

ANNA NAGAR

Purasawalkam » Villivakkam » Kolathur » Nazarathpettai » Pattabiram » Maduravoyal » Koyambedu » Tiruverkadu » Puzhal » Kilpauk » Perambur » Mogappair
Avadi » Ayyapakkam » Tiruniravur » Nerkundram » Moolakadai » Ayanavaram » Retteri » Padi » Ambattur » Tirumullaivoil » Aminjikarai » Vysarpadi » Red Hills



COUNTDOWN FOR CLEANLINESS AUDIT BEGINS

As Chennai gears up for the 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan, a reminder that participation of its residents will go a long way in improving its ranking. **P5**



THE BINS ARE STILL THE BEST BET

For Chennai residents given to long drives on ECR, the beachside expanse at Therkupattu is a familiar bivouacking spot. The patch is plagued by littering, particularly during weekends. The garbage bins are largely ignored by visitors but the solution ironically lies in having more of these bins. **P6**

Britannia Nagar residents reiterate call for re-routing S67

They point out that effecting the suggested changes in the current route will hugely benefit school and college students



Britannia Nagar residents in front of the small bus.

V. VAIRAMUTHU

The current route of S67 does not command impressive commuter patronage and it is not unusual to see the bus carry just two to three passengers on a trip. The reason is not far to seek: the route accounts for around 1.5 kilometre of a highway road (Red Hills Highway Road). The current route: Madhavaram Roundtana-Cycle Kadai Bus Stop on Red Hills Highway Road-Puzhal Camp Road-Collector Nagar-Brittannia Nagar; and the end point is Ambattur OT. The effectiveness of this service would go up by leaps and bounds if one leg of the route is overhauled. Residents of Britannia Nagar, Senthil Nagar, Rasi Nagar, Collector Nagar and INTC Nagar seek the following route for the small bus.

Madhavaram Roundaa-Ponniyammanmeedu-Retteri-Vinayakapuram-Collector Nagar-

Britannia Nagar, and from there the bus can finish its trip at its original end point, which is Ambattur OT. Eight months ago, we made a representation to MTC seeking this change and also met with Madhavaram MLA S. Sudharsanam. The MLA in turn spoke to MTC officials asking them to revamp the route; he also formally sent a letter to MTC detailing the changes that ought to be carried out. We hope MTC acts on this directive without any delay, as the re-routing of S67 would benefit many school and college students. On this suggested route, Velammal Group has four schools and one college. Currently, residents of Retteri seeking to reach Ambattur OT, take a share auto to Puzhal Camp Road, where they board a bus. If the suggested route is accepted and operationalised, they would be spared this ordeal.

V. Vairamuthu is joint secretary of Britannia Nagar Residents Welfare Association.

You can be our
volunteer
writer



Dear readers, you can be our volunteer-writer by writing to us about issues and events in your neighbourhood. You should send the write-ups to downtownfeedback@ thehindu.co.in. Letters must carry the contact number



TRUSTED SINCE 1999
YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD EYE CARE EXPERTS



Appasamy
EYE CLINIC
VIEW YOUR WORLD BETTER

ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS, LASER TREATMENTS, CATARACT, RETINA, GLAUCOMA AND PAEDIATRIC SERVICES DELIVERED WITH EXPERT CARE

MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND HONEST AFFORDABLE PRICING

92802 32460
INFO@APPASAMYEYECLINIC.COM

No. 1 & 2 SBI officer's colony
First street, Arumbakkam
Chennai - 600106
www.appasamyeyeclinic.com





The staircase in Thandurai meant for crossing the railway track.
PHOTOS: UMESH KUMAR .V



'Staircases of bridge in Thandurai out of bounds'

K.S. GOPALAKISHNAN

The staircases of the vehicular bridge over the railway track in Thandurai near Pattabiram railway station is in a squalid state.

The bridge connects South Bazaar Road (also known as Thandurai Main Road) and CTH Road in

Thandurai. Therefore, it witnesses considerable pedestrian movement.

