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HUG A TREE AND POST YOUR PHOTO: RESIDENTS ENTHUSED

By N Rathi Chithra

THE Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has rolled out a unique green initiative aimed at raising environmental awareness among city residents. Titled #LiveGreenLoveBlue, the campaign encourages citizens to hug trees, post pictures on social media, and tag the official GCC X handle, @chennaiicorp. The move is part of a larger effort to promote greenery and water conservation in Chennai.

"This campaign is not just about hugging a tree; it's about reconnecting with nature and recognising the vital role trees play in sustaining our environment," said a GCC official.

The initiative has drawn mixed reactions from residents in areas like Mogappair and Anna Nagar, which are grappling with urban challenges like declining green cover and increasing pollution.

"I love the idea of the campaign. It's a fun and interactive way to remind people about the importance of trees," said Shruti Iyer, a resident of Mogappair West. "Our area has lost so much greenery due to rapid construction. This initiative



could inspire residents to plant more trees and care for the existing ones."

However, some residents remain skeptical about the campaign's impact. "It's great to promote tree hugging on social media, but what about the trees we had already lost?" questioned Anand, a long-time resident of Anna Nagar. "The Corporation should prioritise planting new saplings and maintaining existing parks. Campaigns like this are only useful if backed by real action."

Mogappair residents have

highlighted the need for more focused efforts to green their locality. "We barely have enough shade during the summers, and that's a direct result of poor planning. I hope this campaign translates into actual planting drives in neighborhoods like ours," said Kundavai, a Mogappair East resident.

In Anna Nagar, the campaign has rekindled discussions about the importance of maintaining green spaces like Tower Park. "It's a beautiful park, but it needs more attention. If we don't main-

tain such spaces, the whole idea of hugging a tree feels hollow," said Ramesh Kumar, who visits the park regularly.

"Small steps like this can lead to bigger changes," said Shruti. "If every resident of Chennai hugs a tree today, tomorrow they might plant one."

With growing participation on social media, the campaign is already making waves. While the true impact remains to be seen, #LiveGreenLoveBlue has sparked an important conversation about the need for greener, more sustainable urban spaces in Chennai.



R. Prathiksha (LKG) of VKIDS TSK achieved a record in silambam conducted by Tamil Nadu C M Silambam Marathon on Dec 1.

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HC seeks TN response on stray cattle menace

MADRAS high court has directed Tamil Nadu govt to explain the steps taken to prevent stray cattle getting on to roads, on a plea moved by advocate M Ramesh of Thiruverkadu. According to the petitioner, many accidents have taken place due to stray cattle on public roads. Such cattle often block roads

and their sudden movements cause accidents. Moreover, they defecate on the road, causing two-wheeler riders to slip and fall, resulting in fatal injuries, he said. Many students who commute on bicycles have also suffered injuries due to stray cattle. The presence of cattle and their droppings leads to proliferation of

mosquitoes, he added.

A common factor is that these cattle sometimes push or attack people walking on the road. In poorly lit areas, these cattle rest in the middle of the roads and when they suddenly jump, causing accidents.

Therefore, on Nov 11, he made a representation to the municipal commissioner of Thiruverkadu seeking action against stray cattle. Since authorities failed to act on the representation, he moved the high court.



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By Our Correspondent

Aavin Ambattur unit penalised for violations

THE Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) recently imposed a penalty of ₹5.10 crore on the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited (Aavin) for multiple environmental violations at its Ambattur dairy unit. The violations, including untreated effluent discharge and improper waste management, have drawn sharp criticism from environmental activists and residents.

The issue came to light following inspections by the TNPCB, which revealed that Aavin was processing up to 4.5 lakh litres of milk daily—well beyond its consented capacity of 3 lakh litres per day—without obtaining the necessary 'Consent to Operate' certification. Additionally, the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) at the Ambattur unit was either non-operational or functioning intermittently, exacerbating pollution concerns.

"The Korattur Lake has been choking due to years



of neglect, and now the actions of a government organization like Aavin are making it worse," said Ramesh Kanth, a member of a local environmental group. "How can they set an example when they themselves flout environmental regulations?"

