

## T. NAGAR

Saidapet » West Mambalam » Vadapalani » Porur » Kattupakkam » Irungattukottai » Nungambakkam » Manapakkam » Ashok Nagar » Valasaravakkam  
Gerugambakkam » Mangadu » Choolaimedu » Egmore » K K Nagar » Kodambakkam » Virugambakkam » Somangalam » Poonamallee » Chetpet



## Not a walk in a floral garden

Small-time flower sellers waded through a water-filled pothole on the way to making purchases at the flower market in Koyambedu

VELANKANNI RAJ B.

**K**amarajar Malar Angadi, as the flower market in Koyambedu known, supports many small-time flower sellers from various parts of the city. They depend on this market to buy flowers on the cheap and sell it at a profit and eke a living.

One can see these flower sellers, carrying their purchase, and struggling out of the market, thanks to the difficulty they face at the main entrance which is marked by a deep pothole (one that is as wide as a pond).

Those who try to skirt around this "pond" end up on a slippery path and have a fall, thanks to loamy soil around it.

While getting into the market, which they can access after covering a nearly 500-m distance, they walk through ground that is disarray due to Metro rail work. And many of these traders are seniors. The 500-m course with obstacles will make for a tiresome walk; but nothing can be done about it now, as it involves Metro rail work. But the pothole can be fixed.



At the entrance to the flower market in Koyambedu. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

## Go Puja in T. Nagar

ISKCON T. Nagar, an outpost of ISKCON Chennai, will be celebrating Go Puja and Govardhan Puja on October 26 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Venue: Guru Badri Kalyana Mandapam, No.3/2, Sundaram Street, behind Natesan Park, T Nagar. For more details, WhatsApp 8220017695

## Competitions to mark World Standards Day

As part of 'World Standards Day 2025', the Bureau of Indian Standards, Chennai, is conducting a series of competitions to raise awareness among students about standards and quality.

The competitions will be held at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, on October 27. Competitions include a standards quiz, poster designing, logo competition, standards debate, guess the logo, project expo, and standard presentation competition.

## Dance and dialogue festival

Devaniya, a Kathak school, is hosting 'Mahal', a three-day integrative dance and dialogue festival on October 31, November 1 and November 2 at Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, T. Nagar

Mahal will feature events

conducted by famous proponents of other dance forms like Anita Ratnam, Ramaa Bharadwaj and Uma Murli.

For tickets, visit [https://mdnd.in/SeasonTickets/OrganizerLanding-Page?ci=101&r\\_id=30660](https://mdnd.in/SeasonTickets/OrganizerLanding-Page?ci=101&r_id=30660)

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The showers in recent days did not inundate Zackaria Colony Fourth Street in Choolaimedu, not in the least; but residents believe heavy rains can flip the script unless the SWD on this street is linked to the main line



The pending SWD work at the junction of Vanniar Street and Choolaimedu High Road

#### PRINCE FREDERICK

James Boswell, that biographer and flawless mirror of Samuel Johnson, records the master essayist as having said, not exactly in these words, that when a man knows the gallows awaits him in a fortnight, the thought would grip him intensely. Boswellian presentation of Johnson's thoughts is not the main point here. That statement attributed to Johnson pictures the mind of Zackaria Colony Fourth Street residents. Stormwater drain work has been carried out on Zackaria Colony Fourth Street in Choolaimedu, and that explains why rainwater from showers, some intense, in recent days did not linger on the street. Though this is reason for cheer, their mind is half gripped by what could happen in a fortnight.

"Previously, even showers of this nature would inundate the street," says a resident, but his positive tone is as brief as a firefly flash. He adds almost immediately: "So far so good! But the SWD line on Zackaria Colony Fourth Street is yet to be connected to the main SWD line, which travels via Choolaimedu High Road and Vanniar Street and the final destination is Trustpuram Canal."

The resident shared an image of the pending work at the junction of Choolaimedu High Road and Vanniar Street, noting that work has been stalled on account of rain.

