



ISSUE 14
DECEMBER '25



BE THE CHANGE



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Ramanathapuram

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Request for Partners



RAMANATHAPURAM

REQUEST FOR PARTNERS

HOLISTIC SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Project focus

Education is a critical driver of personal and societal development. However, many schools in rural areas face significant infrastructure challenges that impede the delivery of quality education. This proposal outlines an integrated approach to developing the educational and infrastructural capacity of the Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Sayalkudi, Ramanathapuram District.

Location

Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School,
Sayalkudi, Ramanathapuram

Coordinates: 9°10'01.5"N 78°26'38.0"E

Contact us at er@thuvakkam.org for more details

Request for Partners || Holistic School Development Program Sayalkudi, Ramanathapuram

- Smart class & STEM lab for the School
- Toilet & sanitary infrastructure
- Furniture to be equipped
- School Playground to be created
- Classrooms to be revamped



NEW DELHI

REQUEST FOR PARTNERS

Ecological Restoration and Sustainable Development

Project focus

The project focuses on the ecological restoration and sustainable management of Roshanara Lake through systematic **de-weeding, dredging, and water quality improvement measures**. It aims to restore aquatic health, enhance biodiversity, and ensure long-term water quality by removing excessive aquatic vegetation, treating inflows, and promoting a balanced ecosystem that supports fish and waterfowl habitats.

Location

Roshanara Bagh, Shakti Nagar,
New Delhi

Coordinates: 28°40'26.57"N 77°11'58.75E

Contact us at er@thuvakkam.org for more details

Request for Partners || Ecological Restoration of Water body Roshanara Bagh, New Delhi

- Water body rejuvenation by weed removal
- Aeration setup for the water body
- Native fish breeds to be introduced
- Community Awareness

Mail at er@thuvakkam.org

BE THE CHANGE

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERING

Chennai -Thuvakkam hosted Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteering on 13th December 2025 at its headquarters in Chennai, marking a proud and meaningful moment for the organization. The event brought together employees and core volunteers who have been closely involved in Thuvakkam's journey, creating a space for reflection, learning, and shared purpose.

The day featured engaging sessions and thoughtful discussions on the role of volunteering in shaping society. Eminent speakers shared their experiences, perspectives, and insights, highlighting how consistent, values-driven volunteering can create lasting social impact.

Thuvakkam expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the distinguished guests Thiru. Balakrishnan V IPS, Mr. Sankara Mahalingam, and Mr. Yasar Ahmad, and to the speakers Mr. Floran Jayaraj, Mr. Ramasubramaniam G, Ms. Sivapriya Azhaganandam, Mr. Arumugham Raju, Mr. Mangal Nates S S, and Mr. Marshal Kumar. Sincere appreciation is also extended to France Volontaires, the Thuvakkam Board members, volunteers, and employees whose collective efforts made the event a success. The event stood as a testament to the power of volunteering and collective purpose.



GOOD TOUCH; BAD TOUCH

Chennai- Thuvakkam conducted a Good touch Bad touch event for school students in the Govt Higher Secondary School in Mangalapuram, Chennai, on 20th Dec 2025 by our Interns Ms. Preethi & Ms. Bhavatharini.

The event took off with 37 students taking part in the session where the students were taught the basics of Good touch and Bad touch and the importance it covers for adolescent students.

With some interactive activities by engaging the students, they learned the importance of being alert and the ways in which they could feel free to alert in case of any emergencies.



WATER BODY INAUGURATION



Ramanathapuram - Thuvakkam & Kaleesuware Foundations successfully completed and inaugurated the rejuvenation of Andichikulam Kanmai in Sikkal, Ramanathapuram district.

The inauguration was graced by Dr. S. Manikandan, Ph.D., Senior Manager – CSR, Kaleesuware Foundations; Mr. L. Ravikumar, Deputy Block Development Officer, Kadaladi Block; and Mr. Alexander, Headmaster, PUMS Andichikulam. The Thuvakkam team, led by Mr. Somu R, Senior Associate – Projects, was also present at the event.

The event began with a community gathering, followed by interactions with local residents and the unveiling of the project board. Souvenirs were presented to representatives from Kaleesuware Foundations and the Deputy BDO in recognition of their support.

