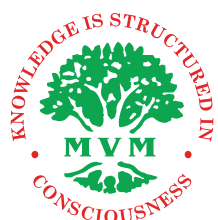


TAMBARAM

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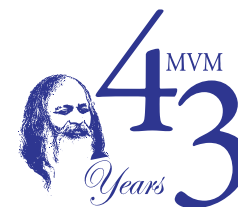


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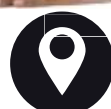
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Projects expected to be completed in 2026



The Thiruneermalai Periya Eri restoration project, which started end of July, saw the removal of seemai karuvellam and trash along Thiruneermalai Main Road, and de-watering, de-silting and deepening exercise.

The rains have caused sludge formation in the lake, which needs to be removed for de-silting. The process is under way.

The first phase of the restoration project is expected to be completed this year, after which a water conservationist and his team will take over the second phase, say Water Resources Department officials.

A light at the end of the tunnel

The Radha Nagar subway, connecting GST Road and Radha Nagar Main Road, in the Chromepet region, is nearing completion, with work under way to facilitate the storm-



water network: Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin might have the subway opened this month, say State Highway Department officials.

Text: T.S. Atul Swaminathan

Street in Pammal resembles a dirt track



Chithalai Chathanar Street in Pammal

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

It is two years since Tambaram City Municipal Corporation dug Chithalai Chathanar Street in Pammal to lay underground sewage pipelines, but to date the road has not been re-laid nor has patchwork been carried out.

The road is uneven and strewn with garbage and debris and turns slushy and slippery during rains, inconveniencing motorcyclists and pedestrians.

A. Radha Akhilan, a resident, says, "It is a back-breaking ride for motorcyclists. Two-

wheeler riders and pedestrians could skid and sustain a fall."

On a section of a road, only one pedestrian can walk or a two-wheeler rider can negotiate.

The trash is not cleared and is staying there for days, and at the corners, set on fire, creating pollution and a health hazard.

We have complained to the Pammal Zone of the civic body about the situation, but no action has been taken.

The dogs roam in large numbers, creating fear among the road users, residents pointed out.

New team for Chitlapakkam Muthulakshmi Nagar



The 35th annual general body meeting of the Chitlapakkam Muthulakshmi Nagar Welfare Association was held at Jans Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Chitlapakkam recently.

L. Sundararaman, the association's president, presided alongside vice presidents V. Ramajeyam and S. Sekar.

The association secretary, D. R. Shivakumar, submitted the report of the activities, and treasurer R. M. Easwaran presented the income and expenditure statement.

The demands presented by the residents includes daily trash collection, regular street

cleaning, early implementation of an underground drainage system in the region, relaying of damaged streets (Pugazhendi Street and Sairam Street) and a widened stormwater drainage network to avoid flooding on Sairam Street.

At the meeting, the following office bearers were elected unanimously. L. Sundararaman, president; S. Sekar and T. Sivaiah, vice-presidents; V. Yoganand, secretary; G. Mohankumar and R. Senthil Kumar, joint secretaries; R. M. Easwaran, treasurer; S. Venkatesan, assistant treasurer; and K. Venkataraman, internal auditor.

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Mini flyover sought at busy junction on key road

Vel's Road junction is a three-ring circus during rush hour and the chaos that prevails during this time has a domino effect on the rest of Pallavaram Thoraipakkam 200-foot Radial Road



T. ARVIND

The Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Radial Road, once a relatively quiet corridor, has emerged as a major traffic artery over the past decade, driven by rapid commercial and residential development. With hordes of vehicles hitting this road, a major link between GST Road and Rajiv Gandhi Salai (also known as OMR), commuters say mounting congestion and deteriorating road conditions now demand urgent intervention from civic and traffic authorities.

The arterial road, which begins at the GST Road-Thiruneermalai junction at 'Ponds' near Pallavaram and connects Thoraipakkam on Old Mahabalipuram Road (Rajiv Gandhi Salai), passes several key landmarks, including Keelkattalai lake, S. Kolathur lake, corporate hospitals and major educational institutions.

A choke point

The Taluk Office Road-Vel's College junction has become one of the most congested points on radial road, particularly during morning peak hours. Despite the presence of a traffic signal, commuters say frequent violations go unchecked.

Traffic personnel, largely drawn from the Reserve Police Force and Chitlapakkam police, are posted at



Traffic congestion at Vel's College-Taluk Office Road junction on the Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Radial Road; and potholes at the Kamakshi Memorial Hospital junction. PHOTOS: T. ARVIND

the junction, but activists allege enforcement remains lax. "Most of the time, the personnel remain near the booth instead of actively regulating traffic, leading to chaos at the intersection," a road safety activist said.

