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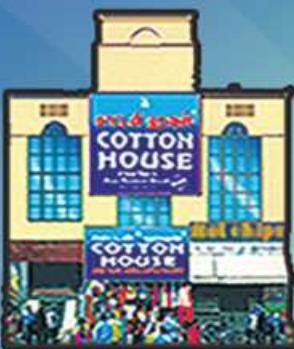
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At Indira Nagar Fourth Cross Street park on January 10.



'Clear crow carcasses before cats get to them'

Indira Nagar resident raises questions over severed wings of crows and urges action to prevent biomagnification

C. NAMACHIVAYAM

Around 7 a.m., on January 10, when I went on a stroll at the park at Indira Nagar Fourth Cross Street, I saw carcasses of two crows. I am not alone: for nearly two weeks now, residents from various parts of the city, notably Indira Nagar, Sashti Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Velachery and Neelankarai, are reporting crow deaths in their neck of the woods. What I found additionally disturbing this morning at this park as well as at a road in the neighbourhood on an earlier

day was the sight of severed crow wings. At the park, I found severed crow wings in a few places.

On First Avenue in Indira Nagar, the sight of a severed crow wing had greeted me. It is likely a cat had fed upon a dead crow; that is probably that case at the park as well. Usually, when cats capture and kill a bird, they leave the wings behind as it is difficult to ingest them.

According to newspaper reports, TANUVAS is studying the carcasses of these crows to ascertain the cause of these sudden and mass deaths. While that is going

on, I would request local civic authorities to have their eyes peeled for crow deaths clear the carcasses without any delay.

I am a layman, but I do understand the dangers of biomagnification. While we wait for a conclusive word on what is causing crows to drop dead in this disturbing manner, we would do well to ensure whatever it is in their system that is causing this is not transferred to other creatures. I therefore request that the carcasses be cleared before cats or dogs get to them.

(C. Namachivayam is a resident of Indira Nagar)

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'Systems set up at OMR in 2025 go into 2026 and beyond'

Exercises around voter IDs, bus route mapping and environment studies stood out in the year that went by

HARSHA KODA

If you live along OMR, you might see 2025 as the year residents quietly set up the systems that are going to make 2026 and beyond very different on this side of the city.

To get inked

Voter IDs first. FOMRRA and Karmayogam Trust spent the year untangling the great SIR mess so thousands of voters did not vanish from the rolls just because somebody mangled an address field. That RWA-by-RWA clean-up now be-

comes our standing playbook before every election, just in time for the OMR Citizens' Mandate we are taking to political parties in early 2026.

Everyday hacks

Our bus audit was classic OMR: sweaty residents, dusty bus stops, serious data. When we realised only a tiny slice of MTC routes touched OMR and workers were bleeding money on share autos, we did not send a rant; we sent a route map, and that is what helped bring in mini-buses and the airport-Siruseri service. The

mid-year tanker crisis was another "fix the code ourselves" moment, where RWAs helped police, Metrowater and private tankers agree on delivery windows that can now be reused in every future water scare.

Lake watch

Eco-Watch turned residents into lake-side QA engineers, catching embankments that actually blocked water instead of saving it and pushing local civic bodies to move "on paper" restoration into real work, with more audits and reports queued up for 2026. On the

A book swap event at OMR organised by FOMRRA; a bus on the OMR route; and a voter ID camp. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

roads, the same stubborn follow-up that got high-intensity LEDs on completed stretches is now being aimed at clearing debris and making sure service lanes are something you can walk on without risking your life.

