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தம்பையா தொடர்ந்தார். 'அது என்ன ஸார் வருஷத்திலே ஒரு நாள், ஒரே ஒரு நாள் அன்னையர் தினம்? பத்து மாசம் சமந்து பெற்ற மகராசிக்கு, நடமாடும் தெய்வத்துக்கு, புண்ணியவிதிக்கு, நவரத் தினங்களாலே இழைச் சிம்மாசனம் கூடப் போதாதுதான். இருந்தாலும் அப்பாக்கள் என்ன பாவும் சென்றாங்க? ஏன் இந்த ஓரவஞ்சு சனை? ஒரு கண்ணுக்கு அழுல் பட்டர். மறு கண்ணுக்கு மூணாவதா? ஒருத்தர் வலியால் அவதிப்படும் போது 'அம்மா'ன்னுதான் கத்துவது வழக்கம். ஆனால் வலி போக்க, போயே போக்க, சொல்காச்சி, it is gone என்கிற விட்டு வரும்போது 'அ-ப்-பா'ன்னு தானே நிம்மதியா குரல் கொடுக்கிறோம்? பின்னே?

ஆதிகாவத்திலேயிருந்தே அம்மாக்கள் அம்மாக்களேவாகவும், அப்பாக்கள் அப்பாக்களேவாகவும்தானே இருக்காங்க? அதிலே என்ன அதிசயம்? அதனாலே பாரபட்சம் பார்க்காமல், பிரியானி பரிய கட்சித் தொண்டர்கள் மாதிரி செடு எடுக்காமல் இரண்டு தெய்வங்களையும் சேர்த்து இரட்டை டமாக்காவாக பெற்றோர்கள் தினம் துவ கொண்டாடலாமே. ஆனால் சிகெர்சரல்வதி, சுந்தரி பாய் ரேஞ்சில் இல்லாமல் இப்போ மனம் மாறி அம்மா என்கிற வார்த்தையின் மொத்தப் பரிமாணமான பண்டிபாய் போல மாறு விட்டாலும், மாற ஆரம்பிக்கும் மாமியார்கள்தான் இப்போ ட்ரெண்டிடு! ஆகையால் 'மாமியார் தினம்'தான் கொண்டாடலும். 'தேதி? பிப்ரவரி 29-தைத் தவிர எந்த தேதியாகவானாலும் இருக்கலாம். இல்லாட்டா நாலு வருஷத்துக்கு ஒரு தடவைதான் கொண்டாட முடியும்? அது தட்டு.'

'அந்தக் கால மாமியார் கள் எப்படி இருந்தாங்கள்ளு யாரும் மறந்துவிடக் கூடாதுந்துவான் அவரை வேக்காடு சிரியல்கிலே அவங்களை தூக் தட்டி எடுத்து எவ்வளவுக்கு எவ்வளவு எவ்வளவுக்கு அவ்வளவு போட்டு கொடுமைக்காரியாகக் காட்ட முடியுமோ, அவ்வளவு போட்டு போட்டு என்கிற செய்ய வைக் கிறாங்க. தப்பித் தவறி முகத்தை டைட் களோசப்பில் காட்டும்போது களைவிலே கொஞ்சம் கருணையை ஒரு நாணோ செகன்டில் ஒரு மாமியார் தடிகை காட்டி விட்டால் அந்த அம்மையாரைத் தூக்கி விட்டு வேறு ஒருவரை 'இவருக்கு பதில் இவர்' என்று கார்டு போட்டு விட்டு தங்களுடைய அப்பழக்கில்லாத சமூக சேவையைத் தொடர்ந்தாங்க'.

