

ANNA NAGAR

Purasawalkam » Villivakkam » Kolathur » Nazarathpettai » Pattabiram » Maduravoyal » Koyambedu » Tiruverkadu » Puzhal » Kilpauk » Perambur » Mogappair
Avadi » Ayyapakkam » Tiruninravur » Nerkundram » Moolakadai » Ayanavaram » Retteri » Padi » Ambattur » Tirumullaivoil » Aminjikarai » Vysarpadi » Red Hills



'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 **P3**



A TECH BOOST

Greater Chennai Corporation has made sure that water pumps are not alone in the battle against flooding **P5**

Around the point where it meets Padavattamman Main Road in Padi, CTH Road chokes from traffic logjams; residents seek greater traffic police presence, particularly during the evening rush hour

C. BALASUBRAMANIAN

In Padi, off CTH Road, Padavattamman Main Road leads to a famous temple, just three hundred metres down the stretch. Padavattamman Main Road is a misnomer as it is only a little wider than a lane, but even that thin advantage often seems non-existent. Thiruvallithayam Sivan Temple has devotees thronging to it on Thursdays (when Gurusthalam is observed), festival days and pradosham days. On these days, traffic pours into Padavattamman Main Road, the approach road to the temple. The scramble to get to the temple has a cascading effect on CTH Road, where traffic piles up till Legend New Saravana Stores and Padi flyover.



A cascading effect

What actually happens is a compounding of a traffic problem inherent in this section of CTH Road. It attracts shoppers, daily commuters and long-distance travellers by droves. Long-distance buses coming from Madhavaram halt at the Padi flyover. And then there is the traffic moving into factories. Besides, Padavattamman temple located on CTH Main Road also draws people. Padavat-

tamman temple has the character of Bodyguard Muniswaran Temple (on Pallavan Salai) with people bringing their new vehicles to have it consecrated there. Or worship there, when they are about to embark on a long journey by road.

On account of the traffic snarls, ambulances often get stuck, affecting people who seek care in hospitals nearby including

DRJ Hospital on Kolathur-Korattur Road, ICF Hospital at ICF Shell as well as those heading to hospitals elsewhere via this section.

And a new mall (near Lucas TVS) is coming up on this section of CTH Road.

Given the structural limitations, design interventions to ease traffic cannot be effected on this section. The only solution is traffic regulation through in-

creased manual policing.

At present, the daily traffic flow on CTH Road especially during school and college opening and closing hours, morning and evening rush hour overwhelms road users.

When the upcoming mall becomes operational, the traffic situation is going to get knottier still.

Residents want the traffic police to increase traffic regulation right away. In the morning rush hour, their presence is felt, but not in the evening, and the section gets chock-a-block with vehicles moving bumper to bumper.



Park in Mogappair West to get an indoor gym

Greater Chennai Corporation is constructing an indoor women's gym at its park in Mogappair West which is adjacent to MTC bus terminus. While visitors to the park welcome this facility, they pointed out the defunct fountain and some broken tiles in the walkway. They also raised the problem of parking of vehicles obstructing the entrance to the park. The park falls under Ward 91 in Zone 7 -Ambattur.



RSP programme conducted

The Tamil Nadu Police Traffic Wardens Organisation - Greater Chennai Unit (TPTINO), in association with the Greater Chennai Traffic Police, organised a RSP first aid awareness programme at CSI Ewart Matriculation Higher Secondary school in Purasawalkam. Chief guest G. Karthikeyan, Additional Commissioner of Police -Traffic and Sonal Chandia, Joint Commissioner of Police graced the occasion.

Azeem Ahmed, Chief Traffic Warden; Tarun Murugesh, certified master first aid trainer conducted a live first aid demonstration session.

