

# DOWNTOWN

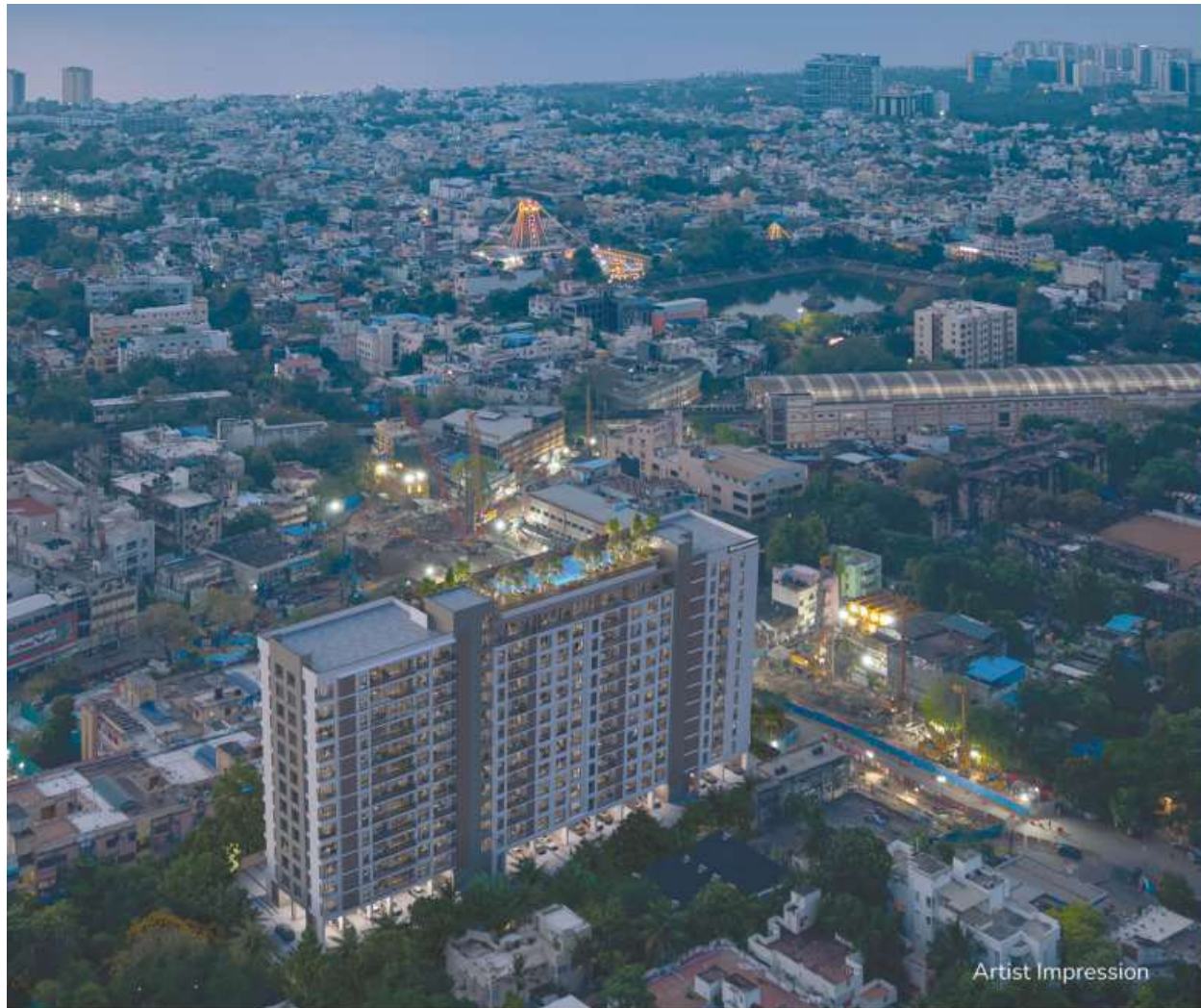
Sunday  
January 25, 2026

THE HINDU

## MYLAPORE

Mandaveli » R A Puram » Royapettah » Chindatripet » Royapuram » Korukkupet » Ennore » Luz » Alwarpet » Triplicane » Central

Washermenpet » Tondiarpet » Manali » M.R.C.Nagar » Teynampet » Mount Road » Broadway » Kondithope » Tiruvotiyur



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## Meet inspiring entrepreneurs

On January 30, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College in Mylapore will host its first alumni entrepreneurs meet

*"Why do you purchase matchsticks from Japan and sell them in India thereby pumping out money from India? Instead, if you start a match factory in India, you can have the profit and some of our countrymen would earn their livelihood. The country's money will remain in the country. All technology has two components: one is the science and the other is manufacturing technology. India needs both to succeed."*

**T**hese are words spoken by Swami Vivekananda in 1893, on hearing from Jamsetji Tata about the purpose of his visit to Japan.

