

MYLAPORE

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BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In April, when Anuradha Shekher returns to her home in the United States, she would not be travelling light. Besides the regular suitcases and baggages, she would be carrying boxes of erasers. She is essentially shifting her collection of erasers in Mandaveli to her home in California. An avid collector of erasers and sharpeners since her school days at Rosary Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Anuradha, in her mid-40s now, has made sure this hobby has stayed with her, in fact grown with her wherever she went.

"I have close to 5,200 erasers of different shapes, sizes and colours, as well as a collection of sharpeners numbering over 100," says Anuradha, who holds a PhD in Genetic Studies and Type II Diabetes and is a Carnatic musician.

Currently on a holiday in Chennai (Anuradha is daughter of theatre personality and politician S.Ve. Shekher), she has decided to carry some of her enviable collection to the U.S. and display them during the next Navarathri kolu celebration.

"Keeping kolu is a tradition I continue to follow, so this time I

Anuradha Shekher is finding a new space for her collection of erasers, shifting them from Mandaveli to California



Anuradha Shekher with a part of her collection.

want to take some erasers from here and make a bigger and better display with them," says Anuradha adding that she has close to 1,000 erasers at her home in the U.S.

Fascination for these stationery items began when she was in middle school. "I would never take the brand-new erasers to school fearing I would lose them," she recalls.



Family and friends travelling to countries added to her collection bringing unique erasers with them when they returned to Chennai. "There is a t-shirt shaped eraser that my grandfather gave and a transparent eraser given by my mom. There is another in the shape of a bulb," she says.

Among the sharpener collection is one shaped like a piano and another, like the London post office. "Whenever my friends think of erasers, they think of me and that really has helped me increase the count," says Anuradha, who does nature photography and has been bringing out a calendar with photographs captured by her for the last four years.

"I store the erasers in Tupperware boxes and other containers. When I feel gloomy, there is a special joy in opening these boxes and counting the erasers," she adds.

A book on what it means to be a doctor

The golden jubilee anniversary of the batch of doctors who graduated from Madras Medical College in 1975 was celebrated recently

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.

According to a press release, the group that calls itself 'Class of 69 MMC' (1969 being the year when they joined MMC as students) has many who have formally retired from medical practice. However, their commitment to so-



cietry and the medical profession remains undiminished.

"Share" in the theme refers to the immense knowledge and experience accumulated over 50 years of medical service with society at large; "empower" signifies encourage and strengthen fellow members to pursue their passions

and purposeful activities in this new phase of life; and "serve" calls to extend support to the needy through organised charitable and service activities under their Foundation, said a press release.

Out of the 190 students who joined Madras Medical College in 1969, 130 doctors attended the ce-

lebrations. Participants included 41 from the United States, five from England, one from Canada, and one from South Africa, reflecting the global footprint of this distinguished batch, added the release.

The event was organised by Dr. Rajendran (president), Dr. Prem-

raj (secretary), and Dr. Thayalan.

Dr. Palani G. Periasami released 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.

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DOWNLOAD YOUR DRY WASTE CALENDAR

Thooimai Mission seeks to make segregation a daily routine by introducing a calendar that earmarks every Saturday for collection of a particular category of dry waste **P2**



EARLY SCREENING MATTERS; DO NOT MISS THE BUS

Around World Cancer Day, a look at two mobile cancer screening units based in Chennai **P4**

READERS WRITE

The 'scramble' for pavements in Luz area



▼ Photos: Special Arrangement and Srinath M

BASKAR SESADRI

Parking vehicles in the pavement is getting so common, especially by commercial establishments. Due to CMRL work, pavements have become scarce in the Luz area; and one witnesses a "scramble" for them. It is a case of usurping a space belonging to pedestrians.

A shop at the end of Luz Church Road has scrawled a note on the wall stating that

the parking over there on the pavement is exclusive to its customers. It has even barricaded that space for their customers.

An uneven pavement

Recently, Chennai Metro Rail Limited placed a few barricades near Penguin Xerox at Luz Junction (at the end of Kutcheri Road) to facilitate easier movement of vehicles.

However, the number of vehicles parked near this zone has multiplied.

