

ANNA NAGAR

Purasawalkam » Villivakkam » Kolathur » Nazarathpettai » Pattabiram » Maduravoyal » Koyambedu » Tiruverkadu » Puzhal » Kilpauk » Perambur » Mogappair

Avadi » Ayyappakkam » Tiruninravur » Nerkundram » Moolakadai » Ayanavaram » Retteri » Padi » Ambattur » Tirumullaivoyal » Aminjikarai » Vysarpadi » Red Hills



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7 JANUARY 2026 (WEDNESDAY)

MATRIC: 11.00 AM - 1.00 PM

CBSE: 6.00 PM - 8.00 PM

BRANCH EVENTS

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9 JANUARY 2026 (FRIDAY)

TIME: 6.00 PM

ENTRY BY INVITATION ONLY



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‘Reckless disposal of telecom cables’



D. RADHAKRISHNAN

This image taken on December 30, 2025 shows telecommunication cables on the footpath on Medawakkam Tank Road in Kilpauk near TNSC Bank - Kelly's Branch. After completion of a cable-laying work, the unwanted wires were discarded on the pavement. This reckless act shows scant respect for pedestrian space.

D.Radhakrishnan is a resident of Kilpauk

‘Error in UPHC’s nameboard’



The health centre at Thirumalairajapuram in Avadi.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BALA RUBAN

The name board refers Avadi to a Special Grade Municipality in the name-board of Government Urban Primary Health Centre - Paruthipattu at Thirumalairajapuram in Avadi. This is incorrect. Avadi is a City Municipal Corporation. While the term is correct-

ly mentioned in Tamil as “Avadi Perunagaratchi,” it is wrong in English. Avadi got upgraded to a City Municipal Corporation from Special Grade Municipality in 2019. But the name board does not reflect this change to this day.

Bala Ruban is a resident of Avadi



GCC's e-bicycle stations: opposite Frontier Lifeline hospital, opposite HP petrol bunk, and near DAV school. The images were taken on December 30, 2025. PHOTOS: UMESH KUMAR V

‘GCC’s e-bicycle stations in a sorry state’

T. GUNASEELAN

The four electric bicycle stations on Thirumangalam-Ambattur Industrial Estate Road are in a state of neglect now. The are the ones near Mangal Eri park, opposite Frontier Lifeline hospital, opposite HP petrol bunk, and near DAV school. Cycles are not found in these stations.

They were installed as part of Chennai Smart City Mission under a public private partnership between the Greater Chennai Corporation and SmartBike Mobility Private Limited.

The stations opposite Frontier Lifeline hospital and opposite HP petrol bunk are deplorable. In both the cases, encroachments on the footpaths, mainly eateries, block a view of the stations.

GCC introduced this public electric bicycle service with much fanfare in 2019.

T. Gunaseelan is a resident of Ambattur



‘Escalators go out of order often’

T. SADAGOPAN



Escalators at platform three at Avadi railway station on January 3, 2026.
PHOTO: UMESH KUMAR . V

The two escalators at Avadi railway station again went out of order last week. One of them has been restored. This a recurrent issue.

It may be noted long-distance trains halt at the station and commuters find it quite difficult to climb the staircase with luggage.

Southern Railway is requested to provide a lasting solution to this issue.

T. Sadagopan is the president of Tamil Nadu Progressive Consumer Centre, a citizens group based in Avadi

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'The wait for a roundabout continues'



The section of CTH Road near T9-Pattabiram police station. PHOTO: UMESH KUMAR V

T. SADAGOPAN

The flyover over Level Crossing Gate 2 in Pattabiram on CTH Road was opened to traffic in September 2024. As per the plan, a roundabout was also planned at the end of the flyover's arm near T9-Pattabiram police station. But it is not in place to this day.

A roundabout is essential at this spot because this stretch of the road (near the police station) witnesses a heavy volume of traffic, especially during peak hours,

ever since the flyover was opened to traffic.

Near the police station, traffic flows from Avadi to Tidal Park - Pattabiram; from Thandurai to Thiruninravur; and from MG Road to Thiruninravur. Traffic moving from Thiruninravur to Thandurai needs to take a U-Turn at Pattabiram bus stop on CTH Road (meant for buses toward Avadi) adjacent to Ganeshan timber shop, which is already a bottleneck.

