

MYLAPORE

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KEEPING OLD HINDI MELODIES ALIVE

Spread across Chennai, a motley group of singers come together every month to sing and cherish songs ranging from the 40s to the 80s **P3**



RETHINKING BUS SHELTERS

Beginning to dot the Chennai landscape, these facilities draw upon the flexibility of 3D printing construction technology **P4**



vivo Y100A
Jun 21, 2025, 08:48

Check out the 'test tracks' at Royapettah and Mandaveli



SRINATH M

Automobile test tracks offer a raft of challenges to the machine that is being monitored for structural stability. The alternative to a test track is a drive around Mylapore, Mandaveli, Royapettah and surrounding areas; one can be certain that they would see their machine being run through a panoply of difficulties – potholes (think “Mandaveli Street, near St. Antony Girls Higher Secondary School”) and bumps (think “Thiruvengadam Road-Venkatakrishna Road junction”). Add to the list “grooves” of the kind one might not encounter even at test tracks.

On a section of General Patters Road (near Express Avenue), a strip of the road that has been cut for civic work has not been bitumen-topped even after completion of that work. When motorcyclists hit the groove, the machine wobbles. And they also run the risk of being blindsided by four-wheelers and three-wheelers when those at the wheel of these machines swerve suddenly to avoid these grooves. A similar problem is encountered at Royapettah High Road (near Thiruvalluvar statue in Mylapore), RK Mutt Road (near Mylapore MRTS) and Mandaveli Street.



Mandaveli Street, Royapettah High Road and RK Mutt Road.
PHOTOS: SRINATH M

READERS WRITE

‘No piped Metro Water supply for two months’

SIDDARTH RAMJI

The Mylapore area around Chandra-
bagh Avenue and Judge Jambulingam
Street has been without piped metro
water supply for almost two months
without any clear assigned reason for
the lack of service; nor any timeline
for its restoration.

Repeated calls to the metro water
engineers, grievance letters from the
resident association, emails to the ED
and chief engineer of CMWSSB and
the Tamil Nadu CM’s cell have elicited
no response.

With probably over 600 affected
residents who have paid their taxes
being forced to buy water from
CMWSSB/private water suppliers ev-
ery few days to meet their daily
needs, the lack of transparency and
inept governance is appalling.

(Siddarth Ramji is a resident of
Chandrabagh Avenue, Mylapore)

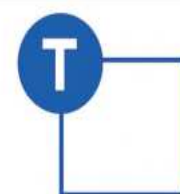


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These libraries in Triplicane are more welcoming now

The library on Bells Road and the one on Vallabha Agraharam Street are operating from new buildings at the old addresses

L. KANTHIMATHI

Two State Government-run libraries in Triplicane – one on Bells Road and the other on Vallabha Agraharam Street – sport a new look, being housed in new buildings, inaugurated a fortnight ago. The buildings have replaced the old ones that were too dilapidated to continue.

The library on Bells Road is exclusive for women. According to library officials, the women's library was set up in 1955.

Visitors find the new building well-ventilated and looks bigger now as the dividing walls have been done away with.

"Water used to seep in the earlier building. It was cramped and dim. Therefore, we could not sit for long hours. The new building is bright and the ambience is soothing," says



long-time member of the library, Y. Lakshmi Prabha, a senior citizen. Ever since the new building was inaugurated college students drop by

and make enquiries about the library and are surprised to learn that a library for women has been in existence for many years, say library



The women's library on Bells Road; and the one on Vallabha Agraharam Street. PHOTOS: SRINATH M

officials.

Visitors suggest the installation of a board in front of the building making it clear the library is being run exclusively for women.

"There is a Greater Chennai Corporation-run school adjacent to the building. We have requested the school authorities to make use of the library during the library period," says District Library Officer M. Kavitha.

The women's library has 639 members and a collection of 11,000 books. The library functions from

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The new building for the library at Vallabha Agraharam Street has also been received well by visitors. According to officials, this library was set up in 1965.

