

ANNA NAGAR

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▼ Manikandapuram Main Road in Thirumullaivoyal.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Place garbage bins on Manikandapuram Main Road'

D. SURESH

Due to the lack of garbage bins, the entrance of Manikandapuram Main Road in Thirumullaivoyal in Avadi has become a dumping spot. One could find bags of garbage out there. A banner cau-

tioning the public to refrain from dumping was installed here a month ago. In response, the public did not dump garbage where the banner was installed; they instead started dumping on the side of the road opposite the banner. It may be noted the banner was torn down in a couple of weeks and is not in

place anymore.

There were garbage bins here until two years ago. But they were removed for reasons unknown to us. I request Avadi Corporation to do the needful and ensure the road is kept clean.

D. Suresh is a resident of Thirumullaivoyal



'Road in school zone is squalid'

The image shows Goodwill Lane in West Mogappair. An approach road to two schools, it is unhygienic and stinks as garbage is not cleared at regular intervals.

Joy M. Thomas is a resident of Mogappair West

'Debris lying here for days'



At the intersection of Secretariat Colony First Street and A K Swamy Nagar Ninth Street in Kellys. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

STEPHEN DIQUE

The junction of Secretariat Colony First Street and A.K. Swamy Nagar Ninth Street in Kellys is becoming a dumping spot. Mud and debris, as shown in the image is lying here for many days. It was generated from a drain work carried out elsewhere.

Such reckless management of waste will bring down the rating for Chennai city in the upcoming annual Swachh Survekshan Cleanliness Audit carried out by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs during February-March.

Stephen Dique is a resident of Kellys

'Sewage contamination in water canal'

▼ The canal near V7 Nolambur Police Station in Mogappair Eri Scheme on February 5, 2026. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B



KIRUBA SHANKAR

The water canal along V7 Nolambur Police Station in Mogappair Eri Scheme should be fenced to prevent dumping of garbage and all kinds of plastic waste. Further, sewage is dis-

charged into the canal, creating a health hazard.

Greater Chennai Corporation should take appropriate measures to ensure the canal is kept free of pollution.

Kiruba Shankar is a resident of Mogappair Eri Scheme

'Frequency of bus services to Broadway and Tambaram is poor'

A. ROY ROZARIO

The frequency of MTC bus services 71E (Broadway-Thirunindravur), 580 (Avadi - Arani) and 202 (Avadi - Tambaram) during rush hour, precisely between 8 a.m. to 9.30 a.m., is below par.

Commuters from Pattabiram region rely on these three services. While 71E covers Poonamallee High Road and New Avadi Road on its route; 202 is operated via Outer Ring Road; and 580 provides connectivity to Thamaraiyakkam and Periyapalayam. Further, new bus routes from Pattabiram bus terminus should be operated. Services to Sriperumbudur and Minjur via Outer Ring Road are necessary. The bus terminus was reopened in September 2024 along with the inauguration of the flyover over railway track near level-crossing two in Pattabiram. But the terminus is not being put to optimal use.



A bus stop in Pattabiram. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A. Roy Rozario is the founder of Peoples Voice Federation, a residents welfare association in Pattabiram



▼ 21st Street at H-Block in Anna Nagar West. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Rise in cattle movement in Anna Nagar West'

Stray cattle have become a common sight on the main roads in Anna Nagar West. They are conspicuous at 16th Main Road and 21st Street in H-Block.

The risk of untoward incidents caused by movement of stray cattle is high. Greater Chennai Corporation turned a blind eye to many of my complaints about this issue.

Ajit Diaz is a resident of Anna Nagar

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Vehicles pass through bridge construction site

Motorists do not pay heed to GCC's banner in Pattalam directing motorists to take a detour



L. KANTHIMATHI

Greater Chennai Corporation is reconstructing the bridge across Otteri Nullah on New Ferrance Road in Pattalam. To facilitate the work and ensure safety, vehicles are prevented from passing through the construction site. GCC has installed banners at two spots near the con-

struction site requesting the motorists to take a detour via Stephenson Lane. One banner is at the intersection of Cooks Road and New Ferrance Road and the other near the intersection of Dargah Lane and New Ferrance Road.

But the public violating these directives drive through the construction site, causing traffic congestion, especially when autorick-



At the construction site on New Ferrance Road.
PHOTOS: UMESH KUMAR. V

shaws and small cars try to pass through the site.

