

TAMBARAM

Chromepet » Pallavaram » Tambaram West » Rajakilpakkam » Mannivakkam » Guindy » Keelkattalai » Nanganallur » Guduvanchery » Hasthinapuram » Pammal » Tambaram East

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



TWO FRESHWATER MANGROVE TREES EXPERIENCE THE BUSTLE IN SHOLINGANALLUR

On Ponniyamman Koil First Street in Sholinganallur, two barringtonia acutangula trees are tucked away behind carts and kiosks. **P7**



READY FOR THEIR SUMMER HOME IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

A majority of migratory duck species form pairs in their wintering ground developing bonds at the fag end of the winter-migratory season. **P6**

Junction at Radial Road in Pallavaram needs better traffic regulation

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Motorists frequenting a varsity along the Pallavaram section of Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam 200-Feet Radial Road want the traffic wing of the Tambaram City Police Commissionerate to regulate traffic movement at a junction providing access to it.

This junction (where Radial Road, P.V. Vaithalingam Road and Erikarai Salai meet) sports traffic signals, but motorists treat the dictates of the signals with little respect.

As per the traffic playbook for this junction, motorists on Radial Road can proceed towards Zamin Pallavaram and GST Road; from GST Road towards Erikarai Salai; and from Erikarai Salai towards P.V. Vaithalingam Street and also the other way round, that is from P.V. Vaithalingam Street towards Erikarai Salai.

Except where the movement of traffic is from Radial Road towards Zamin Pallavaram and GST Road,

traffic rules are violated in all the afore-mentioned scenarios, with impunity.

M. Padma Murugavel, a resident of Zamin Royapettah (an area in Chromepet that, as one can see, mirrors the name of a well-known locality in the Teynampet zone of Greater Chennai Corporation), notes motorists rush in to get to their side even when the signal is still glowing red for them.

The intersection witnesses good traffic and ensures connectivity to Madipakkam, Tirusulam, Pallavaram, Moovarasampet and Chromepet regions. "Traffic police personnel should be deployed to check the violations. Besides, the timing at signals should be adjusted for motorists to negotiate the crossing comfortably."

Besides, the junction lacks pedestrian signals and that pedestrians on a limb during rush hour when all these traffic violations play out intensely.

The varsity junction on Pallavaram - Thoraipakkam 200-Feet Radial Road.
Photo: Special Arrangement



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Two-way traffic on Pallavaram flyover. PHOTOS: VELANKANNI RAJ B

Create awareness about two-way traffic on Pallavaram flyover

I request the Greater Chennai Traffic Police (GCTP) to create awareness about the two-way traffic on the Pallavaram flyover to prevent accidents.

Though the GCTP has placed two-way traffic boards on the median, it does not catch the attention of most motorists.

There is a need for traffic regulation

to keep a check on motorists driving at a break-neck speed.

The GCTP should have installed signboards on the median near the Tirusulam signal. After the signal, the traffic moves smoothly to the Pallavaram post office (the climbing area falls within the post office area, and the lane is broad).

M. Ravi
Chitlapakkam



Provide water from Nemmeli to Perumbakkam

The State government will operationalise the third desalination plant in the Nemmeli, which will benefit the residents of localities in Chennai South. As Perumbakkam Village Panchayat is a water-starved region, I request the authorities concerned to provide drinking water supply network from the plant. The same was assured earlier when the project commenced last year.

N. K. Raja
Perumbakkam

Signage board near Camp Road leans dangerously



A State Highways Department signage board in Mahalakshmi Nagar, near Camp Road in Velachery Main Road is slanting and posing a threat to the safety of road users.

At present, wires have been tied to the board from a post. Yet, the board sways in the air and is in a slanting position. Motorists note that an extra pillar should be installed to balance the board (on the lines of the one along Velachery Main Road and Bharatha Maha Street, East Tambaram).

S. R. Godwin Shadrach, a social activist and a resident of Tambaram (East), says, "The stickers on the board are getting blurred and so are the pillar and pipes holding the board." As the section lacks lighting, there is an added risk after sunset. PHOTO & TEXT: T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Tambaram Corporation should have a website

Following the formation of Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, the civic body must have its exclusive website, similar to what Greater Chennai Corporation has. At present, for payment of tax and to avail other services, one has to go through 'tnurban-tree.tn.gov.in'. Since this site is yet to be fully developed, resi-

dents cannot view details of tax dues, details of incentives for early payment and other online services. The civic body must develop a comprehensive website with details of zones and divisions and other information in the larger interest of taxpayers.