The staircases are a haven for tipplers.

Alcohol bottles and food leftovers can be found.

Further, hair of animals, carcasses of rats and birds add to the filth. One of the staircases is misused for

drying clothes. The staircases are poorly lit.

To avoid this disgusting experience and due to safety reasons, pedestrians have stopped using the bridge and instead they take the risk of crossing the railway tracks.

The area under the staircase is also misused by traders at the market to dump all kinds of waste.

Further, the footpath on the bridge is also littered.

K.S. Gopalakrishnan, a resident of Thandurai, is a former member of Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee - Chennai Division, Southern Railway.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

Road safety and sanitary issues discussed at meet

Flood mitigation measures was one of the main issues that Anna Nagar Western Extension B Sector Association discussed in a recent meeting held as part of Republic Day celebration.

"Stormwater drains are not connected and that causes waterlogging. There have been instances where sewage enters houses in case of heavy rains. First Street, Second Street, and Third Street are worst affected. The main cause is stormwater drains on Park Road and First Street are not connected. Further, Otteri Nullah, a water channel, that plays a key role in mitigating floods in our neighbourhood, is plagued by encroachments," says A. Chockalingam, the association's general secretary.

The meeting also discussed about road safety issues relating to speed breakers and encroachments.

"Some of the speed breakers are not painted and pedestrians' space is usurped through encroachments. All these raise the risk of accidents," adds Chockalingam.

Sanitary issues such as overflowing garbage bins, sewage overflow-



At Madhavaram college
Islamic Arabic College in Madhavaram along with Tamil Nadu Federation of Resident Welfare Associations unfurled the National Flag on the occasion of Republic Day. Students, professors and members of Islamic Jamaat took part. According to a press release, the federation's president D. Neelakannan unfurled the flag.

ing on to the roads, and unkempt vacant plots providing a conducive environment for mosquito breeding were discussed during the meet.

Further, a human chain was formed as a mark of request to

TANGEDCO to prevent power cuts and attend to faults without much delay.

'Reckless cable installation'



KOTEESVARAN. G

The image shows a live electricity cable at Vasantha Garden Second Lane in Ayanavaram lying exposed raising the risk of electrocution.

The cable was laid six months ago when a water pipe-laying work carried out at this street damaged the electricity cable,

which was then replaced. Instead of laying the cable underground it was laid over the road.

This is quite unsafe. Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) should address this issue at the earliest to avoid any untoward incident.

Koteesvaran. G is a resident of Ayanavaram

You can be our volunteer writer

Dear readers, you can be our volunteer-writer by writing to us about issues and events in your neighbourhood. You should send the write-ups to downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in. Letters must carry the contact number

STATUS REPORT



The school's entrance on Old MTH Road which is closed; and students walking along Old Bank of Baroda Street. PHOTOS: UMESH KUMAR.V

'Not a smooth walk to the school'

K.V. SAIKRISHNA

An approach road to decades-old P.J. Gupta's School, Old Bank of Baroda Street in Ambattur is marked by the presence of a public toilet and garbage bins. Besides, the street is being gradually subjected to encroachment by vendors. A school had its entrance on Old MTH Road. But with the rising number of vendors at the market

on Old MTH Road, the school had to close that entrance. The same problem is now cropping up on Old Bank of Baroda Street.

Considering the wellbeing of the students, Greater Chennai Corporation and the State Education Department should do the needful.

The school is close to both Ambattur railway station and Ambattur OT bus terminus.

K.V. Saikrishna is a resident of Ambattur



'Liquor shop in school zone'



Children walking past the TASMAC-run liquor shop in Villivakkam.
PHOTO: UMESH KUMAR . V

M. SENTHIL

We request the authorities concerned to remove the TASMAC-run liquor shop in Thalam Kinaru Street in Villivakkam because two schools are located close by. The distance between the school and the liquor shop will be approximately 100 metres. Further, vegetable market and Villivakkam railway station are located in the vicinity. Drunken brawls are common here; therefore, considering the safety of women and children, the authorities shift the shop.

