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Pongal >

Pongal fete at Dr. MGR-Janaki College for Women

Dr. MGR-Janaki College for Women R.A. Puram celebrated Pongal with vibrant cultural festivities on Jan.11.

Over 4,000 students, dressed in traditional attire, participated in the event, which recreated a village setting filled with rustic charm.

Folk dances like Kummiyattam, Oyilaatam, and Silambaattam showcased the region's rich cultural heritage, while students managed stalls selling traditional items such as sugarcane juice, tender coconuts, and cotton candy.

The campus buzzed with activities, including mehendi application, parrot fortune-telling, and food stalls offering porridge and sundal, mimicking a village fair.

The highlight was the preparation of the Pongal dish, which students offered as a thanksgiving gesture for a good harvest. As the dish boiled, students sang "Pongalo... Pongal," marking the festive conclusion.

Dr. Kumar Rajendran, Chairman of the college,



emphasised the importance of preserving cultural traditions for future generations through such celebrations.



▲ Hello Kids Aadya celebrated the Pongal festival with a lively and educational experience that introduced the children to the significance of the festival in a fun and interactive way. Kids and teachers were dressed in traditional attire. Highlights included a pot decoration competition for parents, a fun bullock cart ride, and delicious Chakara Pongal and sweets to end the day. The school can be reached at 98406 80266.

▼ The Indira Nagar Women's Association celebrated Pongal on Jan.7 with a large gathering of members. The event featured a soulful musical performance by Guru Vijayalakshmi Krishnamurthy and a graceful dance presentation by the members, which captivated the audience. A Rangoli competition was also organised and judged by Lakshmi Raghukumar, the president of Jyothi Mathar Sangam.

ADF celebrates the bovine too

On the occasion of Pongal and Mattu Pongal, the Appayya Dikshita Foundation (ADF), Kottivakkam, organised celebrations focused on supporting underprivileged individuals and animal welfare. The festivities aimed to uplift needy communities by distributing essential items such as rice, edible oil, a grocery kit containing 15 items, dhotis, towels, sarees, and chudidhar sets. Beneficiaries included vegetable vendors, milk vendors, sweepers, flower vendors, and others in need.



On Jan.15, ADF celebrated Mattu Pongal at a goshala managed by the Institute of Animal Welfare in Karpagambal Nagar, Neelankarai. High Court Advocate Srinivasan presented a cheque for cattle feed, received by Sankar, the goshala manager. Items donated included urud dhal dust, bran flakes, cottonseed oil cake, fried gram husk, jaggery, and 1.5 tons of hay.

Prominent dignitaries, including Anuradha Ravi Iyer (Former VP - Singapore Bank), K.Sathyamoorthy (Southern Railway), Suresh Jayaraman (CA), and Krishnamurthy (former CLRI official), attended the event. Anuradha distributed gift hampers to goshala caretakers. The celebrations began with gho-puja for the cows, followed by Vedic chants of Sree Suktham, Gho Suktham, and Lalitha Sahasranamam, led by Vedic pandit Vaidyanatha Sharma.



◀ Residents of Kottur Villa, Kotturpuram, celebrated 'Pongal festival' with great fanfare on Jan.12 at their society. Go pooja, kolam, and pot painting competitions were part of the celebrations.

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Unity Club hosts traditional Pongal

Unity Club organised a vibrant and traditional Pongal festival celebration at Rajaji Nagar, Thiruvanniyur. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from residents - old and young. The highlight competitions included traditional games for children and youth, martial arts display by Silambam Masters from the Global Silambam Martial Arts Academy (Thiruvanniyur), exclusive contests and cultural performances for women and prize distribution to winners of various competitions. The club also conducted an awareness drive on health and wellness.



The event served as a platform for fostering community spirit, showcasing cultural heritage, and promot-

ing unity among the residents of Rajaji Nagar. Organisers expressed their gratitude to all contributors and participants, making the event a grand success.

For more information contact Suresh Babu (90032 25131), M.Manoharan (98413 03500) and A.Maruthi (81900 41713).

