

DOWNTOWN

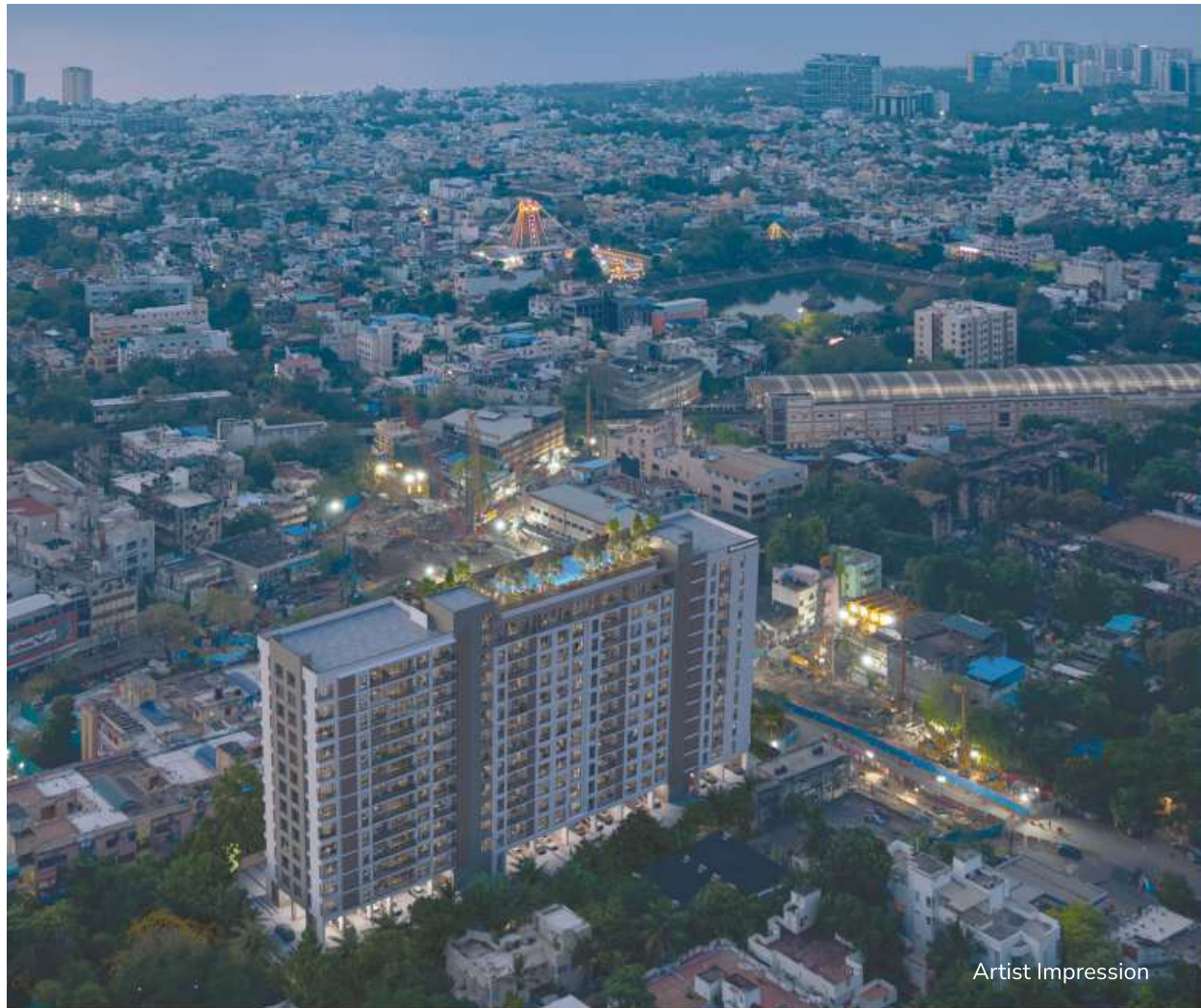
Sunday
January 4, 2026

THE HINDU

T. NAGAR

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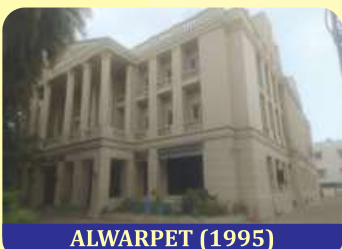


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'Footpath in Vadapalani needs mending'



S.N. RAJARAM

A section of the footpath on Mandolin Shrinivas Road (earlier known as Kumaran Colony Main Road) in Vadapalani is broken down in many sections, especially the stretch near Vadapalani bus terminus. Besides, telecommunication cables are underfoot putting pedestrians in risk of falls.

