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## Anna Nagar Tower Park walkway gets a fresh makeover

By N Rathi Chithra

IN a move welcomed by residents and park enthusiasts, the Greater Chennai Corporation has given the walkway in Anna Nagar Tower Park a thorough cleaning. Known for being one of the largest and most visited green spaces in the Anna Nagar neighbourhood, the park's rejuvenated pathway is already drawing appreciation from users.

For weeks, regular park visitors had been voicing concerns about the state of the walkway, which had

accumulated dirt and fallen leaves, making it less inviting for walkers and joggers. However, the Corporation's swift action has transformed the space into a clean and pleasant environment.

"The walkway looks spotless now, and it's such a relief for regular users like me," said Nandini Krishnan, a resident who visits the park daily for her morning walk. "This cleanup has restored the charm of the park, and walking here feels refreshing again."

The Anna Nagar Tower Park, spanning several acres, is a favorite destination for people of all ages. It features a sprawling lawn, children's play areas, and its iconic tower, which offers panoramic views of the city. The park's well-maintained pathways are a lifeline for fitness enthusiasts, who use them for walking, jogging, and even yoga sessions.

Ram Mohan, a senior citizen who frequents the park, echoed Nandini's sentiment. "I have been coming here for years. The walkway had become quite



messy lately, but this cleaning effort shows that the Corporation is paying attention to public spaces. We feel valued as citizens." Young parents, too, expressed their joy at the improved conditions. "I bring my kids here every evening. Clean walkways mean safer conditions for children running around," said Anil Kumar, a father of two.

According to Corporation officials, the cleaning drive is part of a larger initiative to improve and maintain public parks across Chennai.

"Public parks are vital for community well-being, and we are committed to ensuring that these spaces remain clean and accessible to all," said an official from the Greater Chennai Corporation.

Residents hope that such efforts will continue and even extend to other facilities in the park. "It's a great start, but we would love to see regular maintenance schedules, better lighting for evening walks, and more benches along the walkway," said Rajeshwari, another frequent visitor.



Lathiga Dharan and Loshini from Velammal Matriculation HSS secured bronze medal in the 4x400m event held at lucknow, organised by SGFI.

### CM Dental Clinic offers free camp

CM Dental Clinic will be conducting a free dental check up camp (worth Rs 700/-) on Dec 8, 2024 (Sunday). The camp offers free consultation, digital x-ray and free medicine for three days. The clinic is located at Mogappair West (near Violet Church). Chennai -37. Contact 9500025832, 72000 80011



FLN (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy) inter-school competition organized by Dayasadan Agarwal Vidyalaya on Dec 6 was a resounding success. 346 students from 6 schools participated. Mrs. Victoria, Principal of Seth P.D. Hinduja Sindhi Model Senior Secondary School was the chief guest. Bakhtavachalam Vidhyashram School emerged overall winners.

# GCC undertakes tree removal work to prevent monsoon hazards

By N Rathi Chithra

IN a proactive move to ensure public safety during the upcoming monsoon season, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has undertaken a significant tree-cutting and removal operation in U.R. Nagar, part of Anna Nagar Western Extension. The trees identified as posing a threat to residents, vehicles, and infrastructure were removed to prevent potential accidents and damage due to heavy rains and winds typically experienced during the monsoon.



The removal work began in various locations within U.R. Nagar and other parts of Anna Nagar, where several trees had overgrown, their roots threatening to disrupt roads and pavements, and their branches hanging precariously over homes and vehicles. Local authorities acted swiftly after concerns were raised by

residents, citing safety risks such as falling branches or uprooted trees, especially during storms.

Speaking on the matter, S.Kumar, a resident of U.R. Nagar, expressed his relief: "I am glad to see the corporation taking this action. Over the years, some of the trees have grown too large and seemed unstable. With the monsoon approaching, it was essential to address the issue. It's much safer now, and we can rest easy

knowing that the authorities are on top of it."

Another local resident, R. Sangeetha, added, "The work was much needed. Some of the trees had begun leaning dangerously over our houses, and during the rains, it would have been a major hazard. We appreciate the GCC for their timely intervention."

Residents in nearby areas of Anna Nagar have also commended the GCC for extending this tree removal effort throughout

the locality. While many trees were healthy, the Corporation took measures to ensure they did not pose any future risks by evaluating their stability and condition. The initiative was part of a larger plan to prepare the city for the monsoon and minimize the damage caused by potential hazards like uprooted trees, fallen branches, or blocked roads. The operation was carried out with minimal disruption to daily life, as workers carefully sawed and removed the trees, following safety protocols. GCC officials assured the public that efforts would continue throughout the city to address similar risks in other neighborhoods as well.

"Trees are vital to the environment, but during the monsoon season, it's crucial to ensure they do not become a danger," said a GCC official overseeing the operation. "This exercise is part of our ongoing efforts to prepare for the season, and we're doing everything possible to make sure residents are safe."

