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The Neighbourhood Newspaper for T. Nagar & Mambalam

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Vol. 31, No. 13

August 10 - 16, 2025

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Sub Judge Kandaswamy - 24 Hours Gentleman

This incident happened sometime in 1984-85. There was a sub judge by name Mr. Kandaswamy. His voice used to resemble that of actor M.R. Radha - rather rough - but the thoughts he expressed in the open court were always very kind - not only to the parties but also to the advocates.

One Sunday, I got a call from my friend ATM Sampath asking me to come to New Delhi, since the senior lawyer we had engaged for a case wanted to have a conference on Monday evening. My flight was at 12 noon on Monday and I wanted to take my black coat and gown if needed at Delhi.

I used to keep them in my chamber in the High Court premises. So, on Monday morning at around 8 o'clock, I went there, took them, locked the chamber and was returning by my car via City Civil Court compound. There I saw Mr. Kandaswamy, wearing a banian and dhoti and sitting in the verandah writing something.

I was intrigued why he was there at 8 am and that too sitting in the verandah. I stopped the car and went to him and asked why he was sitting there. The answer he gave me was surprising. He said that he had admitted his mother in the general ward in the nearby General Hospital and had slept in the night as an attendant in the ward itself. Since a judgment had to be delivered at 5 pm that day, he had come to the court directly from the hospital and was writing the judgment.

I asked him why he had not admitted her in a special ward that she was entitled to as his mother, and why he did not occupy his chamber for writing the judgment. He said, "First of all, my father is alive. When he is alive, as per rules, my mother is not considered to be dependent on me though she is staying with me. So, she is not eligible for admission in the special ward".

As for sitting in the verandah for writing the judgment, he said that his office opened only at 10 am and he would be eligible to use the chamber only after that. Though he had the keys to the chamber with him, he did not want to use the chamber's fans and lights till 10 a.m. I was taken aback with his explanation.

Emotionally he told me that he was a first-generation graduate in his very poor family. Had it not been for the rule of reservation, he would not have come up this far in life, and his conscience did not permit him to do anything irregular.

In the days when a Chief Justice of the High Court had to resign when caught declaring a false date of birth, here was a Sub Judge obeying his conscience meticulously. I have not come across another person of his type in my career as yet.

Later, when I saw Mr. Kandaswamy's name in the obituary column in a newspaper. I prayed that the soul of that wonderful Gandhian should rest in peace.

In my opinion, Mr. Kandaswamy was a gentleman 24 hours a day.

Neither Clever nor Innocent

This incident happened way back in 1969.

Sri Kalasalingam of Anand Constructions, one of my clients, came to me at about 8 pm along with a person by name Ramchand, from whom Kalasalingam wanted to purchase a property in United India Colony, Kodambakkam.

Ramchand did not have the original documents of title to the property. He said that he had filed them as exhibits in a criminal case in which he was a witness, but the court had subsequently lost them. He said that he had the certificate from the court that the originals had been lost. After some discussions, the price was mutually agreed upon.

In those days, an Income Tax Clearance Certificate was needed before registering the sale of any property. For the issue of such certificate, a concluded Agreement of Sale would be insisted upon by the Income Tax authorities in Bombay where he was the assessee.

Accordingly I prepared an Agreement of Sale. Ramchand suggested that a sum of Rs. 200,000 be paid as advance by the buyer and that, thereafter, he would go to Bombay, get the IT Clearance Certificate and return to Chennai for registration of the sale.

My client Kalasalingam hesitated to give such a large sum as advance since Ramchand did not even have the original documents relating to the property.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the said sum would be deposited with me for keeping in trust till the registration was completed. The parties signed the agreement and Ramchand left my office at about 9.30 pm.

Next morning, at about 8 am, I got a phone call from Ramchand. He said, "Sir, I need your cooperation. Let us share the Rs. 2 lakhs given to you 50:50. I have not signed any receipt for Rs. 2 lakhs and there is no evidence that Rs. 2 lakhs was deposited with you, and we can both escape. I will cancel my train ticket, come and take the money from you, and catch a later flight to Bombay. Please think over it. I shall call you after 15 minutes".

He called again after about 15 minutes and asked for my decision. I replied that I accepted the deal, but with a slight modification: *I would take the entire Rs. 2 lakhs for myself!* I asked him why, in the light of his argument, I should share the money with him when I could as well take the whole lot of Rs. 2 lakhs for myself! He understood me and said he that would go to Bombay as scheduled and return with the clearance certificate. The transaction was subsequently completed after about two weeks.

If I was clever, I would have taken the entire sum of Rs. 2 lakhs; if I was innocent, such an idea would not have passed through my mind at all!

(To be continued) pbrassociates@yahoo.com



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Serial light cut-outs of deities near temples



By Our Staff Reporter

On the occasion of Aadi Thiruvizha, big serial light cut-outs of deities adorn road margins near several temples in T. Nagar, West Mambalam, Ashok Nagar and K.K. Nagar.

The photo taken on Aug. 7 shows a 30-foot-tall serial light cut-out of Durgai Amman with a lion erected outside Periyapalayathu Devi Amman Temple (Brindavan Street, West Mambalam).

Corporation to upgrade bus terminus in Saidapet

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation (GCC) has approved new projects to renovate bus termini in Kodambakkam, Tondiarpet, and Adyar zones.

In West Saidapet, the old bus terminus on Jones Road, near Jawaharlal Street, will be renovated at a cost of Rs. 10.5 lakhs. The shelter will get a new tensile roof. An official said that the work order was issued on July 7.

OBITUARY



K. MAHALINGAM

K. Mahalingam, Founder and Former Secretary of Mahatma Gandhi Nool Nilayam (Saidapet), passed away on August 5.

He was 96 years old.

He was a Gandhian, and influenced by Gandhian ideals, he started the library in 1952 in a small rented room.

