



ISSUE 13
NOVEMBER '25

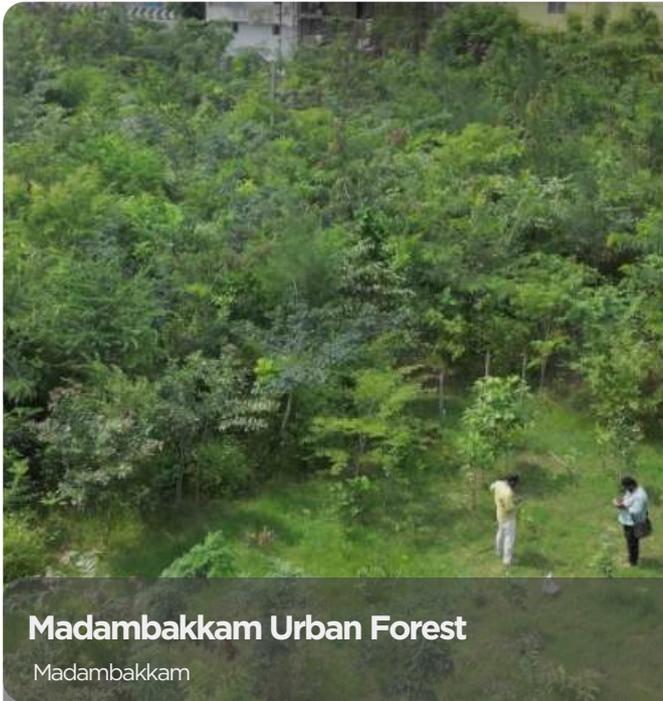
BE THE CHANGE



Notebook Distribution

Chennai

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Madambakkam Urban Forest

Madambakkam

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Highlights of November 2025



Famers Meet

Chengalpattu

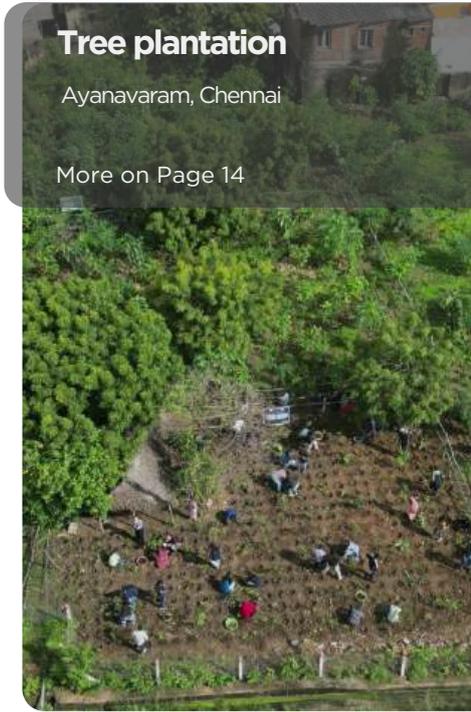
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Andichikulam Kanmai