In its report to the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the TNPCB stated that Aavin had failed to comply with several directives aimed at mitigating pollution. During inspections in November 2024, officials discovered heaps of unsegregated plastic and metal waste dumped

in the open near the ETP. This was in direct violation of the board's earlier directive to store plastic waste in a closed, secure area to prevent wind dispersal.

The NGT, hearing a case filed by the Korattur Lake Protecting People's

Movement, expressed concern over the continued pollution of Korattur Lake. The Bench, comprising Justice Pushpa Sathyana-rayana and expert member Satyagopal Korlapati, stressed that Aavin must adhere to environmental regulations, especially as it serves as a public utility.

"Aavin should lead by example and ensure they comply with all environmental norms. The Korattur Lake is a shared resource, and its protection is not optional," said Narayan, a local resident and

environmental activist.

The Bench directed the TNPCB to submit a status report on Aavin's ETP by the next hearing. It also instructed an Aavin official to appear in person to explain the organisation's failure to address the violations.

The Korattur Lake Protecting People's Movement, which has been at the forefront of the fight to save the

lake, welcomed the penalty as a step in the right direction but demanded stricter monitoring of Aavin's operations. "This is just the beginning. Accountability must be sustained, or we risk losing Korattur Lake entirely," said a member.

The case highlights the urgent need for stricter enforcement of environmental laws to protect Chennai's fragile ecosystems.

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Velammal's Pranav bags double; SDAT to launch Chess academy

By R Srinivasa Raghavan

WORLD chess champion Velammal's Dommaraju Gukesh was felicitated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday. The 18-year-old was honoured with a cash award of Rs 5 crore for his stupendous achievement. It was a well deserved reward for becoming the 18th World champion.

The CM also said SDAT will launch a chess academy named the 'Home of Chess'.

Gukesh arrived in his hometown on Monday to a rousing welcome, with his school Velammal Vidyalaya at the forefront. One of his celebrations after making history in Singapore was doing a Bungee Jump along with his main coach Grzegorz Gajewski.

After his intense showdown with Ding Liren, which went to the wire, the Chennaiite said he will not be competing in the World Rapid & Blitz Championship in New York, which is the next big event in the chess calendar. It's understandable that Gukesh requires rest and relaxation to recharge his batteries after his gruelling match.

CHESS ROUND-UP

Pranav Triumphs

Pranav V of Velammal Vidyalaya, Mel Aynambakkam continued his good form, bagging a double in the World Youth (U-18) Rapid & Blitz in Brezice, Slovenia. Pranav clinched the rapid crown (9.5/11) with a round to spare! He followed it by winning the blitz crown (19.5/22) in even more emphatic fashion. He performs well in all the formats (classical, rapid & blitz). Playing a lot of online blitz games from a young age has made Pranav one of the top blitz players in India. Competing regularly in Titled Tuesday (chess.com event) tournaments with the likes of Magnus Carlsen, Hikaru Nakamura and Alireza Firouzja has improved his blitz skills without a doubt.



Illamparathi excels

India's A R Illamparathi, who has been making progress with every tournament, made his second GM norm in the Singapore Open, which was organised as a part of celebrating the World Championship. Illamparathi had a fruitful tournament, finishing eighth with 6.5 points. Gaining 28 rating points, besides having a performance rating of 2688, were the other highlights of his successful campaign.

Arjun joins 2800 club

Arjun Erigaisi, joined the 2800-club recently. Arjun had an incredible 2024, winning three tournaments, playing a big part in India bagging Chess Olympiad gold with an individual gold on the third board. He also became India No.1 with his consistent performances. The 21-year-old is in contention for a Candidates spot, occupying the second spot behind Fabiano Caruana in the FIDE Circuit. He has to perform exceptionally well in the World Rapid and Blitz (starts on Dec 26) Championship in New York to earn a spot in the 2026 Candidates. It's a difficult but not impossible if he performs at his best.