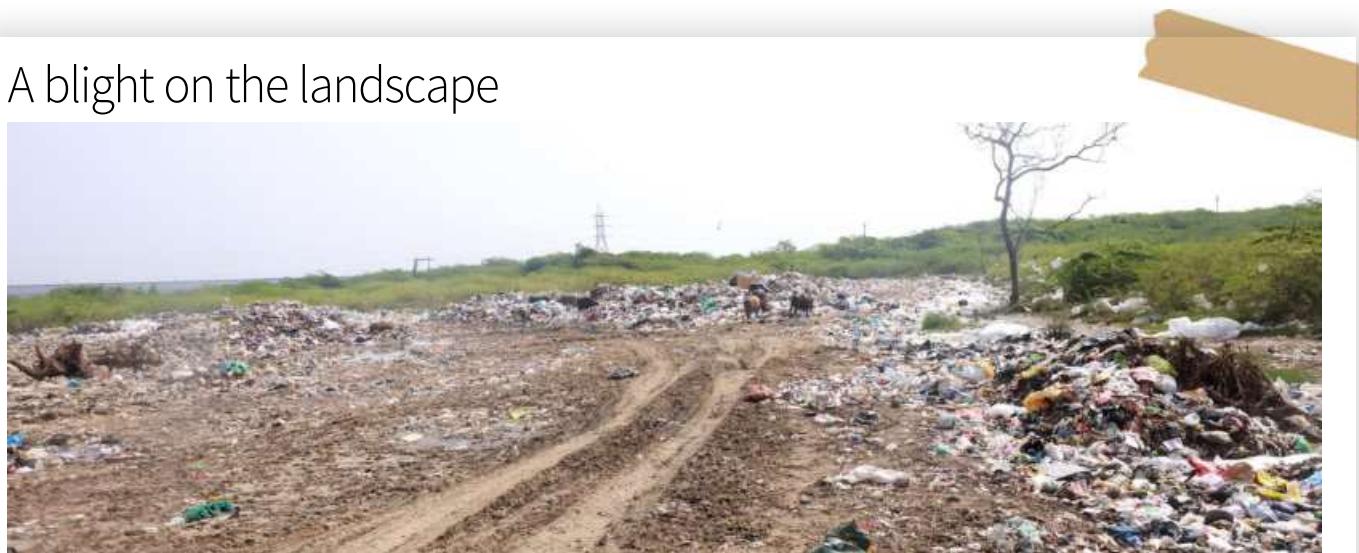
Books and business

Not everything was complaints and committees. Bookworms kept thousands of books moving

through swaps and meet-ups, while Music & Lyrics and "Radio OMR" made sure the corridor still had a soundtrack, not just honking and drilling. Behind the scenes, the FMS Vendor Survey and LEAP network started pooling RWA wisdom and local business energy so that 2026 committees are negotiating from data, not from guesswork.

Harsha Koda is co-founder of FOMRRA

A blight on the landscape



▼ Garbage dumping happens on Kovalam Link Road in Kelambakkam unabated; the only redeeming feature (which is hardly a redeeming feature) is that the dumping has been pushed inside and away from the road, but only in part. One pile-up is still found inches from the road. The images were taken on January 2, 2026.

'Talentverse' at Guru Nanak College

PENN Trust, in collaboration with Guru Nanak College, hosted "Talentverse: His Voice, Her Rights" on January 8, 2026, drawing over 1000 participants in oratory, short films, dance, singing, and theatre. The event emphasised men's responsibility in advancing women's rights through empathy, equality, and change, observing the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

According to a press release, powerful performances highlighted protection from abuse, gender equity, and quality-driven partnerships for behavioural change. Chief guest Revathy, acclaimed actor, director and social worker presented awards to winners.

Revathy appreciated students' creative forms on gender equality and urged male students to join PENN's 'Circle of Trust' campaign. In her address, she emphasised that "Empowering voices against violence starts with men standing as allies for women's rights. The event Talentverse inspires the empathy and action our society desperately needs. This initiative aligns with broader efforts by PENN for women's safety."

V. S. Sridhar, PENN founder trustee, commended youngsters' creativity promoting "Real Men Don't Hurt Women" and men's role as allies for women's safety.

Guru Nanak College General Secretary, Manjit Singh Nayar said "Women's rights are human rights and gender justice is social justice."

EVENTS

Today is the last day of a waste collection drive that targets residents of MRC Nagar and surrounding areas

Last leg of decluttering exercise

On January 11, a three-day waste collection involving apartment complexes in MRC Nagar will conclude.

According to a press release, among communities taking part in this drive are Jains Sagarika, Rani Meiyammai Towers, 174 Cee-

bros, Ficus Grove, Padmalaya and Raheja Karpagam Avenue. The exercise targets apartments for the number of households they concentrate in a single address, but is not out of bounds for residents of individual houses. They are also encouraged to bring their recyclable waste to the drive; the same

holds good for residents of neighbouring areas, those outside MRC Nagar.

