Q1 FY 2024-25 ISSUE 01

Be the Change.

THUVAKKAM
Reg. No: 131/2014 Exceeding Limits

Thuvakkam's Quarterly Newsletter



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FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the first quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable progress and achievements of Thuvakkam. Our collaborative efforts continue to drive positive change and sustainable development within our communities.

Our partnership with the HCL Foundation under their Harit initiative has resulted in the expansion of the PKV Maha Nagar Urban Forest to 1.4 acres in Kundrathur. This project, adjacent to the Sardar Patel Park Urban Forest, involves the development of a raised bed model forest. Additionally, under the Samuday initiative, we have embarked on creating a 10-acre community forest in Vembar, Thoothukudi, focusing on agroforestry with revenue-generating crops and an orchard.

Our collaboration with Hyundai Glovis has led to the rejuvenation of the Paruthipattu Pond, now capable of holding 75.7 lakh liters of water. We have also created water channeling units at OSR Pond to mitigate water clogging issues and store excess rainwater. Furthermore, our project with Ford Motor Company aims to restore the Kumizhi Pond in Chengalpet, enhancing its capacity and ecosystem. The ICEDP project, funded by GEF's Small Grants Program, focuses on water and soil conservation in Ramnathapuram, engaging the community through capacity-building sessions.

In partnership with Nemak, we have planted 920 saplings in Madambakkam Forest, boosting green cover and improving air quality. Our "Karka Kasadara" initiative with Poshmark equips children with educational tools to foster practical learning and societal awareness. Additionally, our collaboration with Hyundai Glovis has improved road safety in Sriperambadur through the installation of CCTV cameras.

Currently, our organisation is home to 45 dedicated employees, and we anticipate crossing the 50-employee mark in the coming days. With our headquarters in Chennai and a branch office in Hyderabad, we are excited to announce our expansion to the southern district of Tamil Nadu with a new branch office in Ramanathapuram. Through various volunteering initiatives, we have engaged over 1,000 volunteers in the past three months. Their dedication and involvement in our projects are creating meaningful change in our society.

These accomplishments are a testament to our collective dedication and hard work. Your unwavering support and belief in our mission have been instrumental in our success. As we move forward, we remain committed to creating a sustainable and thriving future for our communities.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