S.N. Rajaram is a resident of Saligramam



Footpath on Mandolin Shrinivas Main Road. PHOTOS: UMESH KUMAR V

Make the 'road' to T. Nagar easier

A.V. NARAYANAN

The Madambakkam area is a busy suburb with a large local population working in the T. Nagar.

But direct bus connectivity between Madambakkam and T. Nagar is poor.

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Chennai, operates 51A between Tambaram (East) and T. Nagar and 51AX till Kalaingar Centenary Bus Terminus in Kilambakkam. The residents have to board the buses at either Camp Road or the Rajakilpak-

kam region. Similarly, for V51, Tambaram (West) and V51X (Kilambakkam).

A cut service operates between T. Nagar and Balaji Nagar in the Madambakkam region. Of the three buses that operate on the cut service, one is exclusively for women, under the Magalir Vidiyal Perundhu project.

The other two services' frequency is far from ideal, not even every two hours. The service frequency should be once every half an hour.

A. V. Narayanan is a resident of Rajakilpakkam

You can be our volunteer-writer

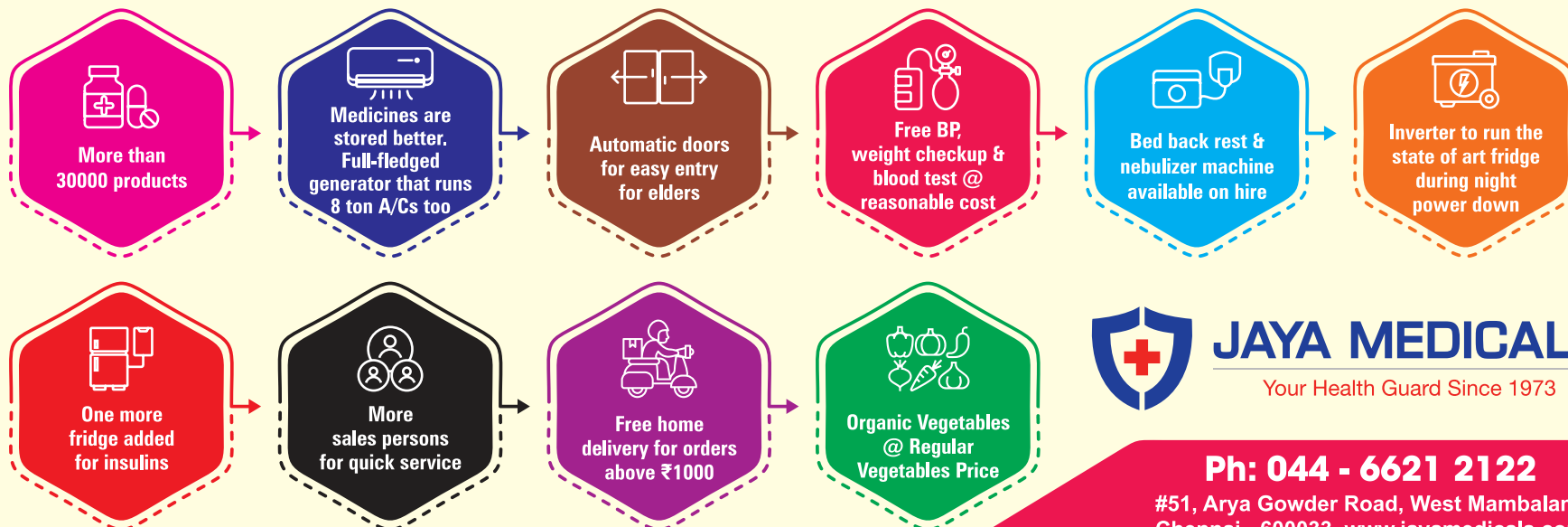
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‘Check bike stunts on key road in K.K. Nagar’

CAPT. S. NANDAKUMAR

In recent times, motorcycle wheeling has become a common sight at Ramasamy Salai at K.K. Nagar. Most of these bikes are souped up with modified exhausts, producing high-decibel noise violating the permissible limits prescribed under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, which caps noise level for two-wheelers at 80 dB(A).