The founding of Ramakrishna Mission in 1897 and envisioning its multifaceted activities by Swami Vivekananda in the bleak years of colonial India speaks volumes about his profound entrepreneurial foresight and spirit for national building. As India marks a decade of the #StartupIndia initiative on the occasion of National Startup Day

### The event

**When:** January 30; 2.15 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
For details, call 9444956264

2026, Swamiji's immortal ideas resonate with renewed relevance and urgency, says a press note.

The Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College, which has produced a number of entrepreneurs in its eight-decade journey, is commemorating this occasion by organising its First Alumni Entrepreneurs' Meet on January 30, 2026.

neurs' Meet on January 30, 2026.

Illustrious alumni-entrepreneurs of the college – K. V. Ramani, Founder of Future Software, Founder-Chancellor of Sai University, and Co-Founder; Former-Chairman of National Association of Software and Service Companies

(NASSCOM); Kalidas Muralidharan, a leading voice in financial strategy and investment from Intequant Advisors' and Ashok G, Founder of NEXLEAP- a Scaleup Accelerator in Retail and Sustainability for India Scaleup will enlighten the budding alumni-entrepreneurs and aspiring

entrepreneurs of the college.

The event, themed "Inspiring Entrepreneurship on the Campus," will feature alumni startup journeys, investor interactions, and business plan reviews. It will be held from 2:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the college campus in Mylapore.



From last year's reunion. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**T**he Old Bedeans Association is 101 years old. Along with the reunion for students across batches on January 26 at St. Bede's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School in Santhome, the event will witness elections to have new team in the saddle as well as annual general body meeting.

The alumni association invites all old Bedeans, teaching staff (past and present) to be part of this reunion. Registration starts at 10 a.m. followed by annual the

general body meeting and elections from 11 a.m. onwards.

Last year being the centenary year of the Association, close to 800 old students took part in the

event.

The invitation notes that parking will not be allowed in the school campus. One can become a member by paying ₹1,000 at the

registration counter. The registration fee for the event is ₹ 200.

Register by sending a WhatsApp to 9444051163/9840028773.

## Old Bedeans to meet for nostalgia and serious business

Many educational institutions have planned their alumni meets on January 26

### Other meets

Holy Angels' Anglo Indian School, T. Nagar, stepping into its 91st year, will have its 26th alumni meet on January 26, from 3 p.m. on the school campus.

Entry is free for all alumnae and teachers. It will be a fun-filled event with food, shopping, games, lucky draws and entertainment.

Vidyodaya Schools reunion is also happening on Republic Day at the school auditorium in T.Nagar from 3 p.m. onwards.



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▼ A Circular Coastal Clean-up conducted at Kovalam beach on January 22. The event featured a pop up scrap shop by bringing a local scrap dealer into the picture.

## Invite the local scrap dealer to Marina

Mylapore residents are accustomed to the sight of pop up scrap shops at apartments. The extended application of this concept is now being tested at beaches with encouraging results

PRINCE FREDERICK

**P**op up scrap shops at apartments must be dew-fresh in the memory of Mylapore, Mandaveli and R.A. Puram residents.

“We have done quite a number of pop up scrap shops in the Mylapore region; we have done almost over 100 pop-up collection events with neighbourhood associations. We have associated with Ganga Sridhar (a resident of Mandaveli Raja Street) in many of these events,” says Siddharth Hande, founder and CEO of Kabadiwalla Connect. “Basically the idea here is that on a Saturday morning, we get the scrap shop to come to an apartment and set up shop there, temporary shop. Over those two hours, people from the apartment, but now also more and more from that neighbourhood go and sell their recyclables to the scrap shop.”