A local GCC official notes that the connecting SWD line has to be constructed in a transverse course on Choolaimedu High Road and be linked to the existing stormwater drain on Vanniar Street from where it line heads to the Trustpuram canal.

The official observes that this work should have been completed last week but for the recent showers. Vehicular traffic in the area is also a challenge, according to the official.

What if a cloudburst happens before the work is completed? That is the collective worry of these residents, and that seems to "concentrate" their minds, as it did the person Samuel Johnson was talking about, which was recorded in his biography by Boswell.

The GCC official allays their fears. The work will be completed as soon as possible. And on the Trustpuram canal improvement work, the overall redevelopment work will take time, but what has been done so far is sufficient to take care of any challenges during this monsoon. The official notes that the desilting work has been completed, and water is flowing freely in the canal.

## Nowhere to run when it pours

That is the current state of commuters at Guindy Race Course bus stop as the shelters have been removed

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Commuters at Guindy Race Course stop (towards Five Furlong Road) are frustrated over the removal of shelters and the delay in installing new ones.

Recently, Greater Chennai Corporation carried out an exercise to install new shelters, say Metropolitan Transport Corporation officials. It has been weeks since the old shelters were removed, and there is no sign yet of the new ones.

M. Bhuvana, a commuter, says, "There was no need to remove these shelters, which were helpful during the summer and rains."

Now, most commuters have nowhere to go, so they gather at the timekeeper's makeshift of-



Guindy Race Course bus stop when it had shelters; and now, when the shelters have been removed. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

fice, which is surrounded by trees. On the other side, commuters need to be careful not to get hit by buses. A small shelter along the timekeeper's office has been put up with no seating arrangements. How can the commuter traffic at this haltover fit under the roof? questioned commuters