This library which has a membership of 1,295 functions from 8 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"We are able to stay for longer hours due to these facilities," says G. Asai Thambi, a senior citizen, and a regular visitor to the library at Vallabha Agraharam Street.

'Condition of footpath at RBI subway stubbornly ignored'

S.M.A TENNYSON

The images seen here are of the pedestrian pathway adjoining the subway opposite Reserve Bank of India and Chennai Port Authority buildings. The pedestrian pathway is made by water stagnation, battered surface and absence of proper lighting.

Even during day time, the facility is dingy necessitating proper lighting.

The saving grace is the bricks placed by some Good Samaritans: they help pedestrians navigate the wet and slippery surface and get to the other side of the subway footpath. The situation is clearly dangerous for senior citizens and the infirm headed for the Chennai Port Authority hospital whether they walk on the wet footpath or try to balance themselves on the bricks and make their way to the other end.

The footpath in this subway is in this condition for many years. It is high time the situation was remedied.

(S.M.A Tennyson is resident of Anna Nagar)



Minor renovation



Minor renovation work was carried out recently at the Greater Chennai Corporation park on Lazarus Church Road. Benches were painted, broken tiles fixed, and the toilet made better. The fitness equipment were moved to the play area. Images were taken on June 17, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



Keeping *old Hindi melodies* alive

Spread across Chennai, a motley group of singers come together every month to sing and cherish songs ranging from the 40s to the 80s. Their next show is on June 29 and it does not take a ticket to attend it



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

If you are in a mood for some retro Hindi music then head to Kaviko auditorium in Mylapore on June 29 at 4 p.m. There are no tickets for this show. A motley bunch of music enthusiastic promise make it a nostalgia fest for lovers of old Hindi songs. Lata Mangeshkar and Mohammed Rafi's melodious presentation of love in *Saaz e dil chhed de* from Passport will be the highlight of the evening.

Twenty passionate singers make up ShreeDhwani, a music group that meets to rewind to good old Hindi songs. It started in 2013 when Mohan Krishnan and V. Sivasubramaniam met at a friend's son's wedding reception. The host wanted some old Hindi melodies to be sung and this music journey began with fanfare but quiet determination.

"The two of us managed to sing for close to three hours as requests after requests poured in from

guests. That is when we thought: why not bring like-minded people together?" says Mohan Krishnan, who retired as general manager from Reserve Bank of India.

In the initial years, the group would rent an auditorium for the performances. (Now, they meet at a school)

ShreeDhwani continued without any hindrances until the pandemic, when the routine was disrupted.

In 2023, ShreeDhwani was revived with a renewed focus.

"The coming event is special as it is the first anniversary of ShreeDhwani 2.0," says Mohan, who has a database of 500 songs and also anchors along with singing. Since this year, the group has started raising funds for a cause. The proceeds from the February show was given to Dignity Foundation's Dementia Day Care Centre. "So far we have not raised funds through sale of tickets but we get sponsors. We plan to raise funds for old age homes and organisations working

towards autism awareness," says Mohan, a resident of RA Puram and a professional storyteller.

Legendary singers

Renditions of songs by Hemant Kumar, Mukesh, Kishore Kumar, Asha Bhosale and Geeta Dutt feature in the performances. Among themes based on musicians include an RD Burman show, artistes from Bengal and Mohammed Rafi (two events are held a year in his memory).

The eclectic mix of the group makes the performance rich. "We would have met either at a performance or on a common platform, and most of us are either retired or reaching retirement," says Mohan, adding that they take karaoke support.

There is Badrinarayana who re-

We plan to raise funds for old age homes and organisations working towards autism awareness



Members of ShreeDhwani and (right) during an event

tired from the Indian Institute of Fashion Technology; Sukanya, a student of Carnatic musician M.L. Vasanthakumari; Neeta, a medical administration professional; and Vishwa Padmanabhan, a practising chartered accountant.

A. Surya Narayana Rao, an octogenarian and correspondent of Jawahar Vidyalaya Schools, and a connoisseur of music, gives the team infrastructure support by offering a space at the school at no cost.