Recently, on January 22, Kabadiwalla Connect was trying out the “amphibian” capabilities of the pop up scrap shop model by pairing it to a coastal clean-up at Kovalam beach. Even at a distance from the scene of activity, anyone with only a slightly perceptive mind would have sensed that something more than a regular coastal clean-up was unfolding.

At the centre of the congregating space was a sand artwork fea-



turing a heap of undulating sand, simulating waves; turtles waddling around; and a tricycle with discarded, small-sized real recyclables lodged in its sandy carrier body. The work of art was titled “Circular Coastal Clean-Up”, the words indented into the sandy artwork. A pop up scrap shop with shamiana for roof stood near by. Siddharth says Circular Coastal Clean-ups are the need of the hour because of the proportion of these clean-ups. He estimates that “on an average 200,000 beach-ups happen every year on the Indian coast”.

“The idea is whenever somebody has a beach clean-up anywhere in the city, we can help find them

the local scrap shop and ensure the scrap shop is a vendor or a partner of the clean-up. And that is what we call the circular clean-up,” says Siddharth. It generates instant value for a beach clean-up and an incentive to organise it more often.

Siddharth observes that they had actually tested the efficacy of the Circular Coastal Clean Up model much ahead of the event at Kovalam, which Kabadiwalla Connect organised in collaboration with Residents of Kasturbanagar Association (ROKA) and United Beings Foundation.

“Before we did this work in Kovalam, we tested the model with the National Centre for Coastal Re-



### A vital link

Siddharth Hande, founder and CEO of Kabadiwalla Connect, on the all-mighty scrap shop across the corner:

“In 2017, we mapped all the Kailan Kadais (local scrap shops) in Chennai. We discovered that there were about 2,000 Kailan Kadais across the city. These guys are very interesting because they are not just buying from waste pickers; they are also buying from the com-

munity. In fact, these 2,000 scrap shops were collecting something like 130,000 tonnes of waste every year. So that is about 24% of what the city generates on terms of recyclable waste. They are a key supplier in recycling. The community engagement idea that we had was what if you created simpler connection loops to these Kailan Kadais. And one of the things is we have a smartphone app that people can look up and find their closest scrap shop.”

search (NCCR). During their International Coastal Clean-up Day last year, we did a pilot with them for Chennai, working at five beach clean-ups simultaneously in the city, bringing five different colleges on board.”

A key finding. “On an average, about 20 to 30% of the materials that get collected can be recycled into the local recycling supply

chain if you do a pop-up activity with the scrap shop for a clean-up.”

A word of advocacy. “What we are trying to advocate is: partner with your local scrap shop, ensure that the guy comes for your clean-up and 20 to 30% of the collected material will not go to Pallikaranai and Kodungaiyur. They can go back into the recycling ecosystem.”



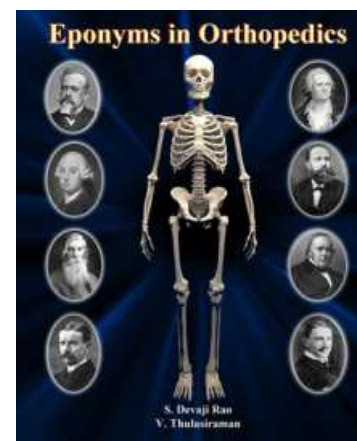
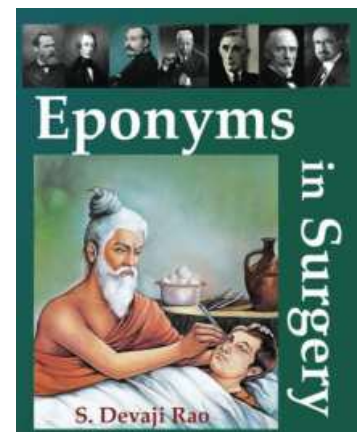
## Float festival in Mylapore a big draw



▼ Sri Adhikesava Perumal Peyalwar temple in Mylapore celebrated its float festival from January 18 to 22. During the first day idol procession of the utsavar deity of Sri Adhikesava Perumal was taken on the four madaveedhi and kept in the float car in Chitrakulam. The second day saw the utsavar deity of Sri Adhikesava Perumal and Andal taken in a procession on the veezhis. On the third day, Adhikesavar idol was taken in procession and thirumanjanam performed in the Chitrakulam. The Ramar idol, and peyazhwar and thirumazhisai azhwar were the highlights of the fourth and fifth day. Large number of devotees thronged the float festival. PHOTO: SRINATH M

