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CAMPUS BEATS

THE PULSE OF SVSSS



SHRINE VAILANKANNI SR SEC SCHOOL

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FROM THE HEART

EDITORIAL NOTE

Some celebrations do more than brighten our calendars; they touch our hearts, weaving together timeless stories, cherished traditions, and values that shape who we become. Navarathri is one such deeply moving celebration, honouring Goddess Durga through her nine sacred forms over nine auspicious nights; a gentle, powerful reminder of the courage, wisdom, and grace that reside within us.

From the quiet reverence of Ayudha Pooja, where we bow in gratitude before the tools, books, and instruments that guide our hands and minds to the hopeful dawn of learning on Vijayadasami, every ritual carries a piece of our heritage. These traditions anchor us to our roots, passing a living legacy from one generation to the next so that we never forget where we come from.

That spirit comes alive in the laughter, devotion, and wonder of our Kindergarten, Primary, and Higher Secondary students. Whether through soulful music, graceful dance, or the intricate beauty of traditional Golu displays, each child pours their heart into the festivities. In these shared moments, traditions stop being mere chapters of history; they become living memories, felt and treasured together as one school family.

Yet the true essence of learning also shines when young minds step forward to shape the future. Through the Eco Club's e-waste upcycling initiative, discarded circuit boards, wires, and broken gadgets were rescued from landfills and given a second life; a tender reminder that caring for our Earth is an act of love. That same spirit of purposeful innovation came roaring to life during The White Hats – HackFest, where young thinkers and problem-solvers poured their passion, teamwork, and integrity into building meaningful solutions for tomorrow. Seeing tradition and technology stand side by side reminds us that the tools of our age are most sacred when guided by conscience and creativity.

Perhaps the true magic of these days lies in how effortlessly they unite devotion, knowledge, innovation, and community. They remind us that grace is found both in the heritage we hold sacred and in the conscious, courageous choices we make for the world ahead.

"Tradition keeps our roots alive, while knowledge helps us grow."

As we carry the warmth of this season forward, may its light stay with us inspiring us to live with deeper gratitude, boundless curiosity, and hearts open to learning.

With faith in every heartbeat
Students of SVSSS

WHEN WASTE FINDS A SECOND LIFE

What if yesterday's broken technology could become tomorrow's creation?

"E-Waste to Treasure" is a creative exploration driven by student innovation, where discarded electronic materials are given an entirely new identity. Students of Classes XI and XII took on the challenge of transforming e-waste into something meaningful, turning old keyboard keys, CDs, wires, electronic components and unused containers into functional and decorative creations.

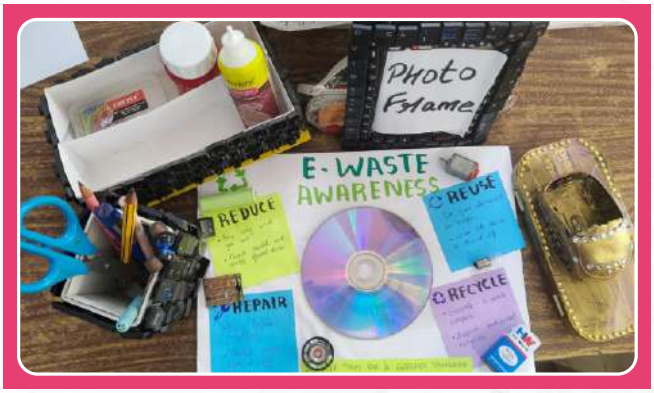
With creativity as their tool and discarded materials as their canvas, the students experimented, designed and constructed objects that gave e-waste a renewed purpose. Each creation reflects their ability to think beyond conventional uses and find value where others might see none.

The initiative goes beyond simply reusing materials. It encourages students to question, redesign and create. A broken keyboard becomes more than a collection of keys. An old CD becomes more than a discarded disc. What was once considered unusable becomes the starting point for a new idea.

Through this process, the students discovered that sustainability and innovation need not exist in separate worlds. The same hands that use technology can also find creative ways to give its discarded parts a second life.

"E-Waste to Treasure" is ultimately a celebration of student imagination, resourcefulness and responsible innovation. It sends out a powerful message: the future does not belong only to those who invent something new, but also to those who can see new possibilities in what already exists.





Echoes of Heritage: A Vibrant Tapestry of Navarathri Festivities

Our school's Navarathri celebrations unfolded as a radiant showcase of Tamil culture, devotional art, and student talent, uniting the entire campus in festive spirit.

The Kindergarten wing brought boundless joy to the morning, radiating innocence as they witnessed the soulful invocation and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by our Principal alongside invited parents—symbolising the triumph of light over darkness.







Building on this auspicious start, our Primary students infused the campus with infectious enthusiasm and harmony. Their spirited participation in the melodious group songs filled the auditorium with warmth, reflecting the vibrant roots of our traditions.