It may be noted that a fatal accident involving a motorcyclist occurred on this

stretch in August 2025.

Pedestrians are unable to cross this section of the road safely. Only a roundabout can address this safety hazard. We expected it by end of 2025 but it did not happen.

Here, in addition to a roundabout, a traffic signal and a pedestrian signal with a zebra-crossing are necessary.

T. Sadagopan is the president of Tamil Nadu Progressive Consumer Centre, a citizens group based in Avadi



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In the company of books

At DLF Garden City in Semmencherry, we currently have a room with a pile of books. A factor that is conspicuous by its absence is a keeper of books. There are also no volunteers to maintain a catalogue of books that come in and arrange them on the shelves neatly and systematically according to subjects. I would like to take a leaf out of the library at Tata Sherwood, a gated community in Bangalore for the space's ability to drive knowledge seeking in a lively community spirit.

There are also lessons to be taken from the Palakkam District Library, once my go-to place for knowledge. I would want the library at DLF Garden City to reflect the qualities these two libraries represent, enabling residents to connect over shared interests.

Dr. Vinatha Chettoor, resident, DLF Garden City, Semmencherry



Residents'

wish list for 2026

The Hindu Downtown spoke to a cross-section of residents welfare associations across Chennai on the initiatives they want to kickstart, sustain or extend in the New Year

LIFFY THOMAS



Powering a green transition

Last year, we launched an initiative to switch to clean energy source for our power needs. We are a community with more than 160 villa-type houses; and 20-25 of us have installed rooftop solar units in a case of shared inspiration. I got motivated to go in for this system after seeing it in a neighbouring community where my friend resides. The 5.4 kW solar unit has made a huge difference to how my power bills read. From ₹25,000 billed every cycle, the bill now ranges between ₹5,000 and ₹10,000. The Association has been supporting this drive by bringing on board vendors who help clarify nagging doubts residents harbour. We hope to add to the count of solar rooftop installations this year.

Logendrakumar M.K., president, Chettinad Enclave Village Owners Association, Pallikaranai

Replicating a social project

Jagannatha Nagar and SIDCO Nagar are neighbouring colonies in Villivakkam known for exchanging notes on their best practices. South Jagannatha Nagar Residents Association's blackboard project is worthy of emulation. Residents have given jaded, lack-lustre blackboards at the Government Boys School in the neighbourhood a fresh coat of black paint. These boards had lost their defining colour over the years and children found it a challenge to read what had been written on it. Residents pooled in money and many of them also rolled up their sleeve to paint these boards to restore its lost colour. The RWA has painted close to 25 blackboards at the school. There is a government school near us and I am hoping to get my Association to launch a similar project this year.

S.V. Kumar, treasurer, SIDCO Nagar Welfare Association, Villivakkam

Saving trees

We have started the groundwork for the redevelopment of Jeevan Bima Nagar, an apartment community that came up in 1995. Spread across 15.5 acres in Anna Nagar, we have one condition for the probable developer - ensure none of the trees in the society is cut down. Over the decades, residents have nurtured more than 1000 trees in the society and we want this green treasure to be intact.

TV Radhakrishnan, president, Jeevan Bima Nagar Flat Owner's Welfare Association, Anna Nagar West Extension



No plastics, please!

This year, we are focusing on shoring up a campaign to make our gated community, Ceebros Garden in Virugambakkam, and its immediate surroundings environment-friendly. Towards this, we have formed a green team 'Swacch Ceebros'. Posters reminding residents that plastic carrybags are banned are placed at prominent spots. The team has also been campaigning with vendors outside the community to not sell items in single-use plastics, so this drive will continue covering more ground.

As we are more than a 20-year-old community with over 350 flats, we have been studying waste management models adopted by other communities. Our objective is to minimise the amount of waste that has to be collected by conservancy staff. As part of this goal, we have started studying composting models. Space is the main challenge to this initiative but we hope to resolve this issue in 2026.

Shankar Raman G, president, Ceebros Garden Owners' Association, Virugambakkam

A decentralised waste management system

On January 4, Residents of Kasturba Nagar Association will be visiting us to explain the waste management model they have adopted. The initiative is being piloted by Mrs. Indu Jagannathan. We hope to take lessons from them as well as discuss ways to overcome challenges in waste management faced by residents welfare associations.