Ramanathapuram

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Tree plantation

Ayanavaram, Chennai

More on Page 14

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

LIGHTING UP MANNUR

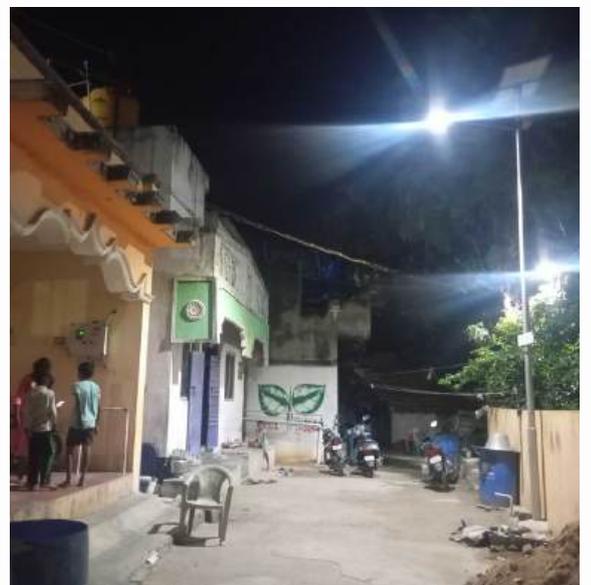
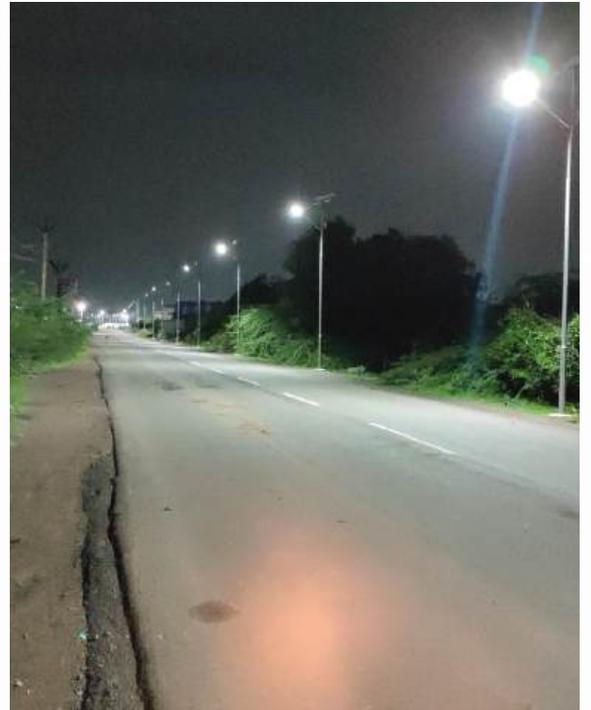
An Article by Mr. Sundhar rajan, Associate- M&E

Kanchipuram - Mannur is a vibrant village with a diverse local and migrant population, but for years life after sunset was marked by darkness and safety concerns. Poor lighting led to frequent accidents with industrial vehicles, fears around theft and women's safety, and limited opportunities for children to study or for the community to gather. An unstable electricity supply further restricted the village's social and economic activity at night.

A Journey from Darkness to Development takes you into the intervention of Thuvakkam done with Hyundai Glovis India in setting up 175 Solar street lights. These lights operate independently of grid electricity and switch on automatically at dusk.

The impact was immediate. Streets became safer and more active, women felt confident moving at night, markets stayed open longer, and children could study together under the lights. The project also built awareness of renewable energy, showing the community how solar power can improve lives while protecting the environment.

Today, Mannur shines as a safer, more connected, and sustainable village.



RECONNECT 2025: WHERE OUR JOURNEY CAME TOGETHER AGAIN

Chennai - Reconnect 2025 was a truly heartwarming day, bringing together Thuvakkam members and ex-members under one roof once again. The joy of meeting everyone, along with their families, revived cherished memories of our shared journey filled with learning, challenges, laughter, and growth.

Each conversation reflected the deep bond we share, built on purpose, compassion, and a collective dream of creating meaningful change. From Thuvakkam's humble beginnings to the milestones reached today, the dedication and commitment of its people continue to be the driving force behind its impact.

While some members could not join us, their presence was deeply felt and they were truly missed. Reconnect 2025 was not just a reunion, but a reminder that this journey is ongoing. It marked the beginning of many more shared moments, memories, and milestones as the Thuvakkam community continues to grow together.



KNOWLEDGE IN EVERY PAGE: NOTE BOOK DISTRIBUTION



Pallikaranai, Chennai - Thuvakkam & Star Health and Allied Insurance conducted a notebook distribution event on 30 October 2025 at the Government Higher Secondary School, Pallikaranai, Chennai. The initiative aimed to support students as they prepared for their upcoming examinations by ensuring access to essential stationery.

A total of 1,226 notebooks were distributed to 613 students from Classes 9 to 12. The event was organised by Ms. Bhavya Vasan, Associate Education at Thuvakkam, along with four volunteers.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Headmistress of the school for her support and to Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd for their generous contribution in making this initiative possible.



MONSOON STORIES ~FT. ANDICHIKULAM KANMAI, RAMANATHAPURAM

Ramanathapuram - The recent monsoon season has clearly demonstrated the impact of the rejuvenation of Andichikulam Kanmai in Ramanathapuram district. Restored in partnership with Kaleesuvari Foundations, the water body is now proving the strength and effectiveness of the intervention carried out.

Spread across 25 acres, Andichikulam Kanmai underwent extensive restoration work, including clearing invasive growth, desilting the tank bed, and strengthening the bunds. As a result, the kanmai now has the capacity to store approximately 2.19 crore litres of water. The monsoon rains have helped fill the water body, visibly transforming it into a vital local resource.

