



Carol then, sweetly

The CSI Redeemer Church English Choir presents their carol concert, Silver Bells, featuring a mix of classical and popular carols.
@ CSI REDEEMER CHURCH, ANNA NAGAR
December 8, 6.30 pm
☎ 9841021256/9841447240



Dream come true

Sundaram Finance organises a Dream Catcher craft workshop for children aged eight to 12 years. Materials will be provided.
@ NAGESWARA RAO PARK, MYLAPORE
December 7, 3 pm to 5 pm
☎ 28881565



Light up

Seventh Sense is holding an exhibition cum sale of agals and diyas on the occasion of Karthigai Deepam, the festival of lamps.
@ SEVENTH SENSE, ADYAR
December 9
☎ 24412476



Learn to paint

Classes to teach techniques of Tanjore painting for kids (aged 10 years and above) and adults are being held for ₹1,500.
@ MAVEN ART ACADEMY, KODAMBAKKAM
Till December 6, 10 am-2 pm; 5 pm-7 pm
☎ 24830787/9840473664/9094990718



Curtain call

Choose from a wide range of fabrics and designs for curtains, besides a variety of designer wallpapers and customised furniture.
@ SHADES, EGMORE
December 15
☎ 28191205



High note

Aruna Sairam performs as a part of this season's Margazhi festival. Tickets for ₹250 are available on bookmyshow.com.
@ KAMARAJAR ARANGAM, TEYNAMPET
December 6, 6.45 pm onwards
☎ 24349040



A night away FROM HOME

Chennaiites will be joining people around the globe for The World's Big Sleep Out, spending one whole night out in the open to raise \$50 million for the homeless

REJI VARGHESE

It is monsoon in Chennai. It is wet, damp and everything seems to be tinged in different shades of grey. As you head out of your house, you see a homeless family huddling under a temporary shelter. For a moment, your heart goes out to them. Then you move on – there are texts to send, phone calls to make, meetings to attend...

If you have ever felt unable to help in such a situation, head out to The World's Big Sleep Out at Elliot's Beach this Saturday.

On the night of December 7, over fifty thousand people around the globe will sleep outdoors, to raise awareness and donations for the homeless. The World's Big Sleep Out campaign is a one-off global campaign that aims to see 50,000 participants from around the globe sleep out to raise \$50 million in funding for the homeless.

Started by Josh Littlejohn MBE, co-founder of the Scotland-based charity Social Bite, the event is run in partnership with the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), UNICEF USA, Malala Fund and Social Bite.

The campaign will be simultaneously held in cities around the globe, including London, New York, Edinburgh, Chicago, Santiago, Dublin, Newcastle, Brussels, Barcelona and Madrid. In India, it will be held across 24 cities and towns.

Flagship fund-raising sleep-out events will be held in Times Square, New York and Trafalgar Square, London. Celebrities like Dame Helen Mirren and Will Smith are appearing live at some of these events to read bedtime stories, alongside performances by the world's leading musicians.

In Chennai, the event will be hosted by The Banyan and World's Big Sleep



The bigger picture Chennai is among 24 Indian cities participating. The venue is Elliot's Beach
* VIVEK NAGARAJAN AND B JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Out. There will be music performances and contributing to the cause. Organisers are expecting between 500 and 1,000 people to attend, and have obtained permission from Chennai Police and Chennai Corporation for people to sleep on the beach and pavement. Participants can bring bedsheets and mats.

Though The World's Big Sleep Out involves spending a night under the stars, it is not about pretending to be homeless. It is an act of solidarity – to give you a tiny insight into what is a reality for many, and to raise the funds and awareness needed to help them.

Preetha Krishnadas, Director of The Banyan, says, "The United Nations Human Settlements Program estimates that 1.1 billion people live in inadequate housing, and data suggests that more

than 100 million people have no housing at all. There are an estimated 70.8 million people displaced around the globe because of war, natural disasters and extreme poverty. According to the 2011 Census, India has more than 1.7 million homeless citizens. In Chennai alone, at any given point, estimates place the number at around 40,000 to 50,000."

"Homelessness" she adds, "is a violation of the basic human right to adequate housing. Homeless people, especially women, are among the most marginalised, ignored, discriminated. This is an opportunity for those keen to serve homeless people, to come together and show the world that Chennai is a kind city with a warm heart."

Says Josh, "We are a small, interconnected world. By collectively sacrificing our beds for one night, we can lend a hand of compassion and solidarity with those who need it most – homeless people on our doorsteps and refugees internationally."

In Chennai, The World's Big Sleep Out will be held at Elliot's Beach, Besant Nagar from 7 pm on December 7 to 6 am on December 8.

Holiday fare

Deck your home up with Christmas-themed linen



CHITRADEEPA ANANTHARAM

The annual Christmas pop-up by Bottega Pereira presents a range of home linen this year.

The Chennai-based Bottega Pereira, a home furnishing line meant for the domestic market, sells solely through their annual Christmas pop-up sale and a few other events in the city. Says Fiammetta Pereira, co-founder and in-house designer, "We will be bringing a range of home textiles, which is contemporary and affordable at the same time."

The collection of table mats (6, 8 or 12 seaters), table runners, placements, napkins, hand towels and curtains, are available in various colours, designs and combinations. Apart from this, there are also pocket-friendly gift items. The cost of products ranges from ₹500 to ₹2,600.

The pop-up is on from December 6 to 9, 10.30 am to 6 pm, at 49, Pachaiyappa's Hostel Road, Chetpet. For details, call 9840412167.