Sixty-two-year-old V. Sivasubramaniam says there is so much learning and sharing in the group and that makes every event special.

"I was not well-versed in Hindi when I started singing. I had the lines written in English. It was Mohan who mentored most of us," says the cost accountant who retired from the Southern Railway.

Sheetal Rayathatha, a storyteller-cum-psychologist, who is taking part for the second time, says the motivation that she got from the group when she sang her first song was a big moral booster to join the platform and quench her thirst for Hindi melodies.

To connect with the group members, call 9840322236/ 8610888056/ 9840091290

Want to be the 'Quiz Champions of Chennai'?

The competition is open for middle school students

KSA Trust has started a new initiative – "Quiz Champions of Chennai". Curated by expert quiz masters, this event is aimed at engaging and educating middle school students.

A school can choose any date and time before July 15 to take part

in the written general knowledge quiz that will have 30 questions covering topics in history, geography, science and tech, sports, language and literature and entertainment.

The quiz aims to promote not just acquisition of general knowledge but also to use facts to arrive at answers through logic and lateral thinking, says a press release. Any three students can join to form a team.

The best three teams across all

participating schools will be invited to the "Champion of Chennai" awards event on August 17, where they will be given certificates, prizes and a trophy. KSA Trust, founded by the 30-year-old accounting firm Kalyanasundaram Associates, runs the annual Champions of Chennai Awards. Since 2013, they have recognised 77 such champions. For any questions or further details, write to rao@championsofchennai.org or 98411 16216.

Thirukkural competition

Shriram Ilakkiya Kazhagam, the literary wing of Shriram group, is organising Thirukkural elocution, drawing and essay contests from July 12 to August 24 for school and college students across 12 centres covering Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The Chennai zone competitions will be held at CSI Jessie Moses Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Anna Nagar on July 12 and at Christ King Girls Higher Se-

condary School in East Tambaram on July 19.

Those interested can collect the application forms from the nearest Shriram Chits branches or download them from www.shriramchits.com

The contestants will be divided into 3 groups - Juniors (Classes: 6-8), Seniors (Classes: 9-12) and College (UG, PG, Engineering, Medical and Polytechnic students).

Rethinking bus shelters

Beginning to dot the Chennai landscape, these facilities draw upon the flexibility of 3D printing construction technology. It remains to be seen how the potential for greater aesthetics and safety offered by this technology is realised