M. Senthil is a resident of Villivakkam

Cure by homoeopathy	
Asthma	PCOD
Psoriasis	Fibroids
GERD	Speech Delay
Kidney Stones	Piles
Migraine	Fissure

Advantages
Less expensive | No side effects | Online Consultation possible
Experienced physician | Medicine by Dunzo

For further details contact:
Dr. Kalaivani Vijayanand
B.Sc., B.H.M.S., M.Sc (Medical Anatomy)
Vijay Homoeo Clinic
Darma Towers, 88, Nelson Manickam Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 094.
Mob : +91 94445 32266

LITTLE PEEPAL MONTESSORI SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY MONTESSORI
Education that guides your child to acquire a **WORLD of KNOWLEDGE**



Children learn how the world works through Collaboration and Research in interdisciplinary areas of study -
• Geography • Science • Language • History
• Math • Art • Music • Economics • Social Work, etc.

Our new **Montessori Elementary** classroom (for ages 6 - 10 years) is coming soon in AH Block, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 40.

We welcome enquiries from parents who are new to Montessori Education and would like their child to learn and be competent in an ever changing world.

For enquiries call:
+91 97912 16288

Call us to book at Tour of the Toddler and Primary Environments AL 204, 14th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai-40.

Donate hair at salon in Kilpauk

The Candles, a voluntary organisation, is organising a hair donation drive from February 5 to 28 to mark World Cancer Day. Donors must have a minimum of 10 inches of hair. Coloured and grey hair will not be accepted, says a press release.

Donations can be made at Studio Vogue Luxury Salon, No. 17, Laxmi Street, New Avadi Road, Kilpauk, from 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all days except Saturdays and Sundays, says the release.

The donated hair will be given to the Adyar Cancer Institute to make free wigs for cancer survivors, according to the press release. To register, WhatsApp 8248364496.

STRESS TAKING OVER YOUR LIFE?
Join our 1-Day Stress Management Workshop
UNLEASH THE HAPPINESS IN YOU
Experiential Learning WORKSHOP to have a better life
7 February
Hotel Vestin Park, Egmore
For more details Contact MAHESH
High Strides Training Solutions, Chennai
98409 22836/90438 86921



Toddler Community (14 months - 2.5 years)



Primary Classroom (2.5 years - 6 years)



Afterschool Day Care (2.5 years - 6 years)

Ensure easy movement, residents tell Railways



The chaos is mainly due to the parking of trucks used for the movement of coach manufacturing equipments of ICF, on both sides of Ambedkar Road

T. SAJEEV

The Ambedkar Road junction near ICF, a crucial connect route for many residents of Kolathur, Villivakkam and surrounding areas and a roadway for residents of Thirumalai Nagar, Moorthy Nagar among other neighbourhoods, is often jammed with heavy traffic, hindering the movement of school and college students, office goers, general public and emergency services such as ambulance.

The chaos is mainly due to the parking of trucks used for the movement of coach manufacturing equipments of ICF, on both sides of Ambedkar Road many of the days in any given month.

There have been debates around who has a primary claim to this road. The road might belong to the Railways, but the travelling public can call it theirs too.

Since this is a critical connect road for the general public and to the residents based in and around this road,

and there are no other routes for the users of this way, at this point in time, the Railways should honour the requests of the residents' associations across this road. Parking of trucks has to be closely monitored and regulated, which includes only one-side parking, something that has been agreed upon.

Urgent need of small-sized speed breakers at vantage points to stem the speed of the vehicles preventing any kind of untoward events. Better lighting is required: vehicles parked during night with minimal lighting poses a safety and security threat to men, women, children and elders.