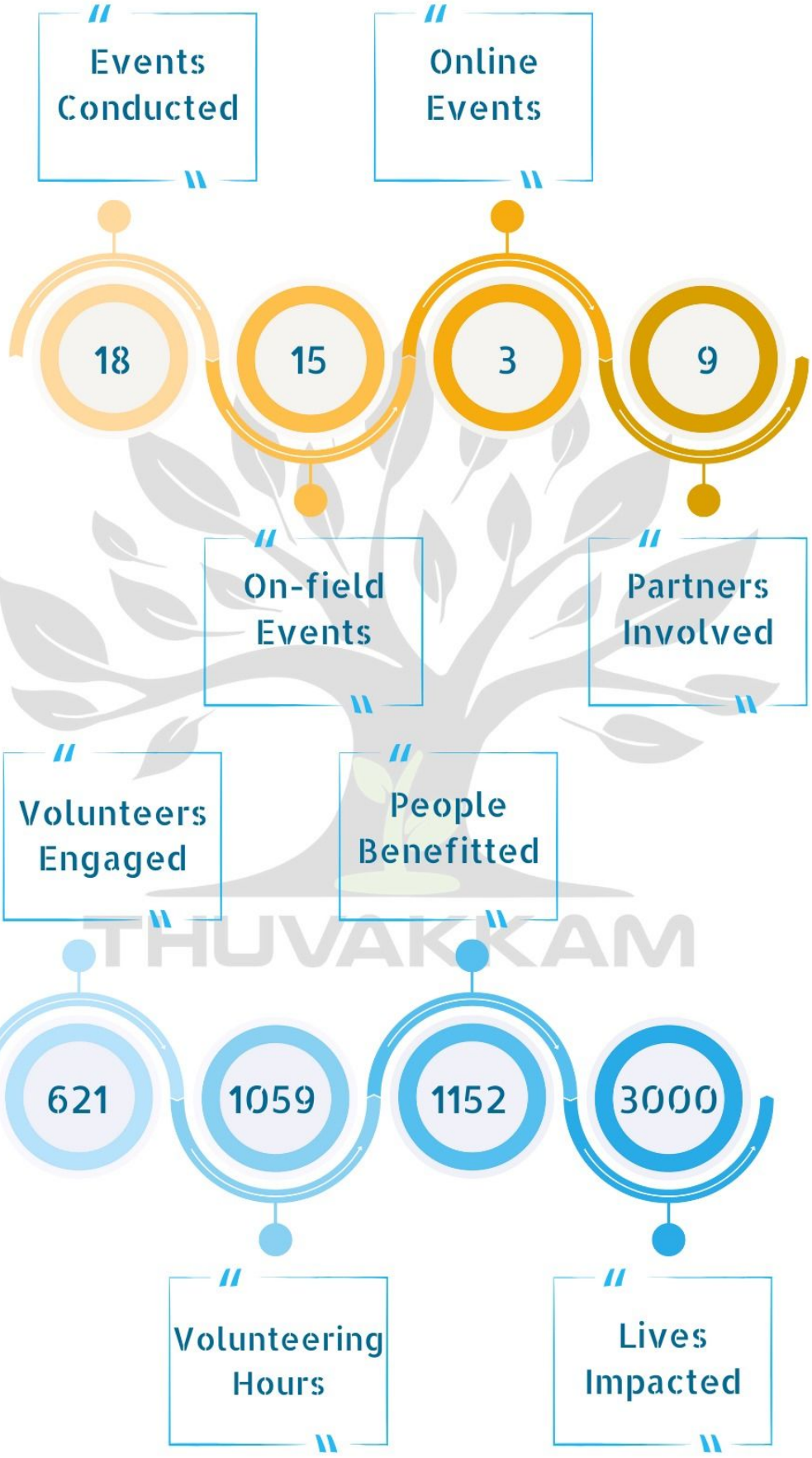
Warm Regards,

Krishna Kumar Suresh

FOUNDER/ PRESIDENT



VOLUNTEERING WALL



Projects:

Thuvakkam's testament towards our domains



The First half of 2024, has been a year of delight wherein Thuvakkam worked on large scale projects impacting lives directly over our 3 domains.

BELOW: THE 2.34 ACRE BUTTERFLY FOREST AT TARAMANI MRTS, CHENNAI



Replenishing for the community -Kumizhi Pond



Our collaboration with the Ford Motor Company aims to renew the Community pond in Kumizhi Panchayat of the Chengulpet district. Initially, the pond covered an area of 50,000 Sq. Ft., with a capacity of 5.6 million Lt. However, a recent survey revealed that the pond's boundary extends by an additional Acre, potentially increasing its surface area, depth, and water-holding capacity.

Currently, efforts are focused on de-silting, de-weeding, and marking and strengthening of the bunds around the pond. These steps are crucial to restoring the pond's natural ecosystem and enhancing its capacity to support local water needs. The removal of silt and weeds will help improve the water quality. Future plans for the project include the planting of native species around the pond to boost biodiversity.

This will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area but also contribute to a more robust and resilient ecosystem. The combined efforts of Thuvakkam and Ford aim to create a sustainable and thriving water body that benefits both the local community and the environment.

More than a storing unit- OSR pond

As a part of the 15.6 acres OSR land maintenance with Hyundai Glovis India, We have created 2 water channeling units inside the forest with a catchment capacity of 39 lakhs litres combined and connected with a water canal.

With an unusual landform with low-lying areas makes it prone to water clogging issues, thus posing a threat to further plantation and maintenance of the forest, the measure is taken to store the excess water during the times of rain- to avoid water-clogging issues.

The low-lying areas are filled with the soil taken from the deepening of the water bodies and a water channel is also planned from two grids, as a water runoff into one of the water bodies.



Reviving from the Dead: Paruthipattu Pond

Thuvakkam in collaboration with Hyundai Glovis India is rejuvenating a water body in the village of Paruthipattu near SIPCOT Irungattukottai, Sriperumudur.

The Paruthipattu pond, which spans over 17,000 sq ft in area, was identified- and desilted. Since the water body was ignored for decades, we endured removing 600+ tons of sludge from the pond, which invariably increased the depth of the pond from the planned 8 ft to 17 ft. increasing the catchment area of the pond to 2.89 lakhs cu. ft. and the capacity of the pond to 75.7 lakhs liters of water.



Community Forest along the salted soils of Vembar



Collaborating with HCL Foundation under it's Samuday initiative, we are creating a Community Forest at Vembar, in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.

Located near to the coast of Gulf of Mannar, the project entails in setting up an Agro Forestry at a size of 10 acres in the region, with revenue generating crops, fodder crops and an orchard is planned.