வீணை வித்துவான் பிருடுடையைத் திருக்குவது போல தம்பையா தன்னுடைய வலது காதை மூன்று மூறை திருக்கிக் கொண்டார். அப்படிச் செந்தால் சிந்தனைக் குதிரை சன்டி செய்யாமல் பாய்ந்து ஒடும் போல. 'இந்த மாற்றத்துக்கு சமூக ஆர்வலர்களை காரணங்கள் தொல்லியல் இருந்தாலும் முதல் காரணம் 'விட்டுக்கு ஒரு குழந்தைதான்' என்கிற சிக்கனத்துடன் முதல் குழந்தை பிறந்த பின் ராத்திரி ஒன்பது மனிக்கே கிஞகினுப்புடன் 'பொக்கு'ன்னு விளக்கை அலணக்காமல், தாம்ப்பத்தின் நீண்ட காவியத்தில் உள்ள 'கருத்தை காண்டம்' படிக்க ஆரம்பித்து விடுவதுதான். ஒரு பின் எளக்கு மேல் இல்லாத நிலையில், மகுமகனுடன் சன்னட போட நேர்ந்தால், கோபித்துக்கொண்டு பின்னை நம்பர் வேலென் விட்டுக்கு ஸ்வாதீனத்துடன் போக முடியாத நிலை, மாமியார் கோபித்துக் கொண்டு, கொரட்டுரிலோ, கொட்டிவாக்கத்திலோ, காட்டாங்குதல் தூரிலோ உள்ள முதியோர்களின் சரணாலயத்துக்கு போய் விட்டால், ஆல்பீலிருந்து திரும்பி வரும் வரை பாப்பாவை 'சர தர்ஸாக' யார் பார்த்துக் கொள்வது? ஆகவேதான் கல் தோசையை சரியாக வார்க்க வில்லை என்று பத்ரகாளி போல மாறி, அதே தோசை திருப்பியால் குடு போட்ட மாமியாரின் கை 'சாந்தா! தலை வலிக்கிறதா. வாம்மா டைக்கர் பரமை நெந்திப் பொட்டிடல் தேசுக் விடுகிறோன்' என்று மரு மகளின் மேல் பாசத்தைப் பொழியும் மாதை மாமியார் தினத்தில் போற்றிப் புகு வேல்டாமா?

நாளையத்தின் மறுபக்கமாக மாப்பிள்ளையை மகாவிட்டனு ஸ்தா னத்திற்கு உயர்த்தி அவரிடம் இலை மறைவு காயாக கதவு மறைவி விருந்து வல்லையும் மரியாதையும் க்ராக்ளாக் பிள்ளைட் போல 50 + 50 விழுக்காடில் கலந்து பேசிய அந்தக் கால மாமியார்கள் தற்போது தடாவத்தியாக மாறி டெட்டர், டிங்க்கு, எழுந்திருந்தார். உண்ணோட அருமைப் பெண்டாட்டி மாலுவுக்குத் தெரியாமல் பெட்ட காலிபி கொண்டு வந்து குக்கேள். சட்டுலூ குடிச்கட்டு பல் தேய்க்கப் போடா. அவன் பார்த்தா நிழல் சானலிலே தொண்டு ஸ்விட்சீஸ் ஆஃப் பண்ணாமல் மேசின் டெட் இருக்கிற பானலிஸ்ட் மாதிரிக் கத்தித் தீர்ப்பாள். கவிக். இந்தா காலிபியைக் குடிடா! என்று மாப்பிள்ளையும் ஒரு பிள்ளையே என்கிற வாஞ்சையுடன் பழஞ்சும் மாமியார்களுக்கும் சேர்த்துதான் மாமியார் தினம்.

'தன்னுடைய அம்மா, கணவனின் அம்மா என்கிற பேதும், பாகுபாடு இல்லாமல் மாமியாரை, அன்னையார், அல்லது ஸ்டைலாக மம்மியார் என்று கொள்ள வேண்டும் என்கிற சூனாம் போதி மரத்துப்பில் டட்காராமலேயே தோற்ற வருவதைப் போற்றிப் பாராட்டவே மம்மியார் தினம்'.

தம்பையா எழுந்து கொண்டார். 'என்ன ஸார்? இவ்வளவு நேரம் விடாமல் பேசின்டு இருந்தேன். ஆனால், நீங்க வாயைத் திறக்கவில் வையே, ஏன்?' என்று அதட்டலாகக் கேட்டு என்னைத் தினைக்க வைத்தார்.

'ஸார், உங்களோடு எதிர் வாதம் பண்ண முடியுமோ? ஏதோ ஏழைக்கு ஏத்த என்னுருண்டையாக ஒரு அரதப் பழைய ஜோக் சொல் நேன். மாமியாரைப் பத்திதான்.'

'ஜோக்கா? சொல்லுங்க ஸார் என்று தம்பையா உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டார். கண்களில் 'பட்ட பட்ட'னு கவிடச் போட்ட மாதிரி இரண்டு எல்.டி.பி. விளக்குகள் எரிந்தன.

'நீங்க வே' டிருக்கலாம். 'Mother-in-law' என்கிற வார்த்தையிலுள்ள எழுந்துக்களை ஜம்பிள்ளாக மாற்றி அமைச்சா என்ன வரும் தெரியுமா?

சிறிதும் கணங்காது 'Woman Hitler' என்று சொன்ன தம்பையா எழுந்து நின்று நாஜி சல்லுட் போல வலது கையை விறைப்பாகத் தலைக்கு மேல் நீட்டி 'Hail Hitler' என்றார்.

