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## GCC to microchip cattle, make licensing mandatory

**T**HE Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) is now set to make licensing mandatory for all cattle and buffalo owners within the city limits and introduce microchipping.

Under the proposed move, aimed at curbing stray cattle menace on roads, cattle owners will be required to submit an application for the licence at zonal veterinary offices. After field verification by veterinary officers and

health inspectors, owners will pay a licence fee of Rs 100. At the time of issuing licences, each animal will be implanted with a microchip, which will have details such as the owner's name, address and cattle identification data.

Application forms will be made available on the GCC website. The corporation plans to procure 25,000 microchips and 25 microchip readers for the purpose. Owners will be given a 45-day window, up

to March 18, 2026, to obtain licences.

According to data, more than 22,000 cattle are currently being reared within the GCC limits. A significant number of these animals are found roaming on roads leading to traffic disruption. Earlier, a fine of Rs 10,000 per stray animal was imposed, and cattle were returned only after owners gave an undertaking that they will not allow the animals to roam on roads.

## Velammal honours honest worker



A felicitation ceremony was held at the Velammal Vidyalaya West School campus to honour Mrs. Padma, a Greater Chennai Corporation sanitation worker, who displayed exemplary honesty by finding 45 sovereigns of gold jewellery and handing it over to the police. During the event, Mrs. Padma was honoured with a shawl and garland. On behalf of the Velammal Nexus schools, she was also presented with the Honesty Service Award and a cheque for Rs. 50,000/-. The programme served as an inspiring reminder to students about the importance and value of honesty in society.

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## SPORTS ROUND-UP

## Gukesh occupies Joint 7th Spot in Tata Steel Masters

By R Srinivasa Raghavan

**J**AVOKHIR Sindarov joined Nodirbek Abdusattorov (both 7/11) in the lead after the 11th round of the Tata Steel Masters in Wijk aan Zee, The Netherlands. Sindarov, who won the World Cup last year, outwitted India No.1 Arjun Erigaisi on Friday, which put him in contention for the title with two rounds still remaining. Hans Niemann, Jorden van Foreest and Mathias Bluebaum (all 6.5) shared the third spot.

Sindarov has improved by leaps and bounds in the last 12 rounds. Remaining unbeaten, the Uzbek No.2 has gained 15 rating points, besides racking up a performance rating of 2828! Posting victories over Mathias Bluebaum and Yaagiz Kaan Erdogmus, Sindarov has a chance to win another title after his scintillating show in Goa (2025).

Except for his reverse in the eighth round against Anish Giri, Abdusattorov looks to be in prime form after winning the London Chess Classic and bagging a bronze in the World Blitz Championship (both last year). After missing out on Masters title twice, Abdusattorov aiming to win the 13 round round-robin tournament this time. Having a rating gain of 10.2 points, the Uzbek No.1 has a performance

rating of 2822.

World champion Dommaraju Gukesh has been the best performer among four Indians. By his high standards, Gukesh has had a moderate event (5.5), having a 50% score, with three victories and three losses. The Chennaiite will be hoping to end the tournament on a positive note. Gukesh occupies the joint seventh spot with Erdogmus, Giri and Vladimir Fedoseev.

Ahead of Candidates, it has not been the best preparation for defending champion Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa (4.5), who is struggling with -2 score, which includes three losses and one win. His only bright spot was his victory over compatriot Vr. Aravindh Chithambaram in the ninth round.

Arjun Erigaisi (4), who is India's top player, started the tournament with a win over Pragg. After that he has looked out of sorts, losing four games. He has struggled in the Masters for the third straight year in the coastal city, which is difficult to understand. Hopefully, he finds his form in his next tournament. Arjun and Aravind (both 4) shared the joint 12th spot.

Andy Woodward surged ahead with 8.5 points at the completion of the 11th round in Tata Steel Challengers, which took place simultaneously. Woodward has been im-

pressive throughout the tournament, scoring eight wins and two losses. Former World Rapid champion Vasyl Ivanchuk has got himself into contention for the crown, prevailing over Woodward and Aydin Suleymanli in the last two rounds. Ivanchuk shared the second spot with Suleymanli (both 8).

Vedant Panesar, who is the only Indian in the fray, has scored three points, with his lone victory coming against Eline Roebers.

### Haryana champions

Haryana defeated Indian Railways 39-37 in the final of the Senior National Women's Kabbadi Championship in Hyderabad. Losing semifinalists Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh bagged the bronze medals.

### Veer, Anahat advance

India's Veer Chotrani pulled off an upset win over Frenchman Baptiste Masotti 11-6, 7-11, 8-11, 11-1, 11-9 in the men's last 16 of the Squash on Fire Open in Washington. India's National champion Velavan Senthilkumar bowed out after losing to Leonel Cardenas 11-4, 5-11, 9-11, 11-9, 8-11. In the women's section, India No.1 Anahat Singh progressed with a victory over Hayley Ward 11-5, 11-8, 12-14, 11-5.