A dangerously open junction box

In these days when view cutters are being installed around roadside transformers, it is odd that a junction box in Ayanavaram is allowed to stay open

L. BALAMURUGAN

The junction box on Medavakkam Tank Road towards Kellys from the Ayanavaram signal, leaves nothing to the imagination. Its inner workings are laid bare, laid dangerously bare. A tangled mess of coloured wires are in the junction box; on the pavement, thick black cables clamber on to the junction box like a writhing knot of snakes.

This is a busy section with visitors to the ESI Hospital adding to the pedestrian population. Though located in a prominent space, the junction box has not been shut tight.

At a time when transformers are getting clothed in designer metal wear (aka view cutters, some with innovative design themes), it is rather odd and befuddling that junction boxes a basic fitting. Though the danger from



open junction boxes are ever present, they stand out in bold relief during monsoon. This junction

box has been without a shutter for a long time, and it needs to be "clothed" without any delay.

'Subway construction at Ambattur railway station should be expedited'



The construction of subway at Ambattur railway station is progressing at a tardy pace. It is more than a year since the work began. The construction of the subway entailed the demolition of a foot overbridge. In the absence of a foot overbridge, cross the railway tracks

is inevitable.

Hence, appropriate safety measures should be ensured. It is suggested a railway police should be posted to alert the commuters when trains are expected to cross the station.

N.Harikrishnan, Ambattur

'Natesan Street in a squalid state'

Parking of vehicles eat into a sizeable space of Natesan Street at Varadarajapuram in Ambattur (Ward 85, Zone 7 - Ambattur). The problem is acute near Karppaga Vinayagar temple. Further, a litter of bottles, food packets, leftovers, and disposable glasses can be found. This spot is also plagued by open urination.

K.V. Saikrishna
Varadarajapuram



'Bus shelter needed'

The MTC bus stop called "petrol bunk stop" located near Indian Oil petrol bunk on Arcot Road in Kodambakkam lacks a shelter. This stop is between Meenakshi College bus stop and Powerhouse bus stop. With the onset of monsoon, it is quite difficult for the commuters. At least a canopy should be provided if space is a constraint to set up a proper shelter.

V.Johan Dhanakumar
Choolaimedu

'Transformer in Aminjikarai poorly maintained'



The transformer at Aminjikarai.

P.G. SANTHANA KRISHNAN

With removal of garbage bins around it and installation of an aesthetic view cutter, the electricity transformer at Anna Nedumpathai in Choolaimedu (Ward 109) sports a new look now. In contrast, another transformer nearby, that is the one at Metal Factory Road in Aminjikarai (Ward 106), is poorly maintained. Garbage bins are placed close to the transformers which is quite dangerous.



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Dear readers, you can be our volunteer-writer by writing to us about issues and events in your neighbourhood. You should send the write-ups to downtownfeedback@thehindu.co.in. Letters must carry the contact number.



STATUS REPORT

'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

Residents 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 Thiruvatrirur 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)

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.

Two sides to those view cutters



A partially built view cutter at Vasudevapuram, West Mambalam. Photo: Special Arrangement

