

TAMBARAM

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Medavakkam » Srinivasa Nagar » Kathipara Junction » Kovilambakkam » Sadasivam Nagar » Potheri » Selaiyur » Sembakkam » St.Thomas Mount » Madipakkam » Urappakkam » Paranur

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Pedestrian safety has got a leg up on GST Road between Otteri Extension and Vallanchery.

The National Highways Authority of India is constructing eight foot overbridges coming up at Otteri Extension, Vandalur, Thailavaram, Potheri, Kattankulathur, Maraimalai Nagar, Singaperumal Kovil and Vallancherry.

At Maraimalai Nagar, bus commuters and pedestrians had to walk a reasonable distance to cross the road and then climb the FOB outside the regional railway station.

The new FOB is coming up near

Work on eight FOBs on GST Road begins

the bus stop.

M. Uma Muralidharan, a motorist, says the footbridges will prevent pedestrians from stopping the traffic all of a sudden."

At Vandalur, Potheri, Kattankulathur and Maraimalai Nagar, canopies have been put over the walkway, structures to erect lift has



At Otteri Extension.

been created and iron and steel sheets have been placed on the walkway.

NHAI officials say lifts can accommodate 15 persons, and the bridges will have solar lighting.

Last year, two FOBs were opened in Kattankulathur and Maraimalai Nagar, which are home to educational institutions, a hospital and industries.

Residents of Otteri Extension and Muthamizh Nagar, and Balakrishnan Street in Vandalur are happy with the facility.

G. Ranjith Ganeshan, a resident of Muthamizh Nagar, says, "For a long time, we have been demanding a pedestrian crossing near the Vandalur railway gate stop. Pedestrians risk and cross the arterial stretch to reach the Vandalur railway station and the stops. Though taking the footbridge requires walking an extra distance, it is safe."

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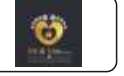
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Residents at the protest on July 6.

Residents raise a voice to save Puthur lake

TONY GOMEZ

At 7 a.m. on July 6, a crowd gathered at SSM Nagar on Tambaram Eastern Bypass Road, which links New Perungalathur - Nerundram Road and Mappedu junction. People across age groups assembled as morning walkers gave curious looks. Close to 50 people including me had gathered at the junction of Mahatma Gandhi Road that leads to various housing colonies.

It was a protest gathering to draw authorities' attention to Puthur lake, seeking that it be saved from further contamination and also to create awareness about it among residents. Many held placards with slogans such as 'Stop Your Filth',

'Your Waste, the Pond's Death', 'Let Lakes Live' and 'No Water, No Life'.

As we stood, a horrendous stench emanated from a drain on the east side of the junction. The discharge of sewage from various housing colonies in this area into the newly-built rainwater drainage canal along the southern side of the bypass road was the reason.

Citizens from the Puthur Welfare Association were present to protest against the illegal discharge of sewage, which pollutes the freshwater at Puthur.

The Association had brought this serious transgression to the attention of the authorities on several occasions, but no action has been taken. We hope the State Government takes some action.

Tony Gomez is a resident of Puthur



'Do not let sewage into the canal'

Colonel P. Isaac, a social activist and a resident of Puthur, says the neighbourhood is a rapidly developing residential area with over 1,000 families. Many households have been digging borewells to fetch water for their needs. The lake serves as the primary water source to recharge the borewells as well as the existing open wells.

"WRD authorities should ensure that sewage treatment plants on gated communities' premises do not let raw sewage into the canal. Recently, residents noticed dead fish floating in the lake," says Colonel Isaac.

Much of the water holding area is lost in the vegetation; besides, 'Seemai Karuvellam' trees can deplete groundwater.

Even the bunds and the revetment walls are overrun with vegetation and littered with trash.

S. Ramanujam, a resident of Perumal Garden, a locality near the lake, says they want the waterbody to be cleaned, desilted, deepened and its bunds strengthened.

The lake should be restored in accordance with the 'Field Measurement Book', ensuring its boundaries and storage capacity are marked and increased as homes have been constructed along the bund area. The lake should be fenced.

Text: T.S. Atul Swaminathan

'Tambaram station did not have emergency medical personnel'



ARUN PANDIYAN

On July 5, around 6.10 a.m. on platform 5 at Tambaram station, a 40-year-old man fell unconscious shortly after disembarking from the Tambaram Antyodaya Superfast Express. He was accompanied by his mother.

