

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

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'Sewage continues to choke the restored Chitlapakkam Lake'

The restoration work has officially run its course, but residents cannot ignore the missing elements

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

On December 30, the wraps were off a restored Chitlapakkam Lake with T.R. Baalu, Member of Parliament, Sriperumbudur, presiding over the inauguration.

The restoration exercise included deepening the lake, strengthening its bunds, and creating a walking path and a children's park. The residents have demanded that the pending improvement work be taken up without any delay. These include erecting fences, creating a 360 degree walkway, laying a proper walkway on the bunds along Tambaram East – Tambaram Sanatorium (East), installing lights on the bunds, providing security round-the-clock, and restroom facilities.

Sunil Jayaram, a core volunteer with Chitlapakkam Rising, says "The peripheral drain inlet channel to the Sembakkam Lake is flowing with sewage, contaminating the groundwater. The sewage handling collection well should also be addressed."

B. Saravanan, a civic acti-



Dignitaries during the inaugural ceremony.

vist, says, "An overpass must be provided above the rainwater inlet channel at the intersection of Periyar Nagar Street, Kannagi Street and Periyalwar Street, East Tambaram, connecting the bunds along Periyar Nagar. People from East Tambaram do not have to walk to the main entrance on Chitlapakkam Second Main Road for walks. The Water Resources Department officials said the residents' demands will be fulfilled.

S. Chandrasekaran, secretary of The Chitlapakkam Anna Nagar (West) Residents' Welfare Association, says the State government allocated ₹ 25 crores to rejuvenate the lake. But to date, only 70 percent of the work has been completed.

"The Water Resources Department should facilitate proper inlet channels to the lake for water from the Pachaimalai and surplus rainwater. Discharge of sewage must be arrested. Early commencement and completion of underground sewage system is the only permanent solution to prevent sewage from entering the lake."

A footbridge is a must across the lake along Chitlapakkam Third Main Road and East Tambaram. WRD has handed over the lake maintenance's work to the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation. Work must happen on a priority basis, says L. Sundararaman, president of Chitlapakkam Muthulakshmi Nagar Welfare Association.

'LOWER THE SLUICE INLET ALONG PUZHUTHIVAKKAM ERI'

The design tweak is necessary to check inflow of sewage from Velachery Main Road **P4**



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WHAT RESIDENTS WANT



T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

'Facilitate a footbridge for commuters'

Commuters boarding electric trains at Tirusulam station have requested Southern Railway to build a footbridge connecting the platforms to Tirusulam Railway Station Road.

Commuters want the Railway to include the FOB under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, of which the station is a part.

Under the scheme, work is currently focused only on renovating the terminal facade and installing new flooring on platforms 3 and 4. There is no indication of any plans for a footbridge, which is essential to preventing fatalities, says E. Nallathambi Elangovan, a commuter.

D. Banumathi Duraisamy, a commuter, says that last October, a resident of Tirusulam and an engineering student at a private college in Rathinamanagal, died after a train coming from Chennai Egmore hit her, killing her instantly.

"If a footbridge is provided, commuters will be spared the risk of crossing the tracks," says Banumathi.

Extend the footbridge along Race Course Road'

Commuters boarding electric trains from the Guindy terminal have requested the Southern Railway to consider extending the under-construction footbridge along Race Course Road. They want a staircase along the stretch connecting the footbridge.

A good number of electric and metro train commuters from Anna Salai walk down Race Course Road, and from the Race Course stops (towards Five Furlong Road) to use the existing FOB at the terminal.

From Race Course Road and Five Furlong Road, commuters walk along Race View Colony and use the FOB at the terminal to reach the station. K. Arulmozhi Kannan, a commuter, says vehicles are parked along the terminal entrance (Race Course Road) affecting the free movement of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

S. Abhirami Sakthivel, a commuter, says that installing a staircase will decongest pedestrian and vehicular traffic at the terminal's entrance. Commuters can board the trains from



platforms 1A, 1 and 2.

Besides, Southern Railway should provide additional access ensuring connection to the premises of Guindy Metro Station from the footbridge on the lines of the one at Saint Thomas Mount Station. This will reduce the commuter traffic in the existing footbridge."

Additional speed breakers needed in Nanganallur

Residents of Second Main Road in Nanganallur want additional speed breakers on the stretch. Ever since vehicular traffic, including the Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses were diverted to the Southern Sector Inner Ring Road and Medavakkam Main Road to facilitate metro rail work, the stretch witnesses a steady movement of vehicular traffic.

The walkway has been taken over by vehicles and makeshift structures, forcing pedestrians to share space with motorists.

A. Raghavan, a pedestrian, says: "There are only two speed breakers; more should be laid with reflectors and signboards to enhance visibility."