This stored water will support both irrigation and domestic needs for the residents of Andichikulam village in Sikkal Panchayat, contributing to improved water security, agricultural resilience, and livelihoods. The rejuvenation stands as a strong example of how focused water conservation efforts can create lasting benefits for rural communities.



LOOKING BACK: THUVAKKAM'S DISASTER RESPONSE AFTER CYCLONE VARDAH

Chennai - In December 2016, Cyclone Vardah left Chennai shaken and silent. The morning after the storm, the city bore deep scars. Roads were blocked by massive fallen trees, power lines hung dangerously low, and familiar neighbourhoods felt unrecognisable. The cyclone had not only disrupted daily life but had also severely damaged Chennai's green cover, leaving the city vulnerable and subdued.

Yet, in the midst of this devastation, the spirit of collective action emerged. Residents stepped out of their homes, driven by a shared sense of responsibility and hope. Among them were Thuvakkam volunteers, who refused to remain bystanders in the face of crisis. Determined to help restore the city, they joined hands with the Chennai City Police, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Balakrishnan Velaiah, to respond immediately.

Through the night, under dim streetlights along Marina Beach, volunteers worked tirelessly to clear fallen trees and reopen pathways. From the Lighthouse stretch to the Subash Chandra Bose statue, broken branches were used as makeshift tools to carefully prop up uprooted trees. Each tree restored was more than an environmental act; it was a symbol of resilience and care for the city's future.

By dawn, nearly 100 trees were given a second chance at life. While Cyclone Vardah had uprooted much, it could not shake the determination of Chennai's people. This moment stands as a powerful reminder of Thuvakkam's decade-long journey in disaster response, rooted in community, compassion, and the belief that even after the fiercest storms, recovery and growth are always possible.



KARKAKASADARA – SESSION ON GOOD TOUCH, BAD TOUCH, AND COMFORTABLE & UNCOMFORTABLE SPACES



Chennai - As part of the KarkaKasadara initiative, Thuvakkam conducted an awareness session on Good Touch, Bad Touch, and Comfortable and Uncomfortable Spaces at Avvai Nidhi Middle School, Tambaram, Chennai. The session was facilitated by Ms. Bhavya Vasan, Associate – Education, Thuvakkam, and saw the active participation of 37 students.

The session began with an interactive discussion encouraging students to reflect on how different forms of touch make them feel, helping them distinguish between comfort and discomfort. Students were attentive and engaged throughout. Thuvakkam also introduced the POCSO Act and Child Helpline numbers, reinforcing existing knowledge while clarifying doubts.



During discussions, common misconceptions around the causes of bad touch were addressed through guided conversation. By the end of the session, students clearly understood that responsibility lies solely with the offender, not the victim. One student’s confident expression of personal boundaries stood out, encouraging peers to reflect on their own comfort levels.



Real-life cases such as the Nirbhaya incident were discussed to underline the seriousness of the issue. Overall, the session fostered awareness, empathy, and a stronger understanding of personal safety and consent.



BOARD MEETING- NOV 2025

Chennai - The session featured presentations on our ongoing Environment projects, the Waterbody Restoration by Somu R, Sr. Associate- Projects and Tree Plantation by Jeyabharathi K, Exe Associate- Projects.

We reviewed the key happenings from October, discussed recent meetings with our advisors and stakeholders, and planned ahead for the upcoming Thuvakkam Volunteer Summit and International Volunteer Year 2026 initiatives.

These regular board meetings play a vital role in ensuring transparency, collaboration, and strategic alignment. They help keep the team engaged and accountable, reinforcing a shared sense of responsibility towards Thuvakkam’s mission and the social impact it strives to create.

WELCOMING DR. SRIMATHY KESAN TO THUVAKKAM'S ADVISORY BOARD

Chennai - Thuvakkam is delighted to welcome Dr. Srimathy Kesan to our Advisory Board. Founder and CEO of SpaceKidz India, an aerospace startup dedicated to democratizing access to space education and technology in India.

Dr. Srimathy has been a long-time supporter of Thuvakkam and brings with her a remarkable blend of vision, innovation, and social commitment.