For better management of these issues, the Railways and Greater Chennai Corporation should arrive at an understanding of their responsibilities pertaining to this road. While earlier discussions on this issue might have resulted in a deadlock, residents humbly request the authorities to give a serious look into this and have this perennial issue sorted out.

(Sajeev is a long-time resident of this area)



Remembering the teachers

Old students of St. Bede's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School celebrate their 40th year reunion

The alumni of St. Bede's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School in Santhome, who passed out in 1985, celebrated their 40th year reunion at a grand get-together held at MRC, Guindy.

Thirty Bedeans of 1985 batch

participated including the six from the U.S. and the U.K. Members of the batch are well placed in various professions and as a mark of gratitude presented mementos to 10 teachers, three of whom are headmasters. They are former headmasters Fr. P.J. Se-

bastian, Fr. K.J. Antony and Fr. Santhosam John, along with teachers Rajamoni, F.Samuel, G.Ramamurthy, N.Devdoss, T.Amalraj, J.Tharcius and Mary Nathan.

Several alumni expressed their deep gratitude to St. Bede's for providing them with a strong academic foundation, discipline and opportunities in extracurricular activities, which played a crucial role in shaping their careers and personal lives.

M.A. Sivakumar from the batch recalled how the priests were very considerate when he lost his

father while pursuing Class X.

"We were the early batch when the school was transitioning into a higher secondary school and many changes were effected in the curriculum including an extended academic year. The teachers gave their best. For instance, Amalraj sir, gave us the foundation in accountancy and was against us enrolling in tuition classes. Being attentive in his class was more than enough," recalled Sivakumar.

Fr. P. J. Sebastian, in his address, said that even after 40 years, he could still recognise and

remember many of the students, and expressed happiness at seeing them well settled and successful in their careers. Fr. K.J. Antony fondly recalled teaching history to the batch and expressed pride in their achievements, while Rev. Fr. John Santhosam reminisced about teaching Mathematics to the students during their higher secondary years.

The Class of 1985 collectively contributed funds, which will be utilised to support the education of needy students of St. Bede's School by assisting with school fees, added the release.

ENVIRONMENT

LIFFY THOMAS

The city is back on the examination table as another edition of Swachh Survekshan 2026, the annual survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to rank cities on cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation, is under way.

Those working on the ground with Greater Chennai Corporation say the outcome will depend as much on citizen's civic sense as on the civic infrastructure, reminding residents that cleanliness starts at home.

The city's performance has not been promising in the last few editions. From fifth position in 2023, the city slipped to a dismal 104 in 2024. Last year, Chennai's ranking improved, but still did not prevent it from being a laggard in the area of cleanliness: it was placed in the 38th position.

Before a team from the Central Government visits the city between mid-February and March, a lot of work is intended to be done. The 'New Swachh Survekshan' indicators emphasises parameters such as visible cleanliness, waste segregation, collection and transportation, waste processing, dumpsite remediation, waste water treatment, reuse and faecal sludge management.

For the last few months, GCC has been getting ready with a number of activities and initiatives. Saturday's weekly collection of old sofas, mattresses and clothes from residents' doorsteps was followed by the launch of



Countdown for cleanliness audit begins

As Chennai gears up for the 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan, a reminder that participation of its residents will go a long way in improving its ranking

Kuppai Thiruvizha.

Although the waste collection drive ended on January 23, officials point out this drive will be extended, and every Saturday dedicated for residents to drop their recyclable waste at different collection points in the city.

Recently, 1,250 metallic com-

pactor bins were ordered for Zones IV, VII and VIII. On its social media handles, GCC is posting details of a flurry of cleanliness drives in different localities.

GCC has already privatised construction, operation and maintenance of public toilets to improve hygiene and for better

Distribution of Marks
ODF/ODF+/ ODF++/Water+ 1,000 Marks
Garbage Free Cities – 1,000 Marks
On-ground assessment including citizens' feedback 10,500 Marks

accountability. Waste segregation at source is another important factor, so the role played by every individual in lessening the burden on conservancy workers counts. Every single sustainability initiative taken by a resident welfare association or individual, featured in the media, is being documented by GCC waste management partners.