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Rukmani Ramani honoured for contribution to Carnatic music



Rukmani Ramani (resident of 36, Kripasankari Street, West Mambalam) was honoured with a citation and cash award on May 3 by Sadhguru Sri Sadasiva Bramendra Aaradana Committee (Manamadurai) for her contributions in the field of Carnatic music. She is 79 years old and is the Founder of Sivan Arts Academy (Umapathy Street, West Mambalam). She has trained thousands of students, many of whom have gone on to become professional musicians.

Her Academy offers classes in Carnatic vocal, keyboard, bharatanatyam, mridangam, veena and violin. She presented a program with her disciples on the occasion.

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Krishnammachari sponsors Rs. 12.5 lakhs for 25 paediatric heart surgeries

By Our Staff Reporter

R. P. Krishnammachari (Chairman, Tex Bioscience Private Ltd, 4th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) is sponsoring Rs. 12.5 lakhs for the paediatric heart surgery of 25 children born in poor families under the 'Mending Tiny Hearts' project started by a group of doctors.

Dr. B. Haripriya (Paediatric Cardiologist of MIOT Hospitals) told *Mambalam Times* that the project, started in 2015, has identified a number of children from poor families with congenital heart disease needing life saving surgery.

She said that a number of these children die young as the poor and uneducated parents are either not aware of the condition or are not able to afford the cost of the surgery.

"So far 130 such children have been operated upon. It



costs Rs. 50,000 per child which includes surgery, medicine and post recovery expenses. We have been managing to meet the cost through internal resources and funding from philanthropists", she said.

She has appealed to the readers of *Mambalam Times* to refer children with congenital heart problems from poor families. For more details, call Dr. Haripriya in 98409 84475 or Dr. Sowmya Ramanan in 96772 41505.

Contest on Purandaradasar kritis for students

By Our Staff Reporter

The prelims of the Carnatic vocal competition on Sri Purandaradasar Kritis for various age groups will be conducted on Sunday, June 11 in

T. Nagar, Anna Nagar and Nanganallur.

It has been organized by Shri Purandaradasar Trust (Flat A, Balamurugan Flats, 44/32, Azeez Nagar 2nd Street, Kodambakkam).

The finals will be held in T. Nagar on Sunday, June 25.

The contests will be held for the age categories 7-10 years, 11-15 years and 16-25 years.

The rules of the competition have been given in the annexure to the entry forms (priced at Rs. 100) that can be obtained from 10 a.m to 5 p.m from any of the following persons.

1) S. Chandrasekaran, Leela Manor, 2nd Floor, 33/27, Padmanabhan Street, T. Nagar, Ph: 2834 3952 / 94440 43952.

2) V. N. Shankar, 69 B, R. K. Shanmugam Road, K. K. Nagar, Ph: 94444 78410 / 90871 31613.

3) Santhi Ramakrishnan, Flat A, Balamurugan Flats, 44/32, Azeez Nagar 2nd Street, Kodambakkam, Ph: 2484 5684 / 96000 49248.

4) N. Sivakumar, F6, Madhu Manor Flats, 28/22, 5th Main Road, Nanganallur, Ph: 98417 33499.

5) Bhavadahaarini, Flat 80D, AE132, 1st Floor, 4th Avenue, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Ph: 98415 04099.

The venues for the competitions will be intimated later.

Ramsuratkumar satsang in Pandian Hall tomorrow

Ramsuratkumar Satsang will perform rudram, chamagam and paarayanam at 3 p.m on Sunday, May 21 in Pandian Hall, Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam.

It will be followed by chanting of Yogi Ramsuratkumar Namajapam at 4 p.m.

The satsang will conclude with Guru Ashtothram and chanting of Hanuman Chalisa.

All are welcome.

With this issue, *Mambalam Times* completes 22 years of its service to the residents of T. Nagar and West Mambalam. We have distributed over 3.38 crores free copies of *Mambalam Times* so far.

New RTO building to be ready by July-end

A new 2-storey building being constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.35 crores on the premises of the Office of the Regional Transport Officer (Bharathidasan Road, K. K. Nagar) will be ready for inauguration by the end of July. According to the site-in-charge, construction has been completed and the electrical works are in progress.

He said that the additional building has been constructed to accommodate the office of the Joint Transport Commissioner (Chennai South Zone), which is now functioning from a rented building in K. K. Nagar.

All the departments, except for the enforcement department, will be shifted to the new building. He said that the existing building will be used for maintenance of records.

The new building has a built-up area of 4,000 sq. ft and has been provided with ramps for the benefit of the differently-abled and senior citizens.

West Mambalam, T. Nagar, K. K. Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Jaffer Khanpet, Saidapet, Kodambakkam, Guindy, Ekkaduthangal and Defence

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ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஜோதிட கல்வி & பயிற்சி மையம்

எண் 8, Dr.சுப்புராயர் நகர் வேது தெரு, கோடம்பாக்கம், சென்னை-24.