A pioneer in the Indian aerospace sector, Dr. Srimathy has led groundbreaking work in the design, fabrication, and launch of small satellites, spacecraft, and ground systems. Her achievements include building the world's lightest and first-ever 3D printed Femto Satellite and leading the launch of AzaadiSat, an inspiring initiative that empowered rural girls from across India, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

We are honoured to have her join our Advisory Board and look forward to her guidance as we work together towards inclusive growth, innovation, and a sustainable future.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR A GREENER KAMMETA



Hyderabad - HCLFoundation under the Harit by HCLFoundation - the environmental Flagship program, has successfully initiated the first phase of the Ecological Restoration in and around Hyderabad project. Across six zones, invasive weeds and dead vegetation were cleared, and the land was ploughed, levelled, and prepared for plantation.

The land preparation work covered a total of 5 acres, followed by biodiversity mapping and soil sampling to ensure ideal conditions for native species restoration. This milestone marks a significant step towards rebuilding Kammeta's native ecosystem and strengthening long-term ecological resilience.

WELCOMING DR. SATYAGOPAL K, IAS (RETD.) TO THE PATEL PARK URBAN FOREST, KUNDRATHUR

Kundrathur - It was our privilege to welcome Dr. Satyagopal IAS (Retd.), Former Additional Chief Secretary, Former Expert Member of National Green Tribunal, and one of the advisors to Thuvakkam, to our Patel Park, Kundrathur Urban Forest site which was developed under CSR initiative of HCL Foundation under Harit by HCL Foundation with the support of Kundrathur Municipality, Government of Tamil Nadu

During his visit, Dr. Satyagopal shared valuable insights and suggestions to further enhance the ecological and community impact of the project. He appreciated the dedicated efforts of our team and volunteers in nurturing the forest and transforming the space into a thriving green ecosystem.

Dr. Satyagopal also proposed forward-thinking ideas for generating sustainable income within the forest. His suggestions included establishing bee apiaries, implementing organic waste management systems, and developing circular economy models that can benefit both the environment and local communities.

We are deeply thankful for his continued guidance, encouragement, and vision, which inspire us to strengthen our journey towards creating greener, self-sustaining urban ecosystems.



CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S DAY AT ILLANCHEMBUR SCHOOL



Ramanathapuram - Thuvakkam celebrated the Children's Day with great enthusiasm at the Illanchembur Government Primary School in Illanchembur, Ramanathapuram district. The event saw the participation of 65 students.

The celebration began with a warm welcome for the students, who were greeted with flowers and sweets. Various interactive games were organized to encourage teamwork, creativity, and participation. A speech competition on the theme of "Green Environment" gave students an opportunity to express their ideas on sustainability and the importance of caring for nature.

The day concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where winners of the games and speech competition were recognised. The smiles on the students' faces reflected the joy and excitement of the celebration.

URBAN FOREST MADAMBAKKAM

Madambakkam - Thuvakkam, in collaboration with Tambaram Municipal Corporation and AstraZeneca India, has created an Urban Forest in Madambakkam to address green cover loss, rising temperatures, and declining biodiversity. Using the Miyawaki method, degraded land has been transformed into dense greenery that supports climate resilience, biodiversity, and community engagement.

Impact assessments show the forest reduces PM2.5 and PM10 levels, acts as a carbon sink. Over fifty species of birds, butterflies, and insects have been recorded, highlighting strong biodiversity revival. The greenery also cuts noise, improves groundwater recharge, and enhances residents' well-being by lowering heat, dust, and pollution.

Beyond ecological benefits, the forest functions as a natural bio-shield, lowering heat, dust, and pollution levels, which contributes to better respiratory health and mental well-being among residents.



WARMTH OF KINDNESS: BLANKET DISTRIBUTION ACROSS NEW DELHI

Delhi NCR - The Warmth of Kindness event as the final event of the Daan Utsav 2025 celebrations in New Delhi on 1st Nov 2025. The event began at Rajiv Chowk Metro Station where all our 6 Volunteers gathered.

Volunteers split into two teams covering Rajiv Chowk, Barakhamba Road, Old Hanuman Temple, and New Delhi Railway Station. Each team interacted with individuals in need, assessing and identifying beneficiaries before distributing blankets. During the distribution, volunteers engaged in brief conversations with recipients, offering warmth not only through blankets but also through empathy and kindness.