Taking centre stage, the High School students delivered a powerhouse of literary and performing arts. Following a warm welcome by J.C. Gokula Krishnan, students brought epics to life through the rhythmic Abhirami Andhaadhi Villupaatu, graceful Oyilaatam, and expressive Dussehra Naadagam. Sharp intellect shone in the Tamil debate on "Kalvi, Selvam, Veeram," alongside eloquent addresses in English by Mohana Devi and in Tamil by Saravana Sairam.












Concluding with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Jaya Rama Prethvika, the celebration stood as a memorable confluence of devotion and creativity, inspiring future generations to cherish our rich heritage.






THE WHITE HATS – HACKFEST 2026:
WHERE YOUNG MINDS ENGINEERED TOMORROW

THE WHITE HATS - HACK FEST

INNOVATE ▪ CREATE ▪ IMPACT

On November 3, 2026, Shrine Vailankanni Senior Secondary School transformed into a vibrant hub of youthful ingenuity as we proudly hosted the Grand Finale of "The White Hats – HackFest 2026," a statewide inter-school technology hackathon organized in association with the Rotary Club of Madras.

From Bold Concept to Statewide Movement

Conceptualized to inspire students in Grades 9 through 12 to channel their coding skills into ethical, civic-minded innovation, The White Hats – HackFest challenged young creators to tackle real-world societal issues anchored in Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus—from healthcare and clean water to sustainability and assistive education.

The response across Tamil Nadu was nothing short of extraordinary. Over 120 school teams submitted technical concepts and video prototypes in the preliminary round. Following rigorous evaluation, the top 50 finalist teams—comprising over 100 student developers, hardware tinkerers, and problem-solvers—earned their spot at the on-campus Grand Finale at SVSSS.





Engineering the Arena: Behind the Scenes

Turning an entire school campus into a high-stakes tech arena required remarkable behind-the-scenes orchestration. Under the visionary guidance of our Secretary, Mr. K. T. Pillai, our 3,000 sq. ft. auditorium was rapidly re-engineered into a mission-critical computing laboratory capable of supporting over 100 concurrent workstations. Equipped with a high-density, surge-protected power grid, enterprise-grade dual-broadband Wi-Fi 6 connectivity, and optimized thermal cooling, the auditorium ensured zero latency and seamless execution throughout the intense, day-long coding and hardware sprint.





Extraordinary Young Potential & Academic Rigor

Walking through the lab floor during the finale was a glimpse into the future of Indian innovation. Rather than building surface-level apps, our young finalists deployed production-grade frameworks to solve problems with genuine empathy.

To uphold the highest standards of evaluation, the judging panel featured esteemed Heads of Departments from VIT Chennai—Dr. Christo Michael, Dr. Vergin Raja Sarobin, Dr. Renukadevi S, and Dr. Deepa T, who audited source codes, stress-tested prototypes, and engaged students in deep architectural discussions. The poise, clarity, and resilience with which these 14-to-17-year-olds defended their innovations left the jury deeply impressed.





A Grand Finale to Remember

The event culminated in a lively prototype exhibition and a prestigious valedictory ceremony graced by eminent leaders:

Dr. R. Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu, presided as Chief Guest, inspiring students with his keynote address on responsible AI and praising the young finalists as the torchbearers of Tamil Nadu's digital future.

Mrs. B. K. K. Pillai, Chairperson, Vailankanni Group of Institutions, applauded the participants' spirit of inquiry, reaffirming SVSSS's commitment to experiential, future-ready education.





Rtn. Balakrishna S., President, Rotary Club of Madras, attended as Guest of Honour, commending the students for pairing technical brilliance with a heart for community service.





Cash prizes totaling over ₹45,000, trophies, and mentorship opportunities were awarded to the top state champions and domain innovators. The White Hats – HackFest 2026 was more than a competition. It was a celebration of curiosity, grit, and the unmistakable pulse of SVSSS, proving that when young minds are given the right platform, they don't just imagine the future, they build it.





Real-world challenges presented at inter-school tech fest

Shrine Vailankanni Senior Secondary School in T. Nagar, in association with Rotary Club of Madras, hosted the grand finale of "The White Hats Hack Fest 2026," a state-wide inter-school technology hackathon bringing together inventive minds from Grades 9 through 12.

Following competitive preliminary rounds that saw over 120 school teams submit cutting-edge concepts, the top 50 finalist teams converged on campus for a rigorous, day-long showcase of software and hardware prototypes addressing pressing real-world challenges in healthcare, education, sustainability, and civic infrastructure, said a release.

R. Kumar, Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu, presided as chief guest. He commended the young finalists for their technical ambition, emphasising the state's vision to empower grassroots innovation, advance responsible artificial intelligence, and prepare students to become ethical technology leaders of tomorrow, said the release.

BKK Pillai, Chairperson, Vailankanni Group of Schools; and Balakrishna S., president, Rotary Club of Madras, spoke.

Tech Lab

A key operational highlight of the grand finale was the rapid structural and technical transformation of the school's 3,000 sq. ft. auditorium into a high-density, mission-critical computing laboratory, spearheaded by K. T. Pillai, secretary, Shrine Vailankanni Senior Secondary School, added the re...

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