Schools are located on New Ferrance Road and parents also unmindful of the risk drive via the construction site with children as pillion riders. It may be noted the view of the banner, near the intersection of Dargah

Lane, is blocked by parking of vehicles, especially autorickshaws. Yet another issue is garbage bins are placed at the construction site. They need to be removed. People go there to dump waste.

New Ferrance Road falls under Ward 73 in Zone 6 - Thiru Vi Ka Nagar

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'The school built you, now you build the school'

134-year-old Sir M.Ct. M. Higher Secondary School in Purasawalkam is requesting its alumni to give back to the school

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The 134-year-old Sir M.Ct. M. Higher Secondary School in Purasawalkam recently rolled out the red carpet to its alumni, and has put systems in place to ensure the red carpet is dusted and rolled out to them every following year.

On January 26, the school man-

agement held its first reunion, drawing hundreds of old students to the campus. Plans have been firmed for gala annual get-togethers in the future. The meetup would take place on a fixed day, enabling alumni to plan ahead to be in attendance on the campus.

The template for these annual extravaganzas have been cut and dried, based on how this meetup

The meet

Justice Lakshmi Narayan, an old student of Sir M. Ct. M Boys Higher Secondary School at Raja Annamalai Road in Purasawalkam, was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebration at the school. He recalled his days at the school and how teachers mentored him. Cardiologist Dr. Chockalingam reiterated the importance of exercise in staying healthy, in his own inimitable style.

R.D. Sekar, MLA, asked the audience to call him for redressal of any issues relating to civic governance. The felicitation was done by Justice Venugopal and Justice Balasubramaniam.

was organised. Eight WhatsApp groups have been created, each for students belonging to one decade.

"This is the first time the school management under the leadership of secretary Nandini Valli Muthiah has organised an alumni meet on such a grand scale," says school headmaster V. Elangovan.

The alumni have been asked to enrol their batchmates and make the group vibrant with activities and initiatives they think will bene-

fit them as well as the school.

"We have a vast campus but we are not able to maintain it the way it should be, so we are reaching out to the alumni to help us restore the campus to its old grandeur, and also help the school in other ways," says the HM who has been associated with the school for 27 years and majors in biology.

The management and alumni are working together to create an alumni association with core team

The campus; and from the alumni meet held on January 26.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

members that would volunteer ideas and time.

Started in 1891, the government-aided school once offered English, Tamil and Telugu medium of instruction and also had a hostel facility for classes VI to XII.

"From a strength of 3,000, today we have around 500 students. The strength of our Tamil medium is decreasing with just 25 students on the rolls," says the HM.

In higher secondary classes, the school runs nine groups, offering a wide choice for students to choose from. This is also among the few schools in North Chennai that offers Tamil in the first group.

"A majority of our students are from economically disadvantaged families. We do not take any fee from the students except for ₹ 50 a year towards PTA subscription," says Elangovan.

The management wants the alumni to help oversee infrastructure development at the school, run initiatives to engage with the current students of the school and this way help improve its enrolment rate. The school's website also needs an upgrade so that old students who have settled down in other states and countries develop a sense of belonging with the institution.

C. S. Vikgnesh Kumar, who passed out in 1983-1984, says once a forum of members is created they will have a corpus fund to run various initiatives.

Inside jokes retold yet another time

Students of 1974 and 1975 batches of Seventh Day Adventist School in Vepery meet up on the campus and renew old bonds



On January 26, a grand reunion of students from the 1974 and 1975 batches of the Seventh Day Adventist School in Vepery was held on the campus. The high-voltage nostalgia-filled event saw former students reliving their youth by recalling the care-

free days spent at the school, sharing old jokes and secrets, and reminiscing about childhood indulgences, said a press release.

Sekhar Pichamani, principal of the SDA School, said the institution continues to remain at the forefront of both academics and cha-

racter building.

As the reunion took place on Republic Day, Anbalagan, the favourite mathematics teacher of the two batches and the guest of honour, emphasised the sanctity and significance of India being declared a "Sovereign, Democratic Repu-

blic" and the freedoms that extended to every citizen and the duties that placed on them.

Representing the SDA Alumni, David Appasamy, a distinguished advertising professional and communication guru, thanked the school for being not only a great academic centre but also for moulding character, making its students not merely successful men and women in their chosen walks of life, but also worthy citizens.

David underlined that the school laid a strong foundation in communication skills, while sharing evergreen lighter moments, childhood pranks and old school jokes that brought the roof down with loud laughter, added the press release.

The SDA Alumni Reunion Committee included R.S. Rajan, Aslam, Panneerselvam and Mahendra Jain, who had planned every detail meticulously for over a month, the press release said.

