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1462nd Issue: September 19 - 25, 2021

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Construction debris blocks carriageway

Sir, Construction debris is being dumped on the margin of Gandhi Street (T. Nagar). It is blocking one half of the road width causing hindrance to motorists and residents.

The fine dust from the debris is also causing severe dust pollution.

The debris is dumped at night instead of being transported to designated landfill locations.

I appeal to officers of Chennai Corporation to remove the debris and take strict action against such offenders. **R. Sethuvaradan**



## Damaged road not relaid

Sir, Dr. Nair Road (T. Nagar, near Pandy Bazaar junction) was dug up by Metrowater workers two months back to repair the underground sewage line.

Even after the work was completed a month back, the road has not been relaid.

Motorists are having a hard time riding on the road as it is dusty and slippery.

There is noise pollution every time a vehicle passes.

I appeal to the officers of Chennai Corporation to relay the road before the advent of monsoon. **R. Jayakumar, Raman Street, T. Nagar**



## Tasmac shops function beyond closing hours



Sir, I have seen several Tasmac shops in T. Nagar kept open beyond the closing time of 8 p.m. The police also turn a blind eye to the violation.

I was informed that liquor is also sold at a 30% higher price after closing hours.

Tipplers crowd the bars even beyond the closing hours creating nuisance for nearby residents. They sit on the pavement near the shops and consume liquor in the open and dirty the surroundings. The nearby residents, especially women and elders, fear to venture out.

I appeal to the police to take strict action against Tasmac bars which are kept open beyond the closing hours. **R. Sivaraman, Lake View Road, West Mambalam**

## BSNL pillar box half buried in pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

A BSNL pillar box is lying half buried on the pavement of G.N. Chetty Road flyover, T. Nagar and close to Kamalabai Street junction.

As the junction box was not re-installed when the pavement was raised, the lower portion got buried.

## Applications invited for free Upasana course

By Our Staff Reporter

ShraddhaMaanu Foundation (SMF) has invited applications from women graduates (age/experience no bar) for its free Upasana course.

The course will help them become after-school educators for primary school children from all sections of society including the underprivileged.

Training is through online instructor-led sessions (virtual). Applicants must possess laptops.

The 4-month online training (260 to 320 hours) will be followed by two months of on-the-job training in SMF's after-school centres/online classes

Post training, candidates will have learning opportunities in SMF's after-school learning centres (VIPASANA Centres) or will be helped to set up their own VIPASANA @Home project.

The last date for filing applications is Oct.9.

Application link: <https://shraddhamaanu.org/apply-now.php>

More details: <https://shraddhamaanu.org/>

Whatsapponly: 7200700179

## Abandoned cables removed after report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Damaged cables block pavement outside Jeeva Park' published in Mambalam Times (Aug.29-Sept.4 issue) the big heap of damaged broadband cables blocking the pavement near Jeeva Park (G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) was removed last week.

## Velammal duo in team that won bronze in Olympiad



Pragnanandha



Savitha Sri

By Our Staff Reporter

Grandmaster R. Pragnanandha (Std.11 student in Velammal Main School, Mugappair Campus) and Savitha Sri (Std. 10 student in Velammal Vidyalaya, Mel Aynambakkam) were members of the Indian team which won the bronze medal in the recently concluded FIDE Online Chess Olympiad 2021.

They were felicitated by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin for their performance on Sept. 16.

For details, contact 80560 63519.

## Boy helps mother push vegetable cart



By Our Staff Reporter

A young boy was seen helping his mother push a vegetable cart on which his younger sister was seated near Rangarajapuram two-wheeler subway in T. Nagar on Sept. 16

## Van lying on Mambalam High Road



By Our Staff reporter

An abandoned tempo traveller has been lying on Mambalam High Road, T. Nagar for several days.

## Residents abandon Vinayaga idols on pavements

By Our Staff Reporter

A number of small Vinayaga idols were found abandoned on pavements near temples in a number of places in T. Nagar, West Mambalam, Ashok Nagar and K. K. Nagar.

For sentiments reasons conservancy workers are not clearing them along with regular garbage.

Residents usually hand over Vinayaga idols to Kuzhus which immerse them in the sea along with the huge idols put up by them.

As this year public display of big Vinayaga idols was banned and immersion in sea prohibited to prevent crowding, the residents were forced to dump them near dustbins or on pavements near temples.

Photos show idols abandoned near a tree on G.N. Chetty Road (T. Nagar) and on the pavement outside a temple at the junction of Moorthy Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (West Mambalam).



G.N. Chetty Road (T. Nagar)



Moorthy Street (West Mambalam)

## Public catch hit and run driver

By Our Staff Reporter

A man who tried to drive his car away after hitting a boy on South Boag Road (T. Nagar) at around 11.30 a.m on Sept. 17, was caught by the public.