Over the years, it evolved into a celebrated space for writers and readers in the city. The library underwent an expansion in 2024 with the inauguration of a new library building.

It is currently run by his son M. Nithyanandham.

Mahalingam was inspired by the freedom movement and had met Mahatma Gandhi during his visit to the Hindi Prachar Sabha (T. Nagar) in 1946.

Is anything interesting happening in your street or locality? Please inform **Mambalam Times!**



மனம் என்னும் குரங்கு!

அந்தப் பெண்ணிற்கு சுமார் முப்பத்தைந்து வயதிருக்கும். படிய சீவப்படாமல், விரல்களால் கோதிவிட்டாற்போல் ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட சுருட்டைத் தலைமுடி. கண்களை சுற்றிக் கருவளையம். கணவன் கைத்தாங்கலாய்ப் பிடித்துக் கொண்டபடி உன்வர, சின்னச்சின்ன அடிகளாய் வைத்து, பாலன்ஸ் செய்தபடி நடந்து வந்தாள். தயக்கத்துடன் ஒவ்வொரு அடியையும் எடுத்து வைக்கும்போது உடல் குலுங்கியது. எங்கே விழுந்து விடுவாளோ என்ற பயம் கணவனின் இறுகிய கைப்படியில் தெரிந்தது. அருகிலிருந்த ஸ்டூலில் அமர்ந்து சிறிய பெருமூச்சுடன் ஆகவாசப் படுத்திக் கொண்டாள். எதிரே கணவன் அமர்ந்தான்.

‘என்ன ப்ராப்ளம்?’ என்றேன்.

‘ஒரு மாதமாக இப்படி நடப்பதற்கு சிரமப்படுகிறாள். காரணம் தெரியவில்லை. பொது மருத்துவர், ஆர்த்தோ, நியூரோ மற்றும் ஆயுர்வேதம், யுனானி எல்லோரையும் பார்த்துவிட்டோம். அநேகமாக எல்லா டெஸ்டுகளும் எடுத்துவிட்டோம். எல்லாம் நார்மல்!’

‘கீழே விழுந்தார்களா? ஜூரம், ஜலதோஷம் ஏதாவது?’

‘அதெல்லாம் ஒன்றுமில்லை. திடீரென்று இப்படி ஆகிவிட்டது. தெய்வக் குற்றமோ எனப் பரிகாரமெல்லாம் கூட செய்து விட்டோம்.’

எனக்குத் தெரிந்த அளவில் இந்த நடை எந்த வியாதியுடனும் பொருந்திப் போகவில்லை. இரத்தப் பரிசோதனைகள், ஸ்கேன்கள் என எல்லா டெஸ்டுகளும் முகத்தில் அறைந்தாற் போல ‘நார்மல்’ என்றன!

மீண்டும் நடக்கச் சொன்னேன். இம்முறை கணவனின் உதவியில்லாமல் நடந்தாள். அதே நடை, எப்போது வேண்டுமானாலும் விழுந்து விடக்கூடிய அபத்திரமான குலுங்கும் நடை. கிட்டத்தட்ட ‘முகமது பின் துக்ளக்’ படத்தில் ‘சோ’ நடப்பதைப் போல, ஆனாலும் விழுந்துவிடவில்லை.

என் மனதின் மூலையில் சன்னமாகப் ‘பட்சி’ கூவியது.

‘கவலைப்படாதீர்கள், சீரியஸாகத் தெரியவில்லை. ஒரு சைக்காலஜிஸ்ட்டைப் பாருங்கள்’ என்றேன்.

‘சைக்கியாட்ரி டாக்டரா?’ சிறிது அதிர்ச்சியுடன் கேட்டார் கணவர்.

‘சைக்கியாட்டிரிஸ்ட் இல்லை. சைக்காலஜிஸ்ட் மருந்து கொடுக்கும் மருத்துவர் இல்லை. உளவியல் நிபுணர்.’

மனமும் அதன் தன்மைகளும் வியக்க வைப்பவை. உடலை இயக்க வல்லவை! மகிழ்ச்சியில் சுதந்திரமாகப் பறக்கும் மனது, காயப்படும்போது இறுக்கத்தில் உடலைக் கட்டிப்போடும். மனவலியின் வெளிப்பாடு உடல் உபாதைகளாக முன்னிருத்திக் கொள்ளும் வலிமை உடையது!

நோய்களைவிட அவற்றால் ஏற்படும் மன இறுக்கமும், உளைச்சலும் தீவிரமானவை. நோய்க்கான சிகிச்சை இந்த மனவலியைத் தீர்க்காமல் முழுமை அடைவதில்லை.

விவேகானந்தர் இதையே ‘நீ என்னவாக நினைக்கின்றாயோ அதுவாகவே ஆகின்றாய்’ என்றார். ஆழ்மனதைக் கட்டுப்படுத்தி, மயக்க மருந்துகள் ஏதுமின்றி அறுவை சிகிச்சை செய்துகொண்ட மகான்களைப் பற்றி நாம் அறிவோம். மனதால் ஒரு நோயை உருவாக்க முடியும். அதே போல மனக்கட்டுப்பாடு ஒரு நோயின் வீரியத்தைக் குறைக்கவும் முடியும் என்பது உளவியல் ரீதியாக நிரூபிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

ஒருநிலையில் நில்லாமல் தாவும் குரங்கு மட்டுமல்ல; சமயத்தில் உடல்நலத்தையே தன் கட்டுக்குள் கொண்டுவரும் ரிங்க் மாஸ்டரும் ஆகும் மனது! மனது இறுக்கமாய் உள்ளபோது பசியில்லை, உறக்கமில்லை, உடலில் பல வலிகள், எளிதில் எரிச்சலடைவது போன்ற பல உபாதைகள் உலுக்கு வரும் நோய்கள். இத்தகைய Psycho Somatic Disorders தீவிரமானவை, சிகிச்சைக்கு அடங்காதவை!