## Doctor from RA Puram brings out new books

Dr. S. Devaji Rao, a surgeon from Raja Annamalaipuram who is attached to Chennai Meenakshi Multispecialty Hospital, Mylapore, has authored a dozen books in surgery and related specialities. During the pandemic, he wrote three more medical books, *Eponyms in Orthopedics*, *Eponyms in Surgery* and *FAQs in Surgery*. He has also added three non-medical books, his autobiography (*The Surgeon in me*), his experiences with his patients (*Every patient is a narrative*) and a fiction story (*Dhanya's diaries*). All these books are available as e books and also as paperback editions at Amazon.



## PLAN YOUR WEEK

### Two-day art show ends today

The two-day art show called Heritage Hues which is being held at C.P. Art Centre in Alwarpet will end on January 25. According to a press release, artist Priya Natrajan, founder of the drawing and painting centres – Lil Studio and Blank Canvas – is organising the show. Around 100 works of 50 students from both the centres will be on display.

The works will be based on the theme Indian heritage – culture, festivals, traditions, textiles, food, and day-to-day life – expressed through multiple mediums including acrylics, water colours, and pencil, adds the release.



### Music and art contest

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan is conducting music and arts competition aimed at promoting young talent in Indian classical music, art and culture. The competition will be held on January 25 from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, T. Nagar Centre, Do-

rairaj Sadan, No. 12, Thanikachalam Road, T. Nagar for the following categories: Carnatic Vocal, Keyboard, Veena, Sloka Chanting and Drawing (parti-



pants must bring their materials). Competitions will be conducted for three age groups: 5 to 10, 11 to 15 and 16 years and above. There is no registration fee and spot registrations are also accepted. Prizes will be awarded to the winners and participation certificates issued to all.

For registration, call 98843 66700 | 98843 64700 | 98843 35700

### A music initiative for persons with special needs

Kalarangam 2025, a music-based initiative for persons with special needs, invites those with a flair for music to send in their works. Organised by The Vocational Training Unit, a joint undertaking of V-Excel Educational Trust and ESVI Sarada Foundation, the event invites young and gifted musicians who are specially abled to showcase their talent. Instrumentalists, vocalists, Harikatha artistes and Villupaatu artistes can sign up for the event.

Kalarangam seeks to offer a platform to encourage camaraderie, coordination and collaboration within the neurodivergent community, says a press note. The last date for receipt of applications is January 31.

Selected artistes will be contacted and supported with training.

WhatsApp 9360087484 with details such as school name, name of participant and name of music pursued.

### 'Saluting mothers' at Alwarpet on Jan. 27

Sri Krishna Sweets is organising 'Saluting Mothers' programme in which mothers of accomplished personalities will be honoured at an event in Narada Gana Sabha on January 27 at 5.45 p.m. This year, 14 mothers will be honoured.

Nalli Kuppaswamy Chetti, chairman, Nalli Silks; Prof. V. Kamakoti, director, Indian Institution of Technology, Madras; Sri Ramadasa Rao, former President, Tamil Nadu Hotel Association; and Sivassankari, writer will be the special guests.

More than 140 mothers have been honoured so far under the 'Salute Mothers' programme. In this programme celebrities will speak about the role players by their mothers.

### Prize distribution function at Bhavan

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai Kendra, will be awarding prizes to the winners of recently concluded 'Kambaramayana celebrations' among college and school students in Tamil Nadu. The prize distribution ceremony will be held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Main Hall, East Mada Street Mylapore, on January 29 at 10.30 a.m.





During the event. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Anthology by Chennai Poets' Circle released

The latest edition features verses of 143 poets, spanning a wide age band, from a nine-year-old student to veterans aged 80 and above

**N**on-profit and non-sectarian literary group Chennai Poets' Circle (CPC) recently marked its 25th annual seminar at TAG Auditorium, Ramakrishna Mission Higher Secondary School in T. Nagar.