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Events >

Hamsadhvani's 29th NRI Festival and 35th Music, Dance, & Drama Festival

Hamsadhvani is hosting the 35th Festival of Music, Dance, and Drama extending until April 2025. At Youth Hostel, 2nd Avenue, Indira Nagar, Adyar. The events are free and open to all. Contact 97909 09567 or Visit hamsadhvani.net for more details. Drama schedule:

- **Jan.19** at 6.40 pm: PMG Mayurapriya presents 'Big Boss'; Story, dialogues and direction by P.Muthukumar;
- **Jan.23** at 6.45 pm: Koothabhiran Navabharath Theatres presents 'Surukku Pai' by Ratnam Koothabhiran;
- **Jan.24** at 6.40 pm: Tom Medias presents YG Madhuvanthi and Sureshwar in 'Shakthi'; dramatisation by YGEE.Mahendra, music by Anirudh;
- **Jan.26** at 6.30 pm: Kolkata Mangalam Mani centenary special Thiruppugazhil Siva Sakthi Vaibhavam by Thiruppugazh Anbargal (disciples of Guruji A.S.Raghavan);
- **Feb.1** at 6.45 pm: Stage Creations presents Kathadi Ramamurthy in 'Sikkal Sivaraman' by S.L.Naanu.

Bharata Kalanjali's Margazhi schedule

Bharata Kalanjali brings an exciting lineup of cultural events and performances this Margazhi season, across Chennai. For more details, follow Bharata Kalanjali on Instagram (@bharatakalanjali) and Facebook. Schedule:

- **Jan.21** at 7 pm: Children's presentation 'Hiss Don't Bite' at Bharata Kalanjali, TEACH Auditorium, SPASTN, Taramani. In this imaginative production, the children will bring to life a beloved Bengali folk tale, following the journey of a cobra and the wisdom shared by a monk. It's a performance full of heart, perfect for all ages;
- **Jan.22** at 7.30 pm: Performance by Hemavathy Kalaiarasan by Kartik Fine Arts at Swami Haridoss Giri Hall, Narada Gana Sabha;
- **Jan.25 and 26** at 6 pm: Jharna: Edition 4 at Bharata Kalanjali, TEACH Auditorium, SPASTN, Taramani.

Anna Centenary Library hosts 'City of Hope'

The Anna Centenary Library, Kotturpuram, presents City of Hope, an exhibition by Dr. Aaron Bryant (Smithsonian curator), as part of the Chennai Photo Biennale. Open from Jan.21 to 30 (except Jan.26), the exhibition highlights Mahatma Gandhi's influence on the U.S. civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'Poor People's Campaign'. Featuring Resurrection City, the exhibit showcases the fight for economic justice and human rights, embodying resilience and hope. From 9 am to 6 pm. Launch on Jan.21 at 4.30 pm.

Lakshmi Hayagriva Homam

The Annual Sri Lakshmi Hayagriva Homam and Special puja will be conducted in Kottur this year on Jan.26 for the benefit of students, especially those students who are appearing for their Boards and Entrance exams. All students are welcome to participate by individually performing sankalpam, have the rakshai tied by 4.30 pm and receive the prasadam/ blessings of Sri Lakshmi Hayagriva. From 4 pm to 7 pm at Sri

Ponnamman Kovil, Naidu Street, Kottur (off Ponnamman Kovil Street, near Kottur signal, behind Police Quarters).

Annakoota Utsavam

Annakoota Utsavam will be held at the ancient Sri Alarmelmanga Nayika Sametha Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple, Kottur on Jan.22 at 9.30 am, to commemorate the Varshikotsavam (First anniversary of the temple Samprokshanam). Devotees are welcome to attend this unique Utsavam and receive the blessings and prasadams of the Lord.

Alt: Analog - Celebrating the Art of Analog Photography

The Forum Art Gallery, Adyar, presents 'Alt: Analog', a captivating exhibition showcasing works by artists Holly Birtles (UK), Arun (India), and Soham Joshi (UK). Running from Jan.16 to Feb.15 (Monday - Saturday, 10.30 am to 6.30 pm), this event highlights creations from the CPB-Photoworks Darkroom Residency, supported by the British Council. A prelude to the Chennai Photo Biennale and the Photoworks Festival (UK), the exhibition blends cultural dialogues and artistic experimentation in analogue photography. Ph: 88841 22112.