With traffic volumes rising steadily due to the presence of IT parks, global schools, colleges, marriage halls, malls and corpo-

rate hospitals, commuters say the junction requires long-term traffic engineering solutions.

Renewing a demand

Regular road users and activists have renewed a demand for a mini-flyover at the Vel's College-Taluk Office road junction to ensure uninterrupted movement along the radial road. They point out that the

flyover at nearby Madipakkam-Keelkattalai intersection have significantly eased congestion.

"A similar flyover here will decongest the junction and improve travel time for vehicles heading towards OMR," says senior social activist Santhanam, urging authorities to factor in future traffic growth while planning infrastructure.

Potholes add to risks

Adding to commuters' woes is the poor condition of the Vel's College Road junction, which is riddled with potholes and uneven patchwork repairs. Several commuters say the patchwork itself is more hazardous than unfilled potholes. "When we ride over the uneven surface, the vehicle tends to sway sideways. It is nerve-racking most of the time," says Ashwin, a resident of the area and a regular commuter.

The southern stretch near the intersection, leading towards the Taluk Office remains strewn with granite stones and has not been re-laid with bitumen topping for years, residents say.

The sloping terrain makes the stretch particularly difficult for women commuters and two-wheeler riders. Even the central portion of the junction, where vehicles take U-turns, is dotted with potholes and uneven surfaces, increasing

the risk of accidents.

Mud accumulation

Another major safety concern is the accumulation of mud and sand on the road, largely attributed to vehicles transporting construction materials. Mud deposits now occupy nearly a quarter of the carriageway at several points, especially opposite the Chaitanya educational institution. As a result, motorcyclists are forced to avoid the left lane and move towards the centre of the road, exposing them to fast-moving heavy vehicles. "The stretch has become extremely dangerous, especially during peak hours," says, Ashwin. Compounding commuters' difficulties is the condition of the service road, where work has remained unattended for several months. Residents say the stretch becomes nearly unmotorable, especially during the monsoon. "It was extremely difficult to navigate the road during the rains. The stretch was dug up and left without any visible progress," says Ashwin.

While the Madipakkam-Keelkattalai flyover has improved traffic flow in that section, commuters say the ongoing culvert work by the Water Resources Department at the Kamakshi Memorial Hospital-Tambaram-Velachery junction has slowed traffic considerably.

The sluggish pace of work, combined with pothole-ridden approach roads, has worsened congestion. Vehicles turning left from Tambaram-Velachery Road onto the radial road are forced to move cautiously due to uneven surfaces. Recently, an autorickshaw was left stranded after getting stuck in a pothole at the junction, a witness said.

Joint action needed

Activists and commuters have urged authorities to prioritise the Vel's College-Taluk Office junction for immediate intervention. Apart from planning a flyover, they want potholes repaired, service road laid on priority, accumulated mud and sand cleared regularly, and stricter traffic policing enforced.

"A coordinated approach involving highways, civic bodies and traffic police is essential to address the multiple issues along this corridor," activists said, stressing that delays could lead to more accidents and longer commute times.

Nanganallur residents want a **shelter for cattle**

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

The Federation of Nanganallur (Residents') Welfare Association has submitted a letter to Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner J. Kumaragurubaran and Mayor Priya Rajan to open a cattle shelter in the region.

They say this will prevent accidents caused on account of stray cattle scuttling across the roads. In addition, they can also prevent road users from bovine attacks.

The Federation has cited two incidents where women were attacked by bovines; one of the women sustained significant injuries.

S. Chandrabose, president of the Federation, says a 75-year-old was attacked by a cow near Guruvayurappan Temple causing injuries to her head and spine. In another incident, on

39th Street, an elderly woman has had a fractured hand due to a bovine attack. Last year, near Vettrivel Theatre, a man was gored by two buffaloes.

V. V. Kumaravelu, general secretary, says a majority of the cattle come from the neighbouring Ullagaram, causing problems for road users.

We hear that around 11 cattle shelters are going to be constructed across the city, which can accommodate close to 200 cattle, which will be taken care of by volunteers and NGOs. A shelter must be facilitated in the Nanganallur as well, say residents.

N. Sridharan Narayanan, a long-time resident of Nanganallur, says the public is feeding the cows outside the temples with 'Agathi Keerai'. If the cows belong to the temple, they should not be allowed outside and should have a separate 'Goshala'.



'Our country will be the **third largest economy**'



The 108th annual conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) was recently held in the city.

