

# On the green

Chennai's new Golf Village introduces a pay and use concept for both beginners and the addicted



ITH exactly two golf courses in the city and membership for each far from affordable, the game still remains a mystery to me. Of course, terms like 'putting' and 'chipping' have been tossed around frequently in my company, but I'd never imagined myself getting a chance to understand the game and its complexities, let alone play it.

"This is exactly what set off the concept of our golf-village," says Rengasamy Raja of AKDR golf village, Thoraipakkam. "We wanted everyone to understand the game and use the facilities. Unlike other clubs, you don't need to pay a hefty membership fee, we only charge a fee of around Rs 150 per session, which includes entry, club rent and a bucket of balls and the place is yours to explore. 'Pay and Use' golf is a relatively new concept not only in the city but also in the country."

Sounds good but what about the equipment a golfer is required to possess, like golf clubs, shoes, balls and accessories? What about those who stroll in, wanting just a feel of the game and nothing more? "We want to

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spread awareness of the game. Even if you want to take a few lessons or explore golf you can check out our place. While we welcome those who like to use their own clubs, we also rent out great equipment," says Raja.

"The golf course is not only for the golf aficionado. If you want to learn the basics, or get a hang of the game, we have a team of highly-skilled trainers who will be happy to take you under their wing."

In addition to golfing facilities, the village has a fully-equipped conference room and a coffee shop with yummy snacks. "Whether you want to bring corporates here for a short golfing session, or even treat your team to a lesson, we are open to innovation," adds Raja. Well, going by the initial response to the village and the hospitality of the staff, this place looks like an OMR hot spot in the making.

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## SAVE THIS

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## Need to know

### Beginners

If you are between 8 and 15 years, this is a great place to learn to play from scratch. The AKDR Golf Village is conducting 10-day camps for youngsters. Each 10-day session includes an introduction to the game and all equipment is provided. Cost: Rs 3000 (approximately). Dates: April 16-26, May 30-10, and May 14-24

### in brief

## Range specs

The AKDR Golf village has a driving range of 220 yards. There are 16 bays in all and facilities for chipping practice, bunker practice and putting practice

## Hot now

The mini-golf course. A highly addictive game, which goes down well with both children and adults

## Coconut hurdles

Coconut trees: Before the golf village came up, the entire area was a coconut farm. A few trees have been retained to provide aesthetic value as well as serve as hurdles to make the game more interesting and challenging.

## For early risers

If you have an office along the IT corridor on OMR and feel like unwinding with a spot of golf before a long day at work, the Village has excellent shower and locker room facilities.