V. GANESAN

The 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

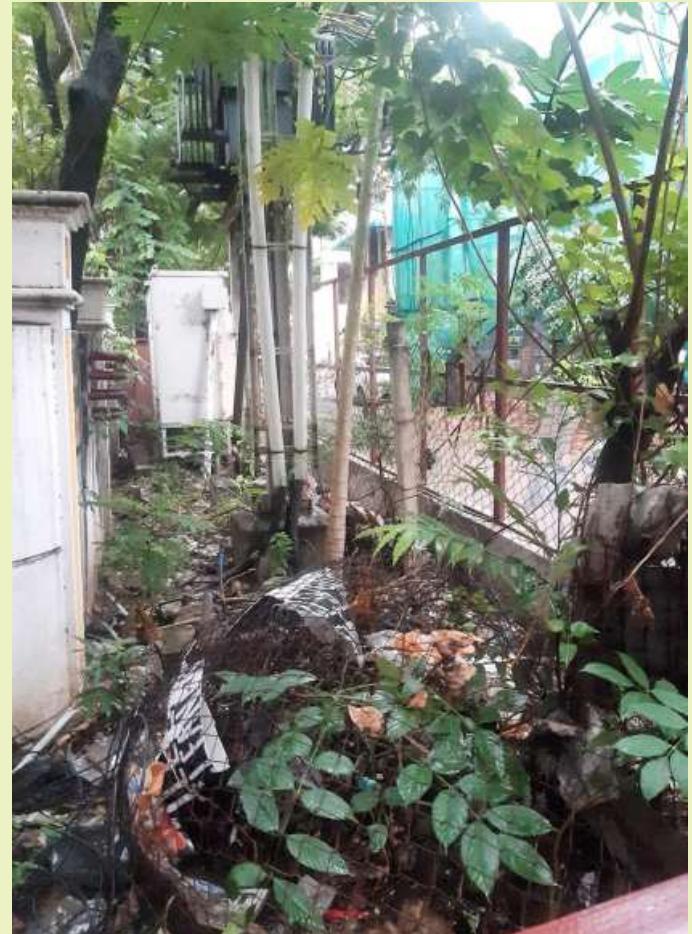
these partially closed compartments. There is no proper entrance for inspecting the transformers. Some transformers are weeping with leaking oil. Inspection becomes nearly impossible. During heavy rain, these enclosures with their small support walls for the view cutter might act like water tanks and 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)



Citywide awareness campaign marks World Polio Day

Rotary 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.



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



LIFFY THOMAS

Low-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-

A tech boost

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

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-

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

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.



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



Not a walk in a floral garden

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

VELANKANNI RAJ B.

Kamarajar 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.

'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

Better 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.

Making waves in ping pong

National table tennis player Shriya Anand on Anna Nagar and the role of her coach



Shriya Anand with coach Srivatsa Chakravarthy

K. KEERTHIVASAN

A native of Woriyur in Tiruchi, Shriya Anand shifted to Anna Nagar in 2019 for better pastures in table tennis.

Since then, the 18-year-old, a promising and upcoming paddler, has developed a bond with Anna Nagar that has only increased with each passing year. "Anna Nagar is an emotion and part of me. It has everything that a person can think

of," says Shriya.

From a shoppers paradise to a foodies delight, Shriya says the neighbourhood is self contained, something a sports person likes to be amidst.

Coached by Srivatsa Chakravarthy, Shriya shot into limelight when she bagged her first International crown winning the WTT Contender in Batumi, Georgia in September. Earlier, Shriya had won bronze in WTT Contender in Luxembourg and Amman. Shriya jumped to World No. 47 in u-19 girls' section from being 415 in March this year.

Shriya thanks Srivatsa for making her realise a lot of things. "Srivatsa sir made me understand TT better. Now, I understand why I won or lost a particular match. The emphasis is on learning. The best part is that he is updated about the world of TT. And there has been more focus on fitness from day one," she says.

Shriya has set her focus in reaching the top eight in India in the girls' u-19 section (now she is ranked 19) and in two to three years time, break into the Indian women's team.

Shriya is grateful to her parents – D. Anand Rengasamy, an orthopaedic surgeon and mother Dr. Mekhala, a periodontist – for their unconditional support. Dr. Mekhala has currently taken a break to focus on her daughter's career.

Shriya has her support system sorted out and all she needs to do is focus on the sport. And she is doing it really well.

Teen earns top spot in World Dressage Challenge

Sixteen-year-old Miraya R. Dadaboy 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 Challenge 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.

Along with Miraya, her fellow Chennai Equitation rider Samanna Everaa also earned a spot in team India.

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.

On October 27, special buses will operate from the pilgrimage site to the cities listed above. According to a press release from the transport corporation, passengers can book tickets on www.tnpsc.in and through the TNSTC official app.

Arunmozhi wins bronze in World Para Powerlifting Championship

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 Arumozhi was with Amar Seva Sangam for at least four years.



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 kick-start on October 25. Interested schools and students can register for the quiz at 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.

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