The boy who, is physically challenged, was waiting on the road margin to cross the road when he was hit by the car.

Though he fell down, he did not suffer any injury as the impact was not heavy.

After making an enquiry, the police let off the driver with a warning.



## Service road misused for parking 2-wheelers

By Our Staff Reporter

A number of 2-wheelers are parked on the service road of Madley Subway, blocking the way for commuters going to or coming from Mambalam Railway Station.

The stretch was closed to traffic two months back for the exclusive use of commuters.

It has now been converted into a parking lot.

Garbage is also seen dumped near the wall.



## Social events causing rise in Covid cases

Clusters arising from family and social functions and a lack of adherence to the mask and physical distancing norms in crowded places are among the reasons for the increase in the number of fresh Covid cases.

In the last few days, the State has been registering a marginal increase in the number of cases. As the fluctuations in the daily count continued in some districts, the figure crossed 1,600 on Sept. 10 and 11. "This was mainly due to functions-based clusters and not wearing of masks and not maintaining physical distancing in crowded places. Contact-tracing also contributes to numbers, but it is useful in preventing an exponential rise and controlling it as a localised cluster," Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan said.

"Five Corporation Zones including Kodambakkam and Teyampet have registered positive growth since Aug. 30 mainly due to the presence of a number of function halls and temples. Till vaccination covers a substantial portion of the population, monitoring crowded places, enforcing Covid protocols and contact-tracing in case of emergence of clusters assumes importance," an official said.

## Music groups perform at vaccination centers

A mega vaccination camp was conducted in 1,600 locations across Chennai on Sept. 12.

People who came to be vaccinated were surprised to see a team of youngsters singing popular Tamil film songs.

The youngsters are part of a music community called 'On The Streets of Chennai'. Senthil Raj (Founder) told *Mambalam Times* that they have so far done 53 shows to raise awareness about Covid. When they came to know about the mega campaign, they met senior Corporation officials to seek permission to participate. He said that members performed for an hour at vaccination centres in Anna Nagar, Alandur, Nanganallur, Kolathur and T. Nagar.

'On The Streets of Chennai' was started five years back to develop a culture of street music and spread happiness. "With the easing of Covid norms, we have been hoping to get back on the streets with live shows and this vaccination drive was a wonderful exercise for our team members," Senthil said.

On Sept. 26, the team will release a collection of eight songs titled 'OTS Collective'.

## Mega vaccination drive from 7 a.m to 7 p.m today

Chennai Corporation has organised a mega vaccination drive at various centers in the city from 7 a.m to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sep. 19

Following are the centers in and around T. Nagar and West Mambalam:

- Kumaran Nagar UHPC (1, Govindan Road, West Mambalam)
- CMC (Mettupalayam, West Mambalam)
- UHPC (Sivagnanam Street, T. Nagar)
- No. 1, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam
- Thambiah Road, West Mambalam
- Duraisamy Road, T. Nagar
- Divisional Office, 10<sup>th</sup> Sector, K.K. Nagar
- UHPC, Ayyavoo Street, Jaffer Khanpet
- UHPC, Nallan Kuppam, Ashok Nagar

## Free eye screening on Thursday

By Our Staff Reporter

Jaimaa Trust (Vadapalani) has organised free eye screening from 9.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m on Thursday, Sept. 23 in M.K. Stalin Mini Hall (Muthurangan Salai, T. Nagar, above TUCS shop).

Doctors and paramedical staff from Sankara Nethralaya will examine the patients.

The screening includes visual assessment, eye pressure check-up, retinal imaging and counselling on eye related problems.

Those detected with cataract can undergo free surgery in Sankara Nethralaya.

For more details, call 93456 65918.

## Corporation begins desilting of storm water drains

By Our Staff Reporter

With the northeast monsoon expected to start in October, Chennai Corporation has started to clean and desilt waterways and storm water drains in the city including this neighbourhood.

## Tree branches removed after report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Tree branches dumped on street margin' published in *Mambalam Times* last week, Chennai Corporation workers removed the big heap of cut tree branches dumped on Balakrishna Street (West Mambalam).

Almost one half of the road width was blocked, causing hindrance to road users.

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ஆகவே அட்சதை.காம், ஆசீர்வாதம்.காம், இல்லறம்.காம் ஆகிய முன்னணி வரன் வலை வீச்சுகளில் அவனுடைய பயோ டேட்டாவைப் பதிவு செய்து இலவு காத்த கிளிபோல உட்கார்ந்திருந்தேன். 2000 வருஷ வாக்கில் தொடங்கிக் கல்யாணத்திற்கு நிற்கும் பெண்களுக்கு பயங்கர ஷார்ட்டேஜ் என்பதை நாடறியும்.