(The writer of this article is a senior sports correspondent)

TVS Canal to be diverted to Padikuppam Canal

THE Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has announced plans to divert the TVS canal in Anna Nagar West, a key tributary of the Otteri Nullah, towards the Padikuppam canal before the TVS Lucas factory. This move, part of the city's larger flood mitigation strategy, aims to enhance drainage and reduce flooding risks in the area, particularly during the monsoon season.

The TVS canal, a vital watercourse flowing over two kilometers, carries floodwater through Ambattur Industrial Estate, Kumarasamy Nagar, and Anna Nagar West, eventually joining the Otteri Nullah near the Anna Nagar railway station. The diversion is seen as a precursor to further improvements along the Otteri Nullah, which has long been a flood-prone stretch.

Residents of Anna Nagar, however, have expressed concerns over the narrow diversion channel along 3rd Ave-

nue. They have requested the GCC to address the issue of desilting, which has long been a challenge for the area's drainage system. The Corporation says dredging operations have already been undertaken to remove silt from the Otteri Nullah and the Virugambakkam canal. As of November this year, 1,250 metric tonnes of silt was removed, according to an official.

The dredging operations were done using floaters and Poclain machinery, a form of earth-moving equipment, to clear the accumulated silt. Additionally, a bathymetric study is being carried out in collaboration with IIT Madras to support scientific dredging techniques and further improve the canals' capacity to handle stormwater.

The Federation of Anna Nagar Residents Associations (FOARA) hailed the move of the civic agency. The Otteri Nullah, which was previously

managed by the Water Resources Department (WRD), was transferred to the Greater Chennai Corporation on October 20, 2024. Since the transfer, the Corporation has been implementing both short-term and long-term measures to mitigate flooding risks and improve stormwater management across Anna Nagar and neighbouring areas.

These ongoing efforts are expected to provide significant relief to residents and reduce the risk of flooding in the region, particularly in flood-prone areas like Anna Nagar West. In addition, the GCC has taken steps to ensure better drainage and stormwater management by constructing new drains and catch pits. Two new drains have been laid from 4th Main Road and 6th Main Road to a balancing drain that directs water away from Otteri Nullah towards the Cooum river. A curvilinear pathway is also under construction to divert Otteri Nullah's water into the Cooum river, further strengthening the flood mitigation infrastructure, officials said.

Avadi Cops crack down on gutka network

IN a major crackdown on sale of gutka and other banned tobacco products, the Avadi police seized more than 2,000kg of illegal items and arrested four people on Thursday. Eleven special teams carried out raids on multiple shops across the commissionerate. The raids, along with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) officials, were carried out in areas including Poonamallee, Mangadu, Ambattur, Ambattur Industrial Estate and neighbouring areas. This resulted in the confiscation of 46kg gutka and other tobacco products.



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VACANT LAND FOR
SALE, 30FT RD.
63851 09991

MOGAPPAIR EAST
Near 7H Bus Depot
2 BHK Flat, 424 Sq.ft.,
UDS 160 Sq.ft.: Rs. 28L
468 Sft. House, G+2,
North facing: Rs. 65L
780 Sft., G+1 Corner
House: Rs. 1.05 Cr
1365 Sft., G+1 House,
S.F: Rs. 1.50 Cr
60x28-1680 Sft., G+2
House, N.F: Rs. 2.50 Cr
SHRI ADHITHYA REAL ESTATES
93428 44256
63807 48343

VANAGARAM
Near Porur Toll Plaza
2 & 3 BHK FLATS
Rs. 66L Onwards
READY TO OCCUPY
93444 81444

PADIKUPPAM ROAD
GOLDEN JUBILEE FLATS
970 SQ.FT., G. FLOOR, 3 BHK,
3 PHASE, VITRIFIED TILES,
POTENTIAL INVESTMENT,
NEAR ALL INSTITUTIONS.
GOING FOR JOINT VENTURE
98405 01999