The local panchayat of Vembar has already assisted in clearing up the space from the invasive Karuvelam trees.

The Neighbouring Urban Forest- Madambakkam Forest complex



Thuvakkam, in partnership with Nemak, has recently planted 920 saplings across 4,000 Sq. Ft. within the 2 Acre Madambakkam Forest complex, which is created by Thuvakkam along with the collaboration of the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation.

Supported by sturdy sticks and efficient drip irrigation, these native saplings are thriving under regular maintenance. The Urban Forest is equipped with a bore well which is powered by a solar panel, making a sustainable irrigation solution This afforestation effort not only boosts green cover but also serves as natural air purifiers, improving local air quality by producing oxygen and absorbing pollutants inside a residential area.

By enhancing biodiversity and promoting ecological balance, this sustainable approach ensures long-term growth and resilience, benefiting both wildlife and the community alike.

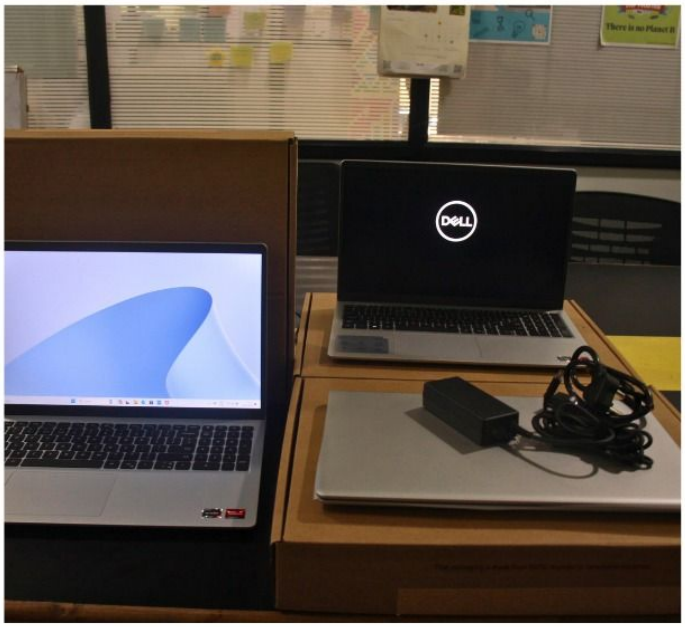
The Adjacently Raised Bed Plantation

Along with HCL Foundation- under their Harit initiative- we have partnered again in creating an Urban forest at a size of 1.4 acres in neighborhood of Chennai, at Kundrathur. The land- which is adjacent to the Sardar Patel Park Urban Forest, would be developed in a Raised bed model forest, canals are dug- where the outer canal which bounds the boundary of the forest is completed and the size of the same is being increased.

Along with the Land preparation, Dhaincha (Sesbania bispinosa) and Sun Hemp are grown for the land attaining a cultivable condition. Both the plants are nitrogen fixing legume plants that enriches the soil biomass. The plants improve the soil structure and increase the water holding capacity.



Empowering Young Minds with Karka Kasadara



Thuvakkam has partnered with Poshmark to acquire a range of electronic gadgets including speakers, computers, and various sensors such as ultrasonic and soil moisture sensors.

These tools are integral to our “Karka Kasadara” initiative, which aims to educate children on political, scientific, and social aspects through practical, hands-on method.

By fostering societal awareness and moral development from a young age, this initiative empowers children to engage proactively with their community and discover their self-purpose.

Together with Poshmark, we are committed to enriching educational experiences and inspiring future generations to contribute positively to society.

Road safety initiative- CCTV setup

Thuvakkam and Hyundai Glovis India have partnered to install CCTV cameras for road safety and community wellness in and around Sriperumbudur. 13 critical junctions in and around Sriperumbudur which covers a distance of 21km, were chosen after the preliminary survey conducted along with the Sriperumbudur Police Department.

A total of 21 poles installed in all the junctions, the new project entails Thuvakkam in installing 26 Internet protocol camera (IP) & 20 Automatic number-plate recognition (ANPR) Cameras towards the improvement of Road safety and Community wellness.



ICEDP- Integrated Community cum Environment Development Program

The project entails in restoring 900 ha of land by bringing in better water and soil conservation practices in the water scarce district of Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu



The ICEDP is funded by GEF's Small Grants Program, through the United Nations Development Program, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change and monitored by The Energy Resource Institute entails in the Water and Soil conservation practices in the Panchayats of A. Punnavasal and Orivayal of Ramnathapuram district, Tamil Nadu.