The railway staff and a porter administered first-aid. However, the man's condition deteriorated with his pulse slowing down significantly. Although help was sought immediately, a duty nurse arrived only 20 minutes later. The situation worsened as the ambulance was unable to reach the platform due to access restrictions, forcing the medical team to carry a stretcher on foot.

More alarmingly, no duty doctor arrived at the location during this critical juncture.

Given ongoing construction work at Egmore Station, Tambaram has become a central point for passenger traffic and absence of emergency medical personnel is unacceptable.

Arun Pandiyan

You can be our volunteer-writer

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 downtown feedback @thehindu.co.in. Letters must carry the contact number.

'Desilt the drain network before the rains'

J. AROCKIYASAMY

Zone 1 (Pammal) of the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation should desilt the stormwater drain network in LIC Colony Extension.

Currently, the network has sewage and trash; the latter blocks free flow of water.

During rains, the water overflows and enters homes, creating an unhygienic atmosphere and posing a health hazard.

J. Arockiyasamy is a resident of Pammal



'Relocate the distance indication board'

S. ANTHONY

The National Highway Authority of India should relocate the distance indication board along the Singaperumal Kovil grade separator on GST Road.

Motorists on the service lane (from Maraimalai Nagar) can proceed straight to enter the overpass or continue on the service lane. However, due to the board's location and the potential for wrong-side driving, motorists turn right to

avoid colliding with their counterparts.

They can be hit by their counterparts from the GST Road, as they take a left to enter the flyover and the service lane.

There is a lot of space outside a petrol bunk. But the problem is that the board would not stretch on the eastern lane. A long and spacious board should be installed.

S. Anthony is a resident of Singaperumal Kovil.



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Professors Colony residents seek a park on this patch



Residents of Professors Colony, a decades-old neighbourhood in East Tambaram, want green to take over a dull, brown patch in their neck of the woods. Close to this patch, Tambaram Corporation runs a material recovery facility and composting centre. While they understand the value of the centre, they cannot countenance the effect this facility has on the vacant land -- truth be told, it is anything but vacant. Debris and offscourings are dumped here. Recyclable waste is collected and dumped here, and workers connected with work are accommodated in temporary shacks. Residents are of the view that this patch deserves a park. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

‘Prioritise basic needs’

As Southern Railway announces a plan to have a sports facility established at the Velachery MRTS station premises, Annai Indira Nagar residents reiterate an old demand



Velachery railway station and Vijayanagar junction. PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN.

S KUMARARAJA

Annai Indira Nagar Residents Welfare Association - Velachery is disappointed with the Southern Railway over its move inviting bids from private entities to establish a sports facility at Velachery MRTS

railway station. In our eyes, this move dashes our hope of seeing the MTC bus terminus (now functioning at Vijayanagar junction) being shifted to the MRTS station premises.

This is a long-standing request of Velachery residents' associations to Southern Railway and elected representatives.

A year and a half ago, a part of the station land was handed over to a private entity to establish a food court. And with this latest development, we wonder if there would be any land left on the station premises for a bus terminus. The Vijayanagar junction in Velachery is known for traffic congestion;

integrating the railway station and bus terminus would benefit the people at large.

Revenue generation is important; so is public's comfort in navigating everyday life.

S.Kumararaja, president, Annai Indira Nagar Residents Welfare Association, Velachery

New gasifier crematorium in Perumbakkam



Perumbakkam has got a new gasifier crematorium that can be used by people from across the city. On July 12, Sholinganallur MLA S. Aravind Ramesh along with Perumbakkam panchayat officials inaugurated the gasifier crematorium, which is maintained by Tamilnadu Employees Housing and Welfare Trust. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the gasifier crematorium is among the a handful of them being operated n the city. What makes it special is the Trust charges a nominal fee (₹ 1275) for cremation. Six to seven cremations can be performed a day.

TEXT AND PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN

‘Right-turn signals at Thailavaram junction needed’



Motorists taking Thailavaram in GST Road want Tambaram City Police traffic wing to study the feasibility of introducing right turn signals for motorists from the service lanes. When motorists from the eastern and western lanes take a U-turn, congestion occurs. “There are chances of minor collisions. Motorists on GST Road jump signals and increase the risk of collisions,” says R. Swathi Rajendran, a motorist. There is no pedestrian signal and pedestrians cross amidst the congestion. TEXT: T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Construct ‘kariya mandapam’

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Residents of Perumbakkam have requested the Perumbakkam Village Panchayat and St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union to construct a ‘Kariya Mandapam’, a place to perform rituals for the departed souls.