சைக்காலஜிஸ்ட் ரிப்போர்ட் என் சந்தேகத்தை உறுதிப் படுத்தியது. தீவர மன இறுக்கத்தாலும், உளைச்சலாலும் அந்தப் பெண் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருப்பது தெரிய வந்தது. அதன் வெளிப்பாடுதான் இந்த விநோதமான நடை!

நடந்தது இதுதான். அவசரத் தேவைக்காகக் கடனாக வாங்கி எடுத்து வந்த பணம் ரூபாய் ஐம்பதாயிரம் வரும் வழியில் பஸ் பிரயாணத்தில் தொலைந்துவிடுகிறது. கண்டிப்பான கணவன், மாமியார் மற்றும் பணத்தின் அவசரத் தேவை எல்லாமும் ஒன்றாகச் சேர்ந்து அந்தப் பெண் மனதை உளைச்சலுக்கு ஆளாக்குகின்றன. தன் இயலாமை, பொறுப்பற்ற தன்மையாகத் தன்னையே குத்திக் காட்டும் குற்ற உணர்ச்சியாக விஸ்வரூபம் எடுக்கிறது மனக் குரங்கு. இப்போது ரிங்க் மாஸ்டராகிவிடுகிறது. உடலை நோய்வாய்ப்பட வைக்கிறது. விநோதமாக நடக்க வைக்கிறது!

இரத்தப் பரீட்சைகள், எக்ஸ்ரே, ஸ்கேன் இவற்றால் இந்த மனம் என்னும் ரிங்க் மாஸ்டரை வெளிப்படுத்த முடியாது. நடந்தவற்றைக் கூறி, கவுன்சலிங் மூலம் வாழ்வின் அநித்தியங்களையும், தவிர்க்க முடியாத துயரங்களையும் விளங்க வைத்த பிறகு, சிறிது சிறிதாக அவள் நார்மலாக நடக்க ஆரம்பித்தாள். மனது அமைதியானது!

ஒரு வகுப்பில் இந்த கேஸ் ஹிஸ்டரியைக் கூறி, மாணவர்களைக் கேட்டேன்:

‘இதற்கு என்ன தீர்வு? எப்படி சிகிச்சை அளிக்க முடியும்?’

ஒரு நீண்ட அமைதி.

பின் பெஞ்சிலிருந்து ஒரு குரல் கேட்டது.

‘யாராவது ஒரு ஐம்பதாயிரம் ரூபாயை அவளிடம் கொடுத்துவிடலாம்!’

டாக்டர் ஜெ. பாஸ்கரன்

டாக்டர் ஜெ. பாஸ்கரன் தோல் மற்றும் நரம்பியல் நிபுணர். மாம்பலம் பப்ளிக் ஹெல்த் சென்டரில் 40 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேலாகப் பணிபுரிந்து வருகிறார்.

டாக்டர் பாஸ்கரன் சிறந்த தமிழ் எழுத்தாளரும் கூட.

அவர் எழுதிய 3 மருத்துவ நூல்களும், 11 கட்டுரைத் தொகுதிகளும், 5 சிறுகதைத் தொகுதிகளும் புத்தகங்களாக வெளிவந்துள்ளன.

மருத்துவராகத் தன் சுவையான அனுபவங்களை மாம்பலம் டைம்ஸ் வாசகர்களுடன் டாக்டர் பாஸ்கரன் பகிர்ந்து கொள்ளும் ‘ஹலோ டாக்டர்’ தொடர் இந்த இதழில் ஆரம்பமாகிறது.



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Competitions in Little Popsicles Preschool from Aug. 11

By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with Independence Day, Little Popsicles Preschool (Swaminathan Street, West Mambalam) will hold a series of competitions for children in the age group of 3 to 9 years from 4 p.m to 5 p.m, from Monday, Aug. 11 to Thursday, Aug. 14, in its premises.

Following are the details:

Monday, Aug. 11: Singing – Patriotic Songs (2 minutes)

Tuesday, Aug. 12: Fancy Dress (As any National leader and talk for a few minutes)

Wednesday, Aug. 13: Dance on patriotic songs

Thursday, Aug. 14: Drawing competition on the theme 'Independence Day'

Drawing sheet will be given only to kids below 6 years, others will have to carry their own drawing sheet.

Attractive prizes will be awarded to the winners.

For registration, call/WhatsApp to 63821 07808 or 93452 13722.

Corporation to develop cycle tracks on major roads



By Our Staff Reporter

Soon, cycling across Chennai will get smoother and safer as the city is set to get exclusive cycling lanes, with the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) focusing on cycling infrastructure as part of its Comprehensive Mobility Plan.

The Comprehensive Mobility Plan, a report that examines ways to make commute seamless for city residents switching between different modes of transport, also recommends sustainable transport solutions.

"We have given importance to the creation of cycling infrastructure and clusters in the city so that it provides a secure environment for those who pursue it as a hobby as well as those who travel every day for work. We have particularly focused on areas around educational institutions so that students can cycle back and forth to and from their residence," an official of CUMTA said.

Eleven areas, including T. Nagar and Ashok Nagar have been identified for the development of cycling infrastructure loops, covering 46 km of roads in total, the official said.

While welcoming the move, P. Ramesh (resident of Ashok Nagar) said that the cycle tracks developed on P. T. Rajan Salai and Lakshmanaswamy Salai at a cost of Rs. 3 crores in 2017 are dysfunctional as the tracks are misused for parking vehicles and roadside eateries. The tracks were not repaired after they got damaged due to misuse. As Corporation or traffic police did not take any action against the encroachments, the cycle tracks could not be put to their intended use. There is no point in spending crores on developing cycle tracks if the officials do not ensure that the facilities are not misused, he said.