Earlier, we studied the model followed by Casurina Drive on East Coast Road and a community in Nungambakkam. An effective decentralised waste management model, which is also affordable and sustainable, is our goal for 2026.

Priya Rajashekhar, member, Kalakshetra Colony Welfare Association, Besant Nagar

Photos used for representational purpose



During the event. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



'Gifting Smiles' completes a decade

AGUA Gifting Smiles has completed a decade of spreading smiles, dignity and hope. As part of the initiative, thoughtfully chosen toys are wrapped with love and placed gently in a child's hands. What began as a small act of kindness has now touched 1,08,000 young lives. From underprivileged neighbourhoods to fishing communities, volunteers have walked through 16 districts across Tamil Nadu, carrying brand-new toys chosen with care and gifted with respect. Every step, from fundraising and wrapping to day-long journeys to meet a child, is rooted in respect and humanity, said a press release.

From Tamil Nadu, the initiative has now extended to Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Pune and Hyderabad as well as to other countries.

The releade adds that at the heart of AGUA Gifting Smiles are people. More than 600 volunteers, students, professionals, and families, have come together, many returning year after year. College students from Hindustan Institute, SRM University, Stella Maris, and Loyola College have supported in many ways.

For details, visit www.aguagiftingsmiles.com.

Basic life support workshop conducted for students

Recently, the Chennai branch of Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine (ISCCM) collaborated with Tamilnadu Arya Vysya Mahila Sabha (Madras Unit) to conduct a basic life support (BLS) workshop at G.K. Shetty Vivekananda Vidyalaya in Ambattur. The

workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 400 students, says a press release.

The programme commenced with a structured theoretical briefing on the fundamental principles of BLS, including early recognition of cardiac arrest, the importance of prompt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and timely activation of emergency response systems by doctors from different hospitals across Chennai who are also the part of ISCCM, says the release.

This introductory session was aimed at creating awareness, instilling confidence and sensitising students to the critical role they can play

during medical emergencies in society before medical aid arrives.

Following the theoretical introduction, students were provided with ample time for hands-on practice at dedicated workstations, where they could apply the learned concepts under close faculty guidance, the release adds.

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The juvenile Red-backed shrike at Broken Bridge Road in December 2025. PHOTOS: SUNDARAVEL PALANIVEL

Before going into this question, a word on the unlikelihood of a Red-backed shrike, adult or juvenile. Between its breeding grounds in Europe and northern Asia and wintering grounds in Africa, the Red-backed shrike's points of contact with India lie in the north-west as passage migrant. There are records of the bird from north-west India.

For a bird to veer so far from its course and end up on Broken Bridge Road, it must be a Jonathan Livingstone Seagull to the power of 100.

Now, on the question of ascertaining if it is indeed a juvenile Red-backed shrike and not a youngster from another shrike family, eBird has accepted it as a true-blue Red-backed.

Sundaravel rattles off the features present in the bird that make it a Red-backed shrike: "Squarer tail end (as opposed to the rounded one in a Brown shrike); greyish rump; darker vermiculations on the breast; and darker subterminal bands to tertials."

The adult Red-backed shrike can be identified with eyes closed: striking red on the back and grey on the head making misidentification a statistical impossibility.

Ending it on a chirpy note

Adyar Estuary and Broken Bridge Road are known to spring surprises consistently and they were true to form till the fag end of 2025 when they hosted a juvenile Red-backed shrike, triggering a procession of camera-toting birders to this part of the universe

PRINCE FREDERICK

How something ends sticks in the mind faster than how it began, except where the beginning and the middle had been singularly impressive. A batsman fending off genuinely quick deliveries more with the arm than the willow would make a scorn-worthy sight. But charity would be extended towards this player if they had lorded it over the 22 yards until twilight dawned on their career. Memories of past exploits would lighten current reality, recasting it in less gloomy shade.