The focal point of the seminar was the launch of *Efflorescence 2025*, the group's 25th anniversary anthology. This milestone publication features the verses of 143 poets, spanning a wide age band, from a nine-year-old student to veterans aged 80 and above. The anthology was officially released by chief guest K. Ganesh, former associate professor and head of the department of English at Madras Christian College, according to a press release.

The seminar drew approximately 60 poets from across India, including representatives from Maharashtra, Telangana, West Bengal, Kerala and Karnataka. Notably, over a dozen budding poets featured in the collection participated in the session, accompanied by supportive parents and teachers.

In his welcome address, M. Thirumeni, chairman and a founding father of CPC, emphasised how writing in English served as a bridge, connecting a community of writers across geographical borders. S. Kannan, president and co-founder, addressed the relevance of 'poetic consciousness' in the age of AI, while paying tribute to the stalwarts of CPC who paved the way for Indian En-

glish writing, says the press release.

In an erudite keynote address, K. Ganesh framed the concept of *Efflorescence* as the literal "act of flowering". He traced the literary trajectory from the seasoned perspectives of pre-90s poets to the evolving sensibilities of the millennial generation. He highlighted that poetry celebrates "unity in diversity" and suggested that by engaging with translations, writers can learn to write more "unselfconsciously", free from the pressure to conform to rigid Western standards..

The event also featured the launch of *In a Cage and Beyond*, a poetry collection by eminent Nagpur-based writer Ratnakar D. Bhelkar.

A poetry-reading session, seamlessly anchored by secretary Hema Ravi, offered joyous, poignant and introspective moments as the audience listened to diverse voices, including award-winning poets. Additionally, a research paper presented by Debdoot Mukherjee from Kolkata was chaired by Sridevi Selvaraj, a renowned bilingual writer and academic, the press release adds.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by treasurer Ravi Ranganathan, followed by a lunch. The day left participants energised for the next chapter of CPC's journey.

Poets interested in the activities of the Chennai Poets' Circle may contact Hema Ravi at [chennaipoetscircle@gmail.com](mailto:chennaipoetscircle@gmail.com).

## An epic attempt by college's theatre club

Members of The Theatre Club at Agurchand Manmull Jain College in Meenambakkam are staging a play at the college auditorium on January 25 (from 5 p.m. onwards). The effort is daunting at two levels. One, "Maaveeran Karnan - The sun that was burnt", as the play is called, is based on the epic of Mahabharata, and it has to do justice to it. That is the challenge the team has had to deal with before stepping on the stage, taking care of the research and script. On the stage on January 25, the challenge is about garnering the confidence to stay unawed by the occasion.

The college's theatre club itself is nascent, born in 2024 and has only small-scale theatrical shows to its credit – and these are a far cry from being a full-fledged production. With an entirely in-house cast and crew, the production seeks to really "stage" the theatrical talent of the staff and students, hitherto playing out only in the rehearsal room.

The play revisits the life of Karnan as not merely a war hero, but a symbol of dignity, a true friend, a loving son and a caring brother. Written and directed by Kavithiran Kannan, theatre club co-ordinator and assistant professor of the Department of Visual Communication, the play has 80 students and 10 staff donning the greasepaint.

There is no entry fee for the play; all are welcome.

## Dr. Annie Besant Memorial Music Concert held in Mylapore

**O**n behalf of Young Men's Indian Association (YMIA), a Dr. Annie Besant Memorial Music Concert was held on January 17 at Dr. Annie Besant Centenary Hall in Mylapore.

YMIA's honorary secretary A. Sekar, welcomed the Carnatic musicians who participated in the event, vocalist Vidhyut, violinist Naveen Ramachandran, mridangam artist Sudhev and morsing ar-

tist Raghendhar, says a press release. A large number of music enthusiasts attended the concert and enjoyed the performances, the press release adds.

A. Sekar and other members of the executive committee honoured the artistes by draping them with shawls and presenting them with mementos.

A group photograph was taken with the artistes.



## Stories of people living with multiple sclerosis

Multiple Sclerosis Society of India - Chennai chapter will be observing India MS Day on February 1; 3 p.m.

at YMCA of Madras, Poonamallee High Road, opp Egmore Metro Station. Come to listen to video stories

shared by people living with multiple sclerosis, their stories of courage, change and strength.