The drive was initiated by MRC Nagar resident Priya Ramkumar. She got representatives of apartment complexes to promote the drive in their communities.

Representatives informed resi-

dents through WhatsApp groups and in-house posters were circulated inhouse, the release says.

Residents are asked to drop used clothes, toys, e-waste and other items that must not end in a landfill. NGO Saahas will be picking up the collected waste from designated points.

A milestone event for Chennai Poets' Circle

The Chennai Poets' Circle, a non-registered literary group, has been launching an anthology of poems, *Efflorescence*, every year.

The group originated in 1997 and their 25th anniversary issue is being launched on January 18, 2026, at the TAG Auditorium in Ramakrishna Mission Matriculation Higher Secondary School (South), Burkit Road, Chennai, says a press release.

Former Associate Professor and Head, Department of English, Madras Christian College, K. Ganesh will be the chief guest.

The release notes that every year, the launch of the anthology will be accompanied by a seminar. The seminar to go with this year's launch is on the topic: 'Current Trends in English Poetry in India'.

The special part of the event is that on the day, the poets get to read their poems that have been compiled in the anthology.

The founding fathers of CPC are still actively engaged with it. They include M. Thirumeni (chairman) and S. Kannan (president), and office-bearers Hema Ravi (secretary) and Ravi Ranganathan (treasurer).

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'Lower the sluice inlet along Puzhuthivakkam Eri'

The design tweak is necessary to check inflow of sewage from Velachery Main Road

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Residents of Madipakkam have requested the Water Resources Department (WRD) to lower the height of the inlet sluice along Puzhuthivakkam Eri.

V. Deepak, a resident of Sheela Nagar in Madipakkam, says the sewage drains below the inlet sluice along Velachery Main Road in Madipakkam, contaminating the lake. The design measure is required to ensure only rainwater flows in.

The sprawling waterbody straddles Puzhuthivakkam and Madipakkam. WRD should block the illegal sewer inlet to the lake's rainwater inlet sluice to save the lake and the marine life, adds Deepak.

The WRD should undertake maintenance exercises at the lake,

say local residents.

The exercises include dewatering and clearance of trash from the revetment walls and water-holding area.

A. Krishnan, a resident of Balaiah Garden, Madipakkam, says their presence can weaken the revetment walls and cause them to eventually break. The vegetation in the waterbody must be weeded out to increase the storage capacity.

A. Vijayalakshmi, another resident, says security guards must be deployed at vantage points around the lake.

"Tipplers consume liquor (sitting on the benches and on their two-wheelers) and throw the bottles and leftovers on the revetment walls, which find their way into the lake. There are no garbage bins, which must be provided."

Along Balaiah Garden, the railings are broken, in a slanting condi-



The water-holding area in the lake and the revetment walls have been taken over by weeds.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



tion and must be refacilitated at a good height to prevent tipplers and others from approaching the lake area. The public uses the lake to bathe and wash clothes. Tipplers can be found sitting on the revetment walls in an inebriated condition and they can drown themselves. Visitors should be sensitised not to throw trash into the lake."

The city to host Solar Premier League

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The sixth edition of Solar Premier League will unspool from April 22 to 24, 2026 at Chennai Trade Centre. The event's title might resonate with cricket, but has nothing to do with it. It brings together professionals from the solar sector to showcase their expertise as solar photovoltaic installers. Best practices and safety standards promoted by them would also be on display.

Organised by Solar is My Passion and powered by RenewX, the contest is supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and will see at least 16 teams showcasing their installation skills. The contest requires participating teams (companies in the solar sector) to install a 2 kW grid connected rooftop system in a given time. This is followed by a written and oral test to gauge their knowledge. The best installation will be selected on the basis of various criteria including time in commissioning, tools used, dress, the way knowledge is shared and viewers' choice.

The system and its components

will be provided by the organiser.