If Adyar Estuary and Broken Bridge Road had ended 2025 without a curious chirp, birders would not have frowned upon the non-show. Through the year, these two patches, considered first cousins even co-joined twins, had been pulling a rare bird out of their heavily decorated feathered hats frequently. Even a non-show at the tail end would have been described in a celebratory tone much in the manner of the incomparable Don's last-inning duck, stranding him 1/

The bird that showed up being a juvenile, anatomical feather-splitting was inevitable. Biological sketches are rarely etched until people grow up; so it is with birds. Juveniles of the Brown shrike and the Red-backed shrike can pass off as siblings till they are viewed with knitted brows for diagnostic features

16th of an inch short of a glorious average of 100 in Test cricket.

Far from having a non-show, these patches ended it with a thumping six off the last ball. They would not have hoped for a better ending to 2025 than the continued sighting of a juvenile Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*) through December.

Until recently, the bird seemed to have pitched tent around the Broken Bridge Road. On the day this write-up was flapping towards the press (January 3), a party of

hopefuls had headed to the twin patches seeking a glimpse of this bird.

Birder Sundaravel Palanivel remarks that in December, close to 40 birders would have seen this bird and documented it. The sightings of this Red-backed shrike had largely happened on the Broken Bridge Road outside the Theosophical Society compound wall. Sundaravel adds that only for around a week now, the bird

has gone unnoticed; it is probably inside the TS campus.

The bird that showed up being a juvenile, anatomical feather-splitting was inevitable. Biological sketches are rarely etched until people grow up; so it is with birds. Juveniles of the Brown shrike and the Red-backed shrike can pass off as siblings till they are viewed with knitted brows for diagnostic features.





'Road in DSM Nagar waits for relaying'



Madha Koil Street. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

KALPANA . S

Madha Koil Street at D.S.M Nagar, off Poonamallee High Road, in Kattupakkam is earthen and marked with potholes. This has been the status for the past four years. Using

the stretch is quite trying for both motorists and pedestrians. The problem aggravates in case of rains. I request the authorities concerned to attend to the issue.

Kalpana . S is a resident of Kattupakkam

Overflowing cup of woes

In the last five months, sewage overflow has become a recurrent issue on Nelson Manickam Road, near Loyala College subway. In the last week, for instance, sewage was overflowing for five days on the trot, say residents. The images were taken on December 29, 2025.

PHOTOS: UMESH KUMAR V



'No sign of bridge work in Choolaimedu'



Tamilar Street in Choolaimedu on January 2, 2026. PHOTO: UMESH KUMAR V

JOSEPH RAJA

Reconstruction of the bridge over Vi-rugambakkam canal on Tamilar Street at Choolaimedu is making no progress.

It was demolished for reconstruction around eight months ago; howev-

er, the work has not started to this day.

Kamala Nehru Nagar First Street and Padmanabha Nagar Main Road are the two ends of Tamilar Street. All three are interior lanes lying along 100-foot Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road. This bridge is crucial in connecting

MMDA Colony with Arumbakkam.

In the absence of the bridge, residents have to take a detour via 100 Feet Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road to access nearby interior roads in the neighbourhood.

Joseph Raja is a resident of Choolaimedu

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CTTE student conferred 'Sangeetha Acharya' title



Meenakshi Kannan, a final-year student of Department of Accounting and Finance, Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth College for Women in Perambur, was conferred the title of 'Sangeetha Acharya' by Swaralaya Academy of Fine Arts, functioning under the wings of the Gurugulalaya Trust on December 28, 2025.

The title acknowledges her distinguished contribution as a Carnatic music guru, highlighting her role in preserving, practising, and transmitting classical musical traditions through committed teaching and performance, said a release.

Workshop on chocolate making

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a culinary workshop on making chocolates on January 8. Another session on making soaps from extracts of fruits, leaves, flowers will be held on January 9. Prior registration is required. Both the sessions will be held at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 29530048

A programme to encourage girls into sports

Rotary Club of Chennai Mugappair, in association with Goodwill Trust, Nature Research Foundation and with the CSR support from Trinseo, organised the 'Future Champions Programme - Sports Items Distribution' at Government High School, Vanagaram.

The programme was aimed at empowering young girls through sports, promoting physical fitness, confidence, and discipline. Sports items were distributed to girls from Junior Clubs, encouraging them to actively participate in sports and extracurricular activities, said a release.

The organisers emphasised the importance of sports in shaping character, leadership, and teamwork among children, especially girls.



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