A total of 23 activities are planned aligning to our scope of work. The project aims in indulging the community to the development activities by training through capacity building sessions and formation of groups in the villages.

As of the first phase, the stretch of 1.7 km of the water channel would be renovated by clearing invasive weed, desilt the water path and strengthening the bund of the channel.









Disaster Risk & Relief mitigative measures for schools

Thuvakkam in collaboration with HCL Foundation on its DRR- Disaster Risk Reduction & Response has been in progress around. As a part of the DRR project, 7 Government Schools from Chennai which were worst hit by the Floods caused by the Michaung cyclone selected for the Restoration works.

A total of 21 activities were carried out in the schools, where in major civil and painting works were undertaken. Also, various accessories for the school were provided.

The DRR initiative is a major intervention brought to Schools where in 6274 students from the 7 schools are directly benefitted through the major infrastructural support was given to the school students which enhances their basic requirements creating a better learning ambience in the school.









The Butterfly Forest

The Butterfly Forest- a 2.35-acre Urban forest in the heart of the city of Chennai. Thuvakkam collaborated with Southern Railways to create the Butterfly Forest with the support of Greater Chennai Corporation. The Project involved six project partners namely- Altimetrik, AstraZeneca, Genesys, Ford, RRD & TAG India. The 2.35 acres sized forest at Taramani MRTS is housing 24,000+ native plants with two water channeling units inside.

The area, where trash and debris were dumped- was cleared and thus the forest was created. The Urban Forest will be maintained for 3 years until the plants become self-sustained.

Our Butterfly Forest would serve as an Ecoscape where the local community can engage. The 2.35-acre Green space would play a crucial role in carbon sequestration by trapping atmospheric carbon dioxide- which also plays an important role in a rapidly growing city.







The Cloth Bag Drive

Thuvakkam partnered with Hyundai Glovis India organized a Cloth Bag drive across the districts of Chennai, Chengulpet, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur.

13 places were chosen from the above districts and, 15000 cloth bags were distributed to the public. This project aligns with the Tamilnadu Government's Meendum Manjapai Initiative.

We distributed over 15000 cloth bags across 13 different locations in Chennai and the surrounding areas. The cloth bag has a carrying capacity of up to 34kg, and we estimate that we have avoided around 5,10,000 Nos. of single use of the bags, which is 5 tons of plastic through this initiative. Thus, 805.8 tons of CO_2e is evicted.









The Thuvakkam Conference, Edition: 1



The Thuvakkam Conference, Edition: 1 was first of a kind conference aimed for our employees over the diverse and dynamic operations and happenings of Thuvakkam, its baseline, and the modus operandi of the Organization by exploring the various topics through the journey of 10 years, by inviting eminent professionals of the industry.

The Conference spanned over for three days from 15th to 17th April 2024. We organized 10 special sessions by inviting dignitaries and professionals from the same sector, who gave crackling insights on the need of the hour.

Also, we organized special trainings for our gardeners ranging from technical measures to their contribution towards organization's commitment and sustainability.

Voice from our Patreons



"The Labor Table that you have provided is equipped with modern technology it will reduces the burden of pregnant ladies"

-Dr. Jayadeepa, Medical Officer, Uthiramerur PHC (Govt. Official)

"Over 50% of our electric needs are satisfied through the solar panel installed. Hence, the cost cut would be used for development activities of the students."

-Ms. Rathanamala, Headmistress, Avvai Nidhhi Middle School (Govt. Official)





"The pond, which was under encroachment for 40 years was revived, which is now in use for the public. People now enjoy the fruits of the project.

-Ms. Rekha Ramu, President- Pandeshwaram Gram Panchayat (Govt. Official)

The Pond has not just serves as a water catchment area, but also a mark of empowerment, the Panchayat permits people to to do fisheries and auction them.

-Ms. Anitha, Resident- Melanur village (Beneficiary)



Picture of the Quarter



A glimpse of a moment of Mr. CK Kumar, COO of AlterOps, one of Thuvakkam's Advisors having an exchange with our Garderners and Caretakers during the Thuvakkam Conference, Edition: 1

-April, 2024

Donate for a Cause



*Avail 80G certificate to save tax

Iyalvadhu Karavel

Iyalvadhu Karavel is a Thuvakkam initiative aiming to eradicate illiteracy by providing quality education for underprivileged students, through a sustainable funding program.

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