Homams for students

The Bhaktha Mandali of Rathnagiriswarar temple, Besant Nagar, is organising and conducting both Sri Hayagriva Homam and Sri Medha Dakshinamurthy Homam on Jan.26.

These Homams are performed for the benefit of the school and college-going-students who will be appearing for their annual examinations. Over 12 eminent Vedic Pundits will be performing these homams. Along with Homa Prasadam, all participants will be given a pen set kept in the pooja on that day. For more information, contact 90253 55828; bhakthamandali_regd@hotmail.com.

Thyagaraja Aradhana

Sri Thyagaraja Swamigal Aradhana celebrations will be held on Jan.20 at 5 am, by Ganamrutha Music School (disciples of Dr.Chitra Madhavan), at Varasiddhi Vinayagar Temple, 3rd Avenue, Besant Nagar. Ph: 24464062, 24467062.

Thiruvanniyur Mega Book Fair

Thiruvanniyur Mega Book Fair will be held till Jan.23 at Jayashree Kalyana Mandapam at Kalakshetra Road, Thiruvanniyur. The fair promises an extensive collection of books catering to all age groups and interests.

Visitors can enjoy attractive discounts and special offers on a wide range of titles, making it a paradise for book lovers. Whether you're looking for fiction, non-fiction, academic resources, or children's books, this event has something for everyone.

Tribute >



S. Balasuriyan, also known as Surya or Soori among his friends and relatives, passed away on Jan.9. He was 56 years old. He was one of the twins born to the late writer Rasavathi.

He was an elegant left-handed opening batsman at Raja Muthaiah school and also took a keen interest in track and field events and has won countless trophies. He was a long-time resident of Besant Nagar, Indira Nagar and Thiruvanniyur.

Surya was one of the partners in M/S Veegee Service Centre, Indira Nagar, along with his elder brother Gopal. They engaged in sales and service of TVS two-wheelers. Not only customers but all the people surrounding him were always filled with laughter in his company, say the family. He enjoyed and loved to sing and participated in all the activities of the Indira Nagar Ananda Vinayagar temple, they add.

He is survived by his wife, son and daughter. His family can be contacted at 98411 36594.

Alumni meet

Sri Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Vidyalaya Girls Higher Secondary School, T.Nagar, invites all its alumni to celebrate Alumni Day.

This year marks the Golden Jubilee Alumni Year for the 1975 batch, making it a special occasion to reconnect and relive cherished memories from 50 years ago. On Jan.26 at 10.30 am at the school premises. To register, SMS 98413 89310 or 94440 51648.

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News >

Tamilnadu Turtle Guardian app launched to protect Olive Ridley Turtles



In a significant step towards wildlife conservation, Tamil Nadu's Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Ma Subramanian, and Minister for Forests, K. Ponmudi, launched the 'Tamilnadu Turtle Guardian' app, on Jan.7, at the Guindy Children's Park.

Developed by the VGTS (Voluntary Group for Turtle Survival) in partnership with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, the app focuses on the conservation of endangered

Olive Ridley turtles that nest along the East coast of India between January and March.

The app is designed to empower forest rangers by enabling them to monitor egg collection, track hatching progress, and ensure the safe release of hatchlings into the sea. It also integrates a statewide data system to streamline volunteer coordination and promote community engagement. Highlighting the app's significance, VGTS, on their social media platform, stated, "By combining technology with conservation efforts, the app plays a vital role in protecting Tamil Nadu's

coastal ecosystems. Together, we are shaping a sustainable future for these magnificent creatures and our planet. Let's continue to make a difference-one hatchling at a time!"

The launch event was attended by Deputy Mayor M. Mahesh Kumar, IFS officers, and other key contributors, all of whom emphasised the importance of protecting the state's fragile marine biodiversity.