Residents, especially senior citizens, are unable to bear the jolting sound. Such stunts and motorcycle racing put the other road users in jeopardy. It may be noted these acts are performed late into the night also. This is an offence under Section 190(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act attracting penalty, suspension of driving licences, and in some cases, imprisonment. The authorities are requested to enforce these laws. Further, intensification of police patrolling and construction of speed-breakers will deter such stunt acts.

Capt. S. Nandakumar is a resident of K.K. Nagar



Motorcycle wheeling at Ramasamy Salai in K.K. Nagar. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

‘No sign of bridge work in Choolaimedu’



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

JOSEPH RAJA

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

It was demolished for reconstruction around eight months ago;

however, the work has not started to this day. Kamala Nehru Nagar First Street and Padmanabha Nagar Main Road are the two ends of Tamilar Street. All three are interior lanes lying along 100-foot Jawaharlal Nehru Main Road. This bridge is crucial in connecting

MMDA Colony with Arumbakkam.

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

Joseph Raja is a resident of Choolaimedu



Overflowing cup of woes

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

PHOTOS: UMESH KUMAR V



‘Road in DSM Nagar waits for relaying’



Madha Koil Street. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

KALPANA. S

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

ing for both motorists and pedestrians. The problem aggravates during rains. I request the authorities concerned to attend to the issue.

Kalpana . S is a resident of Kattupakkam

In the company of books

At DLF Garden City in Semmencherry, we currently have a room with a pile of books. A factor that is conspicuous by its absence is a keeper of books. There are also no volunteers to maintain a catalogue of books that come in and arrange them on the shelves neatly and systematically according to subjects.

I would like to take a leaf out of the library at Tata Sherwood, a gated community in Bangalore for the space's ability to drive knowledge seeking in a lively community spirit.

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

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



Residents'

wish list for 2026

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

LIFFY THOMAS



Powering a green transition

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

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

Replicating a social project

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

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

Saving trees

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

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



No plastics, please!

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

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

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

A decentralised waste management system

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

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

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

Photos used for representational purpose



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

Ending it on a chirpy note

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

PRINCE FREDERICK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Basic life support workshop conducted for students

Recently, the Chennai branch of Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine (ISCCM) collaborated with Tamilnadu Arya Vysya Mahila Sabha (Madras Unit) to conduct a basic life support (BLS) workshop at G.K. Shetty Vivekananda Vidyalaya in Ambattur. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 400 students, says a press release.

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

This introductory session was aimed at creating awareness, instilling confidence and sensitising students to the critical role they can play during medical emergencies in society before medical aid arrives.

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



During the event. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Yuva Tyagaraja Festival brings young musicians together

Youth Artists Development Association (YADA) presented the Yuva Tyagaraja Festival, a soulful celebration dedicated to the timeless legacy of Saint Tyagaraja, on December 30 at Sri Tyagaraja Sangeetha Vidwath Samajam in Mylapore.

At the heart of this festival was Yuva Tyagaraja Pancharatna Seva, spearheaded by Ramya Ranganathan Srinivas, founder and director of YADA, and showcased as part of YADA's 6th Margazhi Yuva Utsav. Rooted in deep reverence for Sri Tyagaraja and his profound devotion to Lord Rama, this initiative aims to introduce children and youth to Rama Bhakthi through Tyagaraja Aradhana, said a release.

The Pancharatna Seva offered an immersive, bhakti-centered musical experience where young participants sang, listened and absorbed the spiritual essence of the Pancharatna Kritis as an act of prayer.

The morning commenced with a youth-led rendition of Sri Tyagaraja's Pancharatna Kritis, guided by eminent gurus. Tiruvarur Vaidyanathan provided insightful commentary throughout the programme, while the Yuva Pancharatna Seva was conducted by YADA's Raga Ratna awardee, violin maestro Raghavendra Rao.