V. S. Jayaram
Chromepet

Stray dogs on the rise in Selaiyur

At IOB Colony in Selaiyur region, the number of stray dogs has increased. They scare pedestrians and motorcyclists.

We have been seeking that the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation gets these dogs vaccinated.

N. K. Raghu
Selaiyur

Level the carriageway on Velachery-Tambaran Road

A few months ago, private Internet cable operators dug a portion of Velachery Main Road to lay cables, leaving the road uneven.

Although the work was completed, the areas have not been levelled till now.

Motorcyclists, especially senior citizens and women, find it difficult to commute safely on this stretch of the road.

B.V. Prakash
Velachery Main Road



'Vengambakkam Main Road needs repairs'

The margins of Vengambakkam Main Road at Mappedu got eroded during the heavy rains last December. This 20-feet wide road connects Mappedu and Vandalur-Kelambakkam Main Road via Vengambakkam. Hence, it witnesses good traffic during peak hours. Heavy vehicles including buses of Metropolitan Transport Corporation and educational institutions and lorries frequent this road. With the opening of the Kilambakkam



bus terminus, traffic has increased on the road. The road should therefore be restored at the earliest.

R.V. Baskaran
Selaiyur

STATUS REPORT

Markings required on elevated manholes too



While the attention is now concentrated on unmarked speed bumps, it would help to remember that elevated manholes can also have the same effect on motorists, and they also need to be marked and painted. An elevated manhole on Tambaram Velachery Main Road in Selaiyur on March 2, 2024. PHOTO: PRINCE FREDERICK

Speed breakers as per IRC norms needed

Following the death of a 34-year-old man whose two-wheeler hit an unmarked speed breaker at Sarvamangala Nagar in Chitlapakkam, citizen groups want an audit of existing speed bums in the city.

In a post, Chitlapakkam Rising said there are 10s of unmarked speed breakers in Chitlapakkam, 100s in Tambaram and many more in Chennai. Why are simple Indian Road Congress rules not followed when laying and maintaining speed breakers, reads the post.

As per IRC rules, speed breakers should be painted with alternate black and white bands. When marked with luminous paint, they give better visibility for motorists driving in the night. Also, it's important that caution boards are installed ahead of a speed breaker.

The Hindu Downtown invites readers to share images of speed breakers that need attention.

When unmarked, even a low-lying speed breaker has potential to cause trouble



It is difficult to tell the three speed breakers on Mettu Street in Perumbakkam apart: all of them lack markings. However, if you look closer one of them (the one in this frame) will come across as more dangerous than the other two as it has a pothole keeping it company. PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

Two-day craft fair at NIFT

National Institute of Fashion Technology in Taramani on Rajiv Gandhi Salai is organising a craft bazaar called Pokkisham on March 8 and 9. Following are the time for the respective days: From 2 p.m to 7 p.m and From 10 a.m to 7 p.m. The event aims to provide an opportunity for grass-root level craftsmen to market their products, says a press release.

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Two junctions joined at the hip

Though born in different situations and of widely varied sizes and serving hugely different volumes of traffic, the Vani Mahal junction and the Sholinganallur junction reflect the same design philosophy and are almost similar in their results



(Clockwise from top) The closed Sholinganallur intersection ; the U-turn in front of Vivanta; and the U-turn in front of Trends. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

PRINCE FREDERICK

Visualise the restructured Vani Mahal junction (under a flyover) in T. Nagar as if it had been dropped on a table. Place your index and thumb fingers on it and skew it horizontally, extending it really wide, and you get something approximating to the newly re-engineered Sholinganallur junction.

Just as the primary intersection was made null and void in T. Nagar, the Sholinganallur junction has now been entirely closed with barricades. In both cases, the primary intersection allows only for movement of pedestrians. Motorists move

around the primary intersection, not through them. Around the primary intersection, the movement of vehicular traffic traces complete U-turns (complete loop-arounds); and partial U-turns with an added turn indicating an entry into a road barreling into the intersection.

