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'The number on a CMRL pillar matters'



CMRL Pillars on Arcot Road in Vadapalani. PHOTO: UMESH KUMAR . V

S. N. RAJARAM

Chennai Metro Rail Limited should take stringent measures against display of advertisement posters on pillars of its Metro rail corridors.

At present Metro rail pillars are numbered sequentially along each corridor.

The objective of numbering pillars is to ensure easy identification by CMRL engineers and staff.

But the pillars are marred by advertisement posters and in some pillars the numbers are also not seen. CMRL pillars on Arcot Road illustrate this issue.

Here, I suggest that these numbers be used as landmarks by the general public also.

For that, CMRL should give each pillar a unique number and it should not be repeated in any other pillar in the entire metro



rail network in Chennai. A prefix to the number such as BL for Blue Line and GR for Green Line can be issued to identify the corridor.

And the locality should be mentioned. Example: BL 0234 - Koyambedu. The numbers should be displayed prominently.

Such a numbering system with digital integration will come in handy in times of emergency.

S. N. Rajaram is a resident of Saligramam

Flood mitigation measure at Virugambakkam canal



Desilting work being carried out at Virugambakkam canal on February 6. P HOTO : VELANKANNI RAJ B

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

'Unfriendly footpath in Kannadhasan Street'



Parking of motorcycles at the entrance of Dr. Natesan Park on Venkat Narayana Road in T Nagar pose a hindrance to visitors. Same is the case at the park's entrance in Kannadhasan Street. Further, the footpath of Kannadhasan Street adjoining the park is out of bounds for pedestrians. It is encroached, mostly by mechanic shops. Work on the vehicles of the mechanic shops are carried out on the footpath. Some sections of the footpath are occupied by eateries.



PHOTOS: UMESH KUMAR. V

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

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. Subbulaksh-

mi, 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. **P2**



SHOULD CHENNAI TAKE THIS LESSON FROM INDORE SCHOOLS?

This city in Madhya Pradesh began sensitising students towards the need to keep their environments clean much before Swachh Bharat Mission **P3**

'School roads in Saligramam are unsafe'



S. MANIKANDAN

Kamaraj Street at Venkatesa Nagar and Kamarajar Street at Dasarathapuram in Saligramam are approach roads to schools. The footpaths along these roads are unfriendly. They are overrun by construction materials and occupied by vendors. Unauthorised parking also eats into this space. Mechanic shops misuse the pedestrian space as their work area. Further, bags of garbage are dumped here. Both roads witness heavy traffic during school hours. Considering the safety of children, police patrolling is needed in these two roads.

At Kamaraj Street in Venkatesa Nagar, the manhole of a drain near the school compound wall is open and in the case of Kamaraj Street at Dasarathapuram, a manhole near the school compound wall is protruding. There have been instances of sewage overflowing. Not a quick fix, but a lasting solution is needed.

S. Manikandan is a resident of Saligramam



Kamaraj Street at Venkatesa Nagar. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

'Create a haltover at Lakshmi Nagar'

V. RAJAN

Metropolitan Transport Corporation should create an additional haltover along 100-Feet Bypass Road in Velachery. At present, there are haltovers at Vijaya Nagar, Gangai Nagar, near Sasi Nagar and Phoenix Mall.

The haltover at Vijaya Nagar is useful for commuters from Officers' Colony and Devi Karumariamman Nagar Extension, Gangai Nagar, Gangai Nagar and Sakthi Vijayalakshmi Nagar, Sasi Nagar, and Tamil Nadu Police Housing Colony; and the Phoenix Mall haltover for Indira Gandhi Nagar and Sankaran Avenue. Commuters from Venkateshwara Nagar (residential apartments), Venkateshwara Nagar First and Second Main Road, Lakshmi Nagar (residential apart-



The stop at Gangai Nagar in Velachery.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ments) and Lakshmi Nagar First Main Road must use the newly created haltover at Gangai Nagar.

Commuters must walk a long distance. It would be better to establish bus stops along these areas.

J. Rajan is a resident of Velachery

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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, foot-wear, 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 @thooimission on Instagram) has been shared with local bodies

Tamil Nadu Company Limited
Waste Collection Calendar - 2026

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	9	10	11	12	13	14	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30	31					29	30	31				
April 2026							May 2026							June 2026							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2	3	4						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
26	27	28	29	30										28	29	30					
July 2026							August 2026							September 2026							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2	3	4						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
26	27	28	29	30	31									20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
October 2026							November 2026							December 2026							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2	3	4						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31					

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ross the city through BOV announcements and social media renders.

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, Sheerin says, "A well-planned event calendar with collection drives for specific waste categories every Saturday, can truly help rewire our habits."

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.

Faith and fervour at Vadapalani



▼
Devotees throng Arulmigu Vadapalani Aandavar temple on the occasion of Thai Poosam festival on February 1. PHOTO : VELANKANNI RAJ B

Women learn to make organic soaps



Jothi Madhar Sangam, a women's club conducted a workshop on making organic shampoo and soaps. Around 25 women took part. According to a press release, no fee was charged. The event was held at the premises of the club at Sukalayam, No: 70/44, Burkit Road, T. Nagar. Tea and tiffin were served to the participants at the end of the session, adds the release. The club can be reached at 9841158018

An event on healthcare management



Sri Ramachandra Faculty of Management Sciences and Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research hosted a conference titled 'Navigating the Future Trends in Hospital & Health-

care Management' recently.