Speed breakers are needed at Nanganallur 37th Extension and Thillai Ganga Nagar 29th Street. At Third Main Road and 28th Street also rumbler are needed.

M. Jothi Muthupandian, a pedestrian, says, "Recently, a section of Second and Third Main Road was re-laid, but no speed calming measures were introduced."

The stretch comes under Zone 12 (Alandur) of the Greater Chennai Corporation.



A huge relief for motorists

Radha Nagar subway in Chromepet is finally open for the public to use. A long-pending demand by residents, the subway will spare the public a wait at the Level Crossing 27. Electric train commuters from the GST Road can walk along the subway to reach Platform 1A (trains towards Chennai Beach). Commuters from Radha Nagar Main Road boarding trains from Platforms 1 (Chennai Beach) and 2 (Tambaram, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, and Thirumalpur) can walk along the subway. The 250-metre-long and seven-metre-wide underpass connects GST Road and the Radha Nagar Main Road.

PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RPF personnel honoured at New Year celebration

People's Awareness Association in Chromepet honoured a Railway Protection Force personnel with the Southern Railway, for saving a woman's life.

K. Dayanidhi, on duty at Chengalpattu railway station, saw Prameela fall onto the track while trying to board the Tambaram-Villupuram train with her children. She fell between the platform and the train.

Dayanidhi immediately alerted the Loco Pilot, stopped the train, rushed to help her onto the platform. After rescuing her, Prameela was taken to Chengalpattu Government Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

The railway staff and the public praised Dayanidhi.

After reading the article about the brave act published in a Tamil daily, V. Santhanam, founder of PAA, contacted the railway authorities and Dayanidhi to honour him with an award and a shawl during its New Year celebrations.



SPECTRUM

Calendars designed by children with special needs

An initiative by DSW Trust along with Rotary Club of Centennial Madras



DSW Trust successfully completed a calendar project in which calendars were created by children with special needs from Guru Vidhyashram Special School, Kelkattalai. This is part of its ongoing livelihood and empowerment initiatives.

The project was approved by Vinod Saroagi, District Governor, Rotary International District 3234, and initiated

with the support of the Rotary Club of Centennial Madras, highlighting Rotary's commitment to inclusive social development, said a release.

Rotary Club's encouragement and support had created a meaningful impact on the lives of children with special needs. For a copy of the calendar, call 9840894264/9500043911.

A display of kickboxing talent

The HammerPro Kickboxing recently organised the Tamilnadu Kickboxing Championship 2025 for amateur and pro kickboxers in the city.

In the 55 kilogram weight category, Alam Azad and Abhijith from Kerala emerged as the winner and the runner-up respectively. In the 60 kg, Dhaya (Tamil Nadu) and Rahees (Kerala); in the 70 kg, Hayagriv (Tamil Nadu) and Ziyan (Kerala); and in the 75 kg categories, Kavin and Karthik from Tamil Nadu, the press release stated.

The winners were awarded a cash prize and a title belt.

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'Chitlapakkam, be e-waste aware'



The Industrial Waste Management Association organised an E-Waste awareness rally, collection drive and distributed 1,000 eco-friendly manjapai bags on January 8 at Chitlapakkam, opposite Varadharaj Theater.

The event was graced by C. Rajendran, former Member of Parliament, South Chennai, as guest of honour. P. Manisekar, District Governor 3241 A, Lions Club, participated as chief guest, and V. Swaminathan, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, attended as special guest. More than 200 college students participated in the awareness rally, spreading messages on the importance of safe and scientific disposal of e-waste. An e-waste collection drive was also conducted to encourage responsible disposal among the public.

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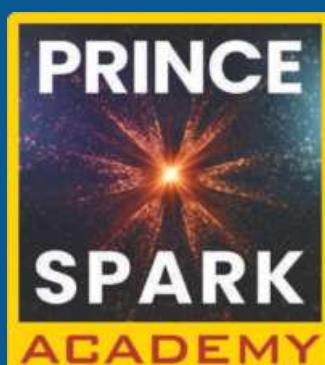
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The hassle of getting to the Pallavaram station

Sivasankaran Street in Zamin Pallavaram is an access road to Pallavaram railway station, which is ironical, because it is hugely inaccessible

T. ARVIND

Sivasankaran Street in Zamin Pallavaram, a crucial approach road on the eastern side of Pallavaram railway station, comes to a near standstill during peak hours owing to rampant illegal parking and unchecked encroachments. The problem is pronounced opposite the auto stand, where indiscriminate parking eats into the carriageway, leaving little room for moving traffic.

The stretch serves as a vital link for commuters from Chromepet, Chitlapakkam and Zamin Pallavaram, who access the station via Dargah Road subway. It is also used by a large number of Metro Rail users heading towards the Pallavaram Metro parking lot, adding to the traffic load.