Citizens' feedback
Citizen participation remains a

What's new

- Round-the-year citizen feedback through digital platforms
- Increased weightage for citizen feedback
- Separate matrix for coastal areas
- New indicator for prevention of open defecation and open urination
- Special focus on tourists/heritage/religious and high footfall places
- New indicator on behaviour change programme in schools

Source: Toolkit of 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan 2025-26

cornerstone of the initiative, but what pulls down Chennai is the poor participation of residents.

"People do not take the effort to fill the feedback form, and we lose out on account of that. Whatever be the feedback, filling it shows the level of engagement among citizens," says the superintendent engineer, Solid Waste Management, GCC.

This time, feedback is being sought through the year, including through digital platforms. The effectiveness of the grievance redressal mechanism is also counted, accounting for 10% of the total marks.

Citizens can share feedback through multiple platforms, including the Vote For My City App and Portal, MyGov App, Swachhata App and QR codes.

An independent agency verifies the data and validates the progress of each city through on-call/ on-field interaction with citizens and randomly assesses areas in cities, while movement of assessors are geo-tagged.



On the sands of the Marina Beach and (above) a group of residents engaged in a clean-up exercise. PHOTOS: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

By the side of ECR at Therkupattu. The images were taken on a morning before the weekend set in. During weekends, this patch is plagued by massive littering.
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK



The bins are still the best bet

PRINCE FREDERICK

For Chennai residents given to long drives on ECR, the beachside expanse at Therkupattu is a familiar bivouacking spot. The patch is plagued by littering, particularly during weekends. The garbage bins are largely ignored by visitors but the solution ironically lies in having more of these bins

Thambi, the respectful, palms-folded, horse-faced, dhoti-clad mascot of the 44th chess Olympiad at Mamallapuram in 2022, has found the cleanest spots in Therkupattu on East Coast Road: the garbage bins. There is no dearth of litter on the beachside of Therupattu hugging ECR like a legging. It is found everywhere only rarely in the garbage bins. In effect, Thambi has been given the pride of place. No left-handed

Efforts to arrest the waste-flinging hands of bivouackers mid-throw have been made by the Therkupattu panchayat and even NGOs



compliment here, not even a faint whiff of it.

Inveterate day-trippers from Chennai with the addiction of a caffeine fiend to long drives on ECR cannot but be familiar with Therupattu, drawn as much to its lazy sands by the side of the arterial road as to its sequestered beach. It is the closest bivouacking spot on ECR from Chennai. And as with any unregulated bivouacking spot, visitors leave traces of the good times behind on the soft beach sands of Therkupattu. It is largely plastic waste; and the wisps of garbage are found mostly by the side of ECR and the shoreline is largely clean. Efforts to arrest the waste-flinging hands of bivouackers mid-throw have been made by the Therkupattu panchayat and even NGOs such as Hand In Hand. By the side of the road, garbage bins and boards blaring exhortations against littering are the visible signs of these efforts.

The most striking demonstration of this effort is a drum "weld-

ed" into an alternative role as a garbage bin. A neat slot, enclosed by a swinging metal flap has been created for garbage to be slipped in; and an opening has been carved on the rear side for the garbage to be cleared.

Human beings imitate the majoritarian action more than they initiate original action thinking for themselves. So, rather than keeping the discards with them till they reach any of the garbage bins, they would take the cue from those around them and fling those plastics and cardboards in the sands. The learning and the action happen subliminally, the imbiber and the initiator unaware they are following cues.

The garbage bins might be ignored, but strangely, the solution lies in having more bins across the vast bivouacking terrain. That is the only way to increase the visibility of the better and socially responsible cue of people taking the trouble to use the bins.