This initiative is expected to make a substantial impact on conserving Olive Ridley turtles and fostering environmental sustainability.

Nesting season starts

The launch of the app coincides with the start of the turtle nesting season. Supraja Dharini of TREE Foundation reported the first sighting of an Olive Ridley turtle coming ashore to nest at Panayur at 9.30 pm on Jan.16. The sighting has further energised efforts to protect these vulnerable marine creatures. To volunteer with TREE Foundation, contact 94443 06411, 2449 6411.



The Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network conducts turtle walks - an initiative aimed at raising awareness and involving the public in turtle conservation efforts. Those interested in participating can follow their page at <https://sstcn.org>.

Olive Ridley Turtles found dead on Chennai Coast

Over the past 15 days, a significant number of endangered Olive Ridley turtles have been found dead along Chennai's coastline, from Marina to Kovalam. Conservation groups, including the Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network (SSTN) and Tree Foundation, suggest that the turtles may have drowned after getting entangled in fishing nets, especially squid nets laid offshore. Common symptoms including bulging eyes and swollen necks were observed.

"Commercial fishing vessels use both trawl nets and gill nets. Turtles get caught in these nets and are unable to come up to breathe. Turtles have to surface every 40-45 minutes to breathe. When they get trapped in trawl nets or entangled in gill nets they cannot come to the surface and thus drown and die. When the nets are drawn, the dead turtles are thrown back into the sea and, from there washed ashore. This is truly heartbreaking. We are very sad," explained Supraja Dharini from TREE Foundation.

She added, "The Tamil Nadu Marine Fisheries Regulation Act (TNMFRA) should be effectively enforced by the Fisheries Department to mandate that commercial fisheries, including trawlers, operate beyond 8 nautical miles from the shore. This regulation is crucial to safeguard artisanal fisheries, whose sustainable practices are also vital for protecting migratory sea turtles.

The east coast serves as an essential migratory corridor for turtles traveling from the Gulf of Mannar to northern Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and the nesting beaches of Odisha. What benefits artisanal fisheries ultimately benefits these migrating turtles, ensuring the coexistence of ecological conservation and traditional livelihoods."

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CIC Literary Fest 2024: A celebration of stories and ideas

The CIC Literary Fest 2024, held on December 13 at Sishya OMR School, was a vibrant celebration of young adult literature, bringing together students, authors, and intellectuals for a day filled with creativity and curiosity. The festival showcased a collection of award-winning books such as *Wayel Kati: The Quest of the Seven Guardians*, *What the Dark Sounds Like*, *My Name is Cinnamon*, *Unknown Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle*, *Zen*, and *A Children's History of India in 100 Objects*.

The event featured a lineup of celebrated authors including P. Sainath, Shabnam Minwalla, Aparna Kapur, Vikas Prakash Joshi, Linthoi Chanu, and Devika Cariapa, who engaged in lively discussions with students. The students themselves played a significant role in bringing these stories to life, performing creative skits that highlighted key themes and characters.



A unique aspect of the fest was the opportunity for students to directly engage with authors, moderating sessions and asking insightful questions. This encouraged a deeper understanding of storytelling and literature.

The festival's energy was palpable, fostering an inspiring environment where ideas flowed freely and the importance of reading and storytelling was celebrated. This event was a true testament to the power of literature in shaping young minds.

Arangetram invitation

R.Kaviya, a class 9 student of The Hindu Senior Secondary School, Adyar, invites all to her Arangetram on Jan.25 at 8.50 am at Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Mylapore. She is a disciple of Bhagyashree Sathish, a renowned Bharatanatyam exponent with 27 years of experience. Ph: 94891 47535.

Learning opportunity for kids

Sigaram Montessori, Kottivakkam, is organising 'Katha Ambari', an engaging Tamil Language Development Practice session, to enhance children's reading, listening, and writing skills. The event focuses on the story, 'Periya soomberi yaar?' (Who is the laziest), encouraging young minds to improve fluency, excel in long-answer writing, and spark their imagination and creative thinking. On Jan.25 at 10 am. Register by contacting 80156 07825.