Discussions were also held with beneficiaries, highlighting the positive impact of the rejuvenated kanmai on agriculture, livelihoods, and long-term water sustainability in the region.

NSS RURAL CAMP AT KAMMETA VILLAGE, SANGAREDDY DIST., TELANGANA

Sanga Reddy, Telangana- Thuvakkam in collaboration with St. Pious X Degree and P.G. College for Women, Hyderabad, successfully organized a seven-day NSS Rural Camp at Kammeta village from 1st December 2025. The camp engaged 46 NSS students in community service, awareness, and development activities across Kammeta and Gollapalli villages.

The Kammeta Panchayat Secretary and village leaders formally inaugurated the camp. Students participated in village cleaning drives, community walks, and awareness sessions on World AIDS Day, school-based awareness sessions across government schools; and women’s safety, health, hygiene, and child welfare.

Hands-on community work formed a major part of the camp. They also supported farmers through weeding activities, conducted sessions for women on candle making, soap making, and flower waste products, and facilitated self-help group workshops promoting micro-entrepreneurship.

Village and school beautification efforts included cleaning, whitewashing, wall art, murals, and repainting of bus stops and public spaces. Health and safety messages were painted across schools, bus stops, and the Community Health Centre.

The camp concluded with a valedictory ceremony celebrating the students’ contributions, reflections, and learning.



CONNECTING WITH FRANCE VOLONTAIRES

Chennai -Thuvakkam was pleased to connect with France Volontaires, the French public platform for international volunteering, exchange, and solidarity. Established in 2009 as a public interest group, France Volontaires brings together the French State, local authorities, and civil society to promote international exchange and solidarity-based volunteering.

The collaboration was initiated during the Thuvakkam Volunteer Summit, marking an important step toward strengthening volunteerism, global solidarity, and people-led development. The interaction opened avenues for knowledge exchange and future partnerships aimed at creating meaningful social impact across borders.

Thuvakkam expresses its sincere gratitude to Mr. Etienne Rolland-Piegue, Consul General of France in Pondicherry and Chennai, for his valuable guidance and continued support.



KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Chennai - The Know Your Environment program was successfully conducted on Saturday, 20 December 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Patel Park Urban Forest, Kundrathur. The event witnessed the active participation of 13 students and one staff member from Omega International School.

The session aimed to create environmental awareness and deepen students' understanding of nature and sustainability. Participants were introduced to the history and purpose of the urban forest, its unique landscape, and the Miyawaki method of forest development, which focuses on creating dense, fast-growing, and self-sustaining forests.

Key topics discussed during the program included tree planting and maintenance, plant species diversity, local flora and fauna, biodiversity, food chains, and the role of trees in mitigating climate change.



NURSERY SET-UP AT URBAN FOREST, MADAMBAKKAM



Madambakkam - Thuvakkam conducted a Nursery Set-Up activity on 20th December 2025 at the Urban Forest in Madambakkam, Chennai. The initiative marked an important step toward strengthening sustainability, biodiversity, and self-reliance in cultivation within urban ecosystems.

The activity focused on establishing and nurturing a plant nursery that will support future plantation and restoration programs. Volunteers actively participated in preparing nursery beds and caring for a diverse range of saplings, including flowering plants, fruit trees, herbs, and native species. These efforts contribute directly to creating a resilient and healthy urban ecosystem while ensuring a steady supply of saplings for ongoing and upcoming environmental initiatives.



The Urban Forest at Madambakkam serves as a key green lung for the city, and the nursery plays a vital role in ensuring a steady supply of healthy saplings for ongoing environmental initiatives.

Volunteers actively participated in preparing the nursery beds, planting saplings, and nurturing them to ensure long-term growth. This hands-on effort not only strengthens the forest but also encourages community involvement and environmental stewardship.

CLEAN-UP DRIVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



Chennai - Thuvakkam conducted a Clean-Up Drive on 17th December 2025 at the Taramani Butterfly Urban Forest, Chennai. The activity focused on promoting environmental awareness and maintaining cleanliness in one of the city's important urban green spaces.