## Linguistic diversity, musical unity



The Sargam choir trained by Sudha Raja performed during the valedictory function of Chennai International Book Fair at Kalaivanar Arangam. The choir included both adults and children who presented Japanese, German, French, English songs along with Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi songs to the audience. The songs were on glory of nature, empathy, unity and liberation.



## Adding value to crafts

Sanju Women's Welfare Association organised an event at Queen Mary's College to showcase products under its new label



LIFFY THOMAS

**T**he next time you are planning to support products made by women entrepreneurs, do look for the label 'SWWA Artivaa'.

Launched recently, that label belongs to Sanju Women's Welfare Association (SWWA), a 26-year-old non-profit headquartered in T. Nagar and affiliated to Women's India Association.

Registered under the MSME Development Act, 2006, the Association is confident having a label will help take its products far.

In the last two decades, SWWA has taken up a number of pro-



jects to empower youth, senior citizens, women and children. Under its women livelihood project, raw materials and accessories are



given as part of the training to encourage participants to start their own venture. They also support women entrepreneurs and voca-

tional trainees in tailoring, seaweed basket weaving, jewellery making and other crafts.

Recently, to observe National

Participants of the fashion show; and students shop at the stalls.  
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Youth Day, Women's Indian Association along with SWWA set up stalls at Queen Mary's College to showcase a range of products including palm leaf lunch boxes, coin pouches, hand bags and products with paper mache, all marketed under SWWA's new label.

A sustainable fashion ramp walk showcased eco-friendly fabrics such as those made with aloe vera, bamboo, linen, banana silk, and jute silk, promoting responsible lifestyle choices.

Leema Rajavarman, youth coordinator of SWWA as well as Next Gen. Torch bearers of WIA, says the youth wing began in 2025 and the launch of the label is an attempt to give the products marketed by them an identity as well as build trust among customers. More than 12 entrepreneurs are currently enrolled with SWWA.

"Many a time, we see an aspiring student entrepreneur keen on finding a platform to market her products, which we are happy to do," says Leema.

A majority of the products marketed are those of single women or those from remote villages including from the gypsy community, so showcasing their works at new venues helps us find new customers, says Leema.

Shanthi Socrates, founder, SWWA, says they are looking at exporting some of the products made by women from rural areas. They are happy to get invited to colleges and communities.

## New starting points

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Chennai, has shifted the Broadway bus terminus to Island Grounds to facilitate its revamp.

The route numbers (buses) operated from the terminus will now operate from the temporarily created terminuses in Royapuram and at Island Grounds.

Buses operated from Royapuram terminus :

Buses through Anna Salai: 11, 21, 26, 52, 54, 60, 10E, 11G, 11M, 155A, 17E, 17K, 188C, 188ET, 18A, 18A CUT, 18B, 18D, 18E, 18K, 18P, 18R, 18RX, 18X, 21C, 26B, 26G, 26K, 26M, 26R, 51D, 51J, 52B, 52G, 52K, 54G, 54L, 5C, 60A, 60D, 60G, 60H, 88C, 88K, 88K 9M, A51, D51, E18, E51, and M51R.

EVR Periyar Salai: 50, 101CT, 101X, 53E, 53P, 71D, 71E, 71H, 71V, 120, 120CT, 120F, 120G, 120K, and 150.

Buses operated from Island Grounds

Kamarajar Salai: 6, 13, 60E, 102, 109, 102C, 102K, 102P, 102S, 102X, 109A, 109X, 21G, 21L, and 21E.

Beach Station: 1, 4, 44, 33C, 33L, 38A, 38G, 38H, 44C, 44CT, 4M, 56D, 56D, 56J, 56K, 56P, 57D, 57F, 57H, 57J, 57M, 8B, C56C, C56C, and 557A.

Mannady: 33B, 56C, and 56F.

E. V. R. Periyar Salai: 15, 20, 15F, 15G, 17D, 20A, 20D, and 50M.

Vepery: 35, 42, 242, 142B, 142P, 35C, 42B, 42C, 42D, 42M, 64C, 64K, 64K, 7E, 7H, 7K, and 7M.

For full details, log on to <https://x.com/MtcChennai>

## Caring for a team mate



Horses play an important role during the Republic Day parade. Eight of them were spotted during the full dress rehearsal for the 77th Republic Day celebrations held on January 19 on Kamarajar Salai near Marina Beach. Here, a horse mounted policeman is seen applying a special oil to his horse after a long practice session.