We reached about 35 beneficiaries, distributing blankets to the needy people in the streets of New Delhi which provided immediate relief and comfort to people living without adequate winter protection, gaining immediate relief and comfort during the winter months.



CHILLI CULTIVATION ON THE BANKS OF THE ANDICHIKULAM KANMAI



Ramanathapuram - In the Andichikulam village, the local villagers are cultivating chilli saplings along the bunds of Andichikulam Kanmai, making efficient use of space, soil moisture, and the natural contours of the water body. Ramanathapuram is a prominent chilli-growing region in Tamil Nadu, alongside Virudhunagar, Sivagangai, and Thoothukudi districts. Varieties such as Sambha Chilli and Mundu Chilli are extensively cultivated here, and this practice allows farmers to manage small plots effectively while maintaining sustainable agricultural methods along water bodies.

Thuvakkam, in collaboration with Kaleesuvari Foundations, has rejuvenated the Andichikulam Kanmai in Sikkal, covering a 25-acre area. As part of the restoration, a water storage capacity of 2.19 crore litres has been created, ensuring water availability for agriculture, livestock, and local ecosystems.

This initiative not only strengthens rural water security but also supports sustainable farming practices, empowers senior citizens and local communities involved in cultivation, and enhances biodiversity around the water body.

STRENGTHENING FARMING PRACTICES THROUGH LOCAL DIALOGUE

Hanumanthapuram, Chengalpattu - On 14th November 2025, Thuvakkam organized a Farmers Meeting at Hanumanthapuram, Chengalpattu, bringing together 29 local farmers and 7 students from the School of Agriculture, Bharath University, Selaiyur, Chennai.

The session was graced by Ms. Krishna Veni, Agricultural Officer & President, Agri Association, who shared insights on the latest agriculture and horticulture schemes, crop insurance, subsidies, and access to seeds, saplings, and farm machinery. Farmers actively engaged with her, gaining valuable updates to enhance their farming practices.

The Thuvakkam Waterbody team of Mr. Somu R, Sr. Associate- Projects & Ms. Sivaranjani S, Associate- Projects also presented on the importance of waterbody rejuvenation, its long-term impact on agriculture, and the collaborative efforts planned for the upcoming execution phase. Farmers expressed their support and shared key requirements for the Phase 2 proposal.

Small discussions like these create meaningful connections between communities, experts, and organizations, paving the way for sustainable rural transformation and stronger local resilience.



CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Tambaram- Thuvakkam celebrated the Children's Day Celebration in Chennai at the Avvai Nidhi Middle School, Tambaram on 14th Nov 2025 as a part of the Karka Kasadara session.

41 students from Class 6th & 7th participated. We had Vocabulary session for students to understand more vocabularies in day-to-day life to communicate and speak more clearly and fluently.

We conducted engaging activities where Students imagined waking up at home and sitting in the classroom to identify objects they see in each place., learning new vocabulary by looking at picture flashcards, answering questions, and acting out the use of each object. They also shared what new words they learned and discussed why learning vocabulary is important.

We also distributed Children's day surprise card for students, which held them in Joy for the rest of the sessions.

THUVAKKAM'S VISIT TO PUDHUCHERRY

Puducherry - Thuvakkam team recently visited Puducherry to explore opportunities for mangrove restoration and waterbody rejuvenation in the Union Territory. The delegation included Mr. Parthiban Munusamy, Director – Administration, Ms. Jeyabharathi K, Executive Associate – Projects, and Mr. Sundhar Rajan, Associate – Monitoring & Evaluation.

During the visit, the team had the privilege of meeting the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Shri K. Lakshminarayanan. The discussion focused on identifying potential areas for ecological intervention, understanding local environmental challenges, and exploring ways in which Thuvakkam's expertise in ecosystem restoration could be applied to benefit the region.

The team presented proposals highlighting Thuvakkam's experience in mangrove restoration, waterbody rejuvenation, and community-driven environmental projects. They discussed potential collaboration with local authorities to implement sustainable solutions that enhance biodiversity, improve water security, and strengthen climate resilience. The visit laid the foundation for future interventions.



DISCUSSION WITH THE ASSISTANT SOIL CONSERVATION OFFICER, GURUGRAM



Gurugram -Thuvakkam has taken the first steps toward expanding its sustainability initiatives in Gurugram.