The Taramani Butterfly Urban Forest is a vital ecological zone that supports native plant species, butterflies, birds, and other urban wildlife. Regular community-led initiatives such as clean-up drives play a key role in preserving the health of this forest, improving habitat quality, and ensuring a safe and welcoming space for visitors.

Volunteers actively participated in collecting waste and maintaining the forest area, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable environment. The drive reinforced the importance of shared responsibility in protecting urban forests.

LAUNCHING THE BRAND AMBASSADOR

Chennai -Thuvakkam marked a meaningful milestone by launching Bee Mate as its Brand Ambassador, symbolizing the values and spirit that guide the organization's work. The announcement was made as Thuvakkam looks ahead to 2026, a year dedicated to celebrating and strengthening volunteering on the Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteering event on 14th December 2025

The macot was launched by our distinguished chief guests including Thiru. Balakrishnan V, IPS, Inspector General – Administration, Tamil Nadu; Mr. Sankara Mahalingam, Global Lead – Community Outreach, Firstsource; and Mr. Yasar Ahmad, Country Representative, France Volontaires India along with Mr. Krishna Kumar Suresh, Founder and President of Thuvakkam; Mr. Karthik Seenivasan, Treasurer; and Ms. Kiruthik Roshini, Associate – Branding and Marketing.

Bee Mate draws inspiration from the Apis family, known for being tireless contributors to the natural world. Just as bees play a vital role in sustaining ecosystems and human life, Bee Mate represents selfless service, collaboration, and consistent effort.



MEET WITH OUR ADVISOR, CK KUMAR, COO- ALERT OPS

Chennai - Thuvakkam team- Mr. Krishna Kumar Suresh & Mr. Dinesh Babu met with CK Kumar, one of our valued advisors, whose continued belief and encouragement have been a constant source of strength for the organization. His thoughtful guidance, positive outlook, and unwavering trust consistently bring clarity, confidence, and renewed energy to our work. Every interaction with him reinforces our purpose and strengthens the direction of our initiatives.

We were pleased to share that plans are underway to host CK Kumar for an experience-sharing session as the first speaker of Thuvakkam's upcoming Talk Series. The series will be launched during the International Volunteering Year in January 2026 and will focus on inspiring dialogue, learning, and leadership in the social sector.

COLLABORATING AS A CSR IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER WITH KALEESUWARI FOUNDATIONS

Chennai - What began as a brief professional interaction in 2023, meeting Mr. S. Manikandan as a Co-External Examiner during a viva-voce, has come full circle into a meaningful collaboration today. From an exchange of ideas and visiting cards to partnering across organisations, it has been a truly rewarding journey.

We were also glad to present the Thuvakkam Calendar to Mr. S. Manikandan, Senior Manager - CSR at Kaleesuware Refinery, along with Mr. Dinesh Babu Sakthivel, Secretary, Thuvakkam. The meeting included enriching discussions on the International Year of Volunteering, as well as our ongoing and upcoming initiatives.

We value this collaboration and look forward to continuing our work together toward sustainable development and the betterment of society.



INCLUSIVE HEALTH CARE

Chennai- On 3 and 4 December 2025, Thuvakkam, in partnership with the Centre of Excellence for Rehabilitation, Government Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and the Centre of Excellence for Rehabilitation, KK Nagar.

As part of this initiative, mobility assistive devices such as wheelchairs and walkers were provided to seven beneficiaries living with paraplegia, quadriplegia, and post-polio residual syndrome.

The programme was attended by Thiru. Ma. Subramanian, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, along with senior medical and rehabilitation officials and representatives from Thuvakkam. The event concluded with a shared pledge to strengthen inclusive development and advance accessibility in line with national priorities and UN standards.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2025

Chennai- Thuvakkam celebrated the Christmas celebrations at the Thuvakkam headquarters on 23 December 2025 with our employees, interns, and management coming together in true festive spirit. The office was filled with warmth, cheer, and the sound of Christmas jingles as we shared moments of togetherness.

Adding special cheer to the celebration, Mr. Durga Prasad, Executive Associate – Programs & Volunteering, stepped in as Santa Claus, delighting everyone by distributing Secret Santa gifts and spreading festive joy.

The celebration continued with music, fun interactions, and heartfelt conversations, strengthening the sense of family within Thuvakkam. The day concluded with a delightful potluck lunch, where everyone shared homemade delicacies, making the celebration even more personal and memorable.