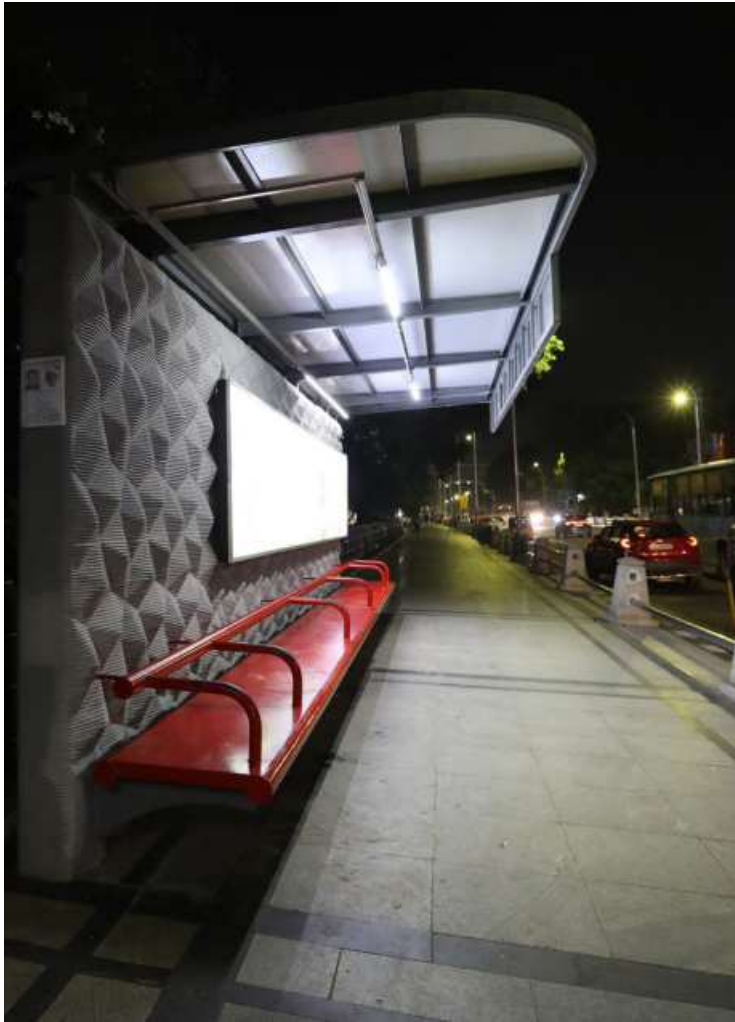


PRINCE FREDERICK

Anyone hitting Marina Loop Road, Kamarajar Salai and Sardar Patel Road with the regularity of tidal action would have had a long, scarlet-red, metal bench crossing their field of vision. On these roads, even if they were on their own private wheels,

they would likely end up taking in the view of bus shelters sporting these attention-grabbing benches. Greater Chennai Corporation's Bus Route Roads Department is installing these bus shelters constructed with 3D printing technology. With an air of extemporaneity, these bus shelters are simply called "3D bus shelters". Though announced at least a year ago, these 3D bus shelters are

only now beginning to draw attention as a "sub-species" of bus shelters in Chennai, as they seem to show up with a slowly increasing frequency across the cityscape. Given the target the BRR Department is working towards – ninety 3D printed bus shelters across Chennai – it has the chance of being elevated to the status of a separate species under the broader genus of bus shelters.



3D-printed bus shelters at Anna University bus stop and Kamarajar Salai bus stop (opposite the TWAD Board office) on June 20, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Only recently, a 3D bus shelter was constructed at the bus stop right outside the Pattinampakkam bus terminus on Marina Loop Road. This facility still looks a bit ragged around the edges, as secondary features are still in the process of being added. If one desired to clap eyes on a 3D bus shelter that has been functioning for quite some time and is therefore expected to be fully "suited up", they could head to the bus stop on Kamarajar Salai diametrically opposite the TWAD Board office. The one on Kamarajar Salai has a concrete wall with a scraggy surface, the scragginess forming a uniformity of design, that does not lend itself to posters being pasted. 3D printing technology-based construction provides immense flexibility in terms of design. Customisation being possible, these bus shelters can bring variety to the landscape and likely be a refreshing break from the uniformity that marks bus shelter design. It remains to be seen if the BRR Department is going to "format" the look of the bus shelters, or experiment with it. According to a top GCC official familiar with developments to 3D bus shelters, in contrast to what is now seen as the conventional shelter with SS pillars, this one has reinforced concrete pillars. 3D bus shelters at Anna University bus stop on Sardar Patel Road, the bus stop outside the Pattina-

pakkam bus terminus on Marina Loop Road and the Ice house bus stop on Kamarajar Salai share the look, the reinforced concrete pillars particularly following a format. The GCC official notes fitting the humongous bench takes some doing; it demands a greater outlay of space (which most bus stops can ill afford). The BRR department needs to work around this challenge while going about their target: constructing 3D shelters at 90 bus stops across Chennai. The bench has a ground clearance that is just right for people of varying heights to be parked on it comfortably. The stainless steel bus shelters across Chennai one is accustomed to are known to have offered in many cases benches that are too high or too low for comfort. The benches at the aforementioned 3D shelters comfort in terms of height. According to Greater Chennai Corporation's Inclusive Design Manual, at bus shelters, the seating should be "no higher than 450mm from pavement level for better comfort for all users". It remains to be seen how in the days to come, the full potential of 3D printed construction technology is realised in the bus shelters which would include introducing features that would enhance safety of commuters (particularly, women commuters) and also address climate concerns.