A delegation comprising Mr. Somu, Senior Associate – Projects, and Mr. Piyush Singh, Associate – Projects, met with the Assistant Soil Conservation Officer to discuss potential collaborations and future projects in the district.

The discussion focused on insights and outcomes from Thuvakkam's previous interventions in waterbody rejuvenation, afforestation, and community- and agriculture-focused programs. These efforts have contributed to reviving local ecosystems and supporting rural livelihoods. The officer provided guidance on the district's priorities and requirements, helping ensure that future initiatives are aligned with local environmental and development goals.

The interaction opened promising pathways for impactful partnerships ahead. Thuvakkam looks forward to contributing meaningfully to the district's sustainability and development goals.

TREE PLANTATION WITH OUR NEW PARTNER ALTRATA

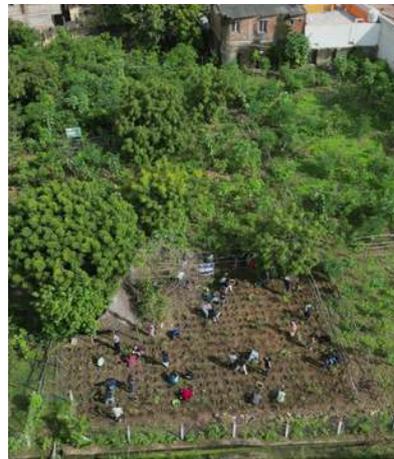
Chennai- Thuvakkam has partnered with Altrata and conducted a vibrant tree plantation event at the PT Railway Colony in Ayanavaram, Chennai. The morning brought together 61 enthusiastic volunteers from Altrata, who had traveled from various parts of Tamil Nadu to participate in the initiative.

Together, the volunteers planted 450 saplings across the Urban Forest Complex, contributing to the restoration of green cover and supporting urban biodiversity.

The event not only created a lasting environmental impact but also fostered a strong spirit of community participation and collaboration.

This plantation initiative marks the beginning of a meaningful and sustainable partnership between Altrata and Thuvakkam. The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to promoting environmental stewardship and creating long-term ecological benefits for the community.

The event is a step forward in building greener urban spaces and inspiring continued engagement in society-wide environmental initiatives.



URBAN FOREST, AYANAVARAM

Chennai- In just six months, Thuvakkam successfully developed an Urban Forest at PT Railway Colony, Ayanavaram, Chennai, in collaboration with Southern Railways and other corporate CSR partners. The forest spans 5,229 sq ft and now houses over 1,160 indigenous saplings and plants, transforming previously underutilized urban space into a thriving green ecosystem.

The achievement was made possible by the tireless efforts of Thuvakkam's Afforestation team, including Ms. Jeyabharathi, Ms. Kanimozhi, Ms. Sofiya, Mr. Mohammad Irsath, and the garden staff, supported by the creative planning of RRD Go Creative.

This initiative demonstrates how strategic afforestation in tight urban spaces can strengthen biodiversity, improve air quality, and provide sustainable solutions for city living. Thuvakkam continues to expand its urban greening efforts, creating greener, smarter, and more resilient communities while setting a model for sustainable city ecosystems.

KARKAKASADARA – MAKING OUR STREETS CLEAN SESSION

Chennai - the making our Streets Clean session- an interactive learning session to help students understand different types of waste—organic, inorganic, e-waste and sanitary waste—and the importance of proper segregation.

Mr. Praveen Kanth, Executive Associate- SWM & Ms. Bhavya Vasan, Associate- Education conducted the session with 38 students from the Avvai Nidhi Middle School- Tambaram, Chennai.

Through picture-based identification, colour-coded bin matching, and a fun “Waste or Wealth” activity, students learned how the right disposal practices can turn waste into useful resources.

They discussed the waste they observe daily, reflected on correct and incorrect disposal, and explored how mixed waste harms soil, water, air, and contributes to climate change.

The session saw enthusiastic participation, with students showing strong awareness—one even highlighting the dangers of burning waste.