Though this place is not

meant for four-wheelers, an auto stand has come up adding to the mess. A private entity has done plastering work on the pavement, enabling entry for vehicles into the adjoining commercial complex. Now this work has made for an uneven pavement, badly finished, is proving to be a hindrance to pedestrians who trip over it and fall.

Seniors and children find it difficult to cross this stretch on foot. As there is no other way to go towards the western side, I hope this platform is made pedestrian-friendly.

Baskar Sesadri is a resident of Mylapore

Bio-play on 'M.S. Amma' on February 13

The play, to be staged at the Narada Gana Sabha auditorium, is by invitation only, on a first-come, first-served basis. For invitations, contact P.S. Senior Secondary School at 24620650



As part of its ongoing Golden Jubilee Celebrations, P.S. Senior Secondary School in Mylapore is presenting the celebrated bio-play of M.S. Amma (which created waves in September 2025) on February 13, 2026, in association with Narada Gana Sabha.

According to a press release, this play is an improved version of the 2025 production, featuring live sound and LED backdrops, and is one of the signature productions of ThRee Entertains, a drama troupe that has nearly half a dozen plays to its credit.

Lavanya Venugopal, who performs the role of Bharat Ratna

Dr. M.S. Subbulakshmi, is also the Director of the play. She and M. V. Bhaskar, another familiar figure in Tamil theatre, are leaving no stone unturned to make this production a grand and memorable one, the release adds.

Gayathri Venkatraghavan is singing the popular songs of M.S. Subbulakshmi, and the play has Dakshin, an upcoming music director, scoring the music.

The play, which will be staged at the Narada Gana Sabha Auditorium, is by invitation only, on a first-come, first-served basis.

For invitations, the school may be contacted at 2464 0650.



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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 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



Snapshots of special collection drives; the calendar.

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 different 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 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-level 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."

Clean Tamil Nadu Company Limited																				
Waste Collection Calendar - 2026																				
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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 driv-

ing 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 com-

mittees. 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.

This city in Madhya Pradesh began sensitising students towards the need to keep their environments clean much before Swachh Bharat Mission introduced this behavioural intervention as a parameter in its Swachh Survekshan survey

LIFFY THOMAS

Indore Municipal Corporation's official Facebook page, SwachhIndore, is crowded with display of activities geared towards Swachh Survekshan. With the annual exercise nigh at hand, posts involving school children take centre stage. Street cricket carries the message on cleanliness. Republic Day celebration goes zero waste. RRR (Reduce Reuse Recycle) corner comes up on campuses. Catchy jingles repeat the message that citizens take ownership of city's cleanliness initiatives. All of these together signal a concerted push towards shaping behaviour early.

The 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan has a new indicator that looks at behavioural change programmes in schools, and the way Indore has been preparing its young citizens suggests that the city has already been laying the groundwork for this, may be even before the metrics were formally introduced.

Having won India's cleanest city tag for eight consecutive years, the enthusiasm to maintain this status is evident. Information, Education and Communication teams fan out to various zones and wards and approach each school for a round of open discussion with the management. The expectations are clearly outlined; and suggestions are also invited from institutions. The team engages in pep talks through activities and games on waste segregation, make students take mass pledge.

Activities often use visual cues



From the toolkit

- Marks for cleanliness within school premises - 100
- Validation for this indicator will be carried out by visiting the schools (public/ private/ Government/Municipal Schools) within the Urban Local Body's jurisdiction. Photographs and videos will be captured at the sampled locations.
- ULB needs to update list of schools on swachhatam portal and at least 80% government schools to be assessed under this

Should Chennai take this lesson from Indore schools?



such as a snake and ladder game to understand segregation of waste. Even competitions are conducted among wards to foster long-term behavioural changes.

"A plogging activity outside the school, within 50 to 100 metres from the school area, involving children is conducted. We expect school managements to adopt the areas outside their school campuses and ensure they are kept clean," says Captain Sunpreet Singh, founder of Human Matrix Securite,

waste management service company working with the Indore Municipal Corporation.

He says the School Education Department sends our circular mapping private and government schools in the city and has set up mandates depending on the locality.

