriculation Higher secondary school and other special guests.

The title partner for the event was Gopuram Turmeric Powder and Kumkum; the food partner was Madras Coffee House, and the venue partner was Shri Krishnaswamy College for Women, Anna Nagar; Water Partner was Repute Water; the Tech Partner was Hilap-top.com. Gift Sponsors were DIFA, Lalwani, Medimix, My Resale Plot.com, Naga, P S Tamarind, RAS Chekku Oil and Vivekanandha Sarees.

preciated *The Hindu* Group for organising events of this nature to uphold time-honoured traditions.

There was an excellent Barathanatyam group performance by the students of Shri Krishnaswamy Matriculation Higher Secondary

Pedestrian safety compromised on Vijayaraghava Road

Pedestrians need to exercise extreme caution while navigating Vijayaraghava Road in T. Nagar.

Since the third week of August, the road is handling diverted traffic.

The traffic diversion is aimed at facilitating flyover construction in Teynampet on Anna Salai.

Traffic from Anna Salai which is heading towards Gemini flyover is being diverted through Vijayaraghava Road. Vijayaraghava Road is therefore heavily congested now and it has become unsafe for pedestrians.

The footpaths and road margins are usurped by encroachments and parking of vehicles – the problem is particularly noticeable near the intersection of Dr. Giryappa Road and Vijayaraghava Road and Thiru Vi Ka Kudiruppu Street.

Further, some sections of the footpath are broken.

Text by L. Kanthimathi



Entries invited for Made of Chennai photography contest



The Hindu has announced the launch of *The Hindu* Made of Chennai Photography Contest 2025, inviting shutterbugs to capture the city's festive spirit through their lens. With the theme "Celebrations of Chennai", the contest encourages participants to showcase how the city comes alive in its streets,

traditions and everyday moments of joy.

The last date to send in entries is September 13, 2025.

The Hindu Made of Chennai is presented by Casagrand and powered by SRM; the initiative is held in association with Union Bank of India. The contest is supported by Tata Tea Chakra Gold and Tata Coffee as Associate Partners, while Big FM, Fever FM and Radio One are on board as Radio Partners. Madras Photo Bloggers are the Expert Partner for the contest.

Participants can register by scanning the QR code. The top 50 winners will be rewarded.



PRINCE FREDERICK

Walks decoding neighbourhoods have a thick cladding of facts, usually ferreted out of yellowing documents. Emotions come into play only as the accompanist, never the guitar-strumming, crooning frontman. Facts and feelings meet without getting entwined. A walk titled “Chetpet” takes a detour from this standard format, having almost every fact infused with emotion. Designed as a community-led walk, that infusion is not just acceptable, but desirable.

Authored by Yein Udaan, a non-profit in the education sector, this walk is still softly trodden, being just two outings old. In October 2024 and for Women’s Day in 2025, the walk was conducted in collaboration with Madras Inherited, which seeks to preserve and celebrate the heritage of the city.

Ashmitha Athreya, lead storyteller and head of operations at Madras Inherited, observes that her organisation imparted to the Yein Udaan team, largely composed of members from an “invisible” part of Chetpet, an understanding of what makes a walk stick in the head long after the shuffle of curious feet had died down; how to delineate the route and integrate storytelling into it. “This is structured as a cultural walk. Community history is central to it. It is a sharing of stories about the community,” Ashmitha explains.

Last week, a diluted version of “Chetpet” was organised off the cuff for *The Hindu Downtown*. It was led by those who derive their identity from this Chetpet, which lies on the northern side of McNichols Road. Symbolically, on the leeward side, if one is aware that on the opposite side lies the upscale Harrington Road with its grid of car-lined avenues and a scatter of educational institutions whose uniform, parents would give their right arm for their children to wear.

On this side, invite yourself to Jaganathapuram, Brindavanam, Mangalapuram and MS Nagar, low-income neighbourhoods with a majority of homes battling poverty on an everyday basis, measuring success by how well they scraped through the long day. The average monthly income of the households here falls in the range of ₹4,000 to ₹8,000, remarks Vedika Agarwal, founder of Yein Udaan, which runs three after-school learning spaces for children in the community with a kindergarten unit thrown into the mix. Vedika adds that in a significant number of homes, the men fritter away the family’s earnings on alcohol, and some of these men also shirk work, placing finances under further stress. Domestic violence is rife. And back home from school, children are faced with an unsafe and unconducive environment for studies, Vedika elaborates. This side of Chetpet is



served by three Corporation schools and one government school, a majority of them not heard beyond these neighbourhoods.