A book on what it means to be a doctor

The theme of the 50th anniversary celebration of the doctors who graduated from the prestigious Madras Medical College in 1975 was 'Share, Empower, and Serve'. The reunion was held in the city on February 1 followed by a two-day retreat at a beach resort.

The group that calls themselves "Class of 69 MMC" (1969 being the year when they joined MMC as enthusiastic students) are over 70 years of age and many have formally retired from active medical practice. However, their commitment to society and the medical profession remains undiminished.

Out of the 190 students who joined Madras Medical College in 1969, 130 doctors attended the celebrations. The event was organised by Dr. Rajendran (president), Dr. Premraj (secretary), and Dr. Thayalan.

Dr. Palani G. Periasami, releases a commemorative book titled "50 Years of Life as Doctors." The book features the lifetime learnings and reflections of 82 doctors, with a special focus on guiding and inspiring future generations of medical professionals.

PANORAMA



Students take part in a rally to create awareness about waste segregation as part of Clean India Mission. PHOTO: RAVINDRAN R.

417 Chennai schools impart cleanliness coaching to students

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan, the annual cleanliness and sanitation survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has a new criterion: assessing cleanliness-related behavioural change programmes in schools.

Greater Chennai Corporation is gearing up for this aspect of the survey with the support of the swachh management committees it has formed in 417 schools under its jurisdiction.

A five-member committee in each school comprising a nodal teacher, supported by two educators and two students will be driving various initiatives to ring home the message on cleanliness and hygiene. The programme is aimed at bringing behavioural change in students of Classes VI, VII and VIII and will start with an orientation programme for all the nodal teachers from these schools.

A staff working on this initiative points out that a booklet guiding teachers on how to take classes on solid waste management will be officially

launched soon. The nodal teachers will go back and train the teams from their schools including class teachers.

'People Movement for Clean City', another initiative launched three years ago, will also be guiding the swachh management committees. Every third Wednesday, the last period on the timetable, will focus on cleanliness, waste segregation and the role children can play in keeping the premises around them spic and span. There is also a proposal to pass a GO so that lessons on solid waste management are part of the timetable, adds the staff.

Co-create a people's manifesto for Chennai

Super Chennai has launched a citywide public participation initiative inviting residents to share ideas that can help shape Chennai's future. Citizens can participate by scanning the QR code featured in the campaign creatives or by visiting www.manifesto.superchennai.com to submit their ideas.

The initiative seeks to crowd-source insights, suggestions, and aspirations from people across age groups, professions and neighbourhoods. The collective inputs will be consolidated into the Super Chennai Manifesto – a structured vision document that reflects what citizens want Chennai to become in the years ahead, said a press release.

The manifesto aims to address key dimensions of city life including growth, liveability, infrastructure, sustainability, culture, mobility, and overall quality of life. This will be followed by a conclave that brings together thought leaders from diverse walks of life, including policy-makers, industry leaders, academicians, and civil society representatives to deliberate on pathways for Chennai's long-term growth and liveability.

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A space for all sports

Bails and Goals announces the launch of its state-of-the-art multi-sport arena.

According to a press release, built for the modern athlete, the facility seamlessly transitions between the intensity of football, the strategy of cricket nets, the fast-paced action of basketball and the creativity of freestyle ball games.

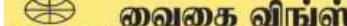
The press release further adds that at Bails

and Goals is created to foster community, promote fitness, and develop skill across all age groups and experience levels. With a top-tier turf surface engineered for both performance and safety, the venue offers the perfect setting for professional training sessions, corporate tournaments, and casual games with friends, it adds.

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From cancer screening camps by Pennalam and Thenmozhi Memorial Trust.



Around World
Cancer Day
(February 4), a look at two mobile cancer screening units based in Chennai that are taking preventive healthcare into the everyday lives of women who might otherwise put it off for "later"

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

Pennalam, a women-focussed cancer screening initiative operating under the Sri Dhanvantri Trust, has had its mobile screening buses traversing the city since 2013, offering breast and cervical cancer screening through a decentralised, community-oriented model.

Pennalam traces its origins to 2009, when its founder, Radhika Santhanakrishnan, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her experience during treatment exposed a persistent barrier that extended beyond infrastructure. "I realised that fear and lack of information were preventing women from even considering screening," she says.

Early efforts centred on a clinic in Mandaveli and a series of awareness programmes. Participation, however, remained limited. The recalibration was decisive. "Instead of waiting for people to come to us, we decided to go to the people," Radhika explains.