GREENING PUZHAL

A Journey from Encroachment & Waste to a Vibrant Forest

Article written by Mr. Sundhar Rajan, Associate- Monitoring & Evaluation

The 23,000 sq. ft. land on the banks of Puzhal Lake in Thiruvallur, once a dumping ground for garbage and waste, had long been neglected and dismissed as barren wasteland. Surrounded by invasive weeds, it routinely became a garbage dump during the monsoons. The site also faced encroachment issues, further degrading the landscape and threatening its ecological potential. To address this situation, the government initially attempted to create a dense forest in partnership with the SWOTT NGO.

At that time, Thuvakkam was creating and maintaining urban forests across Chennai. Mr. Sameer, President of SWOTT, introduced the land to Thuvakkam. Subsequently, the then District Collector, Dr. Alby John Varghese, IAS, extended his support to the initiative. He granted official permission for the project and facilitated key infrastructure required for long-term sustainability—such as borewells, pipelines, electricity, and fencing. New infrastructure development is also currently being undertaken by the government to enhance the site further.

An initial survey revealed that the soil fertility was critically low. To restore its health, invasive weeds were cleared, and the soil was enriched with organic manure and cocopeat. On March 27, 2022, Thuvakkam planted 4,730 saplings across more than 45 indigenous species, including neem, neermaruthu, teak, athi, venkai, and iluppai.



This initiative extended beyond tree planting. As part of Thuvakkam's commitment to sustainability and community engagement, 14 events were conducted at the Puzhal Miyawaki Forest. These included plantation drives, Environment Week celebrations, tree care programs, and knowledge-sharing sessions. A total of 457 volunteers—including corporate employees, government officials, students, and residents—contributed 1,077.83 volunteer hours, demonstrating a strong commitment to urban forest development. Thuvakkam also collaborated with five CSR partners—Full Creative, Firstsource, RRD, Bank of Baroda, and Saipem—who actively engaged in the project, helping strengthen its long-term impact. Through these activities, the initiative reached more than 4,050 individuals, including 1,010 children and youth, who were directly engaged and educated on environmental protection and sustainable practices.

After three years of consistent maintenance, the impact has been remarkable. More than 63.29% of the saplings have survived and flourished, leading to a significant improvement in cation exchange capacity and organic matter. The forest now sequesters approximately 23.73 metric tons of CO₂ annually and filters 2.84 to 4.74 tons of PM10 pollutants from the air. Biodiversity has flourished, with over 35+ species of birds, butterflies, insects, and bees now thriving in the area. Native plant species have reappeared, transforming the land into a sanctuary for flora and fauna. In addition to reviving the air and ecosystem, the forest has also enriched the soil with essential minerals.



The journey has not been without challenges. Cyclones Michaung (2023) and Fengal (2024) caused damage to some saplings. Nevertheless, the maintenance team responded with resilience—strengthening the trees, applying organic fertilizers, and adopting eco-friendly pest management practices.

In recognition of its transformative impact, Thuvakkam received the Green Champion Award 2022 for restoring this degraded land into a thriving green space.

Today, the once barren land has been reborn as a self-sustaining urban forest. Beyond improving Chennai's air quality and microclimate, it now serves as a green classroom for children and a model for climate-resilient urban planning. The Puzhal Miyawaki Forest is more than a collection of trees—it is living proof that with care, collaboration, and community spirit, even the most neglected landscapes can be transformed into thriving green havens for future generations.



Photos from Biodiversity mapping by Mr. Sathya, Suzhal Arivom NGO and Mr. Sundar, Thuvakkam NGO.

4-DAY CERTIFICATION COURSE ON NGO FORMATION & DONOR MANAGEMENT

Chennai - Thuvakkam was a part of the 4-day Certification Course on NGO Formation & Donor Management conducted by the Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), by providing faculty support. The course offered students an in-depth understanding of social work principles, NGO management, and donor engagement, combining classroom sessions with practical field exposure.

Over the four days, three at the institution and one at Thuvakkam's office, students engaged in discussions, activities, and case studies that enriched their understanding of the sector.