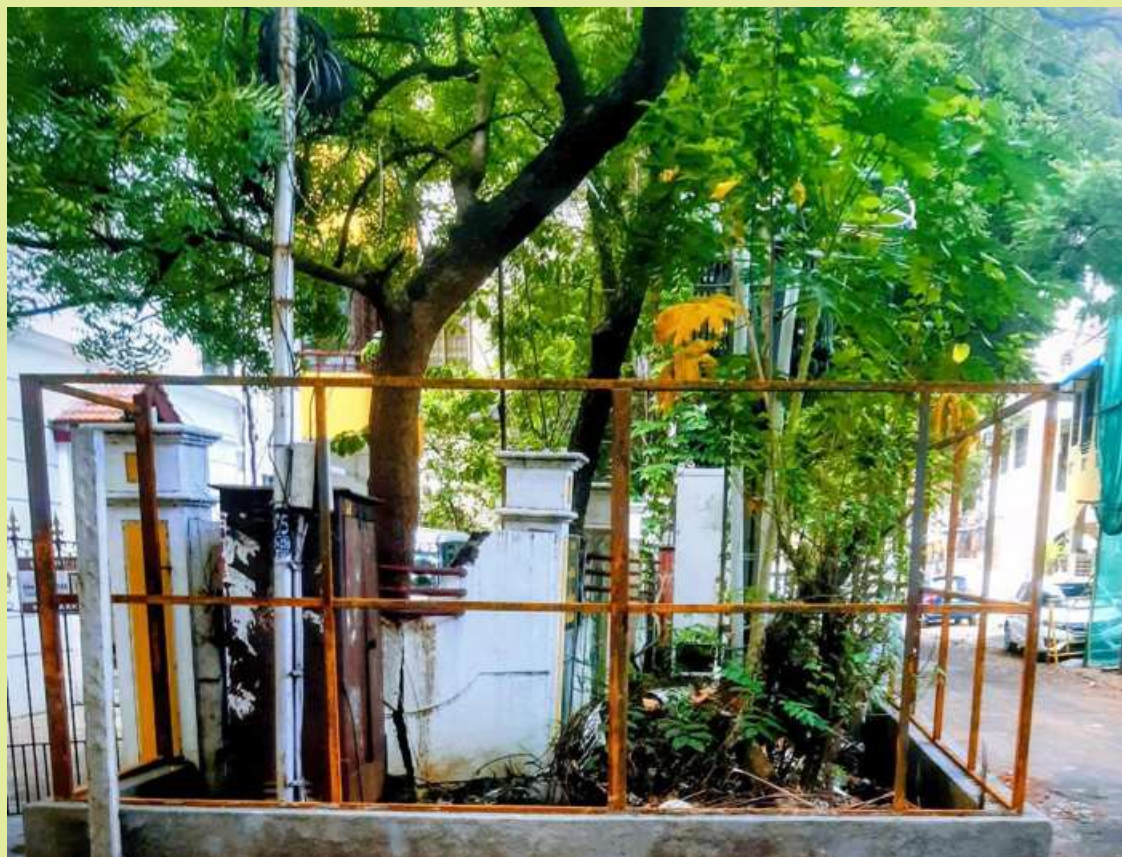
"Commuters had a tough

time scrambling for shelter, says D. Sathyanarayanan, a long-time resident of Guindy and a social activist.

At any time of the day, the stop (no less than a terminal) sees hundreds of commuters heading to Kilambakkam, Tambaram (East and West), Poona-mallee, Kundrathur, Guduvancherry and Pazhantandalam.



# Two sides to those view cutters



V. GANESAN

**T**he view cutters being installed by Greater Chennai Corporation to hide roadside electricity infrastructure – distribution transformers, fuse boxes and switch gears – and their surroundings from the public gaze are also hiding things that should not be found amidst this gadgetry.

Inside many of these enclosures, one can find big stones, rods, shrubs, broken glasses and unwanted waste materials – things that ought to be carted away but are being hidden away by those view cutters. Even trees are inside

these partially closed compartments. There is no proper entrance for inspecting the transformers. Some transformers are weeping with leaking oil. Inspection becomes nearly impossible. During heavy rain, these enclosures with their small support walls for the view cutter might act like water tanks and water might enter electrical pillar boxes and cause major power outages. Removing a failed transformer would also be very difficult as view cutters might prove a hindrance. Hence restoration of power may take a longer period. Utilising sophisticated machines to clean debris inside these closed view cutters would be a

challenge. Transformers are trapped inside unsafe, poorly planned metal enclosures.

As an example, a partially built view cutter at Vasudevapuram, West Mambalam is shown here to understand how a view cutter is constructed without removing the unwanted materials, stones, wire fence, shrubs, glasses and other garbage including broomstick. There is also a papaya tree inside. Clearly, danger lurks inside.

Summing up, these view cutters around transformers are a beauty on the outside, and a danger on the inside.

(V. Ganesan is a retired executive engineer of TNEB)



A partially built view cutter at Vasudevapuram, West Mambalam. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Citywide awareness campaign marks World Polio Day

**R**otary District 3234 observed World Polio Day across the Chennai Metro Rail network. The campaign reached out to commuters through interactive awareness sessions, posters, and volunteer drives at Alandur, Guindy and Central Metro stations.

The initiative aimed to educate the public about ongoing

vaccination efforts and the importance of remaining vigilant until the world completely eradicates polio, said a press release.

District governor AKS Rotarian Vinod Saraogi, S. Ashok Kumar, chief general manager, track and elevated construction, CMRL, and the district polio team participated.

Rotary's End Polio Now campaign remains one of the organisation's flagship global programmes, with over 2.5 billion children vaccinated since its inception, added the release.