Accessibility features being incorporated at the Ice House bus stop on Kamarajar Salai on June 19, 2025. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

On Kamarajar Salai, the Ice House bus stop is almost contiguous with Vivekananda Illam. Mention of the bus stop will call the memorial to mind. The Museum of Possibilities which showcases systems and products that promote accessibility for the differently abled is not an immediate neighbour to the Ice House bus stop, but a neighbour a little removed. But this bus stop would soon refresh one's memory about the museum. The bus stop is in the process of being made accessible to the differently abled, right from their movement to the benches at the bus stop via a ramp, designed on each side. The height of the flooring at the bus shelter was reportedly measured and built just right for it to be on par with the height of the flooring on low-floor buses. The kerb seems to have a slight curvature aimed at ensuring the side of the bus with entrances eases neatly into place. The benefits of this design can be enjoyed not just the wheelchair-bound differently abled but

Enhancing access



anyone with mobility challenges. In its inclusive design manual, GCC makes the following observations about bus boarding platforms: The manual points out that the "step height from the kerb to the (kneeling) bus platform should not exceed 150 mm to accommodate passengers with limited mobility." It goes on to add: "raise the entire footpath platform to 300mm to be able to board low floor buses without difficulty." The Bus Route Roads Department of Greater Chennai Corporation is driving this initiative. A GCC official familiar with the work notes that the accessibility feature would be extended to various bus stops across Chennai.

At best, just a postlude



On Durgabai Deshmukh Road, an assistive feature to enable the wheelchair-bound to embark on a bus journey with ease carries the tenor of a postlude, added after hurriedly retrieving the letter after it had been dropped in the post box. The ramp and the boarding platform are close to a bench in a manner approaching a hernial protrusion, and it robs commuters (sitting on the bench) of leg space. When a disabled-friendly feature is introduced at a bus shelter as an afterthought, it can consume added space and still stick out awkwardly. In contrast, the disabled-friendly features built into the design of a bus shelter draw little attention and does its work without any fuss. The image was taken on June 20, 2025. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

‘No standard timings for Makkal Marunthagam outlets’



A store on Bells Road

LIFFY THOMAS

Tiruvallikeni resident C.R.Sainathan is impressed with the thinking that has gone into the establishment of Makkal Marunthagam ("People's Pharmacy") – affordable medicine for all. But going by his experience with a Makkal Marunthagam outlet on Bells Road in Chepauk, their workaday schedules have left him puzzled and even a tad unimpressed. At this particular pharmacy, a note on its shutters reads that it works from 2 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. He read this note during a recent visit to the pharmacy, around 5 p.m., on the outlet's downed shutters. "I purchase my medicines from this pharmacy because it offers heavy discount, but when I went there the other day the store had not opened at 5 p.m.," says Sainathan. The senior citizen believes Makkal Marunthagam stores have a crucial role to play, providing medicine at a huge discount, and therefore accessibility to them is of vital importance. He would like to know if Makkal Marunthagam stores in Chennai follow any set timings and whether they are required to be open through most part of the day.

Chennai has over 30 Makkal Marunthagam outlets and each of them seem to be functioning with a great deal of autonomy which reflects in their timings. The opening and closing hours of the shop are decided by the respective store in-charge. Makkal Marunthagam in Thirumullaivoyal, for instance, functions from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. including on Sundays; the Pallikaranai outlet remains closed from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. These outlets are run under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana. The stores launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, sell allopathic medicines at 30-90% discount from market prices, says a note on its website. They also deliver medicines. A member of the Chennai Pharmacy Association said Makkal Marunthagam outlets do not come under their banner. The guidelines for opening of New Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadi Kendra mentions about the distance that needs to be maintained between two outlets but does not make a mention about the timings these shops are required to stay open.

In Chennai Division of Southern Railway, despite several efforts to check trespassing and jaywalking on tracks, accidents happen with disturbing regularity

Tracking a *dangerous trend*



A scene from Annanur railway station; students take the safety pledge at Sri Kanaka Durga Telugu Higher Secondary School in Villivakkam during an awareness session by the Railway Protection Force. PHOTOS: VEDHAN M AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

LIFFY THOMAS

Statistics has it that nearly two lives are lost every day on the railway tracks of the Chennai division of Southern Railway. As per data collected by the Railway Protection Force, in the last five months, 275 people were killed and 24 sustained injuries while crossing railway tracks in the Chennai division.