At T. Nagar, the move to disable the primary intersection was elective, effected in "peace time". The new traffic arrangement was not forced on it as a result of any infrastructural work trundling through the primary road (GN Chetty Road) or the secondary roads (Thirumalai Pillai Road and Dr. Nair Road). In contrast, the traffic new arrangement in Sholinganallur tantamounts

Major changes

Trends U-turn: In front of the Trends showroom is a Janus-faced U-turn, one side for vehicles circling back into Rajiv Gandhi Salai towards Karapakkam and the other for vehicles circling back towards the closed Sholinganallur primary intersection. The latter would largely be used by motorists

to an emergency measure, as Metro Rail work is visibly and hugely present on the primary Road (Old Mahabalipuram Road) and the secondary roads (Perumbakkam Main

coming from ECR Link Road.

Vivanta U-turn: In front of Vivanta is a Janus-faced U-turn, one side for vehicles circling back into Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR) towards Navulur and the other for vehicles circling back towards the closed Sholinganallur primary intersection. The latter would largely be used by motorists coming from Perumbakkam Main Road.

can be born healthy in the womb of two opposite situations – as much in turmoil as in tranquility.

Implemented in November 2023, under tranquil circumstances, the new arrangement in T. Nagar has proved itself effective. Just a couple of weeks old, the new arrangement at Sholinganallur, born out of an exigency, is steadily receiving plaudits from users.

Even after the Metro Rail line is completed in and around the junction and it soars over the roads meeting at the Sholinganallur intersection, there would be a case for preserving this arrangement with any alterations that might be required then.



Residents hail tweaks at two T-junctions

While creating two U-turns on OMR, the traffic police from the Tambaram Police Commissionerate also addressed the issue of congestion on the service lane around Elcot Avenue Main Road and Model School Road

PRINCE FREDERICK

When the advent of Metro Rail work augured in the total closure of the Sholinganallur junction, traffic realignment ensued. The change was not restricted to the junction. There were corresponding alterations around it. Roads nearby have also been carted into the new arrangement.

The most striking changes are to be witnessed at the entrance of Elcot Avenue Main Road and on the service road near Model School Road.

The entrance of Elcot Avenue Main Road resembles a curved nozzle with concrete barricades having been placed in a manner tracing a curvature. Elcot Avenue Main Road has been made a one-way with vehicular traffic moving out of it towards the service lane. Model School Road remains a two-way road, but a right turn into the service lane has been disabled with the placement of concrete barriers near the foot of the footbridge. As a corollary, a left turn from the service lane into Model School Road has also been disabled. Motorists can turn left from Rajiv Gandhi Salai into Model School Road.

To all appearances, these measures place restrictions on the movements of residents in areas that both roads lead to. However, these residents are appreciative of these changes. For two reasons. One, these changes were carried out following a consultation with them. Two, these changes are part of a larger traffic rearrangement closer to their neck of their woods that in the final analysis enables smoother movement for them on Rajiv Gandhi Salai as well as the service lane on their side of the road.

R. Ramaswamy, a resident of Kumaraswamy Nagar (connected to Elcot Avenue Main Road and Model School Road) points out that the traffic police held a consultation with residents, and it had faces from Elcot Avenue, Kumaraswamy Nagar and Classic Farms.

He explains: "As the changes have put an end to congestion around the entrances of Elcot Avenue Main Road and Model School Road during rush hour, residents

Software professionals from our neighbourhood who work at offices in Siruseri are impressed with the provision for a U-turn in front of the Trends showroom



At the mouth of Elcot Avenue Main Road and (below) near Model School Road. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

have welcomed them. The U-turns in front of Trends showroom are making a huge difference. Motorists coming from ECR can take a U-turn and head towards Karapakkam. The other U-turn is of immense help to residents of our region, as it enables movement towards Navalur and Siruseri. Software professionals from our areas who work at offices in Siruseri are impressed with this provision as it spares them the trouble of taking a U-turn in front of Vivanta."

Karthik Kannan, a resident of Elcot Avenue, illustrates the relief from congestion on the service lane – around the entrances of Elcot Avenue Main Road and Model School Road – with a personal experience, too recent and distressing for the details to be hazy.

"On January 29, it took me 40 minutes to cover the 600 metres from my home in Elcot Avenue to the service lane of Rajiv Gandhi Salai. I was stuck in my cab. I got out of the cab walked into the traffic

snarl and did my bit to clear it and then hopped on to the cab. I had a flight to catch, and the wait was unsettling."