## Teen from Nungambakkam earns top spot in World Dressage Challenge

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**S**ixteen-year-old Miraya R. Dadabhoy from the Chennai Equitation Centre (CEC) in Sholinganallur earned one of the four coveted spots in team India for the FEI World Dressage Challenge 2025. A resident of Nungambakkam, Miraya also secured second place in India in the youth category (12 to 16 years), marking a milestone for her and CEC's young equestrian talent. The qualifiers for the FEI World Dressage Chal-

lenge was held at the Amateur Riders' Club in Mumbai from October 6 to 11. The event served as a selection trial for the Indian team, and top performers who secure spots in will represent India in upcoming International competitions. Miraya is a resident of Nungambakkam.

Along with Miraya, her fellow Chennai Equitation rider Samanna Everaa also earned a spot in team India on her horse, Donna Wetrer impressing judges with her performance at the Prix St. Georges level, which is equivalent to the Asian Games Team Event

standard.

Conducted by the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) in partnership with the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI), the FEI World Dressage Challenge provides a global platform for developing equestrian nations to showcase their best riders.

Miraya delivered an exceptional performance with her horse Knock Out. Her success reflects years of dedication under the guidance of Isabelle Futnani and Jay Rathore, who have been nurturing a new generation of dressage athletes at the Chennai Equitation Centre.



### Free eye care services in West Mambalam

Senior citizens can drop in at Kalpavriksha Centre on the first and third Thursdays

**A** new facility offering free eye care examination for senior citizens was inaugurated recently at Kalpavriksha Centre in West Mambalam. One can avail the services on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.

The initiative is led by Dr. R. Krishnakumar, an eye care professional, as part of his ongoing doorstep free geriatric eye care services which has benefited senior citizens in old age homes,

differently-abled individuals, and students of Veda Padasalai schools, said a release. A. Mahalingam, who has been in the field of eye care for over two decades and current director of TwinTech Healthcare Services, is managing this programme.

The centre was inaugurated by Raghunathan Ramarao, founder of Kalpavriksha, and Daasya Raman of Daasya Trust. His commitment to community welfare has made a significant impact across multiple social sectors, said the release.

Poongothai Senthilkumar, senior optometrist and director - Optical Gallery, donated essential equipment, and Navaneetha Krishnan provided additional instruments.

The release has also thanked Raghunathan Ramarao for providing the premises for this initiative, which will greatly benefit the senior community.

For appointments, contact E. Selva Kumar at 90031 57356



### Arunmozhi wins bronze in World Para Powerlifting championship

Arunmozhi won bronze in the women's 87 kg category at the World Para Powerlifting Championship held in Cairo recently. The 45-year-old finished third behind an Egyptian and a Libyan. Arunmozhi lifted a total of 180 kg. She is supported by Amar Seva Sangam, an organisation (situated in Ayikudy village in Tenkasi District) dedicated to disability management focusing on rural areas, and Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu.

Coached by Vijay Sarathy, Arunmozhi has been training at the Nehru Stadium, Periamet for two years with 10 other athletes.

"It's rare for a 45-year-old to win a medal at a world championships, and this is purely due to her effort and discipline," said Sarathy, adding that Arunmozhi was with Amar Seva Sangam for at least four years.

### Mylapore teen at Youth Asian Games

M. Hansini will be part of the three-member Indian women's team for the Youth Asian Games to be held at Bahrain from October 26 to 30. The 16-year-old, who is India No.1 in the youth girls' Under-19 section, is the lone representative from Tamil Nadu.

Hansini, a resident of Mylapore, is being coached by Kalvath Syed for one-and-a-half years and is supported by HPCL, Go Sports Foundation and Polyhose.



Hansini with coach Kalvath Syed



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On rain duty at Koyambedu metro station. This image was taken on October 23.  
PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

LIFFY THOMAS

# A tech boost

Greater Chennai Corporation has made sure that water pumps are not alone in the battle against flooding

**L**ow-lying, Elaya Street junction in R.K. Nagar has been a bugbear every monsoon for residents and Greater Chennai Corporation. Rainwater from VOC Nagar, Thiruvalluvar Nagar and surrounding areas would pour into it. This monsoon, a number of interventions are making sure the water level at this junction does not cause any hindrance to the movement of people and vehicles.