## College student killed in accident

A 21-year-old college-going woman died in a road mishap at Ambattur after a lorry hit her two-wheeler and ran over her. The police have arrested the lorry driver Bhuvaneshwaran (22) of Nagapattinam. The Red Hills Traffic Investigation Wing (TIW) police, identified the deceased woman as Renuka Devi of Kallikuppam near Ambattur. She was a second-year student at a private college in Anna Nagar. On Wednesday night, she was riding her two-wheeler along Ambattur when a lorry hit her vehicle. As she fell, the lorry ran over her.

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# Velammal School's contribution to chess growth in India

## Gukesh's fine run helps Ayanambakkam find a permanent place in the world's chess map

By R Srinivasa Raghavan

VELAMMAL School has made a big contribution to growth of chess in India, especially in Chennai. They have more than 20 Grandmasters (GMs) from their school. Dommaraju Gukesh, who is the student of Velammal Vidyalaya, Ayanambakkam, is fighting for the World chess title against Ding Liren in Singapore now. It's the first time when two Asians are battling for the chess' biggest crown.

Velammal recently felicitated some of the Indian players of the Chess Olympiad-winning Indian teams with cash awards. Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa R, Vaishali R, N Srinath (captain of Team India in Open section) and Arjun Kalyan (one of the trainers of Indian women's team), all former students of Velammal, were honoured for their achievement at the Budapest Olympiad.

Velammal's foresight of back-

ing their talented students to concentrate on chess, giving them exemption from attending regular classes, was one of the reasons for India becoming one of the strong chess nations in the world. Siddharth Jagadeesh, who became the fifth Singaporean to become a GM this year, also studied at Velammal at some point. Jagadeesh's accomplishment shows the impact of Velammal on the cerebral game.

Baskaran Adhiban and S P Sethuraman, who played a part in India winning their first-ever medal (bronze) at the 2014 Chess Olympiad in Tromso, Norway, were the former students of Velammal.

Gukesh, who can emulate Viswanathan Anand by becoming the second World chess champion from India, levelled the score by winning his third game against Ding in the ongoing World Chess Championship Match. Gukesh lost the first



game and drew the second. Games from fourth to ninth games ended in draws. If Gukesh had converted his winning positions in the seventh and eighth games, he would have had a comfortable lead, but it did not happen. The score is level at 5.0-5.0 after the 10th round on Saturday. As a matter of fact, Gukesh has given himself the chance to become the youngest-ever World champion. Garry Kasparov (22 years) holds the record of being the youngest

World champion, which he accomplished in 1985.

Singapore has risen to the occasion, creating a festival-like atmosphere at the World Championship, with a lot of side events. Having a fan zone has attracted a lot of spectators to the event. Fans are having a lot of fun, playing blitz games, listening to the commentary of GM David Howell and IM Jovanka Houska, taking autographs and selfies from the top players. Deputy FIDE President Anand, who is also a mentor to Gukesh, shared his experiences and insights on World Championships during his stint at the commentary box.

Anand and former World Championship Challenger Boris Gelfand gave a simultaneous display, which added lustre to the event.

World No.1 and five-time World champion Magnus Carlsen, who won an exhibition

match against Fabiano Caruana (1.5-0.5 in Freestyle Chess (also known as Chess 960)) in Singapore, makes it a point to analyse the World Championship games with IM Levy Rozman in his Take Take Take App, which was launched recently. Levy, who is known as gothamchess, is the most popular chess streamer in the world. World Championship attracts the most eyeballs in the sport, which is understandable.

## Divith Strikes Gold

Divith Reddy Abdulla brought joy to India, winning the gold in the Open section of the World Cadet (U-8) Chess Championship in Montesilvano, Italy. Thanks to a better tie-break, Divith pipped compatriot Sattwik Swain and Guo Ziming (China) (all 9/11) for the title. Sattwik bagged the silver, followed by Guo taking the bronze.

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

# Ayanambakkam Lake to have a new look next year

THE rejuvenation of 10 lakes across the Chennai Metropolitan Area by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is on the move. The Ayanambakkam Lake also finds a place for which work has already started. The other lakes include those at Perumbakkam, Retteri, Madambakkam, Velachery, and Adambakkam. The detailed project reports (DPRs) are ready for most of the lakes. The CMDA policy note states that the development seeks to enhance water quality, recharge the groundwater table and make the lakes an educational site for children on water and ecology conservation. The project will have a demonstrative approach to setting the standards for conservation and transformation of lakes and other waterbodies.



Work is in full swing for the rejuvenation of the Ayanambakkam Lake. The project is likely to be completed before Dec, 2025

Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M), the Public Works Department (PWD) and the WRD was formed to oversee the project, which follows surveys to assess pollution and encroachment. The CMDA is also working on measures to control pollution of lakes.