When the traffic police from the Tambaram Police Commissionerate were holding a consultation with residents about the U-turns, Karthik was among those quick to bring up the congestion on the service lane around Elcot Avenue Main Road and Model School Road.

Karthik remarks that with the added changes (making Elcot Ave-

nue Main Road one-way and disabling the right turn from Model School Road into the service lane towards Aavin), the picture is perfect.

A loose end that needs to be tied, Karthik says, is the placement of signboards, particularly having one at the entrance of Elcot Avenue Main Road denoting it is a one-way.

He elaborates: "Google still leads people towards Elcot Avenue Main Road as if entry into the road from Rajiv Gandhi Salai is on."

Getting 'dressed up' for the following season



At this time of the year, migratory birds would be displaying emergent breeding plumage in their wintering ground. In some cases, they would be togged up in the entire "attire". The sandpipers would be picking up a lot of brown and orange in parts that were largely white or grey. Drabness would give way to brightness and well-etched colours. To illustrate, in the early part of the wintering season, the marsh sandpiper would be unremarkably grey, its feathers as dull and lacklustre as a washboard that has witnessed a billion washes. At the end of the season, the shades change strikingly. The images clicked at Perumbakkam wetland on March 2, 2024 show (from left) a wood sandpiper and a marsh sandpiper. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Ready for their summer home in more ways than one

A majority of migratory duck species form pairs in their wintering ground developing bonds at the fag end of the winter-migratory season. This behaviour spares them the effort of a courtship at their breeding ground. An illustration of this phenomenon from Perumbakkam Wetland



A male and female northern shoveler at Perumbakkam Wetland on February 25, 2024. PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Around the crepuscular hour on February 25, at Perumbakkam wetland, a male and a female northern shoveler scuttle through a squiggle line of water that cuts through a rapidly-drying landscape. They are nibbling on an "early dinner" in characteristic northern-shoveler style. The movements of these two northern shovellers are often marked by a degree of synchronicity. Where one

goes, the other follows.

They use their flat and wide bills in the same manner a gardener would a lawn mower – head down and keeping the machine right on the grassy ground. The ducks strain the mixture of mud and water they have picked up in their bills and find their food. They cover the entire distance of the squiggle line once, go back over covered ground, and then cover it one more time. All the while, they engage in their characteristic feeding behaviour. Even while not feeding, they

exude an air of inseparability. The attraction seems as powerful as the pull opposite poles of magnets exert on each other. Considering they are still in their wintering ground, what is happening? Here is a slightly long-winded answer to that. Nature militates against procrastination.

It invests heavily in preparation. That defining feature of Nature shows up in stunning resplendence in migratory birds. The preparation for the business related to their breeding ground begins much

before that faraway land heaves into sight. They change their colours in the wintering grounds, the drab replaced with the striking, a phenomenon particularly noticed in the males of those species that display sexual dimorphism. At the Perumbakkam wetland, one can see a

duck that signs up for a winter stay in these parts makes quite an impact with its breeding plumage. When it comes to preparations for what lies ahead at the breeding ground, ducks are prepared in more ways than one.

Pairs are formed in the wintering ground close to the time of departure for the summer home. The time spent feeding would double as bonding time. This preparedness spares the ducks the effort of courtship on arrival at the breeding ground.

STATUS REPORT



Two freshwater mangrove trees experience the bustle in Sholinganallur

On Ponniamman Koil First Street in Sholinganallur, two bengaluru acutangula trees are tucked away behind carts and kiosks. Hard of texture and twisted even in the trunk, both trees wear their age and character like a badge of honour.

T.D. Babu, naturalist and a member of tree conservation NGO Nizhal, notes these trees are a throwback to the time when the

tracts on both sides of Old Mahabaliapuram Road were marked by agriculture.

These craggy and gnarled look likely comes from having spent much of their formative years in a watery environment, says Babu. He elaborates that these two freshwater mangrove trees suggest they would have in times past stood in an irrigation area or something of a irrigation tank.



Two freshwater mangrove trees at Ponniamman Koil First Street. The images were taken on March 1, 2024.
PHOTOS: PRINCE FREDERICK

Three parks at Chromepet in a state of neglect



T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Three public parks at different sections of Chromepet – at Padmanabha Nagar, Sangam Street, Padmanabha Nagar, and Balaji Nagar – languish in a state of neglect. Due to poor maintenance, the footfall at these three parks has reduced.