MISSING



K.S. Srikanth (Age: 51)
Mentally unstable person,
Missing since Jul-2024
Wearing Brown T-Shirt & Blue pant
Anyone giving information
will be suitably rewarded.
If you find him please take a photo
And immediately Contact Mr. Anand
97107 28526

Workshop by House of Mirror

House of Mirrors, an NGO from Gandhi Nagar, is hosting an in-person orientation workshop, Breaking the Cycle, on Jan.31 from 5 pm to 8 pm. This session will help individuals overcome emotional triggers and regulate their nervous system by building harmonious relationships.

Focused on trauma therapy, it highlights innate healing potential and growth. Limited to 15 participants. Register now at www.houseofmirrors.co.in. Ph: 98848 70504.

Colours of Glory to trek through Indian history

Colours of Glory Foundation invites all to a 'Trek through India's history - 1940s - 1990s' on Jan.19, at the Edouard Michelin Auditorium, Alliance Française of Madras, College Road, Nungambakkam, from 10 am to 2 pm. Highlights include a talk titled 'Indian Constitution and Gandhism: A Perspective' by veteran freedom fighter Lakshmikanthan Bharathi and the book launch of 'Storm Troopers at Outpost Bhatti' by Kargil war veteran Lt. Col. Sada Peter. Ph: 94446 43852; www.coloursofglory.org.

Art quilt exhibition

Chennai is set to host a vibrant exhibition titled 'Birds of Paradise', featuring exquisite theme-based art quilts.

The exhibition promises to be a visual treat for art enthusiasts, offering a unique opportunity to explore the world of quilts as an artistic medium.

The event will take place at Sri Sankara Hall, TTK Road, and is open to the public with free entry.

The exhibition will run from Jan.24 to 27. Inauguration and awards on Jan.24 from 4.30 pm to 8 pm. On Jan.25 and 26, the exhibition will be open from 11 am to 8 pm; on Jan.27 from 11 am to 6 pm.

Alumni meet at Vidyodaya school

Vidyodaya Schools Alumni Association (Poorva Vidhyarthini Samaj) is having its annual reunion on Jan.25 from 2 pm to 6 pm at the Vidyodaya School premises. There will be stalls, games and a sumptuous high tea.

Old and retiring teachers will be honoured; 12 Scholarships amounting to Rs.1.44 Lakhs for students from low socio-economic families studying in Vidyodaya will be distributed. Contact Vidyodaya Schools during working hours for more information: 28340202, 28345307, 28341607, 98410 94333 (Vasanthi).

Third Edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam announced

IIT Madras will host the third edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, organised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, from Feb.15 to 24.

The event aims to strengthen cultural ties between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi, two ancient centres of learning. Registration is open to the public via <http://kashitam.iitm.ac.in>. Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will serve as the host in Varanasi.

Around 1,000 participants from Tamil Nadu, representing students, teachers, farmers, artisans, professionals, and researchers, will attend. Another 200 Tamil students from Central Universities will join visits to Varanasi, Prayagraj, and Ayodhya.

This year's event coincides with the Maha Kumbh Mela (Jan.13 to Feb.26), allowing participants to take a Shahi Snan and visit the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The theme focuses on Sage Agasthyar, highlighting his contributions to Siddha medicine, Tamil literature, and cultural unity. Activities include exhibitions, workshops, and visits to key sites like Subramania Bharati's ancestral home and BHU's Tamil Department.

The Sangamam, launched in 2022, continues to revive and celebrate the rich cultural heritage connecting Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Explore Creativity at Chennai Sante Exhibition

Manya Arts and Kraft, in collaboration with Smart Art Events, presents Chennai Sante, a captivating exhibition and sale of crafts, home décor, jewellery, and textiles. Running until Jan.26, this vibrant event is hosted at the CERC Campus on Kalakshetra Road, Thiruvannamiyur.