Activists and commuters point out that the situation is aggravated by unregulated street vending along the railway boundary wall, while shops on the opposite side routinely extend their displays onto the road. Together, these encroachments substantially reduce the effective width of the street, resulting in frequent traffic snarls.

However, they say the most significant contributor is illegal two-wheeler parking, which occupies nearly a quarter of the road. "Many people simply park their vehicles here and board the trains," said Selvanathan, an auto driver at the stand near the flyover and station entrance.

The weekly market

The chaos peaks on Fridays due to the weekly shanthai (bazaar), when crowds spill on to the roadway, sometimes extending up to the base of the flyover. "On Fridays, we are unable to take our autos out at all. Every week, we lose our earnings," Selvanathan said.

The congestion also affects MTC services operating from the station's eastern side, including routes S-74 (Keelkattalai) and S-1 (Sakthi Nagar). After dropping passengers, buses are required to negotiate a tight curve to begin their return journey.

"It is extremely difficult to manoeuvre at this turn because of encroachments at every level," said Deenadayalan, an MTC driver. "Even after crossing this point carefully, the next hurdle is the narrow Dargah Road subway," he added.



MTC buses struggle to negotiate the heavy evening congestion on Sivasankaran Street; and hapazard parking of two-wheelers along Sivasankaran Street.

PHOTOS: T. ARVIND

of Dargah Road also report recurring traffic snarls near the Max showroom, where the road narrows further.

Call for civic action

Auto drivers, bus operators and regular commuters have urged the Tambaram Corporation to act swiftly by removing unauthorised parking and clearing encroachments to ensure free flow of traffic along this arterial road.

Metro commuters using this stretch," said Narasimhan, a regular commuter. He added that on Fridays, access to the flyover often becomes impossible due to the sheer volume of people visiting the weekly market.

Residents from the eastern side

'Lower the sluice inlet along Puzhuthivakkam Eri'

The design tweak is necessary to check inflow of sewage from Velachery Main Road

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

Residents of Madipakkam have requested the Water Resources Department (WRD) to lower the height of the inlet sluice along Puzhuthivakkam Eri.

V. Deepak, a resident of Sheela Nagar in Madipakkam, says the sewage drains below the inlet sluice along Velachery Main Road in Madipakkam, contaminating the lake. The design measure is required to ensure only rainwater flows in.

The sprawling waterbody straddles Puzhuthivakkam and Madipakkam. WRD should block the illegal sewer inlet to the lake's rainwater inlet sluice to save the lake and the marine life, adds Deepak.

The WRD should undertake maintenance exercises at the lake,

say local residents.

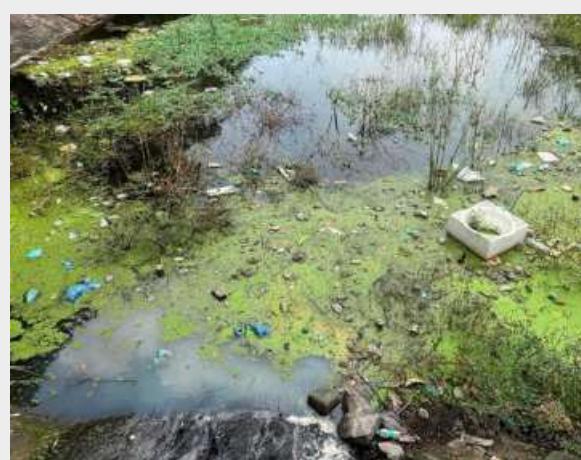
The exercises include dewatering and clearance of trash from the revetment walls and water-holding area.

A. Krishnan, a resident of Balaiah Garden, Madipakkam, says their presence can weaken the revetment walls, causing them to eventually break. The vegetation in the waterbody must be removed to increase storage capacity.

A. Vijayalakshmi, another resident, says security guards must be deployed at vantage points around the lake.

"Tipplers consume liquor (sitting on the benches and on their two-wheelers) and throw the bottles and leftovers on the revetment walls, which find their way into the lake. There are no garbage bins, which must be provided."

Along Balaiah Garden, the railings are broken, in a slanting condi-



The water-holding area in the lake and the revetment walls have been taken over by weeds.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



tion and must be refacilitated at a good height to prevent tipplers and others from approaching the lake area. The public uses the lake to bathe and wash clothes. Tipplers can be found sitting on the revetment walls in an inebriated condition and they can drown themselves. Visitors should be sensitised not to throw trash into the lake."

FESTIVITY

Special long-distance buses and trains for Pongal

The State Transport Department is plying special long-distance buses for Pongal from four bus terminuses in the city till January 14.

The buses are operated from Kalignar Centenary Bus Terminal (KCBT) in Kilambakkam (Mofussil and the Metropolitan Transport Corporation bus terminus), Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus in Koyambedu and Madhavaram New Bus Terminus. From KCBT, Mofussil buses towards Puducherry, Cuddalore, Chidambaram, Trichy, Madurai, Tuticorin, Sengottai, Thirunelveli, Salem, Coimbatore, Kumbakonam and Thanjavur.