S. Meenakshi Sundaram, president of the Senior Citizens' Forum in Chromepet, says it has been months since the plants in the garden at Padmanabha Nagar were watered. Construction materials are dumped along the park entrance.

"Tree branches that fell during Cyclone Michaung are yet to be cleared and the park swept. The garden waste has been accumulating for weeks, attracting mosquitoes," says Meenakshi Sundaram.



He says the yoga hall must be cleaned, and the leaves composted and not burnt.

At the park on Sangam Street, the play equipment and the walking tiles are broken. The area outside the park is hugely littered. "A small garden can be created outside the park," says Kala S. Sivaraman, a resident of the area.

The park at Balaji Nagar pre-

The yoga hall at a park in Padmanabha Nagar; garden waste at Balaji Nagar; and dysfunctional fountain at Sangam Street.
PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sents a similar picture: play equipment and the benches are broken and rusted.

The railings and the gates are broken and rusting. The garbage bins overflow with trash.

A. Blessing Arockiya Raj, a resident of North Street in Balaji Nagar, says, "Residents dump trash inside the park as well as in the area right outside."



Federation asks for walkways in Radha Nagar underpass

Recently, members of the Federation of Civic and Welfare Associations of Pallavapuram (FCWAP) held a black flag protest on GST Road, demanding that the State Highways Department speed up the construction of staircases and walkers' pathways in the Radha Nagar vehicular subway at Chromepet.

On the eastern and western side, along Radha Nagar Main Road and GST Road, the Highways has established a stairway and a pathway.

C. Murugaiyan, secretary of FCWAP, says, "Southern Railway should construct an entry and exit tunnel at the entry and exit points of Platform 1 and 2 (towards Pallavaram and Tambaram Sanatorium) connecting the staircase. The work is yet to start."

From the steps, there is a provision for suburban train commuters to reach platform numbers 1 and 2 without walking through Radha Nagar Main Road, Bashyam Road and Station Road and climbing the Foot Overbridge on Station Road.

The underground pathway should be cleared of steel barricades, and the electricity junction boxes should be relocated. Currently, commuters and pedestrians walk along the GST Road, sharing space with the motorists or cross the level crossing, risking their lives.

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EB pole in the middle of Pammal Main Road



An electricity cable pole in the middle of Pammal Main Road in Pammal poses a threat to the safety of motorists. PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ B

Beach clean-up on March 10

The Candles is inviting the public to join its volunteers to help clean Besant Nagar beach on March 10, 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. A stretch near Thalapakkatti Hotel will be spruced up. For details, call 8248364496

Chennai pen show on March 8

More than 25,000 pens from 100 brands will be on display at Chennai Pen Show that will be held from March 8 to 10 in Adyar.

Pens priced from a few hundreds to a few lakhs; Indian and international brands; workshops on calligraphy and talks with experts are planned at the FIKA event space.

Gaurav Kapoor from Chandigarh will be presenting a hand carved Chennai themed nib in 18K gold, said a release.

For details, visit www.chenaiopenshow.com

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Yoga classes

Satyana Yoga Centre is conducting a four-week yoga course from March 3. Classes will be held at Thiruveethi Amman temple, No: 2, Thiru Veethi Amman Kovil Street in Velachery. Time: From 5.30 a.m. to 7 a.m. According to a press release, no fee will be charged. The centre follows the curriculum of Bihar School of Yoga. Meditation, breathing exercises (Pranayama) and recitation of Mantras are part of the programme. Besides, there will be sessions on food habits. For details, call 7871715152 / 9445051015.

The centre is also conducting a three-week yoga workshop from



Photo used for representational purpose only

March 4 at Sri Sudharshan Hall, Door no B-2, Lakshmi Nagar Main Road, Nanganallur. For details, call 98412 27709.

Workshop on mushroom cultivation

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Information & Training Centre is conducting a workshop on mushroom cultivation in March 7. Another workshop on preparation of fruit squashes and syrups will be held on March 8. Both the sessions will be held at the centre's premises at Agro Tech Green Park, First Floor, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy. For details, call 044 - 2953 0048.



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