The Sante showcases the creative brilliance of artisans and entrepreneurs, offering a diverse range of handmade crafts, exquisite apparel, elegant jewellery, and stunning home décor items. Visitors can immerse themselves in an atmosphere celebrating artistry and innova-



tion, perfect for finding unique additions to their homes or gifting loved ones.

With free entry and ample parking, the event is easily accessible for all. Whether you're a craft en-

thusiast, a decor lover, or someone seeking one-of-a-kind creations, Chennai Sante is the place to be.

For further inquiries, contact 98456 95922 or 78291 70001.

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■ WANTED Lady Showroom Staff, Computer knowledge, Little Accounts knowledge, 9.30 am to 6 pm. Rs.20,000 salary. Indra Nagar 3rd Avenue 9944099666.

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Students from OMR Taekwondo Academy shine at Taekwondo Championship

It was a proud moment for OMR Taekwondo Academy, as 22 of its talented students bagged a total of 28 medals at the prestigious 1st Chennai District Inter Club Taekwondo Championship. The championship, held at Shenoy Nagar witnessed fierce competition with over 120 participants from various clubs.



The students from OMR Taekwondo Academy, under the expert guidance of Master R. Venkatesan, delivered exceptional performances in both Poomsae and Sparring events.

In the Poomsae event, the academy secured 4 Gold and 2 Silver medals. In Sparring, the students clinched 13 Gold, 8 Silver, and 1 Bronze medal, marking an impressive overall tally of 17 Gold, 10 Silver, and 1 Bronze across both events.

The coaching team in-

cludes coaches Ramesh Perumal, Udhayakumar, and Began.

For further inquiries with the academy, contact: 95000 20300, or Email:

omrtaekwondo@gmail.com. OMR Taekwondo Academy is located at 254/3, 2nd Floor, Rohin Complex, Lakshman Nagar, Kandanchavadi (OMR).

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Letters >

Letters and events are welcome. Please include writer's name, address and telephone number; may be edited for purpose of clarity or space. Pics. welcome. adyartimes@gmail.com



Before



After

Goodbye 2024, Hello 2025!

■ As we step into the New Year, let's take a moment to appreciate the positive changes in our community. For a long time, the area outside Prime Terrace compound was cluttered with garbage and overgrown bushes. Today, thanks to one of our resident, Mr. Kumar's initiative and the cooperation of the corporation authorities, we have a clean and beautiful environment to enjoy.

Let's continue this spirit of community and collaboration into 2025, making our neighbourhood a better place for everyone. Kudos to Kumar for leading the way.

- P. V. Ranganathan, Thiruvanniyur.

Appreciation of bank staff

■ On Jan.13, I had to make a personal visit for urgent banking work due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances.

I am very happy to report that I was treated with utmost courtesy and prompt assistance was extended in completing my work at the Adyar branches of Indian Bank and TNSC Bank despite holiday fervour, with many customers crowding the premises and many staff members on leave.

Such promptness, politeness and respect towards senior citizens is hard to come by in this busy world. I am most grateful. My compliments to the management / in-charges of both bank branches.

- Deepak Bhatia, Gandhi Nagar.

Stormwater drain issues

■ The stormwater drain at the 2nd Main Road entrance, opposite the Brakes India office, has not been cleared yet. Despite many complaints to 1913, not only has the issue not been resolved, but the complaint also has been closed as completed.

Adding to Mr. Ramakrishnan's points mentioned in your previous edition dated Jan.5, the attitude of the current Ward 173 AE is very indifferent and lethargic. I raised the common issue of SWD cleaning in Aug 2024 and he said it would be done before monsoon but it is still not cleared. Hope the concerned authorities take the necessary action.

- A. V. Vikram, Gandhi Nagar.



▲ I wish to bring attention to the poor condition of the children's park and playground at Thiruvalluvar Nagar Second Avenue, Thiruvanniyur (Ward 180). The play equipment like the swing is broken. Such broken equipment can pose a hazard for the children.

- A. Dayanithi, Thiruvanniyur.



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Date : 19th January 2025, Sunday

Time : 10:00 AM TO 02:00 PM

Place : S-1, Shastri Nagar, 2nd Avenue, MG Road, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020.



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