"From government schools with big numbers to small private schools, awareness programmes were conducted even in the previous edition. With assessing beha-



viour change being introduced as a new criterion, I am sure Indore Municipal Corporation will refine this further and make it more interactive," says Captain Sunpreet.

The impact of these campaigns is that schools also take the onus of driving home the message in their own ways. For instance, schools make sustainability a theme during annual day. "Since last year, we started inviting schools to our waste processing sites for them to understand how the city's waste is processed," he says. Indore's consistent performance and engagement has

Activities at schools in Indore to drive home the message about waste segregation and cleanliness.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

only pushed the bar for citizens. "These campaigns are on not just because of Swachh Survekshan but they gain increased momentum a few months before February and March. For instance, in Government schools infrastructure-related issues such as non-functional lights in toilets are taken up by the municipal corporation. For the IEC team, it is compulsory to conduct at least one school event a month, so by the end of the year we are able to cover most schools in a ward/ zone," says Captain Sunpreet, whose company works with the municipal corporations in Pune, Jaipur, Patna and Nagpur.

A good cleanliness campaign is one that is designed to motivate and nudge citizens towards action, and should tap into emotions such as pride, gratitude, compassion, curiosity and empathy.

Pulkit Khanna, Dean and Professor (Psychology), Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences, O.P. Jindal Global University, says involving school students as ambassadors of positive change can go a long way in promoting a sense of greater civic engagement, environmental consciousness as well as collective responsibility among young people.

She says schools play a critical role in socialising children, and behavioural change programmes in the format of embedded-curricular or extra-curricular activities can prove to be very useful. These students could further champion the cause in their own homes and neighbourhoods, thereby bringing about a cascading effect of community sensitisation.

As a behavioural scientist, she recommends consistent implementation of programmes, taking up initiatives involving multiple stakeholders including school teachers and administrators, proper training of programme facilitators such that it is not a 'one size fits all' approach.

As the Swachh Bharat Mission framework puts it: "Knowledge regarding a city's performance could act as a positive nudge for citizens to adopt new behaviours to help their city win laurels nationally and rank higher in the next Survekshan."



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.

Thavil vidwan's birthday celebrated

Dignitaries heap praises on Valayapatti A.R. Subramaniam at an event held at Narada Gana Sabha

The 85th birthday of Thavil vidwan Valayapatti A.R. Subramaniam was celebrated recently with encomiums heaped on the artiste, who has accompanied great Nagaswaram vidwans and is a recipient of several awards.

Industrialist Nalli Kuppuswamy Chettiar wished Valayapatti a long life and wanted him to continue his service to music. He recalled the instance of how he had created a special dhoti with a nine-inch wide zari in 1983 for Namagiripettai Krishnan and Valayapatti and on seeing those, several leading musi-



T. V. Gopalakrishnan, Nalli Kuppuswamy Chettiar honour Valayapatti A.R. Subramaniam.
PHOTO : VELANKANNI RAJ B

cians too had sought similar dhritis. Mridangam vidwan T.V. Gopalakrishnan, who recalled his 60-year-long association with the Thavil vidwan, showered two titles on him - Shathavadhani and Thavil Samrat. Vocalist Thrissur V. Rama-chandran recalled that Subramaniam's wife Seetalakshmi hailed from Thrissur.

Former judge Ramanthapuram

Sethu Murugaboopathiy said that the Thavil had chosen Subramaniam. Mridangam maestro Man-nargudi Easwaran said Subramaniam was a good example of how a student should show respect to his guru, imbibe his teaching and build upon that.

Narada Gana Sabha secretary K. Ravishankar, vocalists Neyveli R Santhanagopalan, P. Unnikrishnan; Nagaswaram vidwan Thiruvizha Jayashankar music connoisseur Cleveland V. V. Sundaram, violinist A. Kanyakumari, religious exponent Vishaka Hari were present on the occasion.

'For the Sake of Honour' award conferred on Shiv Nadar Foundation

Rotary Club of Madras East (RCME) conferred its prestigious "For the Sake of Honour" award on Shiv Nadar Foundation.