Session on value-added products from coconut

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME - Tamil Nadu, is conducting a training programme on making value-added products from coconut. The session will be held from February 10 to 12 at the institute's premises at EDII Office Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. According to a press release, participants will learn to make the following coconut-based products: different types oil meant for various purposes such as cooking, hair care, and rheumatism-related ailments.

For details, call 8668102600 / 87544 95254

An honour for mothers

This is the 15th year of the initiative by Sri Krishna Sweets

Sri Krishna Sweets held its annual event honouring mothers of achievers for the 15th consecutive year at Narada Gana Sabha in Alwarpet recently.

Several mothers of prominent personalities were honoured with shawls and mementoes during the ceremony.

Among them were Bama Ramanan, mother of Saraswathi, founder of Event Kala; K. M. Dhannaponnadai, K. M. Annamalai, chancellor, Gandhigram University; Hamsa Kalyanasundaram, Meera Nagarajan, managing director of Kalyana Malai; Kalyani, Venkatesh, a spiritual speaker; Parvathi Subramaniam, Sundar Subramaniam, a social activist,



Writer Sankari honouring Meera Nagarajan, managing director of Kalyana Malai, at the event. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sathiyabama Chandran, Saini Surrendran, a sports and nutrition consultant; V. Vijayalakshmi, V.

Uma, founder of Suyam Foundation; Dhanalakshmi Natarajan, Senthil Natarajan, Kovai Pazha-

mudir Nilayam, Gomathi Lingam, Subasree Sriram of Sriram Capital; Jaya Palanivelu, Dr. Praveen Raj, Gem Hospital; Meenakshi, M. Swaminathan, a legal advisor, Subha Narayanan, Sandip Narayanan, a Carnatic singer; Sunanda Sripathi Udupa, Ganesh of Highway Motels; and Vasantha Devanathan, Anu Sriram of Integra Software Services.

Nalli Kuppuswami Chetty, chairman of Nalli Silks; V. Kamakoti, director of the Indian Institute of Technology - Madras; Ramdass Rao, president of the Tamil Nadu Hotels (Hoteliers) Association; and writer Sivasankarai attended and spoke.

Nalli Kuppuswami Chetty said the initiative to honour the mothers had deeply touched him, noting that mothers' sacrifices play a crucial role in shaping successful individuals.

He commended M. Murali for acknowledging them and honouring their contributions.

City college holds conference on 'Vikshit Bharat'

Guru Nanak College, Velachery, recently organised a two-day national conference, 'Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems and Innovation: Roadmap to Viksit Bharat 2047'.

The conference aimed to provide a common platform for academicians, researchers, industry professionals, policymakers, scholars, and students to discuss the relevance of Indian knowledge systems in addressing contemporary societal and developmental challenges, a release said.

Bhalchandra Vidyasagar, former

vice-chancellor of Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Maharashtra, inaugurated the conference. J. Radhakrishnan, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, was the guest of honour.

In his keynote address, professor Vidyasagar focused on the next steps for integrating IKS into contemporary education, particularly in the context of the National Educational Policy 2020.

He emphasised the importance of shifting from memory-based education to analytical, experiential, and in-

terdisciplinary learning.

Radhakrishnan urged students to go beyond participating in the conference, become co-creators and drawing strength from Indian knowledge systems while remaining critically aware.

Divided into six themes: science, commerce and management, law, engineering and technology, social sciences and languages, and multidisciplinary studies, the conference had an overwhelming response of registrations and paper presentations, the release added.

Business challenge test on February 15

Santhoshni Academy's Business Challenge Test has launched a unique diagnostic initiative designed for Grade 11 or Grade 12 commerce students. Unlike conventional tests that focus on definitions, formats or marks, this programme attempts something different, said a release. It seeks to understand whether students are able to apply their academic learning in Accountancy and Business Stu-

dies to real-life companies, startups, and business situations that they have already observed around them.

The test will be held at #42-A, Second Floor, Asoka Street, Bhemanna Garden Street, Abhiramapuram, Alwarpet, on February 15. Participation is free, though seating is limited.