கடந்த 12 ஆண்டுகளாக ஆண்மிகம் சார்ந்த ஜோதிடக் கல்வை, பல்கலை கழகத்தில் பட்டம் பெற்ற அனுபவமிக்க ஆசிரியர்களால், 1000 மாணவர்களுக்கு மேல் ஜோதிடம் கற்பிக்கப்பட்டு, அடிப்படை மற்றும் உயர்நிலை பட்டய சான்றிதழ் வழங்கி வரும் ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஜோதிட கல்வி மற்றும் பயிற்சி மையம் 24 வது நேர்முக வகுப்புகள் தொடங்குவதன்து. எமது மையத்தில் அனோகர் தொழிலாகவும் சிலர் பல்கலைகழகத்தில் B.A, M.A & PhD பட்டம் பெற்று இம்மையத்திற்கு பெருமை சேர்த்துள்ளனர். ஜோதிடத்தை யாவில்வதன் மூலம், குறுகிய காலத்தில் ஜாதகம் கணித்து வலன் சொல்லும் அளவிற்கு தேர்க்கி பெற முடியும்.

24 வது நேர்முக பயிற்சி வகுப்புகளுக்கு சேர்க்கை நடைபெறுகிறது

மே 31 க்குள் சேரவும்

ஜோதிடத்தில் ஆர்வமுள்ள, தமிழ் எழுதுப் படிக்கத் தெரிந்தவர்கள் பயிலவாம். வயதுவரம்பு இல்லை.

வகுப்பு நேரம்: பயிற்சி நடைபெறும் இடம்: கட்டணம்: 8 மாதங்களுக்கு நாவிறு தோறும் காலை 9:30 மணி அஞ்சகம் மேல் நிறைப் பள்ளி, ஒரே தவணையில் ரூ. 3,500/- பயிற்சிகாலம்: 8 மாதம் எண், 29/64, ஜூப்ஸிரோடு, மாதம் ரூ. 450/- (பிப்துளைகளுக்கு உட்பட்டது)

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+Samashti Gayathri homam in Sankara Mutt tomorrow morning

The monthly Samashti Gayathri homam will be performed from 6 a.m. on Sunday, May 21 in Sankara Mutt (West Mambalam). For more details, contact R. Sridharan Iyer in 98410 97300.

All are welcome.

Growing organic fruits is his passion

By Our Staff Reporter

B. C. B. Reddy, an engineer who runs a business dealing in pumps and pumping solutions, has always been passionate about farming with a stress on traditional techniques.

A resident of Anna Nagar for over 30 years, he started Venus Farms in Zamin Endathur Village in Madurantakam in 1987. Mango, gooseberry, cashew, coconut and jackfruit are grown on his 200-acre farm.

Paddy and some pulses are cultivated for personal consumption of his extended family and employees of the farm.

The farm supports over 75 families during the fruit bearing season and 20 full-time staff and their families throughout the year. Many charitable institutions and schools for special children are given mangoes free every year.

He employs traditional farming methods (now termed as organic) which were a rarity 25 years ago. His traditional approach and zeal have over the years delivered results in the quality of the mangoes and other fruits that are produced.

The farm also has native cows which are fed organic fodder, and the urine and dung are used to treat the soil and produce organic manure along with Vermicompost.

Banganapalli and Imampasandh varieties are grown in the farm. According to Reddy, fruits are plucked only when they have matured and attained a semi-ripe state to increase their glucose content. He said that naturally ripened fruits have small dots, scratches and pores consequent to the biological process of maturing on the tree unlike the fruits in the market that are plucked when still raw and ripened using chemicals. Venus Farms offers door delivery of mangoes. They are packed in sturdy 5 kg. boxes suitable for presenting as corporate and personal gifts.

Banganapalli is priced at Rs. 350 per box and Imampasandh at Rs. 600 per box.

Orders may be placed in 94454 17537 / 94454 17539 (Anna Nagar), 97157 86425 / 98845 87675 (Ashok Nagar) and WhatsApp - 96770 66643.

60 participate in drawing class in Circle Library



By Our Staff Reporter

More than 60 students participated in the free drawing class organized in Circle Library, 11th Avenue, Ashok Nagar on May 14. More such programs on creative writing, poetry and oratory will be conducted on Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon.

The classes are being conducted by professionals. For more details, call 98406 25051.