The wider world has little interest in this lacklustre piece of Chetpet. And it stays largely in oblivion. This section draws outside eyes for its Dhobikhana, the second oldest in the country having been established in 1902 as the “Madras Municipal Dhobykhana”, its foundation stone laid on December 8 that year by Colonel Sir George Moore. Even this attention is short-spanned and seasonal, usually unfurled around Madras Day, and with the shifting of the news cycle, this Chetpet gets buried again deep in a mass grave of headlines.

In addition to this walk, a documentary-film *Chetpet* by Yein Udaan is an attempt at presenting this Chetpet with its suppurating wounds, as also the efforts to apply balm to them through education.

Four of the guides on this rustled-up walk (E. Karthikeyan, R. Madhesh, M. Rahul and D. Vennila) are residents of Chetpet from the cradle. Madhesh and Rahul – who have entered collegiate education – have benefitted from Yein Udaan’s after-school learning programme. Another beneficiary, Karthikeyan is older and wiser to the ways of the world, and his banter along the way includes working as a Home Guard in Chennai and regular employment with a residential construction major. In their spare time, the three youngsters serve

Spotlight on an invisible landscape

A community-led walk fashioned by Yein Udaan with the help of Madras Inherited seeks to capture the spirit and aspirations of the people in a portion of Chetpet that is unknown to the wider world, except for its historic Dhobikhana



(Clockwise from top left) a 2012-dated file photo of the Dhobikhana in Chetpet; the Yein Udaan team on the recent walk; the walk in October 2024; and the one for women’s day in 2025; the old typewriting institute. PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN, PRINCE FREDERICK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

Yein Udaan as volunteers. Vennila is employed at the non-profit as social worker for the last three years.

And the fifth one is Vedika Agarwal. The Yein Udaan founder is an outsider holding a “green card” in this Chetpet by virtue of her work, one that brings a rare empathy to its children. Given her privileged background, Vedika’s decision to carve out a career in this urban slum with social fractures has left people in her circle and outside surprised as well as impressed. Her work rooted in what comes across as a deep care for the children of this area (watch her TED talk at KC High in 2023 on YouTube), insid-

ers instinctively treat her as their own. She is ‘Vedika miss’ not only to the nearly 350 children currently at the three after-school learning centres, but also to their parents and grandparents. Due to Vedika’s popularity in these neighbourhoods, the walk moves in fits and starts, much like a drive in rush-hour traffic on nearby Sterling Road and McNichols Road, being interrupted by exchange of pleasantries.

Vedika points to what are line houses where optimisation of space is at play. Part of a row-house format or not, most houses across the four neighbourhoods are matchbox-sized: from the outside,

The wider world has little interest for this part of Chetpet. And it stays largely in oblivion. This section draws outside eyes for its Dhobikhana, the second oldest in the country having been established in 1902 as the “Madras Municipal Dhobykhana”, its foundation stone laid on December 8 that year by Colonel Sir George Moore. Even this attention is short-spanned and seasonal, usually unfurled around Madras Day, and with the shifting of the news cycle, this Chetpet gets buried again deep in a mass grave of headlines

those in the traditional laundering business to conduct it.

Vennila reveals that during the two walks, a nonagenarian-lady familiar with the Dhobikhana dwelt on the daily grind of the families that depend on it for sustenance. Entire families are engaged in this work, the children pitching in before they leave for school and after they return home. Vennila notes that those working in the Dhobikhana constitute just one segment of residents. Among the rest of the populace, a majority work as daily wagers.

Another stop is an Yein Udaan learning centre, located on the first floor of a building and it has been taken on rent. Vedika volunteers information about the space: previously, a school (Lourde Nursery) functioned for over two decades up till the pandemic struck, which proved its death blow. The pandemic led to changes in topography, Vedika goes on, pointing to slightly bigger houses, some of them compact apartments. Rendered jobless due to the fallout of the pandemic, some residents sold their properties. Vennila notes the presence of an old typewriting institute – Chetpet Typewriting Institute, said to be five decades old – provides a sense of continuity.

At the afore-mentioned first-floor learning centre, children have their noses buried in books. But a break is round that corner, when those same noses would be buried in plates of snacks. Vedika remarks these are healthy eats made at homes of Yein Udaan staff, taking turns. Twenty-four out of 28 staffers are from the community. The payment they receive for making these eats augments their income; and resources are ploughed back into the community. It is a practice of circular economy, she adds.