The award recognises individuals and institutions whose work exemplifies integrity, compassion, and transformative impact on society. The award celebrates contributions that go beyond scale and visibility, reflecting a deep and sustained commitment to nation-building and human development, said a release.

The Shiv Nadar Foundation, known for its quiet yet profound philanthropy, was honoured for its unwavering focus on education-led social transformation. Through pioneering initiatives such as Vidya-Gyan Leadership Academies, the Shiksha Initiative, large-scale teach-



er training, scholarships, and the creation of inclusive, future-ready learning ecosystems, the Foundation has consistently worked to bridge social and economic inequities, particularly for students from rural and underserved communities, added the release. The award was received by Sundarajan Mahal-

ingam, CEO, Shiv Nadar Foundation.

Balaji Sreenivasan, president of the Rotary Club of Madras East, said the Foundation's approach to philanthropy—marked by depth, continuity, and institutional commitment—mirrors Rotary's own belief in service above self.

Third edition of para table tennis tournament conducted



More than 200 players from across India took part in the Third National Para Table Tennis Tournament organised by Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna, in association with IIT-Madras, Table Tennis Federation of India and Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Association for physically challenged and wheel-

chair-bound players.

The two-day event was conducted with all India ranking standards, said a press release. Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna, an affiliate of Rotary District 3234, provided accommodation with transport facilities. The winners were provided with medals and

certificates. The tournament provides a national level opportunity for the physically challenged players to prove themselves at the National level.

Wheelchairs were given to seven deserving players at a cost of ₹5 lakhs as a token of gesture, the press release added.

'Best Service' award presented

Eighteen clubs took part in the Lions Regional Conference held on January 31 in Mylapore. S. Bose, District Governor of Lions Clubs International District 3241C, was the chief guest. He congratulated the club leaders and members for community services in areas such as poor feeding, eye donations and blood donations, and in bringing awareness on diabetes, cancer, save girl child and women empowerment.

Lion R. Murali, district chairperson, Save Girl Child, was honoured for his work in preventing child abuse with educational campaigns for the past three and half decades. He was presented Lions Clubs International Foundation Medal for 'Best Service'.

Lion S. Bose said a mobile vehicle to screen cancer is needed to travel to areas that are generally not covered. Lion Rajesh M Joshi, first vice district governor, said they are planning to get a mobile van, said a release.



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Inside jokes retold yet another time

Students of 1975-1976 batch 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 1975-1976 batch 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 carefree 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 conti-

nues to remain at the forefront of both academics and character 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 Republic" 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 commu-

nication 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 marathon against drug abuse



The Anti Drug Abuse Club of Stella Maris College, which functions under the guidance of the Student Deans took the lead in organising

a marathon along with the Department of Commerce – Honours, on February 7 at Besant Nagar. The marathon was flagged off from the Olcott Memorial school

by Dr. Iyappan Ponnuswamy, Medical Director, Kauvery Hospital. Dr. Ashwin Vijay of OJAS Health was the chief guest for the valedictory function.

The marathon was an all-women's event open to all students, faculty, alumnae and family members of current students.

Leading the marathon

mByom Consulting and Management Services LLP, in partnership with the Nawab Garden Residents Association, organised "A Morning of Tennis Excellence," a tournament that turned the Ambadi Road tennis courts into an inclusive space welcoming players of all ages and skill levels.

Ajit Mathai, chairman

A morning of tennis excellence

of mByom, who is stewarding the courts' maintenance, said, "More than just a sporting venue, the courts are envisioned as a space where community, fitness, and grassroots talent converge."

Indian professional tennis player Srinivasan Vasudevan was the guest of

honour.

Having high-quality accessible facilities within a residential community are exactly what we need to develop the next generation of Indian champions, said Srinivasan.

Ranjit Pratap, chairman of Rayala Corporation Private Limited, was the

chief guest. In his speech, he emphasised the significance of community-based support for sport.

Beyond tennis, the event featured a variety of family-friendly activities, therapeutic massage sessions, pottery, art projects, special gifts for children, and a delicious breakfast, added the release.

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 crowdsource 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 policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, and civil society representatives to deliberate on pathways for Chennai's long-term growth and liveability.

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