Thuvakkam extends heartfelt thanks to co-facilitators Mr. Dinesh Babu, Ms. Suchitra Narayankutty, Ms. Jeba Rupavathi, Mr. Jaylogeshwar MD, and Ms. Rajeshwari for sharing their expertise and experiences, making the program both informative and inspiring.



VISIT TO ANBU SOLAI AT PERUNGUDI



Chennai- Anbu Solai at Perungudi, a compassionate Government of Tamil Nadu initiative that creates a dignified, safe, and joyful space for senior citizens to spend their day meaningfully.

The center, managed by the Namdhesam Foundation in partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu, beautifully reflects how care, structure, and community can come together for active and healthy aging.

During the visit, our team spent time interacting with the elders, listening to their personal stories, and learning from their experiences. Sharing lunch with them offered a heartwarming glimpse into the sense of comfort and care that Anbu Solai provides, where every meal felt lovingly prepared and filled with warmth, reminiscent of a family environment.

Thuvakkam acknowledges the dedicated efforts of Ms. Kalyanathy Satchithanatham, a women's activist, for graciously hosting the visit and creating such an inclusive and nurturing atmosphere.

We at Thuvakkam look forward to joining hands, sharing ideas, and working together to strengthen senior citizen well-being and contribute towards a more inclusive and compassionate society.

MEET WITH OUR ADVISOR- DR. SRIMATHY KESAN, FOUNDER & CEO OF SPACESKIDZ INDIA

Chennai - The Thuvakkam team had a meeting with Dr. Srimathy Kesan, Founder & CEO of SpacesKidz India and a long-standing advisor to the organization. The discussion included sharing the Thuvakkam 2026 Calendar and plans for initiatives during the International Volunteering Year 2026 with Dinesh Babu.

Dr. Srimathy Kesan has been a steadfast supporter of Thuvakkam since 2016, providing guidance, encouragement, and invaluable mentorship across multiple projects. Her insights and belief in the organization's mission have consistently inspired the team, strengthening our dedication to creating meaningful social impact.

Interactions with Dr. Srimathy reaffirm our commitment to serving society with purpose, passion, and innovation. Her guidance continues to motivate Thuvakkam as we move forward in empowering communities and promoting volunteer-driven change.



GUIDING THE WAY FORWARD

Chennai - The Thuvakkam team had the pleasure of meeting one of our advisors, Dr. Satyagopal K, IAS (Retd.), Former Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu and Former Expert Member of the National Green Tribunal. The meeting provided an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions around Thuvakkam's key focus areas and to share the organization's planned activities for the coming year.

The interaction was enriching and insightful, drawing from Dr. Satyagopal's vast experience in governance and environmental leadership. His perspectives offered valuable guidance and reaffirmed the importance of thoughtful, purpose-driven work in creating long-term impact.

Such moments of engagement continue to motivate and strengthen Thuvakkam's journey. With renewed clarity and direction, the team moves forward with confidence and commitment, inspired by the wisdom and encouragement received.