▶ SCAN (OR) CLICK TO WATCH



Thuvakkam- Community Based Organizations



Project Greenergize- energizing schools with Solar Energy



Thuvakkam Greenery at Ramnad



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

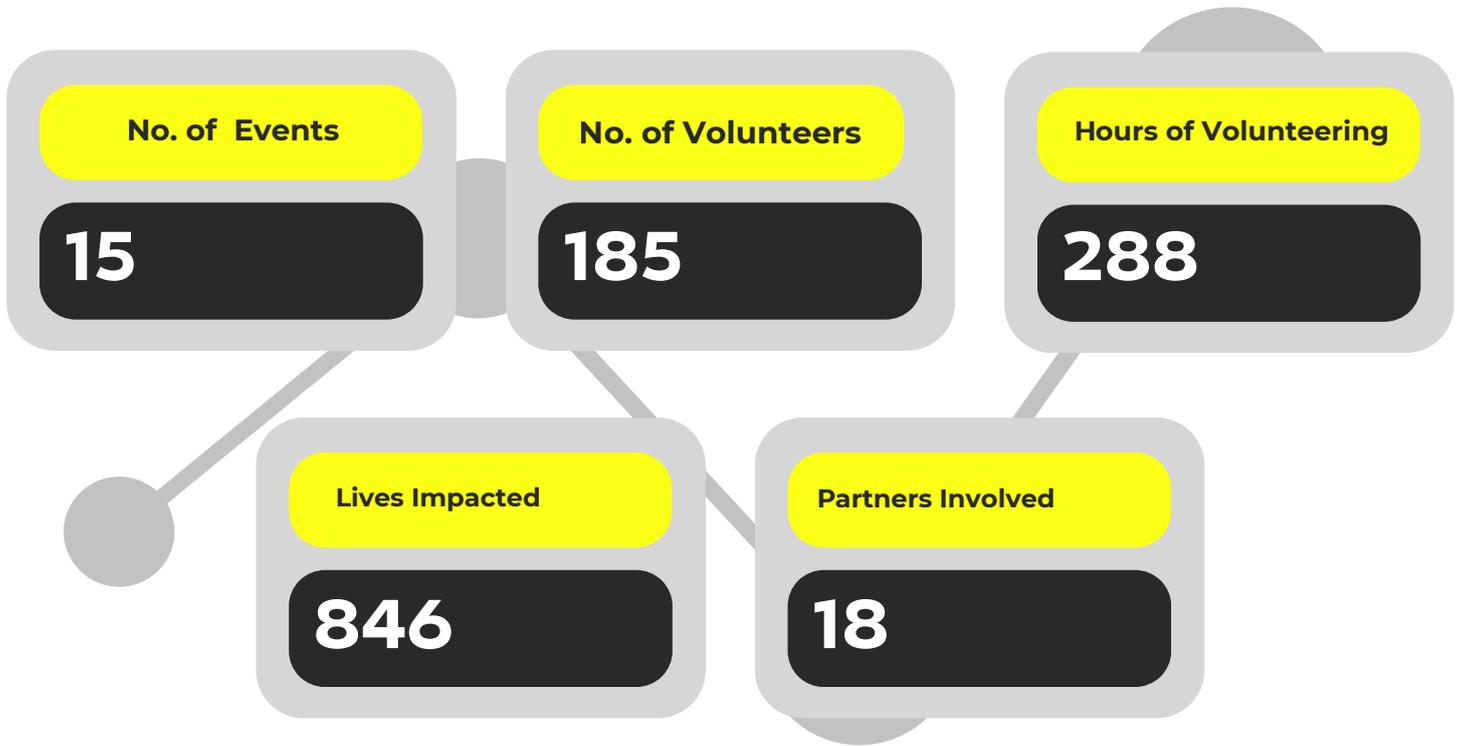
Children’s Day celebrations at school, highlights the essence of education through creativity and expression. Students proudly presenting their artwork represent confidence, imagination, and encouragement nurtured by teachers and mentors. This moment showcases how learning extends beyond textbooks, fostering self-expression and holistic development.



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Nov '25

VOLUNTEERING WALL- NOV 2025



PARTNERS WE COLLABORATED FOR NOV 2025

HCLFoundation

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation

LIGHT & WONDER

AstraZeneca

ALTIMETRIK SIMPLIFY TECHNOLOGY | AMPLIFY POSSIBILITY

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Kaleeswari Foundations

VPG

GENESYS

GRUNDFOS

NORTHERN ARC

ALTRATA

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**



 Chennai | Delhi NCR | Hyderabad | Ramanthapuram