Probe on into Rs. 25 lakhs misappropriation at T. Nagar Post Office

Pondy Bazaar police have begun a probe into the alleged misappropriation of Rs. 25 lakhs at T. Nagar Head Post Office (2, Sivagnanam Street, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar) based on a complaint by a senior postal department official.

Police said that the complaint was filed at the Pondy Bazaar police station on Aug. 4 after a recent internal audit revealed the financial irregularities. According to the complaint, the funds were allegedly siphoned off using forged documents related to the purchase of stationery and furniture for sub-post offices under its jurisdiction.

The audit revealed that Rs 25 lakhs was shown as the expenditure in 2021 for the procurement of stationery and furniture for 50 sub-post offices managed by the Head Post Office. But, audits revealed that the purchases were never made and documents were forged. Police are going through the financial records and questioning the staff members.

Rotary Club installs Interact Clubs in schools



Rotary Club of Madras Vadapalani installed Interact Clubs in Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan School (K.K. Nagar), Government Higher Secondary School (MGR Nagar) and Chennai Higher Secondary School (K.K. Nagar) on Aug. 6. The program was inaugurated by V.R. Lakshmi Priya (President, Rotary Club of Madras Vadapalani) in the presence of S. John Paul Mathew (Secretary) and M. Senthilkumar (Director, District Youth Service). Through the Interact Club, career-oriented and general awareness programs will be conducted for the students.

Restoration of Mambalam Canal nearing completion

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation last week announced that 90% of the clean-up and other pre-monsoon works in Mambalam Canal have been completed.

It has stated that Rs 6.5 crores has been allocated this year for cleaning the canal.

An official said that restoration was nearing completion, with 4,200 metres of the 5,800-metre canal restored.

He said that the Corporation is building retaining walls after removing encroachments from the canal and robotic excavators are removing silt and waste from the canal and all ongoing projects will be finished before the monsoon.

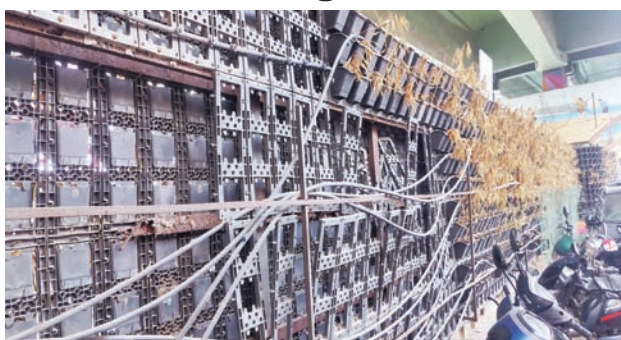
The canal runs through Teynampet and Adyar Zones.

A member of T. Nagar Residents' Welfare Association said, "work has continued for months, but we are unsure if it will mitigate floods. The reality will only be revealed when it pours heavily." He highlighted persistent problems since 2015, citing inadequate canal restoration and lack of support, leading to severe flooding in T. Nagar every year. A resident in Pinjala Subramaniam Street said that after incessant downpour during monsoon, knee-deep water stagnates on the street and enters low-lying houses.

Corporation must not only desilt Mambalam Canal, but must also deepen it to increase the carrying capacity. Additionally, the entire storm water drain network leading to the canal must be desilted, she said.



Vertical gardens in a state of neglect



Vertical gardens were developed on the pillars and under many flyovers in the city in 2019.

For the past two years the gardens are not being maintained and the plastic pots installed on the pillars present an empty look.

This photo taken on Aug. 6 shows many pots missing and some pots with dried plants on the vertical garden developed under North Usman Road flyover (T. Nagar).

Power cables are now cutting across the structure on which the pots were fixed. Similar is the condition of the vertical gardens on G. N. Chetty Road flyover.

Vacant plot misused for dumping garbage



A vacant plot on Padmanabha Street (T. Nagar) is being misused as a dumping ground for garbage. There is overgrowth of vegetation. Nearby residents complained of foul smell and request Chennai Corporation to take necessary action to clean the plot.

EV Charging Station to be setup under flyover

Chennai Corporation is launching the city's first electric vehicle (EV) charging station beneath the Mahalingapuram Road flyover at North Usman Road junction (T. Nagar).

Part of a Rs. 3.75 crores redevelopment project, the initiative includes charging points for two-wheelers in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation.

‘Agasthiyar Vanam’ – a resort near Chennai amid lush greenery

By Our Staff Reporter

The resort Agasthiyar Vanam (Vengal Main Road, Thirukkandam, Thiruvalluvar District), located around 40 kms from Chennai enroute to Tirupathi, is an integrated 5-acre organic agricultural farm.

Its Chennai office is located in 2, Lakshmanan Street, T. Nagar.

It is an ideal location for a family to break free from the routine life to have a relaxed weekend.

The facility has a well-designed house with four bedrooms with attached baths. Two air-conditioned bedrooms are on the ground floor and two non-airconditioned rooms on the 1st floor. The rooms are so designed that one sees



only the greenery through glass panes. There is no window or grill.

The rooms can be individually rented or the entire house can be rented at a concessional rate. There is a common mini hall provided with a television.

Vegetarian breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks are provided. Almost all the vegetables used in the preparations are sourced from its agriculture farm.

The resort is surrounded by lush green fields, mainly paddy.

The recreations include bathing in waterfalls, boating, shuttlecock, carrom board, chess, kite flying, coconut tree climbing, butter making, boiled rice making, ghee making, rearing of honey bees, fish pond visit to the check dam and an old age home.

If one is religiously inclined, then a trip to ‘Suruttappali’, which is 30 kms from the resort, is a must. In this temple, Lord Shiva is depicted in a reclining posture. There are four other Vaishnavite temples within a distance of 100 kms. Other benefits include three-phase power supply with solar power, highspeed Wifi and ample parking facility.