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

## Child welfare centre in Ambattur upgraded

By Our Correspondent

**T**he Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has completed a series of renovation and infrastructure improvement works at the NN2 Child Welfare Centre located on Kalaivanar Street in Ward 79 of the Ambattur zone, with a focus on creating a safer, more engaging environment for young children. As part of the initiative, a dedicated play area has been set up for children, along with multiple civil and interior refurbishment works inside the centre. The improvements are aimed at enhancing early childhood development facilities and ensuring that children attending the centre have access to clean, cheerful and functional spaces.

Visuals released by the civic body show newly painted classrooms with colourful wall murals depicting animals, numbers, alphabets and landscapes designed to stimulate learning among young children. Furniture, including tables and chairs suitable for children, has been arranged in classrooms, while ceiling fans and lighting fixtures have also been upgraded. A children's play zone with slides and play equipment has been created, providing a safe recreational space within the premises.

A Greater Chennai Corporation official said the project was part of a broader effort to strengthen child welfare infrastructure across the city. "Child welfare centres play a crucial



role in early education and nutrition. The works at the NN2 centre were taken up to ensure children have a safe, hygienic and stimulating environment," the official said. "Similar upgrades are being planned in other centres under the Ambattur zone."

Residents of the area welcomed the initiative, saying the centre had become more attractive and functional after the renovation. "Earlier, the building was usable but lacked proper facilities for children to play and learn comfortably," said Lakshmi, a resident of Ambattur. "Now the classrooms are bright, the play area is well laid out, and children are eager to attend." Another resident, R. Murugan, said the addition of a play area was particularly important. "Many families here live in small houses without open spaces. A play area inside the centre gives children a chance to be active and socialise in a safe setting," he said.

Officials noted that

apart from the play facilities, several repair works were also carried out, including interior painting, improvement of doors and flooring, and better ventilation. The renovations were designed to make the centre child-friendly while ensuring durability and ease of maintenance.

The Ambattur zone has been witnessing steady residential growth, increasing the demand for quality public childcare facilities. Civic officials said strengthening neighbourhood-level infrastructure such as child welfare centres was essential to support working families and promote early childhood development.

"With focused investments at the ward level, we aim to ensure that every child welfare centre meets basic standards of safety, hygiene and learning," the official added.

The upgraded NN2 Child Welfare Centre is expected to benefit children from Kalaivanar Street and surrounding localities.

# Birla Open Minds' sports meet

**T**HE annual sports meet closing ceremony of Birla Open Minds International School, Mogappair was celebrated with great enthusiasm and vibrant sporting spirit, reaffirming the school's commitment to holistic development. Conducted under the inspiring theme "Fire in the Belly," the ceremony symbolised determination,



resilience, and the courage to strive for excellence. The event was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Dr. Natarajan, IRS, Deputy Commissioner of

Customs, GST, and the Guest of Honour, Ms. Nivedha Sreenivasan, internationally acclaimed kickboxer, along with the management members

and the Principal, whose encouraging words motivated the young athletes.

The closing ceremony unfolded as a grand celebration, showcasing an impressive lineup of performances including yoga, drill, silambam, aerobics, gymnastics, and a lively musical band presentation.

The ceremony also witnessed the Award Ceremony, where winners of various events were felicitated for their outstanding performances. The prestigious

Overall Winner Trophy was proudly claimed by Discovery House, applauding their consistent excellence, teamwork, and exceptional sporting spirit throughout the meet. The Annual

Sports Meet concluded on a high note, leaving behind proud moments, happy smiles, and cherished memories—celebrating not just victory, but the enduring spirit of participation.

# Decentralised water plant at Mogappair to draw from Ayanambakkam lake

By N Rathi Chithra

**I**n a significant step towards strengthening local water security, Chennai Metrowater is nearing completion of a decentralised freshwater treatment plant at Mogappair that will source water from Ayanambakkam lake and supply treated drinking water to surrounding neighbourhoods, including Anna Nagar Western Extension.

The Mogappair treatment plant, with a capacity of 10 million litres a day (mld), is part of the water agency's plan to reduce dependence on distant water sources by tapping neighbourhood lakes. Officials said nearly 79% of the construction work at the facility, coming up on a 3,150 sq. m site, has been completed. The ₹13.01-crore project also includes laying a 7.7-km pipeline to draw raw water from Ayanambakkam lake. The plant is expected to be commissioned by March.

"Treated water from the Mogappair plant will be conveyed directly to the distribution station at Anna Nagar West Extension, helping stabilise supply in this densely populated area," a Metrowater official said. "Decentralised systems reduce transmission losses and lower electricity costs involved in pumping water over long distances."

Spread over 85 hectares, Ayanambakkam lake plays a critical role in groundwater recharge and drinking water supply for surrounding localities such as Koladi and Mogappair West. The

lake has also been identified by planning authorities for restoration to improve its long-term sustainability as a water source.

Residents say the lake has traditionally ensured water availability in the area but warn that rapid urbanisation is putting pressure on groundwater. "Groundwater is still available at around 30 feet because the lake holds water for most months of the year," said a resident of Ayanambakkam. "But with apartment complexes mushrooming, the water table is slowly depleting. The lake and its supply channels must be rejuvenated to protect this resource."

He added: "If the lake is properly restored, it can serve both drinking water needs and recreation. Facilities like a boating ride could also be introduced without harming the ecosystem."