Currently, residents perform rituals opposite the Pazhandi Amman Temple on Perumbakkam Main Road or near a pond in Pallikaranai.

“Relatives have to perform rituals under the tank as there is no shade. They are surrounded by trash, vegetation, construction debris and the stench,” says S. Ganapathy, a resident.

Residents want the Pan-

chayat to clean and maintain the place. There are no shelters, washroom facilities, drinking water taps, place to take a bath before performing the rituals, or a space to sit, says Ganapathy.

Residents want a building with all the required facilities to perform rituals. A calm atmosphere, surrounded by trees is a must, they say.

Due to stormwater drain network construction along the stretch, the site has gone below the road level. A slope has been laid using sand and construction debris to get down from the network.

The public use the sacred place to dump trash, smoke and relieve themselves.



Some residents perform rituals under a water tank as it gives a form of shelter. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Session on baking from July 21

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, Department of MSME, is conducting a workshop on baking from July 21 to 24 at its premises on EDII Office Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

According to a press release, the session will focus on cookies,

cakes, and breads made from millets. Also labelling and marketing aspects of bakery products will be taught.

Those above 18 years of age with a minimum educational qualification of class 10 may apply. Prior registration is required. For details, call 8668102600 / 701014302.

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New forum for senior citizens in Chitlapakkam

Senior citizens from the Chitlapakkam, Chromepet, Kadaperi and Madambakkam regions have come together to form Senior Citizens Welfare Association. Based in Chitlapakkam, the forum aims to support members who are above 60 years old through frequent interactions and meetings.

V. Vellaiyan is the forum's founder. L. Sundararaman has been elected as president, R. G.

Viswanathan as vice-president; L. Ashok Kumar as secretary; J. Srinivasan, joint secretary; and S. Sripathinaidu as treasurer.

Venkata Rao M. R., A. C. Krishnamoorthy, S. Murali, Kumara Subramaniam, and Hemalatha Murali are members of the executive committee.

L. Sundararaman says that those above 60 years residing in and around Chitlapakkam are eligible to join the forum, which

will focus on the wellness of those who are often neglected and require medical advice.

The forum will help members share their knowledge and experience, practice yoga, and interact with others.

During the inauguration on July 10, the paramedical staff at Gleneagles Health City Hospitals, Perumbakkam, conducted blood pressure and random sugar tests.

For details, contact L. Sundararaman at 94450 66061.

Text: T.S. Atul Swaminathan

The team



A field trip to Chitlapakkam lake



Over 100 students of class X from Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan in Nungambakkam visited Chitlapakkam Lake to learn about waterbodies.

Volunteers of Chitlapakkam Rising took students around the lake and answered their questions. The students have assured the volunteer that they will volunteer in the lake activities in the coming months, said a release.

Opportunities in solar energy sector

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, Department of MSME, is conducting a training programme on installation of solar power system from July 21 to 23 at its premises in SIDCO Industrial Estate, EDII Office Road, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, the following concepts will be covered: introduction to solar energy, entrepreneurial opportunities in solar energy sector, business models in this sector, relevant computer software, financial planning, regulations and subsidy schemes. Those aged above 18 and who have completed class 10 can take part.

For details, call 8668102600 / 8072914694.

Property expo concludes today

Ark Eventz, an event management company, is conducting a property expo at Arul Murugan Towers, Palavaram-Thoraipakkam 200-Foot Radial Road in Old Pal-

lavaram that concludes on July 13. Over 60 top builders are showcasing a wide range of premium residential and commercial properties, says a release.

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Mangrove plantation drive on July 26

Students of SRM Institute of Science and Technology to plant 1000 saplings

Mangrove sapling plantation drive will be held on July 26 at Kovalam coastal region to mark World Mangrove Day. Organised by the Department of Civil Engineering, SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, in collaboration with the Ocean Society of India (OSI), the Mangrove Foundation of India and the Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, the initia-

tive aims to raise public awareness about the ecological and climate-related importance of mangrove forests.

Known for their role in protecting coastlines from erosion, supporting biodiversity, and serving as natural buffers against extreme weather, mangroves are vital to the sustainability of coastal ecosystems, says R. Nagalakshmi, associate professor, SRMIST who is organising the event.

As part of the drive, 1,000 mangrove saplings will be planted along the Kovalam shore, with the help of students and environment enthusiasts.



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