For reservation, contact Agasthiyar Vanam in 87544 47431 and 86753 54303.

Donates Rs. 25,000 to Karuna Sagar

By Our Staff Reporter

Mangalchand Tater family donated Rs. 25,000 to Karuna Sagar (Unit of RMD Pain and Palliative Care Trust, 13, Raghaviah Road, T. Nagar) on Aug. 8.

The family also sponsored lunch for all its inmates.

Karuna Sagar provides care for terminally ill, bed-ridden, disabled and other patients in need of critical care including patients in the advanced stage of cancer. For more details, call 93810 16588.



Krishna dolls sold on pavements



On the occasion of Krishna Jayanthi on Saturday, Aug. 16, roadside vendors are selling colourful Krishna dolls at many locations in the neighbourhood.

This reporter saw C. Palanisamy selling Krishna dolls on the pavement of Arya Gowda Road, near Balakrishna Street junction, West Mambalam on Aug. 7.

The colourful dolls are available in various forms and sizes, and are priced between Rs. 80 and Rs. 1,500. His contact number is 93428 03327.

Couple rewarded for their social work



By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. G. Muthazhagan (Managing Partner, Sabari Fish-net) and his wife Malini (Director, MRN Trading Company), residents of T. Nagar, were presented Best Social Worker awards by Lions International District 3241 recently. The awards were presented by S. Tamilvanan (Former Judge, Madras High Court).

For several years, the couple have been providing assistance to the fishermen community, organising annadhaanam at orphanages and providing medical and education assistance for needy persons.

Fathi Michelle's arangetram tomorrow



By Our Staff Reporter

Fathi Michelle Adrieli Fernando (resident of West Mambalam) will have her Bharatanatyam arangetram at 6.15 p.m on Monday, Aug. 11 at Rani Seethai Hall (Anna Salai)

She is a disciple of Archana Karthik (Founder, Kama Kala Abhinava Kendra).

Fathi Michelle will be accompanied by Archana Karthik (Nattuvangam and Choreography), Preethi Sethuraman (vocal), Ramakrishnan Neelamani (mridangam), Neyveli S. Radhakrishnan (violin) and V. Rajagopalan (Rhythm special effects).

Fathi Michelle has been learning Bharatanatyam for the past 8 years. She has performed in dance festivals, temples, sabhas and Doordarshan. She is a Std. 12 student in Sacred Heart School (Church Park).

Concerts in Rajalakshmi Music Academy on Friday

By Our Staff Reporter

Srimathi Rajalakshmi Academy of Music (20, KR Koil Street, West Mambalam) will celebrate its 1st Annual Day on Aug. 15.

On the occasion, Mridanga Vadya Vidya Ratna award will be presented to mridangam vidwan Valangaiman K. Thiagarajan (Government Music College, Madurai).

The following is the program:

10 a.m: Prayer by Vaishnavi Vinathan

10.25 a.m: Vocal concert on the theme The Grand Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar Bhani by V. Navaneeta Krishnan, accompanied by R. Raghul (violin), Trivandrum Balaji (mridangam).

4 p.m: Presentation of the award to Thiagarajan, followed by his solo mridangam concert.

5.15 p.m: Vocal concert on the theme The Great Musiri Bhani by N.S. Kamakshi, accompanied by R. Raghul (violin), Thiagarajan (mridangam), and Nerkunam Shankar (kanjira).

All are welcome.

For more details, call 98404 23700.

Rotary Club gifts health kits to women

By Our Staff Reporter

On the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week, Rotary Club and Club First Ladies of Chennai District 3234, including clubs from the neighbourhood, distributed more than 1000 health kits among antenatal and postnatal mothers in government hospitals and Urban Healthcare Centers.

The initiative was supported by 40 Rotary Clubs.

On Aug. 5, the kits were distributed at Urban Community Health Centre (Lake View Road, West Mambalam).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kodambakkam Road encroached on both sides



Sir, The Kodambakkam Road in West Saidapet is the main link road for motorists bound for West Mambalam, Ashok Nagar, T. Nagar and Guindy, but remains inaccessible because of the narrow width of the road and encroachments by vehicles and hawkers. The arterial road surrounded by educational institutions, shops and markets, remains a nightmare for motorists. In addition, the operation of Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) buses only makes matters worse, as any bus or truck passing through the road is enough to bring the entire traffic on the road to a grinding halt. The carriageways are blocked by eateries, parking of vehicles and other encroachments. Chennai Corporation must complete the ongoing construction of the storm water drain in a portion of the road at the earliest as it has further created traffic bottlenecks for the motorists. Traffic police must regulate the traffic on the stretch during peak hours. **S. Arun, Nagathamman Koil Street, West Mambalam.**

Cover missing from sewer manhole chamber



Sir, The cover of the underground sewer chamber in the middle of Vaigai 1st Cross Street (near 12th Avenue junction, Ashok Nagar) is damaged.

Dried coconut fronds have been inserted into the opening and a corrugated sheet has been used to cover the opening to caution motorists. The road is used by motorists to avoid peak-hour congestion on Jawaharlal Nehru Road. The cover of the manhole broke and fell into the chamber after tyres of a tanker ran over it. It poses grave danger at night to motorists, especially bikers, due to poor visibility. I appeal to Metrowater to replace the damaged cover early to prevent any untoward incident. **R. Shanthi, 12th Avenue, Ashok Nagar.**

Appeal to remove encroachments

Sir, Nesapakkam (K.K. Nagar) has several narrow roads despite being heavily congested with vehicular traffic. One of the key arterial roads in the area is Erikkarai Salai, which connects Mount-Poonamallee Road with Anna Main Road in K.K. Nagar. But this road has become narrow at several points due to encroachments by shops and thatched houses.

Many of these thatched houses, including those near the Corporation Playground, have encroached upon the road.