What follows is a brief stop at Ambedkar Playground which sports a football turf; and some of the children from the after-school learning programme, including girls, are being coached by members of a non-profit, Life Is A Ball, that uses sports, particularly football for empowerment. Vennila remarks that decades ago, this Chetpet would have a regular taste of gangster violence, recalling an incident she witnessed as a seven-year-old from behind the half-open doors of her house. Thirty-seven now, she observes the area is a far cry from that reality, being peaceful. “Decades ago, residents seeking to keep youngsters from falling into bad influences would organise kabbadi tournaments,” she shares.

The walk ends where it began at the Yein Udaan learning centre on McNichols Road, a facility whose exterior with its brick design leaves one in no doubt about its former life. It was the Chetpet police station before the personnel moved to a well-appointed facility on Mayor Ramanathan Salai. The old building functions as an Yein Udaan learning centre.

ILLUSTRATION:
SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

Apartments have to get their 'Act' together

LIFFY THOMAS

A year since Tamil Nadu Apartment Ownership Rules 2024 prepared by the Housing and Urban Development Department came into effect, many apartment complexes in Chennai are yet to complete the process involving registration or renewal of association status.

Tamil Nadu Gazette dated September 24, 2024 requires owners of units in an apartment (starting from four-flat apartments to massive multiple-tower societies) to submit "Form-A" towards initial registration. It wants apartments with multiple blocks/towers in a compound to form a federation, and make bye-laws. Irrespective of the size the apartment, flat owners are required to appoint an auditor, submit audited accounts and balance sheets.

The Act provides an impetus to redevelopment projects, allowing owners to demolish a building if there is consensus

from two-third of apartment owners. Likewise, it empowers the association to take action against residents erring to pay their maintenance bills. There are many features in favour of owners, but communities *The Hindu Downtown* spoke to note the process is being delayed due to challenges in the system. Some communities cite lack of awareness and many are said to be buying time.

Most resident associations were previously registered under Societies Act. Now they have to migrate to Tamil Nadu Apartment Act and begin by completing requirements in "Form A".

Ragamalika Apartments in Mandaveli, a registered association, is finding it difficult to renew its registration as per the new Act. While the Act is clear, they are unsure where and how to process it and whether any acknowledgement will be provided. Apartments with less than 15 units say too much documentation discourages them from getting the association registered.

Real estate consultants say they are getting more inquiries from owners of buildings seeking to take up redevelopment in helping register the association, as also those looking for help in drafting bye-laws.

Ongoing projects

Six years ago, House of Hiranandani in Egattur formed a registered body involving nine towers. Now the gated community has 14 towers and more are under different stages of construction. The Act requires them to form a federation but as the developer is still working on projects, the current association has time in hand.

On the need for a federation, Raghavan Murti, an active member of the gated community, says, when the builder leaves the scene, there are roads, club house and other common amenities that have to be maintained. "We need a common body when dispute arises or to negotiate issues between associations, so a federation has to take shape sometime," he says.

Validation for this gated community's governance model

From the get-go, a gated community in Kolathur – Orchid Springs – has been following "a federal model of community governance". That has made the gated community ready for the Tamil Nadu Apartment Ownership Rules 2024 nine years in advance. One of its requirements is that communities with multiple towers and blocks have an association for each of the blocks/towers and an overarching federation over them.

According to Ganapathy Suresh, founding president, Orchid Springs All Owners Association, the community has been following this model since residents started moving in to the community from 2015 onwards. This is indeed impressive when set against a backdrop where similar gated communities are still only chewing the cud over this stipulation, now almost a year old.

Under this model, each block has their own president, secretary and treasurer and maintenance fee is handled by the respective association.

An amount required for the upkeep of common amenities is paid to the Federation, which is like an apex body that is represented by three members from each block.

Orchid Springs has more than 2000 flats spread across eight blocks.

"In such a decentralised approach, there is better accountability, transparency and a low probability of pilferage," says Ganapathy, adding that every association keeps account of their money.

This system works well for tenants as well. "The flats in ev-

ery block are of different sizes, ranging from 600 sq.ft. to 5,000 sq.ft, and the financial status of every resident would be different. So maintenance is charged based on the size of the flat and the amenity one is availing," says Ganapathy. He had advocated a similar system at Gokulam Flats in Nollambur, which has 4,500 flats and 17 associations, before he moved into this community in Kolathur.