A 280 HP submersible pump is stationed at the junction. A sump and a well ensures water drains easily. If that is not enough then additional drains and an additional pump have been put into service to ensure excess water goes down easily. An executive engineer says that because of various measures taken well ahead of the monsoon the inundation time has reduced at this vulnera-

ble spot by almost half. "In the previous monsoon, water would stay on for a day. Now in hours time water is drained out," says the engineer.

With the help of GPS-enabled tracking devices installed in portable water pumps, Greater Chennai Corporation officials are monitoring many such areas prone to flooding during heavy rains.

"Until last year, they arrived at a decision based on the feedback we presented. There was no mechanism to cross check whether the information that was fed was right or wrong. Suppose three 100 HP motors are stationed on

the road they can monitor whether it is being put into service and for how many hours it ran etc.," says the engineer with

Zone I.

## A clause in the tender

Use of GPS in dewatering equip-

ments such as pumps/ motors and tractors saw a mention in the GCC tenders from this year. The move is aimed at ensuring accountability.

"In the previous years, engineers would manually verify and cross-verify with us if an area is getting flooded or if the pumps are running effectively. Now in real time they can monitor the pump functioning," says an entity associated with the industry.

GPS when installed in the motors and pumps helps to correlate the info that GCC is getting through other platforms. This can also be used by the department to give a status report on an area.

While technology can enhance flood mitigation through advanced monitoring, it can only be effective with other measures on the ground and can also fail at times. For example, in 2015, the city went without power for an extended period, and in such scenarios, one would need to look beyond this technology, say experts.

## Monsoon helpline

**1913** - for any monsoon-related complaint that has to be attended by Greater Chennai Corporation

Residents can also reach out to GCC through its social media platforms such as X **@chennaicorp** and Instagram **@chennaicorp**

**1916/ 044-4567 4567** - Besides calling these two dedicated numbers, the public can share their grievances with CMWSSB through their **WhatsApp number 8144930308**

**Call TNEB at 94987 94987 for power-related issues**



# ‘Roll out additional trains to southern TN’

The second ‘Amrit Samvaad’ programme held at Egmore railway station saw commuters seeking measures to ensure safety for women passengers

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

**B**etter security measures for women at Egmore railway station was a key point stressed by commuters at the ‘Amrit Samvaad’ programme held recently at the terminal.

Tej Partap Singh, additional divisional railway manager, Chennai Division, who took part in the meeting, heard grievances from commuters and also shared measures that are being taken.

This is the second ‘Amrit Samvaad’ programme in the Chennai Division, which is aimed at engaging with passengers and listen to their grievances, the Southern Railway said in a release.

Other feedback shared by participants includes improved facilities for Divyangjan passengers and additional trains for southern districts.

Interacting with passengers, Partap Singh said the Egmore terminal, which is getting a facelift, will feature “airport-like amenities” including a separate arrival and de-



parture terminal to ease passenger flow.

The renovation work has been thoughtfully planned keeping comfort of all passengers, especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

As part of the modernisation, all platforms will be connected by wide foot overbridges, with each platform equipped with sufficient lifts and escalators (32 escalators and 44 lifts across the station), ensuring easy and convenient movement, he added.

In addition, several inclusive features are being introduced to make the terminal a passenger-friendly station, he pointed out.



These include tactile flooring to guide visually impaired passengers from the entrances to platforms, booking counters, and waiting areas; reserved seats, booking counters, and dedicated waiting



Tej Partap Singh, additional divisional railway manager, Chennai Division presided over the meeting.

lounges for Divyangjan passengers; wheelchairs; Braille-enabled signage and clear audio announcements for better navigation; and parking spaces near entry and exit points.

Similar programmes were held at Saint Thomas Mount and Tambaram railway stations.

At Saint Thomas Mount, commuters suggested adding additional lifts and ticket counters to en-

hance convenience, particularly during peak hours.