Cars parked in no parking zone near Panagal Park

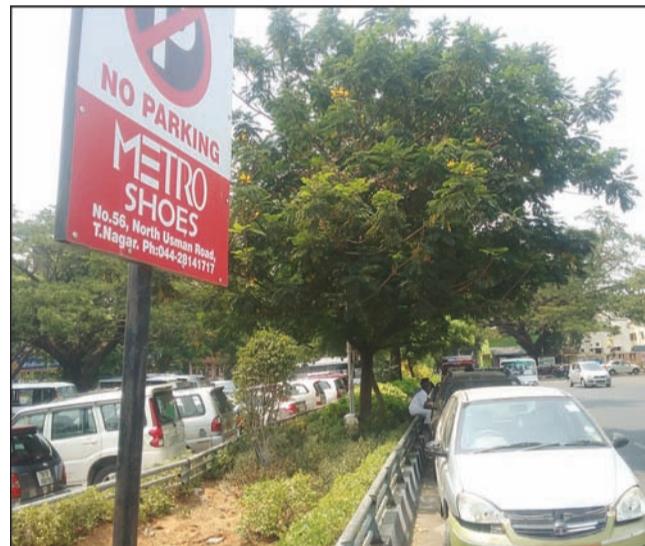
By Our Staff Reporter

A number of cars were found parked in the no parking zone on Bashyam Road, T. Nagar, near Panagal Park in spite of the 'No Parking' signboard erected there.

The no parking zone is divided by a roadside garden which is adjacent to the parking area outside Panagal Park.

Though there were enough empty slots in the parking lot which is just 100 meters away, a number of vehicles were still found parked in the no parking zone.

A traffic constable told *Mambalam Times* that vehicles parked in the no parking zone are wheel locked and appropriate fine is collected from the vehicle owners before releasing the vehicles.



MTC employees' strike hits commuters, called off

By Our Staff Reporter

With MTC staff including drivers and conductors going on a strike, for the nearly 13 lakh bus commuters of Chennai, Monday, May 15 started with a long wait in the sun at bus stops, tough negotiations with auto drivers and crew of private buses, and finding their way to overcrowded train stations.

(Though the strike was called for an indefinite period, it ended after two days following talks union leaders had with the government).

With fewer than half of the MTC's 3,200 buses plying, the transport strike threw city life out of gear.

Additional suburban train services operated by Southern Railway provided little relief for the harried passengers since commuting to the stations posed problems.

Many took the train to the nearest station of work and chose to walk to the office in the scorching sun.

A Tambaram resident working as a cashier in a bank in Nandanam told *Mambalam Times* that he traveled by suburban train up to Mambalam and then walked to his office. "I left an hour earlier than usual



so that I could reach in time," he said. Most buses were over crowded forcing elders and women commuters to skip the bus.

Revathi (a resident of Lake View Road) said that after waiting in vain for an hour at the bus stop, she chose to skip work for the day. "The auto

drivers demanded Rs. 350 to go to my place of work in Adyar while the usual fare is around Rs. 120," she said. The demand for call taxis shot up and the fares remained high throughout the day. Many opted for shared cab service to save money.

Ola launched the mobile app

Fallen tree on BRP 2nd Street not removed for over 5 months



A tree that toppled over during the cyclone last December is still lying on the margin of BRP 2nd Street, West Mambalam, adjoining Mambalam Railway Station.

It has dried up completely and bereft of leaves.

The residents have appealed to Corporation officials to cut and remove the tree.

Wide gap in compound wall of Metrowater Depot



There is a wide gap in the compound wall of Metrowater Depot located in R. K. Shanmungam Salai, K. K. Nagar.

It gives easy access to anti-social elements to enter the compound for nefarious activities at night.

Will the Metrowater authorities take immediate steps to close the gap? The plot is not maintained well and there is an overgrowth of trees and bushes.

Miscreants steal pots from water booths



By Our Staff Reporter

A number of residents, associations, political party workers, temples and NGOs have erected pandals in several places in the neighbourhood to provide free drinking water to thirsty passers-by.

Most of these booths are self-serving, and water is kept in earthen pots and refilled as and when necessary.

It has been reported that miscreants are stealing the

pots from these booths.

A member of a local Welfare Association which has put up a water booth on Arya Gowda Road told *Mambalam Times* that they have stationed a person at the booth to distribute water as pots were getting stolen when the booth was unoccupied.

Photo shows a pot missing from the water booth in the service lane of Duraisamy Subway in West Mambalam.

The T. Nagar - Mambalam edition of *Mambalam Times* can be accessed in

www.mambalamtimes.in

+Free matrimonial meet tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Sai Thunai Matrimonial (7, 9th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) has organized a matrimonial meeting for differently-abled persons from 8 a.m to 4 p.m on Sunday, May 21 in Kamadenu Marriage Hall (Luz, Mylapore).

Apart from differently-abled persons, normal persons willing to marry them are also encouraged to participate.

It is open to all castes and religions.