Hosted by Vels University, the three-day conference on the theme

'Indian Economy - Navigating Domestic Realities and Global Shifts' saw more than 1,500 academicians from India and over 140 economists across the world taking part

in it. The conference was inaugurated by Professor S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil

Nadu, delivered the valedictory address. "India is the fastest-growing major economy since 2021, and is poised to become the third-largest economy in the world in the near future. The contributions of microenterprises must be acknowledged, as they play a crucial role in strengthening the economy."

Professor A. D. N. Bajpai, president of the Indian Economic Association, noted that despite facing both domestic and external pressures, India has become the world's fourth largest economy, reflecting its resilience and growth momentum.

Ishari K. Ganesh, chairman of Vels Group of Institutions, was honoured with the 'Kautilya' award for his contributions to education and nation building.

An endowment lecture in honour of the chairman's name will be established starting from the next edition of the IEA annual conference, added the release.

Handloom exhibition in Selaiyur

Rajasthan Artisans and Weavers' Welfare Association is hosting a national handicraft expo till January 13 in Selaiyur.

From Kashmiri silk saris to Orissa saris, Jaipur churidhars, Rajasthan bedsheets, Chennapattana wooden toys, readymade shirts, wall hangings, leather bags, handbags and wallets, the fair has a wide variety of items.

One can avail 20 percent and 10 percent discounts on handlooms and handicrafts items respectively.

The expo is held at Palani Thirumana Mahal, Agaram Main Road, Indira Nagar; 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For details, contact 99404 22426, 96293 74196.

Revision in timings of suburban trains

The Chennai Division of Southern Railway has adjusted the schedule of approximately nine suburban trains. The revised timings came into effect from January 1.

In the Chennai Central - Arakkonam section, train numbers 43504, Thiruttani - Moore Market Complex, will leave at 05.55 a.m., 66008, Arakkonam - Moore Market Complex at 09.50 a.m., 43514, Thiruttani - Moore Market Complex at 2.55 p.m.



Chennai Central - Sullurpetta section, 42611, Chennai Beach - Gummidipoondi, at 20.05, 66032, Sullurpetta - Moore Market Complex, 21.05, and 42040, Gummidipoondi - Moore Market Complex at 21.40.

Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu section, 40552, Chengalpattu - Chennai Beach at 18.05, 40556, at 18.30, and 40570, at 22.20, says a release issued by the Southern Railway.

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▼ Snapshots of the event. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Old students 'introduced' to *alma mater*

The 1995 batch of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 AFS, Tambaram has a reunion at school

The air at Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1 Air Force Station, Tambaram was filled with laughter, nostalgia and the spirit of togetherness as the 1995 batch alumni reunited on December 20, 2025. The long-awaited reunion brought together nearly a hundred former students

from different corners of the world, including the United States, Australia, London and UAE.

The alumni were greeted warmly by the school's staff, students and administration. For many, stepping back onto the school grounds after 30 years sparked countless memories – the morning

assemblies, classroom discussions, annual functions, and playground laughter came rushing back in a tide of emotion.

The reunion was not only a celebration but also an opportunity to give back. The alumni interacted with the current students, sharing their personal journeys and professional experiences. In a special segment, several students were honoured for their promising achievements – Future Engineers who participated in hackathons, Future Chefs who impressed with their culinary skills, and Future Athletes who represented the school at district and national levels, said a release.

Former teachers and school staff who had once played guiding roles in shaping these students' formative years were also present.

The gathering moved to a resort in Kalpakkam, where the alumni and their families, continued their celebration in a more relaxed setting.

Music, games, and heartfelt conversations filled the venue, rekindling old friendships and deepening connections that distance and time had momentarily paused but never erased.

The reunion's success was credited to the dedicated planning committee, who had worked tirelessly for months to bring everyone together, added the release.

PNB inaugurates 100th branch at Pammal



Punjab National Bank inaugurated its 100th branch in Pammal along with an ATM facility.

The branch is located on the premises of Adityalal Complex, Pammal Main Road. P. Mahendar, zonal manager, Chennai, inaugurated the branch in the presence of Lalmohan Satapathy, circle head, Chennai.

The opening of the branch reaffirms its strong commitment to financial inclusion and customer-centric banking services in Tamil Nadu, a release said.

Property expo at Zamin Pallavaram ends today

Today is the last day of Idhu Ungal Sothu, a property expo happening at Arul Murugan Towers on Pallavaram - Thoraipakkam 200-Foot Radial Road, Zamin Pallavaram.

Over 50 real estate builders are showcasing various commercial and residential projects, ranging from ₹ 5 lakhs to ₹ 5 crores. The expo provides homebuyers and investors a convenient marketplace to explore, compare and choose from a wide variety of properties all in one place, said a release.

Entry is free and includes spot offers and expert guidance.

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