In 2024, 712 people died on the railway tracks and 77 sustained injuries; and in 2023, 669 people died and 63 suffered injuries.

Trespassing, falling from a crowded train and talking on phone while crossing tracks are main reasons for loss of lives in the railway network covering Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, parts of Vellore and some areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Southern Railway adopts a three-pronged approach to changing this deadly behaviour: create awareness, register cases under Section 147 of Indian Railways Act as trespassing is punishable with a fine of ₹1,000 or six months of jail or both and close vulnerable points on the tracks.

On June 19, the staff and officers from Villivakkam check post conducted an awareness session for students of Sri Kanaka Durga



The numbers

Year	Cases registered	Number of deaths	Fine amount collected
2023	2778	669	13 lakh
2024	2850	712	14 lakh
Until June 2025	1650	275	7 lakh

Source: RPF, Chennai Division

Telugu Higher Secondary School. Footboard travelling, skating on train platforms, trespassing, taking selfies and videos on the footboard, pelting stones on the train were among the topics covered.

B. Ramakrishna, senior divisional security commissioner, RPF, says such awareness programmes run through the year. "In fact, we are increasingly reaching out to younger children in schools as they get the message faster and

would also take it home to their parents," says Ramakrishna.

While the Southern Railway has been replacing level crossing gates with rail overbridges (ROB) or subways to prevent commuters from crossing the tracks, jaywalking along unauthorised points along the tracks make it a bigger challenge to check this offence.

In suburban areas such as Korrukpet, Ennore and Basin Bridge, fences are

erected so that people cannot get on to the tracks.

"Fencing is the most effective measure," he says.

According to an official from the Safety Department, 10-15 railway level crossings are closed every year.

"Unmanned level crossings have been completely eliminated. Currently we have 153 LC gates across Chennai division, and all these are interlocked gates that provide more safety," says the official.

Vandhe Bharat trains run at a speed of 130 km/hr, so there must not be an LC gate or cattle crossing over the tracks.

On Chennai to Arakonam section, more LC gates are waiting to be closed as Southern Railway is waiting for funds.

When the number of vehicles/units taking a gate crosses 1 lakh, the gate must be replaced with a ROB or a subway. That is the thumb rule, he says.

Do fines act as a deterrent? From January 2025 to the second week of June, RPF had booked 1,650 people and collected a fine amount of ₹7 lakh.

Officials say these measures are helpful to some extent. Are youngsters fined? They are usually let off with a warning but repeat offenders are booked. "Youngsters performing stunts in local trains was a serious concern and we would call their parents, show the videos of their antics and take a written undertaking that if the child indulges in such activities a criminal case will be filed. This has worked to a great extent," says senior divisional security commissioner.

He says institutions and the larger society must also play a role in sensitising people about the danger of jaywalking on the tracks. "Talking on the phone and crossing are a strict no. Use foot overbridges and subways where they are provided. Do not take reels on trains. After all, life is precious," says Ramakrishna.

A case study from Western Railway: Using behavioural science to prevent trespassing

A behavioural science approach was adopted to check the increasing number of deaths on Mumbai's suburban railway network many years ago.

Indian Railway approached Final Mile, a behavioural science and design consultancy firm, that studied data and investigated the psychology of risk perception. The simple, science-informed, and cost-effective design interventions brought down the number of deaths on tracks.

Their research found that "the current system of warning signs, using text and stick-figure illustrations, was ineffective. Second, the train drivers' practice of sounding the horn was not successful in alerting people: either it was too familiar to catch people's attention, or they honked too late to make a difference: once people were on the track and heard the horn, they decided to run for it rather than to turn back - but they could not outrun the train. A third, related observation was that people crossed even when they could clearly see the oncoming train," says a note on www.thefinalmile.com.