MOGAPPAIR EAST
NEAR TNSC BANK, 3 BHK
FLAT, 4TH FLR, 1577 SFT.,
UDS 843 SFT.: Rs. 1.15 Cr
1219 Sft., G+1: Rs. 1.65 Cr
1137 Sft. Plot: Rs. 1.54 Cr
PANNEER NAGAR
30x40-1200 Sft.
Rs. 2.15 Cr
Shri SevVel Real Estates
93428 44256
63807 48343

CMDA APPROVED
PLOTS
Near MOGAPPAIR WEST
Rs. 50L Lakhs
ONWARDS
63840 03003

ATHIPATTU VILLAGE
GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
1800, 1410, 1390 Sft.
CMDA Land, E.F, 24ft Road.
Rs. 6500/- Sft.
30x60-1800 Sft., E.F,
CMDA Appd., 24ft Road.
Rs. 6800/- Sft.
1665 & 1860 Sft., N.F,
CMDA Appd., Full Compound
wall, 30ft Road,
Final Rate Rs. 6500/- Sft.
96000 71094

MOGAPPAIR EAST
Nr. Velammal School
1 Gr Land Sale
Golden George Nagar
1 Gr Land Sale
93810 38473

NERKUNDRAM
Near Koyambedu
2250 Sft.
CMDA Appd.
Land, N.F, 24ft
Rd, Rs. 2.35 Cr
63742 67026

MOGAPPAIR WEST
45x70 Commercial
Property for Sale.
66ft Road.
NOLAMBUR
Tatia Nagar
40x70; 30x70
VGN Land 26x39
73584 31599

ANNA NAGAR WEST EXTN.
OFFICERS COLONY
Nr. Elango Nagar Bus Depot
Silver Palm Apt., 1064 Sft.,
UDS 698 Sft., 1st Floor,
2 BHK flat for sale, W.W,
Approx. 20 Yrs old, OCP,
Rs. 68L (Nego.). No Brokers
BASKARAN REAL ESTATE
98403 33099
94444 55885

MADHAVARAM
Near Sendrambakkam
Shanthi Nagar
24x50-1200 Sft.
Land
North facing, 20ft Rd.
Immediate Sale.
98848 15081
996000 15081

NOLAMBUR
TNHB
25x40-1000 Sft.
G+1, Old Ind.
HOUSE
FOR SALE.
98843 24116

AMBATTUR
ADJACENT TO TCS
READY TO OCCUPY
2 & 3 BHK ₹49L
FLATS ONWARDS
93444 81444

ATHIPATTU VILLAGE
GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
25x55-1375 Sft., CMDA
Appd. S.F, 30ft Road,
Drainage Available.
Rs. 6800/- Sft.
30x64-1937 Sft. Land,
North Facing, 40ft Road,
Rs. 6800/- Sft.
25x65-1625 Sft. Land,
South facing, 40ft Road,
Final Rate Rs. 6800/- Sft.
96000 71094

AYAPAKKAM RE-SALE
640 Sft., G. Flr, 1st flr,
1 Room: Rs. 65L
640 Sft., G. Flr:
Rs. 60L; G+1: Rs. 80L
430 Sft., G+2:
Rs. 60L; G+1:
Rs. 50L, G. Flr: Rs. 42L
344 Sft. House: 35L
640 Sft., G+2,
R.I: 32K; Sale: 80L
90802 13069

REDHILLS
NEAR BUS DEPOT
CMDA
APPROVED ₹23L
PLOTS Onwards
6384 003 003

MOGAPPAIR EAST
390 Sft., G+1, 2nd Flr
1 Room, N.F, R.I: 22K;
Sale: 60L, 65L
440 Sq.ft., G+1,
20 yrs old, Rs. 52L
800 Sft., G+1, E.F: 90L
1200 Sq.ft. Land:
1.50 Cr
90802 13069

ANNA NAGAR
METRO ZONE APARTMENT
NEW 3 BHK FLAT,
2 CCP. Rs. 2.40 Cr
MOGAPPAIR EAST
390 SFT., G+1, Rs. 50L
936 SFT., G+3, Rs. 1.25 Cr
1080 SFT. HOUSE: Rs. 80L