The decentralised approach also ensures there are more of office bearers in the Federation who should have more say in matters concerning residents.

In such a decentralised approach, there is better accountability, transparency and a low probability of pilferage

He says the Act empowers owners to take legal action against residents erring in paying their maintenance bills.

The gated community is still working on completing the process towards registration that the Tamil Nadu Apartment Owners Act mandates. Three blocks have submitted Form A (an important step in the registration process).

Once all the eight blocks get their Form A done, the next step would be to apply for Form B.

"All apartments must follow this seriously otherwise the State Government has the power to disqualify the old association or freeze accounts," says Ganapathy, adding that the new Act gives more power to residents associations.



Aalaiamman Koil bus stop reinstated



Metropolitan Transport Corporation has reinstated the Aalaiamman Koil bus stop located on Thyagaraya Road in T Nagar. Here, buses toward K.K. Nagar, Iyypanthangal, Vadapalani and Koyamebedu halt.

According to MTC sources, it is around seven years since

buses stopped halting at this stop as it was located near the junction of Thyagaraya Road, South Boag Road and Dr. B. Narasimhan Road.

But following representations from elected representatives, the bus-stop was reinstated a month ago.

READERS WRITE

‘Desilting at Adyar river near West Jhafferkhanpet is long pending’



It is four years since the section of Adyar river near West Jhafferkhanpet was deepened and desilted. The illegal discharge of sewage has resulted in growth of water hyacinth and this will further hinder the flow of water.

The plan to construct a wall along the river near Jhafferkhanpet, with an aim to mitigate floods, has not been executed to this day. It should be noted that the stretch of the river near SM Block in West Jhafferkhanpet is in

a state of neglect.

If appropriate measures are not taken, West Jhafferkhanpet will be under water this north-east monsoon also.

P. Shanmugham,
West Jhafferkhanpet

Company celebrates diamond jubilee

The 60th anniversary of DNC Chits Pvt Ltd was held at the Taj Coromandel in Nungambakkam. DNC Seeds Company, which has its registered office in Dharmapuri and its head office in Chennai, has been successfully operating across Tamil Nadu for the past 60 years, said a press release.

The event was graced by the Chairman of DNC Groups of Companies, D.C. Elangovan, along with directors Meena Elangovan, Prem Elangovan, Sineka Praveen, retired judge Sivanandam, and retired IAS officer Santhanam.

At the function, employees who contributed to DNC's successful journey were honoured with awards, and customers were



also felicitated with a special banquet.

The event featured keynote speeches and discussions on the company's century-long journey by Rangaraj Pandey (journalist), Bharathi Baskar (Tamil orator), Soma Valliappan (writer) and Leo Peter (entertainer).

Training session on media drone operations

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - Tamil Nadu, is conducting a training programme on “media drone operations” from September 9 to 11 at its premises at EDII Office Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate in Guindy. Time: From: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the session will focus on drone cinematography techniques, flight regulations and safety under Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Knowledge and skills in media drone operations will help one find opportunities in the following sectors: news and media, film, tourism and hospitality, advertising and marketing, and also in government departments relating to fire and rescue operations, and police and military surveillance.

Those aged 18 years and above with a minimum qualification of class 10 are eligible to apply. Certificates will be issued upon completion of the course. Hostel facility is available for both men and women on a first-come, first-served basis.

Prior registration is mandatory. For de-

tails, call 9543773337 / 9360221280.

Training on entrepreneurship in solar energy sector

The centre is also conducting a nine-day training programme on entrepreneurship in solar energy sector from September 8 to 16 at its premises on EDII Office Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. According to a press release, the session will focus on the basics of solar energy, solar rooftop venture, solar photovoltaic system and its components, market survey, developing a business plan for a solar roof top venture, finance, legal compliance and marketing. The programme also focuses on personality skills required of an entrepreneur. This part of the session would cover communication, team building, and leadership skills. Those above 18 years of age and who have completed class 10 can apply.

Hostel facility is available but based on first come, first serve basis. Last date for registration in September 5. For details, call 8668102600 / 7010143022.

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School gets new STEM Lab



Bala Mandir Schools celebrated their annual day recently a raft of programmes including skits, mime and dance by students.

On the occasion, Praveena Yagnambhat, chief of staff & CSR leader, Boeing South Asia, inaugurated the Boeing Sukanya STEM Lab at Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School. Later, Praveena, who was the chief guest, spent considerable time with the students at each of the workstations in the Lab, says a press release.