They designed solutions that worked at a "nonconscious level" and even recommended changing the way drivers used their horns to warn people. To tackle the problem of incorrect perception of the train's speed, railway ties were painted yellow at regular intervals on either side of trespassing points. The bright stripes attract attention, and as they disappear under a moving train, the brain quickly and unconsciously recalibrates its estimate of the train's speed, says the note. Their first pilot reduced fatalities by 75% in a year and this was scaled up to multiple locations around the suburban railway network. In 2019, a 5 km stretch of the Central Line that had seen 88 deaths experienced a 44% decline in fatalities.



Hemanth Kumar Sharma has built a team of blood donors, and he is one himself: he travels to Chennai regularly to donate blood to groups that conduct blood collection drives

Taking the cue from Chiranjeevi



Hemanth Kumar Sharma seen with actor Chiranjeevi. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A diehard Chiranjeevi fan, Hemanth Kumar Sharma started donating blood after he turned 18 inspired by the actor. “Audio cassettes featuring Chiranjeevi movies would have lines by the actor requesting people to donate blood and that is how I got started on donating blood as a small gesture to my idol,” says 33-year-old Hemanth, who was among those honoured at a World Blood Donor Day

celebration in Chennai.

Hemanth works as a *pujari* in Sulurpeta, a small town bordering Tamil Nadu, and has built an army of volunteers by conducting blood donation camps under the banner of Chiranjeevi Charitable Trust. But what is more commendable about him is that he does not hesitate to travel to Chennai every time he is presented with a request from any of the groups to donate blood.

“It was Srivatsav Vema of Platelet Club who motivated me to start donating SDP or Single Donor Platelets

and until today I have volunteered more than 40 times,” says Hemanth who has given blood more than 30 times.

Unlike regular blood donation, platelet donation is time-consuming. “This takes at least two hours. First they collect the sample, screen it and start the process for donation. One can donate SDP once in 15 to 30 days,” he says.

At his home town, Hemanth conducts SDP camps four times a year and he donates the collected SDPs to the Indian Red Cross Society.



The donors with their citations

50 and counting

Blood donors honoured at an event organised by the Department of Health

More than 100 volunteers from across Tamil Nadu were honoured by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu at Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, Omandurar Government Estate, to commemorate World Blood Donors Day observed on June 14. One of the eligibility criteria set by the Department was that the individual should have donated blood for a minimum of 50 times. From Chennai, 15 volunteers of the Platelet Club were honoured at the event.

“We have close to 40 people who have donated more than 50 times but we could gather only 15 of them in the short notice that we got,” says Srivatsav Vema, who runs the Platelet Club.

Donating blood is an unshakeable habit for many of them in the Club. Rohith Fernandes, for example, has donated blood 221 times; Karthik Natarajan 252 times; and Poorna Chandran 200 times.

There are many others in the 100s club including Kishore Gupta (182), Muthukumarasamy R. (100), Suresh Kumar (112), R. Valinayagam (110), Naresh E. (183) and Baskaran from Villupuram (160).

The blood donation camps organised by Srivatsav Vema and his team of donors are exclusively for government hospitals. A key feature of this club is they donate platelets that is used for those undergoing treatment for cancer, dengue and for transplantation surgery.

Changes in pattern of train services

Due to Chennai Egmore railway station redevelopment work, five pairs of Express trains will originate from and terminate at Tambaram railway station (avoiding Chennai Egmore).

To facilitate incoming passengers, the following changes have been made in the pattern of EMU train services for 60

days until August 18.

Train Numbers : 40040, Tambaram - Chennai Beach EMU will leave at 03.15 a.m., instead of 11 a.m., 40047, Chennai Beach - Tambaram EMU will leave at 04.25 a.m., instead of 12.15 p.m.

On Sundays, a passenger special runs between Chennai Beach and Tambaram and vice versa.