Interested students can WhatsApp +91 814 814 3737 to register.

New diagnostic centre offers services at subsidised cost



Real estate developer Casagrand has opened the Casagrand Foundation's Diagnostic Center in Besant Nagar. Launched as a not-for-profit initiative, the state-of-the-art facility aims to make diagnostics and preventive care affordable and accessible, offering more than 100 essential services and advanced screenings at affordable costs, starting from just ₹50, said a release. The centre focuses on offering diagnostic care targeted at one-third price. It offers a comprehensive range of services, including digital X-rays, ECGs, CT scans, thyroid and diabetes profiles, troponin tests and blood tests. Creatinine screenings, along with a master health check-up and specialised women's health packages, are also available, the release added. Located on First Avenue (opposite Ellaiyamman Temple), Shastri Nagar, Besant Nagar, the centre is open Monday to Saturday, 7 am to 7 pm, and on Sunday until 1.30 p.m.

For appointments, contact 9790 566 566.

Consecration Ceremony

Madras Kali Bari in West Mambalam is celebrating its third Maha Kumbhabhishekam for five days starting from February 2. The ceremony on the first day will start with Sri Ganapathi puja at 6 p.m. and culminates with Maha Kumbhabhishekam on February 6 from 7.45 a.m.



SOFA SERVICE

- ANY SOFA'S
- RECLINER SOFAS
- CUSHIONS
- REUPHOLSTERY

Reconditioning @ Very Moderate Charges

K.N.S.RAJAN SERVICES

76671 33233
93818 03956

BUYING

WORKING AND NOT WORKING, A/C, BRASS, STAINLESS STEEL, FRIDGE, OLD COMPUTER, LAPTOP, UPS, BATTERIES, MUSIC SYSTEM, WATER HEATER, GYM ITEMS, WOODEN FURNITURE, SOFASET, COT, BEURO, DINNING SET

ALL A TO Z SCRAPS

VANITHA TRADERS
96001 01534
No Visiting Charges

CAR REQUIRED

Low budget Car
Any model
Running condition

Contact: 98413 36727

To advertise in
DOWNTOWN

Contact:
SATHIYAMORTHY
70927 03458



We REPAIR all inkjet & laser printers
ON SPOT
DOOR STEP SERVICE
NOW AVAILABLE
PICK-UP & DROP
98946 55595

Lit for Life Mobile Library takes reading to classrooms across Chennai



SRIMATHI SRIDHARAN

The Hindu's Lit for Life (LFL) Mobile Library continued its outreach across Chennai in January, bringing the joy of reading directly to students in schools and colleges across the city. The initiative, which is part of The Hindu Group's larger commitment to inclusive learning and access to books, reached a diverse mix of government-aided, private, and higher education institutions.

Between January 8 and 20, the Mobile Library visited Kaligi Ranganathan Montfort School, Perambur; St. Joseph Matriculation High-

er Secondary School, Poonamallee; Vidyodaya Girls Higher Secondary School, Thyagaraya Nagar; Orchids-The International School, Manapakkam; Alpha Techno School, Puzhal; and Sri Bala Vidyalaya, Perambur. In addition, Stella Maris College, Corlapuram.

At each campus, students were introduced to a curated collection of books spanning fiction, non-fiction, biographies, children's literature, and inspirational writing. The Mobile Library served not only as a lending space but also as an interactive reading zone, encouraging students to browse, explore, and engage with books beyond their prescribed curriculum.

Teachers and school administrators noted the value of the initiative in fostering reading habits at an early age, particularly at a time when digital distractions often compete for students' attention.

At Stella Maris College, the Mobile Library sparked conversations around reading as a tool for critical thinking, empathy, and lifelong learning, aligning closely with Little for Life's emphasis on inclusive literature and diverse voices. Students shared reflections on how access to books can shape perspectives, improve language skills, and provide emotional refuge.