▶ SCAN (OR) CLICK TO WATCH



Thuvakkam- Community Based Organizations



Project Greenergize- energizing schools with Solar Energy



Thuvakkam Greenery at Ramnad



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

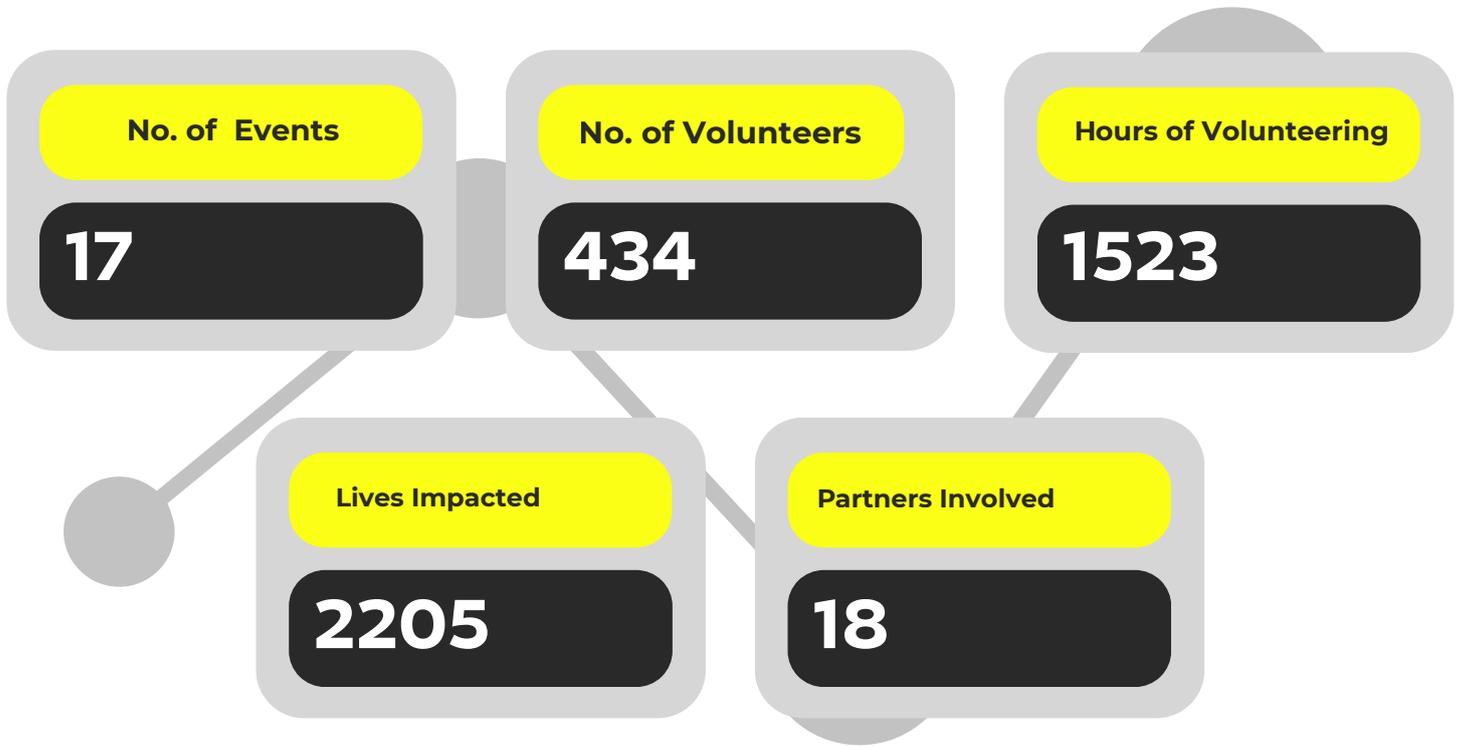
the spirit of Christmas celebration, where children and staff come together in an atmosphere of joy, warmth, and inclusion. The smiles, festive decorations, and shared moments around the cake symbolize love, unity, and the importance of creating happy memories for children beyond the classroom.



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Dec '25

VOLUNTEERING WALL- DEC 2025



PARTNERS WE COLLABORATED FOR DEC 2025

HCLFoundation

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation

LIGHT & WONDER

AstraZeneca

ALTIMETRIK SIMPLIFY TECHNOLOGY | AMPLIFY POSSIBILITY

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Ford

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firstsource

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Kaleesuwari Foundations

VPG

GENESYS

GRUNDFOS

NORTHERN ARC

St. Pious X

SPONSOR FOR SUCCESS



I am S. M. Mohanapriya, a BBA student at Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Thuvakkam for the educational assistance extended to me since my 12th grade and into my second year of college.

Coming from a family where my father is visually impaired and differently-abled, your continued support has been a great source of strength and motivation in my educational journey. It has helped me overcome financial challenges and focus on my studies with confidence. I sincerely request you to kindly continue supporting me so that I may complete my education and work towards a better future for myself and my family. Thank you once again for your invaluable support.

Yours Faithfully,
S. M. Mohanapriya



SCAN TO
DONATE

Through our 'Sponsor for Success' initiative, you have the power to change lives by supporting the education of underprivileged children. Your contribution can open doors to quality learning, helping young minds rise above challenges and work towards a brighter, empowered future.

PARTNER WITH US

Would you like to create an impact in society through a collaboration?

Then reach us at er@thuvakkam.org
Call us at **+91 94448 88937**



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