Ajit Bahadur, founder, Solar is My Passion, says the event is an opportunity to showcase talent and encourage more professionals to follow best practices participating companies have put in place. "Last year, we had 16 teams in the fray and each had something new to offer, so SPL is a win-win for all, especially helping create a new breed of technicians and entrepreneurs," says Ajit, who has been in the industry for over two decades.

This year, we have a new addition, a workshop on micro inverter or hybrid inverter, these are new technologies in the field of solar power generation, says Ajit.

The first edition of Solar Premier League was held in Pune; three teams participated in it. Since then the number of companies has increased and the event has been conducted in cities such as Hyderabad, Noida and Chennai.

The event is open for all installation teams, Suryamitra training institute and solar training institute.

For details, visit <https://solaripl.com/>

A family store

Shoba Textiles is a family store, built for every age, every stage. The store has clothes for the just-born babies to adults. For teens and adults, the range moves effortlessly between daily wear, occasion wear, and classic staples you keep coming back for, said a release.

Visit its stores in T. Nagar, OMR, Karapakkam, Thiruvanmiyur and Mogappair West.

Special buses and trains for Pongal

The State Transport Department is plying special long-distance buses for Pongal from four bus terminuses in the city till January 14.

The buses are operated from Kalaignar Centenary Bus Terminus in Kilambakkam, CMBT in Koyambedu and Madhavaram New Bus Terminus.

From KCBT, Mofussil buses towards Puducherry, Cuddalore, Chidambaram, Trichy, Madurai, Tuticorin, Sengottai, Thirunelveli, Salem, Coimbatore, Kumbakonam and Thanjavur.

From KCBT's MTC bus terminus, buses to Vandavasi, Polur, Thiruvannamalai, CMBT, Koyambedu, East Coast Road, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Bengaluru, and Thiruttani will be operated.

From Madhavaram New Bus Terminus, buses via Ponneri and Uthukottai to Andhra Pradesh, and Tirchy, Salem, Kumbakonam, and Thiruvannamalai, said a release issued by the State Transport Department.

Southern Railway
The Railway is operating special trains during the harvest festival.

Train number 06011 Tambaram - Kanniyakumari Superfast Special will leave Tambaram at 15.30 hrs on January 12 and 19 and reach Kanniyakumari at 03.30 hrs the next day.

Train number 06033 Chennai Central - Coimbatore Express Special will leave Central at 23.25 hrs on January 12 and 19, and reach Coimbatore at 09 hrs.

Train number 06057 Tambaram - Tirunelveli Superfast Special will

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Creative cultural programmes mark Sishya OMR school's annual day



The recently held annual day at Dr. C. L. Metha Sishya OMR School in Thoraipakkam was a mix of tradition, creativity, and achievement.

The junior school event was highlighted by a lively display of the little kids taking the stage, keeping rhythm with the beats, and rocking to the music in their colorful costumes.

The cultural segment, themed "Pre-Colonial India," took the audience on a journey through Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, featuring drama, heartfelt songs, and lively dances. From elegant classical and semi-classical performances to spirited folk and tribal art forms, each act showcased the richness of our heritage, the release said.

Apart from the academic achievers were honoured.

The school's managing trustee, Priyamvada Srinivasan, secretary Srinivasan R, and principal Sharmila Mohan took part.

A display of kickboxing talent

The HammerPro Kickboxing recently organised the Tamilnadu Kickboxing Championship 2025 for amateur and pro kickboxers in the city.

In the 55 kilogram weight category, Alam Azad and Abhijith from Kerala emerged as the winner and the runner-up respectively.

In the 60 kg, Dhaya (Tamil Nadu) and Rahees (Kerala); in the 70 kg, Hayagriv (Tamil Nadu) and Ziyan (Kerala); and in the 75 kg categories, Kavin and Karthik from Tamil Nadu, the press release stated.

The winners were awarded a cash prize and a title belt.



Pongal specials at Cotton House

The Cotton House in Thiruvanmiyur has stocked a traditional dress collection for the harvest festival. The collections have been sought from the weavers and include silk cotton, tussar silks, soft skills, designer sarees, and 'Parambariya Pattu' and 'Pattu' sarees designs, says a release.

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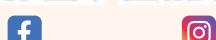
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