Additionally, numerous shops have been constructed on public property, occupying the road margins and drastically reducing their width. During peak hours, road users face severe hardships in accessing the Erikkarai Road as the encroachments cause traffic bottlenecks.

I request Chennai Corporation and traffic police to take steps to remove the encroachments to ease traffic congestion on the road. **N. Vishwanathan, K.K. Nagar**

Civic issues on Gandhi Street

Sir, As usual there has been a wave of announcements by Chennai Corporation on the preparedness for the monsoon.

What is not clear, as to why the measures to mitigate the problems faced by citizens year after year, cannot be undertaken even from the earlier months. It should be a never-ending exercise. There was also a news item that tractor pumps to bail out the water are all ready, which indicates that there are indeed no attempts to look at the root cause of the problems, to resolve the flooding with an air of finality. A classic case in point is Gandhi Street (T. Nagar), where I live, with a defectively designed drainage system put in place three years back.

The problem is not resolved and the northern end of Cart Track Road still gets flooded. Water has to be pumped out.

The problem has only worsened with the width of the road reduced in almost half and this portion being unfit for vehicles and even for pedestrians with its undulating surface and no action taken in these three years to set it right.

Even after mild showers, puddles of water stagnate on the road. **P.K. Subramanian, Aishwarya Apartments, Gandhi Street, T. Nagar, 98402 93321.**

Harijan Bandhu Award presented to Sai Seva Samaj



By Our Staff Reporter

Shri Shirdi Sai Seva Samaj (21, Jaishankar Street, West Mambalam) was presented the 'Harijan Bandhu Award' by Harijan Seva Sangh last week for its charitable services for the needy.

The award was presented by Arif Mohammad Khan (Governor of Bihar) in the presence of Sankar Kumar Sanyal (All India President of Harijan Seva Sangh) to P. Srinivasan (President, Shri Shirdi Sai Seva Samaj). S. Srinivasan (Secretary), K. Nandagopal (Treasurer) and Ratnam Rajagopal (Advocate) were present.

It has been organising annadhaanam for more than 300 persons daily at 10.30 a.m with the support of devotees and philanthropists since 2006. On Thursdays and other auspicious days, it benefits more than 600 persons.

It also donates essentials to the needy on auspicious occasions and to those affected due to natural calamities. The Samaj is constructing a 3-storey building for annadhaanam and other functions opposite the temple. Donations are welcome. For more details, call 84282 42842 or 93428 50974 or 72004 33455

Manitha Neya Mamani Award presented to Panchapakesan



By Our Staff Reporter

Surya Special School of Music celebrated its 4th anniversary recently in Sir Pitty Thyagaraja Hall (T. Nagar).

On the occasion, it presented the Manitha Neya Mamani Award to N. Panchapakesan (Founder of Chennai Sai Sankara Matrimonials) for his exemplary service in the matrimonial sector and to the disabled community.

The award was presented by Gururajan (Retired Judge).

Praba Gurumurthy (Founder of Surya Special School of Music), actress Rajashri, Panchapakesan (Founder, Chennai Sai Sankara Matrimonials), Mukund Madhavados Swamiji (Vice President of ISKCON) and Jagadeesan (Assistant Director, Tamilnadu Differently Abled Welfare Department) were present.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Parking problems on Kavarai Street



Sir, Outsiders and nearby shopkeepers are parking their two-wheelers in a haphazard manner and beyond the carriageway on Kavarai Street (West Mambalam).

It is causing nuisance to nearby residents and motorists passing by. I request traffic police to take action.

This photo was taken on Aug.7. **P. Sukumar, Kavarai Street, West Mambalam.**

Free coaching for Corporation School students for NMMS exam



By Our Staff Reporter

Kodai Charitable Foundation, an NGO located in West Mambalam, organised a dual-impact program at CIT Nagar Corporation School on Aug. 2. The event featured the launch of a special coaching initiative for the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) Exam for Std. 8 students.

R. Gopinath, a government school teacher from Tiruvallur with rich experience in mentoring NMMS

aspirants, conducted an orientation session.

Students passing this examination are paid a monthly scholarship of Rs. 1000 for four years from Std. 9 to 12. Nutritious lunch was served to more than 80 students during the event supported by the PM Mid-Day meal scheme.

It was followed by a health awareness talk by Dr. Srinath Raghavan.

For more details, call 99403 55545.

Local Club wins ball badminton tourney

By Our Staff Reporter

Twentyfive teams participated in the 4th edition of the Ball Badminton tournament jointly organised by Vinayaga Ball Badminton Club and Krishna Group of Companies in Corporation Ground (Ashok Nagar) from Aug. 1 to 3.

For school teams, the contest was held on Aug. 1 and prizes like T. Shirts, shoes and game kits were presented to the winners.

For the 3rd consecutive year, the team from Vinayaga Ball Badminton Club won the tournament which was conducted in several rounds over the three days.

The Vinayaga Club team won all its games in straight sets. The trophies and prizes were presented by B. Sakthieswaran (Industrialist and Philanthropist).

Sevai Chemmal Award presented to activist Gopinath



By Our Staff Reporter

Surya Special School of Music celebrated its 4th anniversary recently in Sir Pitty Thyagaraja Hall (T. Nagar).

On the occasion, it presented the Sevai Chemmal Award to K. Gopinath (State General Secretary of Tamilnadu Udayikkaram Association for the Welfare of Differently Abled) for his exemplary service to the disabled community for over 25 years.

The award was presented by Gururajan (Retired Judge).

Praba Gurumurthy (Founder of Surya Special School of Music), actress Rajashri, Panchapakesan (Founder, Chennai Sai Sankara Matrimonials), Mukund Madhavados Swamiji (Vice President of ISKCON) and Jagadeesan (Assistant Director, Tamilnadu Differently Abled Welfare Department) were present.