The overall project, funded with ₹100 crore from the State government is designed to create walking tracks, gardens, water sports and bird-watching areas. Kiosks are also planned to generate revenue for the maintenance of the lakes, stated an official. By adopting efficient

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strategies for lake restoration and sustainable maintenance, the project seeks to enhance the city's ecological balance, promote recreational activities and improve the overall quality of life for its residents. The Ayanambakkam lake to have a semicircular deck, along the eastern edge, which will be a pause point for admiring the lake.

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NOLAMBUR JAINS SUNDERBANS 1280 Sft., UDS 710 Sft., 3 BHK Flat, 1st floor, S.F, Lift, CCP, Rs. 89L 90802 13069

TIRUVALLUR Near Velammal Vidyalaya DTCP APPROVED PLOTS 13L Onwards 6384 003 003

KELAMBAKKAM PADUR GLOBUS FORTUNE LAYOUT Near Vijay Vidayasharam CBSE School & Behind Pacifica flat 30x50-1500 Sq.ft., W.F, CMDA Appd. Plot for Sale, 30ft Rd, Gated Community. Rs. 5500/- Sft. (Negot.) BASKARAN 98403 33099 94444 55885

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MOGAPPAIR WEST TNHB 40x70 30x70, 30x40 Vacant Land Sale. 25x52 House for Sale. 73584 31599

AYAPAKKAM 1060 Sft., G+1, S.F., 30ft Road: 1.60 Cr 640 Sft., G+1, S.W. Corner: 95L 1000 Sft., G+1, W.F, 30ft Rd: 1.30 Cr BANK LOAN ARRANGED 99401 77426

MOGAPPAIR Golden George Nagar 1200 Sft. Land, N.F, Rs. 1.72 Cr. ERI SCHEME 1500 Sft., G+1, Ind. House, Rs. 2.40 Cr. 24x50-1200 Sft. N.W Corner House, 30 & 16ft Rd. Rs. 1.75 Cr 30x60, N.W Corner Land, Rs. 2.70 Cr 99401 77426

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AYANAMBAKKAM NEAR VELAMMAL SCHOOL 30x43-1290 Sft. CMDA Appd. Land, East facing, 30ft Rd. Rs. 7500/- Sq.ft. 43x43-1849 Sft., South East Corner, 30 & 30 ft Rd. Rs. 7500/- Sq.ft. 30x60-1800 Sft. East facing, 24ft Road. Final Rate Rs. 6500/- Sft. 96000 71094

MOGAPPAIR EAST & WEST TNHB LAND & HOUSE 40x60-2400 SFT. CMDA APPROVED LAND 20x50-1000 SFT. OLD HOUSE FOR SALE, 33 FEET ROAD 74010 02006

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

ANNA NAGAR METRO ZONE APARTMENT NEW 3 BHK FLAT, 2 CCP. Rs. 2.40 Cr PADIKUPPAM 2 BHK, G.F, W.F, 936 SFT., UDS 460 SFT., FULL INTERIOR WORK, 1 CAR PARK: RS. 65L 390 SFT., G+1, Rs. 50L 468 SFT., G+2, Rs. 65L 1080 SFT. HOUSE: Rs. 80L Shri SevVel Real Estates 93428 44256 63807 48343

AVADI Corporation Limit Vellanur Village Nr. Veltech College 22x50 1100 Sq.ft. LAND FOR SALE Rs. 17L 95662 02047

MOGAPPAIR EAST 390 Sft., G+1, 2nd Flr 1 Room, N.F, R.I: 22K; Sale: 60L, 69L 440 Sq.ft., G+1, 20 yrs old, Rs. 52L 610 Sq.ft. Land: 60L 800 Sft., G+1, E.F: 90L 1200 Sq.ft. Land: 1.50 Cr 90802 13069

MOGAPPAIR EAST Opp. Primas Bakery, 3/104, Land area 390 Sft., Built up 1000 Sft., G. Flr: 390 Sft.; 1st Flr: 390 Sft.; 2nd Flr: 200 Sft., N.F, Marble floor, W.W, 16ft Rd, Rs. 70L (Negot.) Brokers Excuse BASKARAN REAL ESTATE 98403 33099 94444 55885

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MOGAPPAIR SIDHARTH PEARL NEW 3 BHK FLAT FOR SALE 1440 Sft., UDS 50% Thilak Street, Panneer Nagar 95432 78910

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 90802 13069

VANAGARAM OPP. SRIVARI PALACE 912 SFT., 2 BHK FLAT, 2ND FLOOR, E.F, LIFT, CCP, Rs. 70L 98403 49219 86105 86030

AYAPAKKAM HOUSING BOARD Land Area 750 Sft., Builtup 1550 Sft., G+1, East Facing, Individual House for Sale 98400 51345