For grooms, the minimum income criterion is Rs. 15,000 per month.

Justice P. Jothimani (Judicial Member, National Green Tribunal, South Zone), H. Ramakrishnan (Former Director, Doordarshan), Delhi Ganesh (Cine Actor) and K. Prithivi Kumar (District Governor, Lions Club) will participate in the inaugural function.

For registration, call 78100 40404 or 2471 6920 or the website www.saithunai-matri.com.

Chennai Sai Thunai Matrimonial has been founded by N. Panchapakesan of Chennai Sai Sankara Matrimonial (for Brahmins) and Chennai Sai Muruga Matrimonial (for all other castes)

His contact number is 98403 30531.

Pipes removed from road margin after report in Mambalam Times



By Our Staff Reporter

Following a report published in *Mambalam Times* recently, the concrete pipes blocking the margin of South West Boag Road were removed last week. The pipes, belonging to Metrowater, were blocking the carriageway causing hindrance to free movement of vehicles.

Car abandoned outside Circle Library

By Our Staff Reporter

A grey Tata Indica car without number plates and in a broken down condition has been lying abandoned on the pavement outside Circle Library, 11th Avenue, Ashok Nagar for several months.

The name of Bharati Call Taxi has been painted on the car's front doors. The car is in a badly damaged condition.

Its rear doors, tyres and rear seats are missing. According to library visitors, the car, which is an eyesore, is blocking the pavement. They have appealed to the traffic department to remove it from the spot.



A.K. Viswanathan takes charge as Chennai Police Commissioner

Senior IPS Officer A. K. Viswanathan on May 15 assumed charge as Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai. A 1990 batch IPS officer, Viswanathan replaces Karan Singha.

He was earlier posted as Additional Commandant General, Home Guards.

Viswanathan has held various responsibilities, including Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) and also City Police Commissioner, Coimbatore. He was also in CBI on deputation and had served as Superintendent of Police in several districts.

Play on Sathya Sai Baba next Saturday

The stage show 'Sathya Sai Baba Arputhangal', will be held at 6 p.m on Saturday, May 27 in Vani Mahal (Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha, G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar).

The play, which is dedicated to Rajalakshmi Subramaniya Aiyer (mother of Nataka Kavalar Chemal Late R. S. Manohar) has been produced and directed by M. B. Murthy.

S. Shivpprasadh (nephew of R. S. Manohar) will enact the role of Sathya Sai Baba and 10-year-old S. Sruuthi (granddaughter of R. S. Manohar) will don the role of adolescent Sai Baba.

It will be preceded by trailers of upcoming plays 'Ranganathar Swami Mahimaie', 'Chanakya Sabadham' and 'Dhronar', in all of which Shivpprasadh plays the lead role. Shivpprasadh is a resident of 44/21, Bagirathi Ammal Street, T. Nagar.

His contact number is 95516 82993.

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OBITUARY

T. G. VISWANATHA IYER

T. G. Viswanatha Iyer passed away on May. 12.

He was 84, and had been a resident of West Mambalam for more than 30 years.

He had retired from Southern Railway.

He is survived by his wife Rukmani, daughter Usha, sons Suri and Chander, and grandchildren.



CMRL to offer bicycles on hire at underground stations

By Our Staff Reporter

Commuters heading out of underground metro stations will soon be able to access neighbourhoods without having to depend on buses or autos. Metrorail will offer bicycles on hire for commuters in the underground stations in an attempt to reduce traffic congestion and pollution on roads.

But passengers may have to wait a bit longer for feeder services to be in place to get last mile connectivity. Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) has floated tenders for procuring bicycles for the seven underground stations which were opened for public on May 14.

According to the tender invite, eight bicycles for men and two for women will be procured. Commuters who want to hire a bicycle may have to give a refundable deposit. According to officials, the idea of hiring out bicycles is to improve patronage, as commuters can easily access neighbourhoods without having to depend on other public transport or spend on autos or cabs. Earlier this year, CMRL launched a pilot plan where commuters could hire bicycles by making a refundable deposit of Rs. 3,000.

Union Minister assures approval for Chennai Metro Phase II

In his speech while attending the launch of the underground section of metro rail in Chennai on May 14, Venkaiah Naidu (Union Minister for Urban Development) assured that the proposed Phase II of Chennai Metro Rail will soon get Central Govt. approval.

Responding to Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami's request for project approval, Naidu said that his ministry is currently examining the detailed project report submitted by the State government. "We will sanction approval at the earliest and forward it to the Public Investment Board and the Finance Ministry," he said.