PHOTOS: RAGHUNATHAN SR

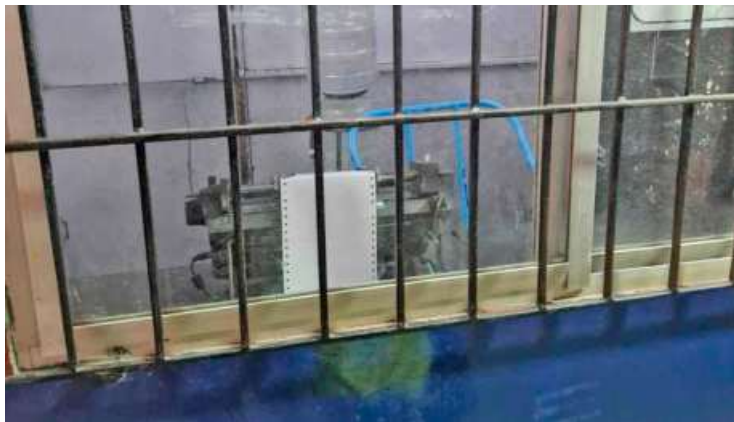


## '24/7 prepaid taxi counter at Chennai Central locked at night'

**BALU N.**

I am a senior citizen and a frequent user of Indian Railways, regularly travelling to and from Chennai Central Railway Station. Over the last one month, on two occasions when I returned to Chennai by night trains, after 9 p.m., I faced serious inconvenience due to the non-functioning prepaid taxi and auto counter at the station.

When app-based taxis or autos are unavailable, prepaid services are the safest and most reliable option for passengers, especially senior citizens. However, I found that



The prepaid taxi counter at Chennai Central. Photo: Balu N.

the prepaid counter was locked and unattended, even though it is supposed to operate 24/7. While several autos and taxis were lined up outside, drivers directly approached passengers and quoted unreasonably high and arbitrary fares. When questioned about the absence of staff at the prepaid counter, the drivers casually stated that the officials had "gone out." Despite waiting for some time, no police personnel or station staff were available to provide clarification or assistance.

I wish to highlight that in other major cities across India, prepaid taxi and auto counters function ef-

ficiently and provide protection against such exploitation. Unfortunately, this situation at Chennai Central not only causes hardship to passengers but also creates a very poor impression of the city.

I request the authorities concerned to kindly intervene and ensure proper round-the-clock functioning of the prepaid taxi and auto counter, with adequate monitoring and staff accountability. This will greatly help senior citizens, women, and outstation passengers and prevent exploitation.

*(Balu N. is a resident of Thoraipakkam and is a frequent long-distance train traveller, boarding trains at Chennai Central and Egmore stations)*

## Walking on air

Students of three schools in Purasawalkam, Avadi and Ayanavaram are provided with a flight experience

In a move to redefine youth leadership training, the Rotary Club of Guindy successfully executed "RYLA ON AIR" on January 22.

The experiential programme provided 30 students from Class IX to XII standard – drawn from ELM Fabricius Higher Secondary School in Purasawalkam, Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Avadi, and Kannada Sangha Higher Secondary School Ayanavaram, with their inaugural flight experience, transforming a distant dream into a tangible reality.

The initiative commenced in the early hours of January 22 as these students gathered at Chennai International Airport. For these young delegates, the journey to Coimba-

tore represented more than just a trip; it was a lesson in breaking social and psychological barriers, says a press release.

Upon arrival in Coimbatore, the Rotary Club of Guindy (RI District 3233) collaborated with the Rotary Club of Coimbatore East (RI District 3206) and the Rotaract Club of PSGR Krishnammal College for Women. The local partners facilitated a comprehensive educational itinerary, beginning with a visit to the renowned G.D. Naidu Car Museum in Coimbatore. There, students were exposed to the principles of industrial innovation and creative problem-solving,

the release adds.

"Traditionally, RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) programmes are confined to auditoriums or school halls, With 'RYLA ON AIR' we broke convention. By combining leadership education with the powerful experience of air travel, we are instilling a sense of belief and aspiration that these children will carry for a lifetime," stated Rtn. Radha Krish, president of the Rotary Club of Guindy.