From KCBT's MTC bus terminus, buses to Vandavasi, Polur, Thiruvannamalai, CMBT, Koyambedu, East Coast Road, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Bengaluru, and Thiruttani will be operated.

From Madhavaram New Bus Terminus, buses via Ponneri and Uthukottai to Andhra Pra-

desh, and Tirchy, Salem, Kumbakonam, and Thiruvannamalai, said a release issued by the State Transport Department.

People travelling through private modes of transport have been requested to drive through Rajiv Gandhi Salai Thirupurur, Kilambakkam, Chengalpattu and Vandalur Outer Ring Road to avoid creating traffic congestion on GST Road in Tambaram and Perungalathur regions.

Around 11 ticket reservation counters have been set up at the bus terminuses in Kilambakkam and Koyambedu, functioning till 9 p.m. on January 14.

A control room has been set up on the premises of the Kilam-

bakkam bus terminus, which will operate around the clock.

Southern Railway

The Railway is operating special trains to clear the passenger rush during the harvest festival.

Train number 06011 Tambaram - Kanniyakumari Superfast Special will leave Tambaram at 15.30 hrs on January 12 and 19 and reach Kanniyakumari at 03.30 hrs the next day.

Train number 06033 Chennai Central - Coimbatore Express Special will leave Central at 23.25 hrs on January 12 and 19, and reach Coimbatore at 09 hrs. Train number 06057 Tam-

baram - Tirunelveli Superfast Special will leave Tambaram at 15 hrs on January 13 and 20 and reach Tirunelveli at 02 hrs.

Train number 06151 Chennai Central - Tuticorin Weekly Express Special will leave Central at 23.50 hrs on January 12 and 19 and reach Tuticorin at 12.15 hrs.

CMRL travel cards

The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has advised its commuters to keep their CMRL travel card and Singara Chennai National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) safely. The cards are used for travel and paying parking payments.

If a commuter loses any one of the cards or both, the balance amount if any in the lost cards will not be transferable or refundable under any circumstances, says a release from the CMRL.

The funds in the offline wallet cannot be blocked if a card is lost; they are at risk of misuse by the card's finder, the release adds.

Workshop on how to make value-added products from coconut

Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute is conducting a training programme on making value-added products from coconut. The session will be held from January 21 to 23 from the institute's premises at EDII Office Road, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy. Time: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a press release, participants will learn to make the following products from coconut: different types oil meant for various purposes such as cooking, hair care, and rheumatism - related ailments.

Next, the use of coconuts in making moisturizers for body care and over-the-counter balms for pain relief from headaches and cold.

Further, the session will focus on use of coconuts in food items such as cookies, syrup, flavour powders, and desiccated coconut.

Those above 18 years of age with a minimum educational qualification of class 10 may apply. Hostel facility is available on first come, first serve basis.

Prior registration is mandatory. To register, visit website www.editn.in. For details, call 8668102600.

Getting ready for Pongal



Pongal clay pots are getting a decorative touch ahead of the festival.
PHOTO:
VELANKANNI
RAJ B

When parks and playgrounds come alive

Chennai Sangamam Namma Ooru Thiruvizha will be held from January 14 to 17 at various venues in the city

The annual cultural festival organised in parks, playgrounds and public spaces during Pongal will be held from January 14 to 17; 6 p.m. onwards. Chennai Sangamam Namma Ooru Thiruvizha, organised by Tamilnadu Department of Art and Culture this year offers a slice of other states

such as Kerala and West Bengal.

On January 15, at a playground in Kolathur, Kerala Kolakali performance will be on from 6.30 p.m.

Elliots Beach in Besant Nagar will have the famous Baul music from West Bengal entertaining beach goers.

According to www.chennaisangamam.in, both Tambaram and Avadi Corporation are also hosting a series of events, in the later the Ordnance Clothing Factory is the venue.

Other parks and playgrounds that will be coming alive these days include Corporation Playground in Saidapet, Natesan Park in T. Nagar, Sivan

Park in K.K. Nagar, Corporation Sports Ground in Ashok Nagar.

Thiruvanmiyur beach, Kattiparra junction in Guindy, Semmozhi Poonaga, Music College, Egmore Raja Rathnam Stadium, Valluvar Kottam, Museum Complex, Marina Beach are some venues one must drop in during these days.

Various traditional folk performances from the state such as Naiyandi Melam, Thappattam, Karagattam, Kaavadiattam, Thevarattam, Sevaiattam, Kolattam, Oyilattam, Silambattam, Paraiyattam, Maanattam and Mayilattam will be performed by artistes.



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