It was inaugurated by Dr. Uma Sekar, Vice Chancellor, SRIHER.

A. Srivathsan, managing director, Intent Health Technologies, delivered the keynote address and Prof.

Kartik Raman, associate provost, Bentley University, USA, the special address.

The event witnessed the presentation of 175 research papers, adds the release.

Literary forum honours doctor



Penakkal Peravai, a literary forum based in Kotturpuram felicitated Dr. J Bhaskaran of Public Health Center, West Mambalam. Accord-

ing to a press release, the literary forum honoured him in recognition of him becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians-

London. He is a neurologist and dermatologist and has over a three-decade experience.

On the occasion, Saisan-

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Session on value-added products from coconut



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Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME - Tamil Nadu, is conducting a training programme on making value-added products from coco-

nut. 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

Workshop on drone operation

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, a Department of MSME - Tamil Nadu, is conducting a workshop on media drone operation from February 9 to 11 at its premises at EDII Office Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy.

Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The session will focus on drone technology, drone cinematography, aerial photography, FPV cinematography, and flight regulations and safety guideline prescribed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

This skill set helps the participants to find opportunities in the following sectors: film and television, news and media, advertising and marketing, police and military surveillance, fire and rescue operations, tourism,



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and real estate, adds the release.

Those aged 18 years and above with a minimum education qualification of class 10 are eligible to apply.

For details, call 9360221280 / 8668100181

Culinary workshop

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on ready-to-cook food items on February 12. According to a press release, the items include rava idli, adai, vadai, and payasam. The session will also focus on making flavour powders meant for Indian non-vegetarian gravies.

The session will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, Frist Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy.

For details, call 044 - 29530048



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Cancer screening camp held in K.K. Nagar

In observance of World Cancer Day, Rotary International District 3233 organised a cancer screening camp at the Arulmigu Sakthi Vinayagar Temple Mandapam in K.K. Nagar spearheaded by Team Cancer Care.

Sanitary workers took part

According to a press release, over 300 Greater Chennai Corporation sanitary workers and close to 200 members from the general public took part in the camp.

The camp screened for cancer relating to lung, breast, head, neck and mouth.

Tests such as bone density, blood sugar, and blood pressure were conducted.

Dr. D. Saritha, chairperson of Team Cancer Care, underlined the

rising cancer rates among women in India. "Breast and cervical cancers are increasing; however, early diagnosis remains the most effective tool for survival. National records indicate that a woman dies of cervical cancer every eight minutes in India.

We urge the public to remain vigilant regarding symptoms such as unexplained weight loss, abnormal lumps, or unusual bleeding, and to consult a physician immediately upon discovery," says Saritha. Dr. S. Ramkumar, oral surgeon and chairman of Special Projects, highlighted the prevalence of oral cancer. He noted that while it is the second most common cancer, it is easily detectable. He identified tobacco use, smoking, and gutka consumption as

primary causes, noting that "fear of the unknown" often prevents people from seeking regular check-ups.

"Lauded the efforts by Community Services Health team and it stands out of all the avenues of service. 'Team Cancer Care' has done exceptional work in bringing life-saving awareness to over 500 beneficiaries today, many of whom are from underprivileged backgrounds and truly deserving this specialized care," said Governor D. Devendran.

The event successfully bridged the gap between high-end diagnostic care and the citizens who need it most, reinforcing Rotary International's commitment to disease prevention and treatment, the press release said.

Sports facility opened

The Commercial Branch of the Chennai Division of Southern Railway has opened a outdoor sports centre at Velachery railway station. According to a press release, dated February 6, 2026, the project will generate an annual non-fare revenue of ₹12.07 lakh, with a total contract value of ₹64.09 lakh.

The facilities at the sports centre include a box cricket turf, pickle ball court, and skating rink. A space has been dedicated for the martial art Silambam also.

The facility was inaugurated by Tej Partap Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Chennai Division, in the presence of M. Bharat Kumar, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, and other officials.



At the inauguration of the facility.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BIS organises carnival

BIS - Chennai also organised a carnival at Sri Sairam Engineering College recently. The event featured 15 stalls set up by BIS licensees, showcasing BIS-certified products and highlighting the importance of BIS certification.

Participating industries included Ergoofis India Pvt. Ltd., TI Cycles of India, Nitin Wiresetting India Pvt. Ltd., Apollo Tyres Limited, The Supreme Industries Limited, UltraTech Cement Ltd., Habeeb Tanning Company - Toni Rossi Division, UNO Minida Limited, Butterfly Gandhamathi Appliances Limited, Sakthi Sai Safety Glass India, Pradeep Stainless India Pvt. Ltd., Kreeda, Chettinad Cement Corporation Pvt. Ltd., Nilkamal Limited, and CEAT Limited.

More than 8,000 students from schools and colleges visited the stalls, interacted with industry representatives and BIS



At the carnival. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

officials and gained insights into BIS certification and quality-marked products.

Session for new licensees

BIS - Chennai also organised an awareness programme for new BIS licensed manufacturers recently.

S. D. Dayanand, Scientist - F / Senior Director & Head, BIS - Chennai welcomed the gathering.

In his address, he highlighted the importance of adherence to BIS standards and how it helps in building a quality-driven economy. During the technical session, the role and key obligations of licence holders were explained. Welcome kits were distributed.

Both the events were organised as a part of the BIS Foundation Day celebration, adds the release.