The Tambaram railway station will soon be equipped with nine lifts and 10 escalators to enhance passenger convenience. Apart, work on the new foot overbridge is progressing well, and platforms 7 and 8 have been widened to facilitate smoother passenger movement and improve station capacity, the release added.

# ‘Increase frequency of bus services’

There is no denying that the redeveloped Thiru Vi Ka bus terminus packs a punch in terms of style, but it still has to work on its offerings, says a regular commuter

K.P. NARENDRAKUMAR

**R**esidents of Thiru Vi ka Nagar and surrounding areas and those floating in and out of this region on work are happy with redeveloped Thiru Vi Ka Nagar bus terminus, but are unimpressed with the frequency of the bus services. The current frequency is woefully inadequate, resulting in prolonged waiting time and considerable inconvenience to commuters. Route numbers 46 (Thiru Vi Ka Nagar bus terminus to Koyambedu via Ayanavaram and Anna Nagar) and 38C (which covers central railway station and Triplicane) particularly represent a gnawing gap between frequency and demand.

We seek an increase in the frequency of buses on existing routes to reduce waiting time; introduction of new routes to cover areas that are currently underserved and these include the Thiru Vi Ka Nagar to Anna Square, Besant Nagar, Ambattur and Thiruvatrur routes; introduction of a direct ser-



vice from Thiru Vi Ka Nagar bus terminus to Saidapet; and the launch of small buses that can operate within a three-kilometre radius, providing last-mile connectivity.

Small buses are needed to provide connectivity from Thiru Vi Ka Nagar bus terminus to Perambur Bus Stand, Moolakadai, Villivakkam via Periyar Nagar, Thanikachalam Nagar via Balaji Nagar and An-

na Nagar Metro. If minibuses are introduced, it could be more helpful to the residents of above-mentioned areas as well as areas that “share fences” with Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, which include Anbhazhgan Na-

gar, Kennedy Square, George colony, Vetri Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Ram moorthy Nagar, Ram Nagar, K C Garden, Teeds Garden etc.,

(K.P. Narendrakumar is a resident of Thiru Vi Ka Nagar)



## Inter-school quiz competition

Casagrand, in collaboration with Nexus Consulting, has opened registrations for 'Battle of Brains' - Chennai edition, an inter-school quiz competition designed to engage young minds. Schools from across Chennai can register teams of two students from classes VI to IX to compete for the prestigious trophy and exciting rewards. The registration is restricted to six teams per school. The citywide contest will kickstart on October 25. Interested schools and students can register for the quiz at [www.casagrand.co.in/bobquiz](http://www.casagrand.co.in/bobquiz).

The quiz will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 will consist of zonal rounds across North, Central, South, and West Chennai, where registered teams will compete at a prominent venue namely PVR Spectrum Mall, Perambur (October 25); Inox Citi Centre, R.K. Salai (October 26), PVR Grand Mall, Velachery (November 1) and PVR Grand Gallada, Pallavaram (November 2) within their zone. The top three teams from each Zonal Finale will then qualify for phase 2, the semifinals will be held in two batches of six teams each, said a release.

Venkatesh Srinivasan will be the quiz master.

**Interested schools and students can register for the quiz at [www.casagrand.co.in/bobquiz](http://www.casagrand.co.in/bobquiz)**

# Students simulate the IPL auction

Fifty teams from various colleges took part in the event conducted by the Department of Management Studies, University of Madras



**C**ricket craze hit a new high at the Department of Management Studies, University of Madras in Chepauk as students turned into team owners, strategists and auctioneers for a day at the IPL auction event, part of the much-awaited Synergy Management Meet.

What started with over 50 enthusiastic teams from various colleges was narrowed down to the top 10 through a fast-paced and fun-filled IPL quiz round. These 10 teams went on to re-



present real IPL franchises, stepping into the shoes of actual team owners and bidding for their dream line-up of players. The atmosphere was electric as paddles went up, budgets were balanced, and strategies were put to the ultimate test.