The three proposed corridors, involving a total length of about 108 km., are Madhavaram to Siruseri (45.77 km.), Madhavaram to Sholinganallur (44.66 km.) and the CMBT to Light House (17.12 km.).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water contamination in Lakshmi Street

Sir, We are residents of Mahalakshmi Flats, Lakshmi Street, West Mambalam.

For some days, sewage water has been seeping into the Metrowater pipeline, thereby leading to water contamination.

The water, which is brackish in colour, stinks and is unfit for consumption or other household use. We have spent a lot of money to clean the sump and the overhead tanks, but the water supplied in the pipeline continues to be contaminated. With severe water scarcity in the city, it is heart wrenching that whatever little water is supplied is getting wasted through contamination and leakage in pipelines. We are now buying water from private tankers to supplement our needs. With summer hitting hard, the daily water needs have also gone up. We have made several complaints to Metrowater officials, but there has been no response.

It is a major health hazard and I appeal to the Metrowater officials to rectify the issue without further delay as the residents of the flat are suffering. **Mahalakshmi Flat Residents, Lakshmi Street, West Mambalam**

Always check expiry date before buying

Sir, I recently read a report in a daily newspaper in which an incident of sale of milk packets after expiry date was reported. In another case, a mother administered a dose of cough syrup which was available at home to her son who was coughing a lot. The boy developed complications, leading to his death. Investigation revealed that the syrup used was past its expiry date. I write this letter to create awareness among readers of *Mambalam Times* about

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**90031 15654
98848 68858**

**WEST MAMBA-
LAM, Arya Gowda
Road, near Ayodhya
Mandapam, 4
bedrooms, 2 halls,
2 kitchens, 1300
sa.ft, 2 balconies,
ground floor flat,
road facing, open
car park, price Rs.
85 lakhs (nego-
tiable). Sai: 89390
76333.**

T.NAGAR, Thirumalai Pillai Main Road, 2 way, corner flat, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1603 sq.ft, UDS 1003 sq.ft, attached bathrooms, lift, 2 covered car parks, no brokers. Ph: 9840807181.

**WEST MAMBA-
LAM, Arya Gowda
Road, near Ayodhya
Mandapam, 675
sq.ft, 2 bedrooms,
hall, kitchen, 1
balcony, ground
floor flat, road
facing, 40 feet road,
open car park, price
Rs. 42 lakhs (nego-
tiable). Sai: 89390
76333**

**FLATS FOR SALE
WEST MAMBALAM
Baroda Street Extension,
2 bedrooms,
hall, kitchen,
& 3 bedrooms,
hall, kitchen,
lift, car park,
Madhav Associates
98410 51622**

**WEST MAMBALAM,
Govindan Road, near
Ayodhya Mandapam,
9 bedrooms, 3 halls,
3 kitchen, land 1300
sq.ft, building 3400
sq.ft, brand new,
in dependent
house, 3 balconies,
fully furnished, 4
covered car parks,
price Rs. 3 crores
(negotiable). Sai:
89390 76333.**

**T.NAGAR, Gopalakrishna
Road, Alacrity Builders, 4
bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1468
sq.ft, UDS 1208 sq.ft, 1st floor,
woodwork, 2entrance, vitrified
tiles, 2 car parks, price Rs.
1.75 crores (negotiable).
Jayakumar. Ph: 8939962156.**

**T. NAGAR, Vaidyaraman
Street, off. Thanikachalam
Road, spacious 2 bedrooms,
820 sq.ft, 5th floor, lift, open
car park, vacant flat, 25 years
old, rate Rs. 8000 per sq. ft
(negotiable). Contact: Radha
Vasan. Ph: 9840040793.**

**WEST MAMBALAM, No.
19, Jain's Ahalya Apartment,
Lake View Road, 2 bedrooms
flat, 950 sq.ft, Brahmans only.
no brokers. Ph: 9600081541.**

**WEST MAMBALAM, No.
20, Postal Colony 4th Street,
ground floor flat, rent Rs.
14000, Brahmam family only,
no brokers. Ph: 9840582071.**

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Damaged sewage pipes being replaced

By Our Staff Reporter

Workers of Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) are replacing the damaged pipes in the sewage line in the service lane of G. N. Chetty Road flyover in T. Nagar after repeated complaints of sewage water overflow from the nearby manhole chamber.

The work was started a week back and is expected to get over by the end of the month.

The earth removed from digging the trench has been dumped on the road margin and pavement causing hindrance to pedestrians.

12 held under Goondas Act

Police arrested 12 history sheeters on May 14 and 15 under the Goondas Act.

They included P. Muthukumar (33), a resident of K. K. Nagar, and R. Siva (30) of T. Nagar. Several murder, assault, theft, abduction and prostitution cases are pending against them.