That shift materialised in 2013 with the launch of Pennalam's first mobile screening bus, developed after months of coordination with Ashok Leyland, which provided the chassis, and with funding support from ONGC. Subsequent expansion was enabled through partnerships with Rotary Clubs, while the Australian Consulate also ex-

Early screening matters; *do not miss the bus*



tended support.

The buses are equipped to conduct mammograms and Pap smear tests, enabling screening for two cancers with high incidence among women. Mammograms are offered to women aged 40 and above, while Pap smears are conducted for women above 22 years who are married or have been in a relationship. The programme deliberately reframes screening as wellness. The slogan printed on the bus reads, "Thozhi, test edu... arogyathai kondaadu."

Camps are organised in colleges, corporate campuses, RWAs, and social organisations. To organise a camp, the Pennalam team first identifies a local point of contact within the community, who coordinates communication, mobilises participants, and facilitates the awareness session preceding screening. A minimum of 50 women is required for a camp to be scheduled. Each camp follows a three-stage protocol: an awareness session, on-site screening, and a return visit to deliver reports and explain next steps.

Participants submit Aadhaar identification and medical histories prior to screening. Reports are evaluated by trained radiologists and gynaecologists, digitised at a



base station, and conveyed back to participants. After screening camps, women who require further investigation are referred to the nearest Primary Health Centre or a government hospital.

While many camps are conducted with sponsor support, enabling free screening, others operate with a small participation fee to sustain operations.

Pennalam can be contacted at 9843124842

Heading to peri-urban areas
Working within a similar frame-

work of decentralised outreach, Chennai-based Thenmozhi Memorial Trust has been conducting mobile breast cancer screening camps since 2015, targeting women in rural and peri-urban regions where diagnostic access remains limited. The Trust does not operate a dedicated mobile unit; instead, screening buses are hired from external providers including the Shantha Breast Cancer Foundation and VS Medical Trust based on logistical feasibility.

The operational model is narrowly defined. Screening is limited to mammograms, offered primarily to women above 40 years of age, with marriage listed as an eligibility criterion. "Every scan is funded by the Trust. There is no cost to the participant," says Arun Kumar M., founder of Thenmozhi Memorial Trust.

Each camp is overseen by a doctor, and participation is preceded by the completion of a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire records menstrual history, menopause status, and related clinical indicators, which are used to assess whether additional investigation is required. Women between 35 and 40 years are also evaluated when symptoms or medical history warrant further attention. "The questionnaire helps us identify risk and decide the next steps," Arun Kumar says.

Site selection prioritises rural locations, often facilitated through collaborations with organisations already embedded in local communities. Reaching these sites presents persistent challenges. Mobile mammography equipment requires a 230-volt power supply, which is typically arranged through temporary connections from the village electricity line, coordinated by local leadership. Transport is organised within the village, and public announcements

are used to inform residents ahead of the camp.

Cultural hesitation continues to affect participation. "Cancer screening carries fear and stigma," Arun Kumar notes. Women are often reluctant due to the nature of the procedure and the presence of unfamiliar volunteers. To address this, the team engages village heads in advance and relies largely on female volunteers to explain the process in detail, including the requirement to remove clothing and the functioning of the equipment.

Camps have been conducted in locations such as Nemalur, Chinna Bommajikulam, Mathur and Karanai. In Chinna Bommajikulam, approximately 80 kilometres from Chennai, the Trust reached a tribal settlement without proper roads or electricity with support from nuns running a geriatric centre. Questionnaire responses in one village revealed that a significant number of women had undergone hysterectomies, underscoring gaps in reproductive health awareness.

Attendance is a determining factor in whether camps are viable. A minimum of 40 participants is required. To improve attendance, the Trust has occasionally tied up with local sponsors. In one instance, women who came for screening received one kilogram of rice and sugar each. Word-of-mouth played a role in increasing participation.

Approximately 2,000 women have been screened to date. Results are delivered to villages within a week, and cases requiring further evaluation are referred to partner hospitals, with the Trust facilitating follow-up. "Our focus is not frequency," Arun Kumar says. "It is whether the intervention is meaningful."

While awareness levels are relatively higher in urban areas, the Trust also conducts camps in cities when requests are received from residents' welfare associations, workplaces, or community groups. These requests are assessed based on feasibility and the expected number of participants.

Thenmozhi Memorial Trust can be contacted at 9994561398.