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100th wall painting event



Karam Korpom Foundation celebrated its 100th wall painting event at Thiruveedhiamman Koil Street recently. More than 70 volunteers were engaged in the preliminary work. Stop Abusing Public Spaces is the flagship activity of the Foundation, where the abused public spaces are identified, cleaned up with the help of conservancy workers and then treated to wall art with the local community's participation, in addition to its own volunteers, says a note on its website. The team is led by Sivakumar and Uma Sivakumar who are supported by regular donors. Many residents including children of the area and adjoining areas joined the event. TEXT AND PHOTOS: BHASKAR SESHADRI

MTC issues tokens to senior citizens

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has started distributing bus pass tokens to senior citizens for free travel in its buses. The half-yearly tokens are being issued for the July-December 2025 period.

Under a scheme introduced in February 2016, people over 60 are eligible for free travel on MTC buses ten times a month. Beneficiaries can renew their identity cards.

Senior citizens in Chennai, who want to apply for the tokens and for new identity cards, should submit photocopies of their ration card (address proof), Aadhaar card, driving license, educational certificates, and electoral identity card (age proof), and two-colour passport-size photographs.

The tokens will be issued from 8 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. till July 31 in more than 30 terminuses across the city.

After July 31, the tokens

will be issued in the terminal offices during working hours on working days.

The centres are located on the premises of the bus terminuses / depots at Adyar, Besant Nagar, Thiruvannamiyur, Mandaveli, T. Nagar, Saidapet, Saidapet terminus, Central bus depot (Pallavan Salai), Chennai Central Railway Station bus terminus, Broadway, Chromepet, Pallavaram, Alandur, Guindy Industrial Estate bus stop, Iyyappathangal, Vadapalani, K. K. Nagar, Adam-bakkam, Anna Nagar, Koyambedu (CMBT), Ambattur Industrial Estate and Old Terminus, Avadi, Ayanavaram, Integral Coach Factory, Tondiarpet, Toll Gate, Ennore, Vysarpadi, Madhavaram, Padiyanallur, Red Hills, Madras Export Processing Zone bus terminus, Poona-mallee, Perambur bus terminus, Vallalar Nagar, Semmencherry, Thiruvottiyur, and Kundrathur.

Handloom exhibition in Mylapore

An exhibition-cum-sale of handloom and handicraft is happening at North Mada Street, Mylapore till June 30. From Golu dolls to Rajasthan's handmade jewellery to paintings, the sale has a range of items source from various artisans. A discount of 10% on handicrafts and 20% on handlooms is offered to the customers.

Memorial talk

The Triplicane Cultural Academy is organising a special programme Gana Samarpana, bhajan by disciples of Suchithra Balasubramanian in memory of its founders on June 23 at Raga Sudha Hall, Mylapore at 5.30 pm. There will be floral tribute and memorial talk in memory of the Founders of The Triplicane Cultural Academy as well. All are welcome.

A great start to the new academic year

Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women welcomed its first-year students with a traditional and auspicious beginning at Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Temple. The ceremony aimed to invoke blessings for the academic journey.

A vibrant cultural programme was organised at the college's convention centre. Students showcased their talent through music, dance, and skits, creating a joyful and engaging atmosphere.

As part of its commitment to supporting academic excel-

lence and student welfare, the college management awarded the prestigious SKPC Silver Jubilee Akshaya Endowment to two deserving students – Rakshita of 2nd B Com(cs) and Akshaya of I B.Com. This endowment, contributed by Sri Guggilam Ramesh, Sri Gautham, and the staff of SKPC, will cover the entire annual tuition fees for both students, said a release.

The institution also presented 4 management free seats, fee concession for five meritorious students, life boat scholarship to 20 students.



PLAN YOUR WEEK

Russian education fair concludes today

Today is the last day of the second edition of All-India Russian Education Fair for the academic year 2025-2026 happening at Russian Centre of Science and Culture.

Eight leading higher educational institutions, all belonging to the Russian

government, are taking part, said a release.

Students who have cleared National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and who have a minimum of 50% marks in the relevant core subjects can apply for MBBS courses in

Russia. Tamil medium students can also apply.

There are no pre-qualifying exams like CET and IELTS needed for admissions to universities in Russia, said a release.

For details, call 9282 221 221.

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