The Lit for Life Mobile Library is an extension of The Hindu Group's flagship Lit for Life festival, which champions literature, inclusion, and social awareness. By taking books directly to schools and colleges, the initiative bridges gaps in access and reinforces the belief that reading should be available to everyone, regardless of age or background.

The response from students and educators underscores a simple truth: when books meet readers where they are, stories find new life – and learning travels far beyond the page.



Children from rural schools go sightseeing

Hundred and twenty children from Government Higher Secondary Schools Thammanur, Seethanancheri, Vishar and Periyantham visited Chennai on an educational tour organised by Dream India on January 24. The children began their day with a fun-filled metro ride from Koyembedu to Airport. Following this, they visited Anna Centenary library where they spent time understanding the various facilities provided in the library.

The children then had a great time at Birla Planetarium where they enjoyed the shows on the solar system and 3D shows. The children then visited Patterns Cognitive, Chennai-based machine learning product company, where the team addressed the children on various aspects of career options and gave away gifts as per the wish list of the children.

The visit concluded with Besant Nagar Beach.

Dr. Ramakrishnan receives 'For The Sake of Honour' award

N. Ramakrishnan, a resident of Anna Nagar and was conferred “For the sake of Honour Award” by Rotary Club of Chennai City. The award is considered as the highest recognition bestowed by Rotary Clubs to individuals who have performed exceptional service within their profession. The citation mentioned the trailblazing contributions of Dr. N. Ramakrishnan, a luminary in the realm of Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, said a release. His commitment to healing, unshakeable dedication and profound impact on medical fraternity and scholarly pursuits and thought leadership have shaped critical care globally, added the release.

Club members meet today

Madras Toastmasters Club, a community-based chapter of Toastmasters International, will celebrate its 802nd milestone meeting on February 1 at 9.30 a.m. The milestone meeting will be held at KS Café Auditorium, CIT 1st Main Road, CIT Nagar West.

For details, call 79046 74023

**பாஸ்போர்ட்
சர்வீஸ்**

**PASSPORT
SERVICES**



வைகா வின்ஸ்
Vaigai Wings
The Dependable Travel Service





Crescent Court, 963 Periyar EVR High Road,
Chennai - 600 084, India

Tel: +91 7338791804 | +91 6384552233 | +91-44-26413126

Email: welcome@vaigai.com | Website: <https://www.vaigai.com>



DAWN TEA

Tea | Coffee | Instant Beverages | Vending Machines |

TEA & COFFEE SOLUTIONS



- VARIETIES
- ❖ TEA
- ❖ COFFEE
- ❖ BADAM MILK
- ❖ LEMON TEA
- ❖ GINGER TEA
- ❖ MASALA TEA
- ❖ CAPPUCCINO
- ❖ HEALTH DRINK
- ❖ HOT CHOCOLATE

DAWN TEA SALES & SERVICE

737 / 46, East Main Road,

Anna Nagar West Extension, Chennai - 600101.

78451 53592 / 95855 33209

	IRCTC	
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Weekend getaway with confirmed train ticket (Ex. Chennai)</h2>		
NILGIRI MOUNTAIN TRAIN-OOTY-COONOOR-MUDUMALAI 4 Nights/5 days Every Thursday Rs. 13,150/-	SHIRDI 3Nights/4days Every Wednesday Rs.3,650/-	KANYAKUMARI-TIRUCHENDUR-RAMESWARAM-MADURAI 4Nights/5days Every Thursday Rs.13,950/-
 KODAIKANAL - MADURAI 4 Nights/5days Every Thursday Rs.13,550/-	 WEEKEND DIVINE RETREAT MADURAI-RAMESWARAM-DHANUSHKODI 2Nights/3days Every Friday Rs.15,700/- <small>- by vande bharat</small>	 MYSORE-COORG 4Nights/5days Every Thursday Rs.12,800/-
COONOOR-OOTY-MUDUMALAI 4Nights/5days Every Thursday Rs.11,750/-		