Gets 'Seva Ratna' award from Exnora

By Our Staff Reporter

M. Babu (resident of 5, Sampangi Street, West Mambalam and President, Exnora Sports Club) was honoured with 'Seva Ratna' award by Exnora International on May 7 in Vani Mahal (T. Nagar) for his social service activities through Exnora for more than two decades.

Babu is actively involved in the various schemes of Exnora like holding medical camps, blood donation and other awareness programs. He regularly conducts sports meets, tournaments and coaching programs at various venues and govt. schools to encourage sports activities among students.

Babu works in Shri Shankarla Sundarbai Shasun Jain College for Women in T. Nagar. His contact number is 98414 75566.



110 attend eye screening camp

By Our Staff Reporter

110 persons attended the free eye screening camp conducted by Jaimaa Trust on May 17 in Samiyar Madam, Dr. Subbarayan Nagar, Kodambakkam.

A team of doctors from Sankara Nethralaya examined the participants.

Seven of them detected with cataract will undergo free surgery in Sankara Nethralaya. Others detected with other chronic ailments will undergo further tests and treatment in the hospital. Free spectacles were provided for persons with vision problems. Jaimaa Trust provides free counselling for stress related problems. Foe appointments, call 99400 30939.



Free buttermilk distributed outside Jain temple

By Our Staff Reporter

Members of Shanthi-nath Jain Temple (G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) are distributing free buttermilk to the thirsty outside the temple since May 1.

A member told *Mambalam Times* that buttermilk is prepared with 100 liters of milk and nearly 1000 glasses of free buttermilk are distributed daily.

Free drinking water is provided throughout the year through a water booth with taps fixed outside the temple.



BJP workers donate battery operated garbage collection vehicle

By Our Staff Reporter

A battery operated garbage collection vehicle was donated to Virugambakkam constituency (which covers parts of K. K. Nagar, MGR, Nagar, Ashok Nagar and nearby areas) by the local members of Bharatiya Janata Party on May 13.



The vehicle was handed over by Tamilisai Soundarajan (President, BJP, Tamilnadu). Residents can make use of the vehicle during the 'Swach Bharat' campaign in their colony/street. For availing the vehicle, call 4862 2226 or 96000 37099.

Talk on Thiru Arutpa on Tuesday

Under the auspices of Vallalar Sammarga Sangam (V.O.C Street, MGR Nagar, Ph: 94453 43706), Kolapakkam Santhanam will give a discourse on 'Thiru Arutpa – அன்ம வாடிசூ' at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 23, in Sakthi Vinayagar Temple (P. T. Rajan Salai, K. K. Nagar).

All are welcome.

Tamilnadu Govt. plea for pan implementation of 'Smart City' project

By Our Staff Reporter

The Tamilnadu Govt. has requested the Centre to modify the guidelines for 'Smart City' project to allow for pan-city implementation of all proposals initially considered only for T. Nagar.

In the memorandum presented by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami to Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu on May 15, it has been suggested that implementing infrastructure projects in T. Nagar first and then replicating the same in the rest of the city will be a waste of manpower, time and financial resources under the project.

It has been urged that projects like integrated traffic management and parking management system, as of now planned as area specific project for T. Nagar alone, would make sense if implemented across the city.

'Thirupugazh Maanadu' tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

The 5th 'Thirupugazh Maanadu' will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on Sunday, May 21 in Dharmapura Aadina Samaya Prachara Nilayam, 158, North Usman Road, T. Nagar.

Special poojas and archanai will be performed for Lord Murugan at 8 a.m.

V. Ravichandran Ganapathi dasan will give a discourse on Thirupugazh at 9 a.m.

Devotional music concerts will be rendered by eminent musicians in the evening.

All are welcome.

Man drowns in swimming pool in Nandanam

By Our Staff Reporter

23-year-old A. Balasubramanian (a resident of Neelankarai) drowned while swimming in a pool in YMCA (Nandanam) on May 13, the second such death within 12 hours of the death of an 8-year-old girl in a swimming pool in East Mogappair.

According to the police, Subramanian had gone in the evening to the swimming pool in YMCA with his friends.

They entered the pool and, as Subramanian was a novice, he swam in the 5-ft deep shallower end of the pool and his friends in the deeper end opposite.

After swimming for a while, when Balasubramanian's friends got out of the pool, they could not spot Subramanian. Finding him not in the pool, they assumed he must have gone to the washroom. When he did not appear for a long while, they got worried and also noticed his shirt and cellphone lying near the pool.

When alerted, the lifeguards dived into the pool, searched the bottom and pulled out an

unconscious Subramanian. Their attempts to resuscitate Subramanian failed and he was rushed to Government Royapettah Hospital, where the doctors pronounced him dead. The case is under investigation.

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