PADIKUPPAM
2 BHK, G.F, W.F,
936 SFT., UDS 460 SFT.,
1 CAR PARK: RS. 65L
Shri SevVel Real Estates
93428 44256
63807 48343

KORATTUR
NEAR RAILWAY STATION
TNHB Land 2400 Sft.,
N.F, 30ft Rd: 2.39 Cr
MOHAN GARDEN
2400 Sq.ft., W.F,
24ft Rd: 1.75 Cr
KOLATHUR
GKM COLONY
2400 Sq.ft., G+1, N.E
Corner, 2 Side
30ft Rd: Rs. 2.25 Cr
90802 13069

AYANAMBAKKAM
Near Velammal Vidyalaya
READY TO OCCUPY
2 & 3 BHK ₹56L
FLATS ONWARDS
93444 81444

LAND & FLAT SALE
NOLAMBUR
2½ GR LAND, N.F
ERI SCHEME
PANNEER NAGAR
3 BHK FLAT
ANNA NAGAR
NEW 2 BHK FLAT
95434 34656
98412 24507

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Banu Nagar
800 & 1600 Sft.
20ft Rd, N.F,
Rs. 5200/- Sft.
74483 31647

HOUSE FOR SALE
MOGAPPAIR EAST
Land 800 Sq.ft.
Build G+2
Land. 1500 Sq.ft.
Build G+2
Nolambur Land
1000 Sq.ft., Build G+2
94448 67986

ATHIPATTU VILLAGE
NEAR VELAMMAL SCHOOL
2300 Sft., CMDA Appd.
Land, West Facing,
30ft Rd, Rs. 5800/- Sft.
43x43-1849 Sft., S.E
Corner, 30 & 30ft Rd.
30x43-1290 Sft., E.F,
30ft Rd, Rs. 7500/- Sft.
1340 Sft., South facing
Land, 24ft Road,
Final Rate Rs. 6200/- Sft.
96000 71094

ATHIPET
Opp. Velammal Vidyalaya
CMDA Approved
PLOTS
Rs. 50L Onwards
63840 03003

NOLAMBUR
FOMRA TRIBHUVAN
Next to bus depot
1206 Sft., UDS 55%,
3rd Floor, 2 BHK Flat
Sale. Total 4 Floors,
Semi furnished, E.F,
1 CCP & Bike Parking.
98414 36766



Christmas carols and dance marked the celebrations the the Velammal Academy Nollambur. Rev Fr Chinappa, Parish Priest, St Anthony Church was the chief guest.

Food festival on Marina beach

THE food festival on Marina Beach organised by the self-help groups under the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women was inaugurated on Friday.

More than 150 women from 65 SHGs have set up 35 food stalls and 7 fast-food stalls at the food festival. Musical performances and traditional cultural programmes are also organised. Free parking has been arranged at the campuses of the University of Madras, Queen Mary's College and Lady Willington. The food festival is being held till Dec 24 at the Marina Beach from 12.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Entry is free.



THE CSI Church of Resurrection, Mogappair West conducted the Christmas celebration with pomp and gaiety on Dec 15. The highlight of the day was the inauguration of the crib, depicting the birth of Jesus Christ. Children thronged the premises to have a glimpse of the well decorated crib. There were elders of the parish who gathered in good numbers. A cultural programme by the children added more colour to the evening. Around 500 parishioners took part in the Christmas celebrations to make the evening memorable. The vice president of the Chennai Diocese C Jayaseelan Gnanathikam was the chief guest. The secretary, treasurer and other church committee members were also present.



Velammal Vidyalaya West celebrated Christmas that included a skit depicting the nativity story. Fr. Chinnappa, Parish Priest of St. Antony's Church, was the chief guest.

Schools to open on Jan 2 after break

The Department of School Education on Thursday said that all schools will reopen on January 2 after a nine-day break for Christmas and New Year. The half-yearly exams for all school students are currently under way. The Government, aided, and private matriculation schools' exams conclude on December 23. Following the exams, students will enjoy a nine-day vacation, which begins on December 24.