Vittal Ramamurthy presided over the Pancharatna rendering as guest of honour, blessing the young artists with his presence and encouragement.

YADA Award Function

The title "Raga Ratna" was conferred upon violin maestro B. V. Raghavendra Rao in recognition of his exemplary contributions to Carnatic music. The award was presented by A. Ramji, vice-president of Sri Tyagaraja Sangeetha Vidwath Samajam and president of the Global Vishnu Sahasranamam Satsang Federation. The festival concluded with Utsava Sampradaya Bhakti Kirtanam, rendered by students of Kalaimamani Vid. Shri Neyveli Santhanagopalan, along with young artists. Supported by Vijayashree School of Harikatha, Sishyakulam, GCMA Car Project, and TTVV Trust, children and youth of all levels actively performed and participated in this initiative.

'Gifting Smiles' completes a decade

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

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

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

For details, visit www.aguagiftingsmiles.com.

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Nanganallur resident honoured



AL4S Charitable Trust & Kanchi Mahaperiyava AL4S Events honoured M. Deepika Saravanan, an English language coach and storyteller, with Seva Rathna Award. According to a press release, Dr. H. V. Hande, former Health Minister of Tamil

Nadu, presented the award in the presence of Vadhyar Suriya Narayana, managing trustee of AL4S Charitable Trust & Kanchi Mahaperiyava AL4S Events. Deepika Saravanan is a resident of Nanganallur. The event was held at T. Nagar

Students from Ramapuram college excel in tech challenge

Easwari Engineering College, Ramapuram, emerged as top 10 global winners at the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025. According to a press release, students competed alongside teams from globally renowned universities and engineers from major tech companies

Bhavan's Natya Utsav

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan is conducting Bhavan's Natya Utsav till January 15 at its Main Hall, East Madan Street in Mylapore. The series consist of 63 performances in Bharathanatyam, Kuchupudi, Kathak, Odissi and Mohiniattam by various groups and individuals.

The programme is non-ticketed and open to all.

'Our country will be the third largest economy'



The 108th annual conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) was recently held in the city.

Hosted by Vels University, the three-day conference on the theme 'Indian Economy - Navigating Domestic Realities and Global Shifts' saw more than 1,500 academicians from India and over 140 economists across the world taking part in it.

The conference was inaugurated by Professor S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu, delivered the valedictory address. "India is the fastest-growing major economy since 2021, and is poised to become the third-largest economy in the world in

the near future. The contributions of microenterprises must be acknowledged, as they play a crucial role in strengthening the economy."

Professor A. D. N. Bajpai, president of the Indian Economic Association, noted that despite facing both domestic and external pressures, India has become the world's fourth largest economy, reflecting its resilience and growth momentum.

Ishari K. Ganesh, chairman of Vels Group of Institutions, was honoured with the 'Kautilya' award for his contributions to education and nation building.

An endowment lecture in honour of the chairman's name will be established starting from the next edition of the IEA annual conference, added the release.

Club member honoured

Lions Club of Madras Fort St. George celebrated its 45th Charterite at T. Nagar recently. According to a press release, clothes were distributed to 100 Annganwadi on the occasion. S. Bose, governor, district 3241C, was the chief guest. R. Joshi, the club's secretary presented a report of its projects in health and education sectors. In his recognition of his service, the Lions Clubs International Milestone Chevron Award was presented to member R. Murali



Revision in timings of suburban trains



The Chennai Division of Southern Railway has adjusted the schedule of approximately nine suburban trains. The revised timings came into effect from January 1.

In the Chennai Central - Arakkonam section, train numbers 43504, Thiruttani - Moore Market Complex, will leave at 05.55 a.m., 66008, Arakkonam - Moore Market Complex at 09.50 a.m., 43514, Thiruttani - Moore Market Complex at 2.55 p.m.

Chennai Central - Sullurpetta section, 42611, Chennai Beach - Gummidipoondi, at 20.05, 66032, Sullurpetta - Moore Market Complex, 21.05, and 42040, Gummidipoondi - Moore Market Complex at 21.40.

Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu section, 40552, Chengalpattu - Chennai Beach at 18.05, 40556, at 18.30, and 40570, at 22.20, says a release issued by the Southern Railway.

Workshop on chocolate making

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



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