The Boeing Sukanya Program was launched in January 2024 focusing on the empowerment of women in aviation, marking a new vision for Boeing's initiatives in India. As part of this programme the Vikalpa Innovation Studio

at Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School has been upgraded and renamed as "Boeing Sukanya STEM Lab". The upgrades include the introduction of additional aviation kits and a revised curriculum that places greater emphasis on science, math and aero-modelling concepts. The inauguration of the Lab marks an important milestone for both the Sukanya programme as well as Bala Mandir school, says the press release.

Boeing Company has been supporting Bala Mandir Schools since early 2023. In the last two years the company has not only provided financial support by funding a part of the teacher salaries but also helped upgrade the Vikalpa Innovation lab which was originally set up by Bala Mandir in 2021. This support was done through Learning Links Foundation, a non-profit organisation which is engaged in the Education sector, the release adds.

The support included improving the infrastructure and provision of various equipment such as 3D printer and DIY kits as well as appointing an Innovation Coach to help and guide the students. The Boeing employees from the Chennai office have also been volunteering their time to support the children in the various activities.



Steps to sustainability

In collaboration with TNPCB, Stella Maris College conducted a campaign against use of single-use plastics, throwing light on 28 varieties of them and suggesting alternatives to them as well

Workshop on hospital compliance

Sha (Med) Compliance and Services Private Limited is organising a one-day workshop on 'Hospital Compliance' on September 6 at Teach auditorium, Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu, Taramani.

Hospitals from across the State, retired government officials from the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Tamil Nadu Police, and the Greater Chennai Corpo-

ration, are participating, said a release. Dr. H. V. Hande, former Health Minister of Tamil Nadu, will inaugurate the 'Hospital License and Compliance Software'.

Dr. Hande will be bestowed with the 'Beeshma of Healthcare Services' award by TAMILISAI Soundararajan, former Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

Registration is free but mandatory. Contact 7305368552. Email id: shashospitallicense@gmail.com

On August 26, 2025, the Enviro Club of Stella Maris College and the Stella Maris Sustainable Development Students' Hub in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board organised 'Sustainable Steps', an awareness programme on single-use plastic free initiatives, in the presence of the Deans of Student Affairs and the Faculty Advisors of the Enviro Club, Stella Maris College.

According to a press release, as part of 'Sustainable

Steps', students took part in a pledge to stop using single-use plastics. This was succeeded by a rally during which the Green Brigade led the way on two-wheelers and students and faculty members followed on foot carrying cloth bags, in alignment with the Tamil Nadu Government's Meendum Manjapai Campaign.

The programme culminated in an awareness session by R. Menaga, AEE and John of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (Chennai South) during which 94 participants were informed about 28 sin-

gle-use plastics that are banned by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, says the press release. Ecofriendly alternatives to each of them were discussed and pamphlets containing this information were distributed to the participants. The winners of a slogan-writing competition and a poster-making competition received their prize certificates from the representatives of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, the release adds.

Home appliance brand opens a new showroom

Darling, a leading home appliances stores in Tamil Nadu, has opened its 163rd showroom on Rajaji Street in the Tambaram (West) region.

S. R. Raja, MLA, Tambaram Assembly Constituency, and K. Vasantha Kumari, Mayor, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, inaugurated the showroom.

Spanning 25,000 square feet, the store offers a diverse range of appliances, including television sets, refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, and mobile phones, said a release.

To celebrate the store's opening, discounts are offered on television set, refrigerator, washing machine and air



conditioner.

At the opening ceremony, several new products were launched, including Haier's 100-inch TV, Samsung's 25 kg washing machine, and V-Guard's new

water heater and fan.

A unique cooling room where customers can test an air conditioner's performance before making a purchase can be experienced, the release added.

College distributes scholarships



Meenakshi College of Engineering, K.K. Nagar (West), recently conducted induction day for the first-year students of B.E., B.Tech., B.Arch., MBA, and MCA programmes.

G. Ra. Gokul, college chairman, motivated the students to make the best use of opportunities, emphasising the importance of discipline, innovation, and holistic development.

The event also included introductions to academic regulations,

student support systems, and co-curricular activities, said a release.

Scholarships worth ₹75 lakhs were distributed to more than 100 first-year students of the above-mentioned academic programmes in the name of founder-trustees A. N. Radhakrishnan Scholarship (for boys) and Meenakshi Ammal Scholarship (for girls). Other dignitaries who took part in the event are N. Rengarajan, executive director; and Charles Godwin; and Ganesh Venkatraman, principal.