Dignitaries in attendance included chief guests District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran (RI District 3233) and District Secretary Rtn. R. Raghavendran (RI District 3206), both of whom commended the clubs for the initiative's transformational impact.



## Steel almirahs donated to 25 schools

Octogenarian recalls how a mega project celebrating the silver jubilee of his sustained effort to help students of government schools came to a satisfying close

**N. SUBRAMANIAN**

Finally, on January 23, 2026, the silver jubilee project came to a satisfactory and fulfilling end with the handing over of the steel almirah keys to the heads of 25 schools. As a "Return Gratitude" to the society, I have been spending my hard earned money to the tune of Rs.75,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- per annum by providing supporting study materials to all the children joining afresh in certain known Government Primary Schools at villages of Tamil Nadu.

I began this service since my retirement from the Railway Service in 2001. And, to make it a record worth of the silver jubilee year of this service, this year, I increased the expenditure to the tune of ₹2 lakh and offered mega-sized education charts and books to twenty-five schools. Whenever the media publishes news about this, I would get innumerable calls from many unknown persons, either wishing to support me or wanting support from me.

On July 21, 2025, I got a call from P. Dhayanithi, manager-CSR of Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited in Kilpauk stating that his company's founder, M. Anandan, came to know about me through a newspaper article and wanted to extend his support to me, but I did not accept it. However, on coming to know of their CSR contributions at a mega level towards the education sector too, after very long thought and hesitation for nearly two months, I responded to them, suggesting whether they would be able to consider offering steel cupboards to all twenty-five schools we attended this year. As luck would have it, the owner of this company, with

great generosity, came forward to donate 25 steel cupboards at a total cost of around ₹3 lakh, and they arranged for the same to be delivered to all the schools. These 25 schools are spread over five districts, viz. Chennai, Tiruvallur, Ranipet, Vellore and Tiruvannamalai.

*(N. Subramanian, aged 82, is a retired office superintendent from Southern Railway; and is a resident of Kumaran Nagar in Virugambakkam)*



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## Workshop on GST e-way billing

Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME, is conducting a workshop on GST e-way billing and income tax returns submission from January 28 to 30 at its premises at EDII Office Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate in Ekkattuthangal. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the following concepts will be covered in the programme: introduction to GST, GST structure and components, GST registration process, GST invoicing and billing, input tax credit GST audits and assessments, GST compliance and penalties.

The session will also focus

on income tax its structure, types and slabs, introduction to ITR forms, deductions and exemptions, TDS (tax deducted at source), process for filing income tax returns, advance tax and self assessment tax, income tax notices and scrutiny, income tax refund process and tax planning strategies.

Those above 18 years of age with a minimum educational qualification of class 10 may apply. Hostel facility is available on first come, first serve basis.

Prior registration is mandatory. To register visit [www.edii.in](http://www.edii.in)

For details, call 8668102600

## Abacus competition

Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Teacher Association (AMATA), an ISO 9001:2018 certified body, is conducting an 'open to all' International level Abacus competition from January 24 to 26 at Seethalakshmi Hall, Poonamallee High Road, Maduravoyal.

The competition is open to all Abacus students from any centre. Model question papers will be provided in advance, and participants may select their level of entry based on the syllabus. For further details, visit [www.abacuscompetition.com](http://www.abacuscompetition.com) or contact the organisers via WhatsApp at 8144443777/9841023115

## Session on e-commerce

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME - Tamil Nadu is conducting a training programme on e-commerce from January 28 to 30 at its premises at No: 1, EDII Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Ekkattuthangal, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, par-

ticipants will learn about setting up an online store. They will be introduced to types of e commerce models, designing a store, product management and inventory, setting up payment gateways, social media marketing, pay-per-click advertising, logistics management (shipping and delivery), and financial manage-

ment in e-commerce.

Those aged 18 years and above with a minimum qualification of class 10 can apply. Basic computer knowledge is required, adds the press release.

Hostel facility is available on first-come, first-served basis.

Prior registration is mandatory.

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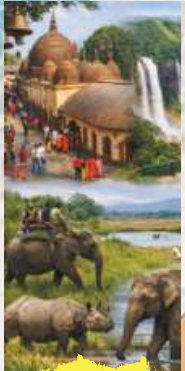




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