Soon MTC bus tickets with NCMC

MTC will soon enable passengers to buy tickets for its buses using the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC). Payment through NCMC is already functional on handheld electronic ticketing machines (ETMs) provided to conductors. By tapping the card on ETM readers, passengers can pay fares directly from their card balance. NCMCs can be recharged online or at designated counters and offer seamless travel across buses, metros, and other transport modes nationwide. CMRL offers a 20% discount on fares for transactions made through NCMCs and UPI.

Anna Nagar: Chennai's pothole capital

By Our Correspondent

ANNA Nagar, one of Chennai's prominent residential areas, has earned the unenviable title of having the most potholes in the city, according to a recent survey by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC). Out of 2,076 damaged road patches identified across Chennai since December 1, Anna Nagar tops the list with 181, followed by Valasaravakkam with 144. This alarming statistic has sparked outrage among residents, who are demanding immediate action.

"It's a nightmare to commute here. Every road feels like an obstacle course," said Meenakshi Raman, a resident of Shanthi Colony. "Despite paying high property taxes, we are left to navigate dangerous potholes that damage vehicles and pose risks to pedestrians."

The GCC has responded to the widespread complaints with a promise to make Chennai a 'pothole-free' city within six

months. The civic body plans to deploy 15 mobile jet patchwork machines for rapid repairs. These machines, costing ₹50 lakh each, will use a cold mix injection process to fill and compact potholes efficiently.

"Currently, we have four machines in operation and are aiming to allocate one per zone. Tenders for repairs have been issued, and we hope to see significant progress soon," a GCC engineer said.

However, Anna Nagar residents remain skeptical. "We have heard promises before, but nothing changes on the ground," said Palani Kumar, a long-time resident. "The recent rains have only worsened the situation. Roads are filled with gravel and construction debris, making them unsafe for motorists and pedestrians alike."

The issue is not limited to Anna Nagar. Valasaravakkam's Velan Nagar 7th Street residents reported two accidents due to loose gravel and roadside construction material. Simi-

larly, streets in George Town and Kondithope, including NSC Bose Road and Linghi Chetty Street, are riddled with potholes despite recent repairs.

The shift from the traditional hot mix method to the environmentally friendly cold mix process, following the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board's ban on hot-mix plants, is a significant step. However, logistical challenges and the high cost of equipment are slowing down implementation.

For Anna Nagar, the stakes are high. "We want accountability," said Priya Venkat, a local activist. "These potholes are not just inconveniences; they are safety hazards. Children walking to school, elderly people crossing roads—everyone is at risk."

As the GCC ramps up its efforts, residents hope the promise of a pothole-free Chennai will finally be fulfilled. Until then, they continue to endure bumpy rides and growing frustration.

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Extra buses to clear holiday crowd

TO manage the extra rush at bus depots during the Christmas-New Year holiday week, TNSTC will operate special buses alongside routine govt bus services across the state.

Starting this week-end, 625 special buses will operate from Chennai to various destinations. Of these, 325 will depart from Kilambakkam, heading to Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Salem, and Tirunelveli. Another 280 buses will leave from Koyambedu over



three days, serving travelers to Tiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam, Velankanni, Hosur, and Bengaluru, according to an official release. With large crowds expected, managers have been deployed at Kilambakkam terminus.

TNSTC has also planned special services to hill stations such as Nilgiris, Kodaikanal, and Yercaud. Previously, Yercaud did not have direct bus connectivity, now there are two buses directly From Chennai and Madurai to Yercaud. Meanwhile, Southern Railway has announced additional special trains for the Christmas season, including the Tuticorin-Madurai-Bengaluru Express, on December 21.

Posts to hold interview for direct agents

THE Department of Posts will hold a walk-in interview to engage direct agents for sale of postal life insurance products at Anna Road head post office on January 4 at 10.30 a.m.

A press release said

candidates aged above 18 years and who have passed class 10 are eligible for the posts. Chennai residents who are eligible for the interview should bring original and photocopies of certificates as proof of age, address and

educational qualification with three recent photographs.

Those selected would have to provide cash security of Rs.5,000 in the form of National Savings Certificate/Kisan Vikas Patra, the release said.

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