

## college diaries

PHOTO: A.R. ANSER



# STREET TURNS INTO CANVAS

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

The Street Art Festival, organised by the Goethe Institut, Chennai, invited proposals from various colleges in the city to 'conquer the concrete'. The selected colleges, School of Architecture and Planning (SAP), Anna University and Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, wielded paint cans and brushes to cover the walls with interesting murals. The competition, which did not involve any prize money or gift hampers, drew enthusiastic students from these colleges, eager to make a mark — literally — on their campus.

The students of SAP faced a few problems as the compound walls of the College of Engineering, Guindy, are considered to be of heritage value. To paint the bright red walls, they had to come up with an interesting concept that was in keeping with its heritage. Thus, both sides of the

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main entrance of Anna University are covered with paintings, related to the cultural and natural heritage of Chennai. "First and second year students of the department have put in effort to make this possible. Before we began on the walls, there were various constraints and many were against the idea of changing the look of the campus," says Cibi CB, assistant professor in the department.

John Clement, first year student from SAP, points out that the natural heritage of Chennai should be a source of pride for Chennaiites. "We have chosen to draw turtles, the sea and seaweed because it is a huge part of our natural resource, and the number of turtle walks that we have is amazing."

Kavitha, second year student has chosen to portray the wildlife sanctuary in the vicinity. "The excitement of kids on a school trip to the Guindy National Park is worth por-

traying," she says. Dr Lakshmi Priya Daniel, faculty of the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, says that they had identified three spots in the college to paint and also plan to use the pavement and they would start on February 4. "We have got the required permission from the Chennai Corporation. The interesting thing about in this street festival is that we will be doing performance art that focuses on the street folk of the city," she says.

A student from the department further adds, "The proposed installation project aims to revisit the omnipresent Chennai MTC bus by creating an artwork using the bus and the bus shelter as a primary motif."



Cibi CB

Students painting the Anna University Campus, Guindy compound wall