The excitement reached another level during the press conference round, where teams had to justify their selections and explain their team-building strategies. From clever reasoning to witty one-liners, participants impressed everyone with their cricket knowledge, confidence and communication skills.

The event was conducted under the dynamic guidance of J. Khaja Sheriff, Head of the Department and Vaneeta Aggarwal, faculty head. The smooth execution and creative organisation were made possible by the dedicated efforts of student coordinators Zuhair Ahmed, Abishake, Logeshwaran, Thamarai Kannan, Velan, Nitish, Hari Vignesh, Giridharan, and Muthuvelan. Kishore S. also coordinated the event.

The IPL Auction event turned out to be more than just a game, it was a celebration of teamwork, strategic thinking, and the undying passion for cricket that unites everyone.

(Zuhair Ahmed N is a student of the Department of Management Studies, University of Madras)



## Raising palms on college premises

Have you ever visualised a redbrick heritage building being ringed by tall palm trees? If you waited for a while, you need not go to the trouble of visualising it; you can behold it in reality.

"Seeds of Tomorrow" launched on October 23 at Presidency College, saw the planting of 1,000 palm seeds on the campus.

According to a press release, the drive was a fruit of collaboration between environmental group Exnora and Kuzalosai,

which donated 1000 palm seeds. Madras Presidency College Alumni Association, headed by Arulnayagam and K. S. Syed Ahamed Kabeer, and NSS executed the plantation drive successfully, says the press release.

The event was inaugurated by Advocate A. Arulmozhi of the Madras High Court.

Presidency College Principal Raman and IT Wing Chief C. Mahendran led the plantation activities, joined by students, alumni and volunteers.

## Special buses for 'Soorasamharam'

In view of Soorasamharam, a ritual folk performance to be held on October 27 in Tiruchendur, the Tamil Nadu State Express Transport Corporation will operate special buses from Chennai and other cities on October 26. On October 26, the transport corporation will operate special buses from Coimbatore, Salem, Erode, Tirupur and Bengaluru.

According to a press release, passengers can book tickets on [www.tnsrc.in](http://www.tnsrc.in) and through the TNSTC official app.

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PHOTOS: R. RAGU AND SRINATH M



**T**he 58-acre Tholkappia Poonga in R.A. Puram is now open to walkers and visitors all days of the weeks except on Thursdays and public holidays.

The Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust has earmarked certain days of the week for visits by educational institutions. For instance, Chennai Corporation Schools are permitted on Tuesday and Saturday; Government / Government Aided Schools on Friday; and Private Schools / Colleges on Monday, Wednesday and Sunday. It has an online booking system.

Morning walkers can use the sprawling campus and book monthly passes that are priced at ₹500. Just as in Semmozhi Poonga, additional charges levied if someone wants to use the premises for video and camera shoots.

The Eco Park will be closed on Thursday for weekly maintenance.

Walkers and visitors can obtain passes/ tickets on online payment at [www.crrt.tn.gov.in](http://www.crrt.tn.gov.in).

## A big draw

The redeveloped 58-acre Tholkappia Poonga is now the place to visit



## Union Christian School of Excellence to come up in Nolambur



**T**he Union Christian Association (UCA) marked a significant milestone with the foundation stone laying ceremony of its new institution, the Union Christian School of Excellence, at its Nolambur campus.

The ceremony was graced by Rev Gregorios Mar Stephanos Episcopa, Bishop of the Mar Thoma Sabha, Chennai -Bangalore Diocese, who led the blessing and the prayers. Priests from the Orthodox and Mar Thoma churches also blessed the occasion.

The project is being planned in a phased manner, and the Union Christian School of Excellence is expected to open its doors to students in June 2026. UCA reaffirmed its commitment to creating an institution that will uphold academic excellence and holistic development, furthering its long-standing mission in the field of education, said a release.

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