Gopinath has helped thousands of differently-abled persons to get physical aids, medical assistance, educational assistance, legal assistance and employment.

He has received several other awards including 'Best Social Worker' award from Tamilnadu Government, Ascendas Excellence Award and Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam award. His number is 97908 20194.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Classified Advertisements under the heads *Accommodation Required, Automotive, Catering, Educational, Home Service, Packers & Movers, Situations Vacant, Etc...* will be published on this page. Each advertisement of Real Estate and Rental must relate to only one premises and its address must be given clearly. **The charges are Rs. 1000 upto 30 words. Display Rs. 320 per col. cm**

CATERING

CATERING orders undertaken for marriage (A to Z), small functions, nitchayathartham, seemantham, ayushahomam, upanayanam, shashtipathapurthi, sathabishekam, grahapravesam and birthday functions. Contact: Mahalakshmi Catering Services (West Mambalam), Ph: 95516 15465.

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WEST MAMBALAM, Lake View Road, 863 sq.ft, UDS 583 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, balcony, no lift, no car park, 25 years old, west facing. Rate Rs. 8000 per sq.ft. Contact: Siva, Ph: 98403 00149, 98417 60078.

SALIGRAMAM, flat for sale, 890 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 1st floor south facing, 28 years old, price Rs. 65 lakhs. Call: Agent, Ph: 9315 35460. Brokerage fees applicable.

WEST MAMBALAM, near Govidan Road, 1800 sq.ft, land with house, price Rs. 3 crores. Ph: 90429 10505.

KODAMBAKKAM, United India Colony, 40 feet road, posh, 2 bedrooms, 885 sq.ft, renovated, 1st floor, lift, wood work, 36 years, no brokers, price Rs. 90 lakhs. Ph: 98401 43550.

WEST MAMBALAM, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 700 sq.ft, UDS 500 sq.ft, total 6 flats, price Rs. 55 lakhs. Contact: Guru Real Estate Ph: 99628 88830.

T.NAGAR, South West Boag Road, road width 50 feet, 2nd floor, G+3 building, 1700 sq.ft, UDS 800 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, attached bathroom, lift, car park. Ph: 94447 13117.

WEST MAMBALAM

Near Madley Subway, 777 sq.ft, 2 BHK, 1st floor, new flat with lift, broker excuse.

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RENTAL

WEST MAMBALAM, Thambiah Road, near Venkatramana Boli Stall, 1200 sq.ft, 2nd floor, lift, 2 wheeler parking only, 2 bedrooms, 1 balcony, vegetarians/Brahmins only, rent Rs. 32000. Ph: 99401 01196.

T.NAGAR, Sivaji Street, near T.Nagar Bus Terminus & Off. South Usman Road,, 200 sq.ft, shop for commercial purpose, with 3 phase E.B. connection, road facing, rent Rs. 22000, no brokers. Ph: 98412 29007, 98415 46013.

K.K. NAGAR, closeby Schools & Hospitals, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, 2-wheeler parking only, Brahmins only. Ph: 98402 87556.

WEST MAMBALAM, Janakiraman Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, 24 hours water, 2-wheeler parking, vegetarians only. Ph: 98410 33996.

WEST MAMBALAM, Venkatachalam Street, close to Duraisamy Subway, independent house, 1st floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, bath attached, 825 sq.ft, also open terrace, small Brahmin family only, rent Rs. 17500. Ph: 98400 92783.

WEST MAMBALAM, Ramakrishnapuram 3rd Street, 1 bedroom flat, hall, kitchen, 2nd Floor, 495 sq.ft, bike parking, vegetarians, rent Rs.10000, advance 10 months. Ph: 82485 15634.

NUNGAMBAKKAM, standalone building, rental commercial, G+2, 7800 sq.ft, 8 car parks. HanuReddy Realty: 99400 99122, 78248 68459.

WEST MAMBALAM, Navin's Lakshmi Narayana, 29, Janakiraman Pillai Street, 2nd floor apartment, 1400 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, interior, fittings, lift, hall, modular kitchen, RO, car park, rent Rs. 40000, pure vegetarians, Brahmins. Ph: 76038 13662, 98410 27527.

ASHOK NAGAR, 7th Avenue, near Karur Vysya Bank, new flat, 1000 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, lift, covered car park, modular kitchen, power back-up, 24 hours water, rent Rs. 26000 + maintenance Rs. 1500, ready for occupation, family/ bachelor/office. PH: 73053 44555.

WEST MAMBALAM, Madley Subway, Very close to Railway station & T.Nagar Bus Terminal, 1050 sq.ft, 2nd floor, spacious 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, no lift, well maintained flat, rent Rs. 25000. Ph: 9444 022566, 94449 52566.

ASHOK NAGAR, flat for rent, 1800sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 3 bathrooms, 3 balcony, 1st floor, lift, parking, rent Rs. 50000. Call: Agent: 93153 54460. Brokerage fees applicable.

K.K.Nagar, Bharathidasan Colony, 15&16, Nehru Avenue, Subbaiah Sri Durga Flats, behind BSNL/Off.RTO Office, available new 4 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2000 sq.ft, plus pvt terrace 3rd floor, family/service apartment, paying guest house. Contact: Chandra Ph: 97899 78534.

NANDANAM, ground floor, studio type, 1 bedroom apartment, hall, kitchen, 275 sq.ft, furnished condition, prime location, available on rental basis. Interested parties. Ph: 73586 86615.

T.NAGAR, Rameswaram Road, 850sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, lift, 24 hours security, CCTV, open car park, vegetarians only, rent Rs. 25000. Ph: 99625 25406.

ALWARTHIRUNAGAR, Arumuganayanar Street, behind Unlimited Showroom, residential/commercial independent house, 1st floor, 1000sq.ft. Contact: Jai Shree Krishna Properties Pvt Ltd Ph: 99520 42728.