AYAPAKKAM Marudham Apartment 444 Sft., UDS 225 Sft., Rs. 15L, 16L, 17L 90% Bank Loan Arranged 87787 52143

MOGAPPAIR EAST 1 GR, 1/2 GR LAND SALE 1/2 GR IND. HOUSE 93810 38473

KORATTUR Nr. Bakthavatchalam School AP PLOT 22x40 Rs. 1.35Cr 93810 38473

# Vidyaakar awarded for his service to humanity

MR S. Vidyaakar, aged 71, is a trained social worker who founded a NGO called *Udavum Karangal* in 1983. His core activity is to care for the destitute mentally ill patients and the differently abled children. Around 5600 destitute mentally ill differently abled patients have been rescued, rehabilitated and reunited with their families during the past 41 years of his service to

humanity. Children who are spastic and intellectually disabled are nurtured in the Home *Shanthivanam* at Thiruverkadu.

Mr. Vidyaakar has set up Jeevan School for the special children along with a State of Art activity room '*Aarambam*' at Thiruverkadu.

Through his project Parivartan he has reached out to the mentally ill who are in the tribal areas of

Coonoor and Coimbatore by providing treatment and free medicines. He has helped out the spinal cord injured persons through his scheme Paraspura by providing essentials like bed, cot, wheelchair and also proposing to construct 62 houses for them in Tiruvallur District. He is also instrumental in supporting the Government of Tamilnadu by construct-

ing three Crematoriums in Annanagar, Otteri, Chetupattu and Thiruvannamalai. He has also helped 61 Gram Panchayat Schools by constructing classrooms, providing stainless steel table and benches, computers, cycle stand, labs, etc.

Mr S. Vidyaakar thanks all his well wishers who have come forward to help him serve the Community.



The Government of Tamil Nadu awarded Mr Vidyaakar of *Udavum Karangal* "the best social worker towards the service of the differently abled" on Dec 5, 2024.



M Nethra of Velammal Vidyalaya, Mogappair West won gold in the 400m event at the National School Games Federation (SGFI).

## A CON JOB OF A JUICE MAKING UNIT IN AMBATTUR BUSTED

By Our Correspondent

THE Bank Fraud Wing of the Central Crime Branch of the Greater Chennai Police has busted a loan con job in the neighbourhood. It has arrested B Radhakrishnan, who had worked as Assistant General Manager with the Bank of Baroda in connection with the fraudulent loan transaction. Radhakrishnan is 61 years old and had retired from the bank earlier.

According to a police

officer attached to the Bank Fraud Wing of the Central Crime Branch, two persons G Rajalakshmi and K Sathishbabu had floated a company called Lemooria Foods Pvt Ltd. The two were directors of the company which was started with a stated intention of setting up a manufacturing plant for ready to drink fruit juice and juice powder. This manufacturing plant, according to them, was to be set up in the SIDCO Industrial Estate in

Pattaravakkam in Ambattur locality.

The two persons had approached the Bank of Baroda and obtained a loan of Rs 2.60 crore submitting that the money would be used for purchasing machinery for setting up the manufacturing unit in Ambattur.

However, Leena Gohain, Assistant General Manager and Branch Head of the Bank of Baroda, Egmore, lodged a complaint recently against

Lemooria Foods Pvt Ltd and the two directors alleging that they did buy any machinery with the sanctioned loan. Besides, they defaulted in repaying around Rs 1.80 crore. The complaint alleged that the accused had colluded with others and defrauded the bank funds.

The personnel of the Bank Fraud Wing of the Central Crime Branch, Greater Chennai Police registered a case on the basis of the complaint

lodged by Leena, representing the Bank of Baroda, Egmore Branch. The police investigated the case and found prima facie evidence of Radhakrishnan, had colluded with the accused and sanctioned the loan. Thereby the accused, the police said, had caused a loss to the public sector bank.

Consequently, the police officer arrested Radhakrishnan from Hyderabad and brought him to Chennai recently.

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# One arrested in Maduravoyal

ONE person was arrested for possessing methamphetamine at Maduravoyal. In another case, police in Avadi seized 25 kg of ganja and arrested two people.

A special team of Maduravoyal police monitored the area near the Poonamallee flyover and found a man, later identi-

fied as T Somashankar (37) of Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, acting suspiciously beneath it. When checked, the police found two grams of the drug and four syringes in his possession.

At Ambattur, R Suraj (21) and N Shannad (20), both hailing from Kerala, were ar-

rested by the Ambattur Prohibition Enforcement Wing (PEW) police from near the Ambattur OT bus stand for allegedly smuggling and selling 25 kg of ganja. The duo told investigators that they sourced the ganja from Odisha and were planning to sell it to guest workers.

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