Download your dry waste calendar

Thooimai Mission seeks to make segregation a daily routine for residents by introducing a calendar that earmarks every Saturday for collection of a particular category of recyclable waste

SHARON JESSICA MICHAEL

What would pop up first in a head that tries to wrap itself around the notion of "habit formation"? That is a no-brainer; obviously "daily routine". Would "calendar" show up next, and would the two be tied together in a blood bond? In its head, Thooimai Mission (launched by Tamil Nadu Government in March 2025 and kitted out with the Clean Tamilnadu Company Limited as its executive arm) went through this sequence in a case of serious vertical thinking while trying to make sense of the poor response to its early dry waste collection drives. These early drives had seen limited response, not because people were unaware of them, but because careless dumping had long become a habit. The bad habit needed to be replaced with a good one, which should be reinforced by a special calendar.

The Mission has designed a year-long, material-specific waste collection calendar aimed at making segregation more of a routine than a one-off activity (in response to a collection drive). "People are



Snapshot of a special collection drive; the calendar.

not used to this kind of habit," explains Hariharan B., C Cube Manager at Thooimai Mission CTCL. "So instead of making it a one-time collection, we decided to make it continuous."

Based on household waste patterns, the calendar schedules weekly and date-specific collection drives for different waste streams such as plastics, paper, glass, e-waste, textiles, thermocol, footwear, and expired medicines. "People's questions are always material specific," says Hariharan. "What do I do with plastic? What do I do with old slippers? Going-material specific helps people develop the habit of depositing instead of dumping." Going by where the shades have landed on the calendar, different shades for dif-

rent forms of dry waste, one might assume the routine in question is weekly by nature, but it is not. Segregation is a daily routine and every Saturday is earmarked for the collection of particular category of dry waste. "Every Saturday, people are reminded that they need to deposit their waste," Hariharan says. The system is supported by the Circular Collective, a network of NGOs, RWAs, government officials, self-help groups, and conservancy staff driving decentralised collection at the ward level. The calendar also functions alongside a growing network of permanent collection centres. While ward level drop off points remain primary, zonal centres act as secondary hubs. Bringing these centres closer to neighbourhoods lowers effort and

Clean Tamil Nadu Company Limited
Waste Collection Calendar - 2026

January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31
April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30	28 29 30	28 29 30
July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30 31
October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30	29 30	29 30

■ Recyclable Flexible & Rigid Plastics, Paper and cardboard boxes
■ Glass (Broken, Unbroken and other types)
■ E-waste (Tube lights, CFLs, Batteries, etc.)
■ Public Mass Collection drive
■ Thermocol, slippers, leather items
■ Textiles, bags, mattresses
■ Medicine strips and expired medicines

makes regular depositing more practical.

Primarily circulated in digital format to avoid paper waste, the calendar (downloadable from @thooimaimission on Instagram) has been shared with local bodies across the city through BOV announcements and social media reminders.

Residents who organise dry waste collection drives regularly in their corner of the planet welcome this calendar, but are worried about one factor that might override its effectiveness.

Sherin Joseph of Zero Waste Initiatives, who coordinates ward-le-

vel collection efforts, names this factor as "wilful indifference".

"Many people understand the problem," she says, "but they insist segregation is the job of conservancy staff or argue that they pay taxes for it. That logic obviously misses the point. Taxes are for infrastructure. Waste is generated in our homes, and segregation has to be handled by the person who creates it." Giving a thumbs-up to this initiative by Thooimai Mission, Sherin says, "A well-planned event calendar with collection drives for specific waste categories every Saturday, can truly help rewire our habits."

Padi resident strikes gold at inter-university athletics meet



Akschida with B. Babu Manoharan and other college staff.

S. Akschida, a first year MBA student of St. Joseph's Group of Institutions, felicitated Akschida, a resident of Padi, with a cash prize of ₹10,000. Last year, Akschida brought laurels to the College and the State with a number of medals including silver in the National U-23 meet, silver in Chief Minister's Trophy and gold in the inter-zonal meet.

B. Babu Manoharan, chairman of St.

Joseph's Group of Institutions, represented Anna University and won gold medal in the 100m hurdles with a time of 13.14 secs at the 85th All- India inter-university athletics meet held at Moodbidri, Karnataka recently.

Monthly meeting of humour club

The monthly meeting of Anna Nagar Humour Club will be held on February 8 at Shri Krishnaswamy Vidhyashram, Anna Nagar West at 4 p.m. N. Karthikeyan will preside, and Dr A. Anantharamakrishnan will present jokes on 'Funtastic February'. Other members will be jesting on topics relating to significant events of the month. For details, call Arjuna Chetty at 98402 69123/ Karthikeyan at 98400 7602



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