CHETPET, behind Srimitai, Club Road, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1500 sq.ft, 2nd floor, lift. Contact: Jai Shree Krishna Properties Pvt Ltd Ph: 98949 99412.

WEST MAMBALAM, Subramanian Street, 1500 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, road facing, lift, covered car park, family/ bachelor/commercial also. Ph: 94447 13117.

WEST MAMBALAM, close to Charkrapani Street, 800 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, 2 wheeler parking, vegetarians only. Ph: 94447 13117.

K.K.NAGAR, 6, Ramaswamy Salai, near PSBB School/Metro Station/Market, 2 master bedrooms, big hall, kitchen, 1200 sq.ft, 2 bathroom, metro/borewater, covered car park, vasthu, rent Rs. 25000, lease Rs. 25 lakhs, office Rs. 30000, bachelor Rs. 27000. Ph: 99419 99191, 98419 27338.

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Discourse on Bhagavad Gita today

Under the auspices of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar), Swami Guruvrananda will deliver a discourse in Tamil on Bhagavad Gita at 5.30 p.m on Sunday, Aug. 10 in the Ashram's premises. All are welcome.

More details can be had in 2814 3896 and 2814 3514.

Multilevel parking facility shut temporarily

By Our Staff Reporter

Shoppers in T. Nagar were caught off guard as the multi-level car parking (MLCP) abruptly shut down on Aug. 2.

With barely any staff in sight and barricades blocking entry, customers were left scrambling for parking space during the busy Aadi shopping season.

The Rs. 40-crore facility, inaugurated in 2021, had been operated by a private firm whose contract ended a year back. It was later handed over to another company whose contract expired on July 31.

Since the contract was not renewed, the facility has been closed temporarily, an official said.

"I came in the afternoon expecting to find space, but on-road parking was full and the MLCP was closed. I had to park on Masilamani Road, but the traffic police locked my vehicle as it was a no-parking zone," K. Jagadeesan from Manapakkam said.

The 6-storey MLCP can accommodate 222 cars and 513 two-wheelers, with three car lifts and one bike lift.

Corporation Commissioner J. Kumaragurubaran said a new contractor will be appointed soon, and the facility will be reopened.

Speeding taxi hits two EB poles

By Our Staff Reporter

R. Dinakaran (Taxi driver and resident of West Mambalam) lost control of the vehicle and hit two electric poles near Palavanthangal subway on Grand Southern Trunk (GST) Road on Aug. 5.

He works as a driver in a private firm in Saidapet.

At around noon when he was driving along GST Road, he lost control of the car while turning into the Palavanthangal subway at high speed.

The car stopped after hitting a streetlight pole and a high-tension electric pole erected at the spot by Tamilnadu Electricity Board.

On impact, both poles were broken, and one of them fell directly on a moving autorickshaw.

The auto driver Ravi (47) and two passengers who were inside the auto managed to jump out of the vehicle and escaped without injuries.

Based on the information, St. Thomas Mount traffic investigation police, along with the electricity board staff, visited the spot and cleared the area.

Dinakaran was booked for high-speed driving.

The police have registered a case, and further investigation is on.

Corporation to develop space under Usman Road flyover

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation will develop the space under Usman Road flyover on the Usman Road-Mahalingapuram Road junction stretch at a cost of Rs 3.75 crores.

It will include parking for 2-wheelers, small shops, drinking water kiosk, a small garden, LED lighting, CCTV monitoring and public toilets.

An official said that the existing autorickshaw stand and ambulance parking zone will be retained under the plan.

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Blood donation drive on Aug. 15

By Our Staff Reporter

On the occasion of Independence Day, Kodai Charitable Foundation (16, Giri Street, Gokulam Colony, Ramakrishnapuram, West Mambalam) has organised blood donation from 8 a.m to 2 p.m on Friday, Aug. 15.

A team from ESI Hospital (K.K. Nagar) will collect the blood units.

Healthy individuals in the age group of 18 to 65 years can donate blood.

For more details, call 99403 5554

Encroachments removed



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation evicted roadside eateries and other encroachments from the pavement and road margin on 11th Avenue (near Vinayagar Temple, Ashok Nagar) on Aug. 8.

The unauthorised bunks, carts and other structures occupying the pavement were demolished and removed.

Nearby residents and temple devotees had raised complaints against the encroachments.

Free health check-up on Aug. 15

By Our Staff Reporter

Women's World (56, Rameswaram Road, T. Nagar), an NGO, will hold free health check-up from 8.30 a.m to 10 a.m on Friday, Aug. 15 in its premises.

Blood sugar, Hemoglobin, pulse, BP, oxygen saturation with oximeter, and whole-body fat analysis will be done.

A nutritionist and vaccine specialist will be available for consultation.

For more details, 93822 11111 or 92822 33333.

New School Committee for Sitaram Vidyalaya

N. Mohan was nominated as School Secretary of Sri Sitaram Vidyalaya Matriculation and Higher Secondary School (Ramakrishnapuram 1st Street, Arya Gowda Road, West Mam-balam) during a meeting held on July 27.

S. Ravichandran and T. S. Venkatesan were nominated as Main Committee Members in addition to the office-bearers of Sri Ram Samaj.

Fire put out in Hyatt Regency

By Our Staff Reporter

A major fire that broke out at Hyatt Regency (Teynampet) at night on August 5, was put out within an hour by the personnel of Teynampet Fire and Rescue Station.

The guests were evacuated and no one was injured.

A staff member of the hotel said that the fire broke out in the pantry storage on the ninth floor at around 12.30 a.m.

On being alerted, personnel from the Teynampet Fire and Rescue Services station, located a few hundred feet from the hotel, arrived within minutes and put out the fire within an hour. Several items kept in the pantry were destroyed.

The fire was caused due to a short-circuit in the electric line.

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