Officials stressed that the decentralised supply model would become increasingly important as the city grows. "Surface water accounts for nearly 77% of Chennai's drinking water. By treating water closer to the source, we can rationalise distribution and cut transmission losses by nearly 20%," an official said. Chennai Metrowater currently supplies around 1,231 mld of water, with the bulk going to domestic consumers. The Mogappair project is expected to ease pressure on the centralised network and improve reliability of supply for residents in Mogappair and Anna Nagar Western Extension.

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**Panchapakesan celebrates Republic Day with 200 differently abled persons**



REPUBLIC Day Function was organized by Chennai Wisdom Arima Sangam in West Mambalam in which various welfare gifts including sarees were distributed to 200 Differently Aabled and Poor persons by the Chief Guest T.Nagar MLA Karunanidhi. Dr. N. Panchapakesan Founder of Chennai Sai Sankara Matrimonials & Chennai Sai Muruga Matrimonials extended cash gift of Rs.200/- to each participant greeting them individually.

It is pertinent to mention that he has celebrated Deepavali & Pongal also in similar manner and running exclusive Free Matrimonials for them in the name of Chennai Sai Thunai Matrimonials (7810 03 03 03). He is also instrumental for more than 2 lac marriages in 35 years.

**Express trains to originate/ terminate from Tambaram, Beach stations**

SEVERAL express trains, including UzHAVAN Express and ANANTHAPURI Express, will continue to originate/terminate from Tambaram and/or Beach station from February 3 to April 4, due to the ongoing re-development works at Egmore railway station, says a Southern Railway press release.

Train 16866 Thanjavur – Chennai Egmore Uzhavan Express leaving Thanjavur, Train 20636 Kollam – Chennai Egmore Ananthapuri Superfast Express leaving Kollam and Train 16752 Rameswaram – Chennai Egmore Express leaving Rameswaram from February 3 to April 5 will terminate at Tambaram. Train 16865 Chennai Egmore – Thanjavur Uzhavan Express, Train 20635 Chennai Egmore – Kollam Ananthapuri Express, Train 16751 Chennai Egmore – Rameswaram Express will originate from Tambaram from February 4 to April 6.

Train 22158 Chennai Eg-

more – Mumbai CSMT Superfast Express will originate from Beach station from February 4 to April 6.

Train 09419 Ahmedabad – Tiruchchirappalli Weekly Express special scheduled to leave Ahmedabad at 9.30 am from February 5 to April 2 (Thursdays) will be diverted to run via Renigunta, Arakonam north, Melpakkam, Katpadi, Vellore and Villupuram skipping stoppages at Arakkonam, Perambur, Egmore, Tambaram and Chengalpattu. Additional stoppage will be provided at Tiruttani at 1 pm.

Train 09420 Tiruchchirappalli – Ahmedabad Weekly Express special scheduled to leave Trichy at 5.45 am from February 8 to March 29 (Sundays) will be diverted to run via Vellore, Katpadi, Melpakkam, Tiruttani, Renigunta skipping stoppages at Chengalpattu, Tambaram, Chennai Egmore, Perambur and Arakonam. Additional stoppages will be provided at Tiruttani 3.15 pm, added the release.



Ashmitha, a student of Class V of Velammal Matric Higher Secondary School, won the Nriitya Vibhushan Award for excellent performance in classical dance. The award was conferred by the Svarita Foundation in recognition of her outstanding talent in Bharatanatyam.



Vhenisa Sree, a 12-year-old student of Class VII from Velammal Matriculation Higher Secondary School, won gold at the Khelo India Women's National Ranking Archery Tournament held at Ambaji, Gujarat. She also bagged a prize money of Rs 2 lakhs.

**Deadline extended for inclusion in birth records**

THE Tamil Nadu Health Department has extended the deadline for entering names in birth records up to September 26, 2026.

In a letter dated January 27, 2026, informed the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine that the government has approved the request to allow name inclusion in

birth records beyond the earlier time limits.

The extension applies to birth records registered both before and after the commencement of the Tamil Nadu Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2000.

The order said that the decision was taken after careful examination of a proposal submitted by the Director

of Public Health, citing the need to provide relief to individuals whose names were not entered in birth records within the prescribed period.

With this extension, eligible persons across the state will have an additional opportunity to regularise their birth records by adding names till September 26, 2026.



**New solid waste rules to take effect on April 1**

THE Centre has notified the new Solid Waste Management Rules under which four-stream segregation of solid waste at source has been made mandatory, and clear responsibilities have been defined for bulk waste generators. The new rules will come into force from April 1.

The four categories

for segregation are: wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste and special care waste.

**WET WASTE** - Composted or processed through bio-methanation.

**DRY WASTE** - Sent to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for sorting and recycling.

**SANITARY WASTE** - Securely wrapped and stored separately.

**SPECIAL CARE WASTE** - Collected by authorized agencies or deposited at designated centres.

Under the new rules, bulk waste generators include entities with a floor area of 20,000 square metres or more, or water consumption of 40,000 litres per day or more, or solid waste generation of 100 kilograms per day or more.



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