தொடர்ச்சியாகப் பலவிதமான அனுபவங்கள் நேர்ந்தாலும், இரண்டை மட்டும் சாம்பிளாகச் சொல்கிறேன். அடுத்த தெருவிடையே இருக்கும் சாமளி என்கிற பெண்ணின் தகப்பனாருக்கு என் பையனின் நிற்கிற, க்ளோசப் போஸ்களில் எடுத்த அன்டஸ்டு ஃபோட்டோக்களையும், ஜாதகத்தையும் அனுப்பி வைத்தேன். பதினைந்து நாட்களுக்கு மேலாகியும் சத்தத்தையே காணோம்.

‘பிள்ளையைப் பெற்றவன்’ என்கிற வறட்டு கௌரவம் பார்க்காமல் நானே ஃபோன் செய்தேன். சாமளியின் அப்பா தியாகு பிடி கொடுக்காமல் பேசினார். ‘ஆமா, வந்தது...’ என்று இழுத்தார். ‘சாமளி இன்னும் ஃபோட்டோவைப் பார்க்கலை. அவளுக்கு டயமே இல்லை. அவள் ரொம்ப சென்சிட்டிவ். நான் ரிமெண்ட் பண்ணினால் திட்டுவா. அவளே மனசு வைச்சுப் பார்த்து ஓகே பண்ணினால் ஃபோன் பண்ணேன்’னு சொல்லி, கையிலே இதுவரை சர்ப்பத்தைப் பிடித்த மாதிரிப் பதறி ரிசிவரை சொட்டென்று வைத்துவிட்டார். அது ஆகிப் பத்து வருஷங்களுக்கு மேலாகியும் அந்த சாமளியும், தியாகுவும் காலையில் அப்பனும், முதிர் கன்னியுமாக எங்கள் வீட்டைத் தாண்டி வாக் போய்க் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். என்ன சொல்ல?

மற்றொரு வரனும் சென்னைதான். பற்பலரும் போற்றும் பதி மயிலைபுரி. பெண்ணின் பெயர் கற்பகம். அப்பா குப்புசாமி. குதர்க்கத்தில் முதல் பாதம் என்பதைப் பின்னர் தெரிந்து கொண்டேன்.

என் பெயரைச் சொல்லி, ‘ஸார், நான்தான் பிள்ளைக்கு அப்பா பேசறேன். உங்க பொண்ணுதானே கற்பகம்?’

‘ஆமா? அதுலே சந்தேகம் என்ன? இந்த மாதிரி எசுகு பிசு கான கேள்வி வரும்னு தெரிஞ்சிருந்தால் ஜாதகத்தோடு டி.என்.ஏ சர்ட்டிபிகேட்டையும் அனுப்பியிருப்பேனே.’

என்ன கூத்துடா இது என்று திடுக்கிட்டாலும் என்னுள் இருந்த எழுத்தாளன் சிலிர்த்து எழுந்து உட்கார்ந்தான். இதோ ஒரு கேரக்டர் என்று லாங் ரோப்பைவிட்டு மேலும் தொடர்ந்தேன்.

‘இல்லே கேட்டேன். உங்க பெண்ணுக்குக் கல்யாணம் ஆயிருந்தா?’

‘ரப்பிஷ். நான் என்ன மடையனா? கல்யாணம் ஆகியிருந்தால் இந்த ஃபோனை அட்டெண்ட் பண்ணியிருப்பேனா?’

இதெப்படி? பிரமித்தேன். ‘அது இல்லை ஸார். சில பேர்கள் ஒரு வருஷம் முன்னே டாட்காமில் பதிவு செய்து அப்புறம் மறந்து போயிடறாங்க. இடையிலே கல்யாணம் ஆகியிருக்கலாம் இல்லையா?’

‘அப்பேற்பட்ட சும்பன் நானில்லை.’

‘தெரியறது. உங்க பெண் வேலைக்குப் போறாளா?’

‘என்ன? வேலைக்குப் போ...றாளா...வா? பெண்களை வேலைக்கு அனுப்பிட்டு அந்த வருமானத்திலே குளிர் காயிற கீழ்த்தற ஜந்து இல்லை நான். என்னை என்னன்னு நினைச்சிண்டு இருக்கேன்? மைலாப்பூர் கச்சேரி ரோடிலே ஒண்ணு. ஐயம் பேட்டை தெரியுமா, ஐயம்பேட்டை? அங்கே ஒண்ணுன்னு சத்திரம் மாதிரி இரண்டு வீடுகள் இருக்கு. அப்புறம் நிலபுலங்கள் வேறு. அவள் ஏன் வேலைக்குப் போகணும்? ஏன் போகணும்? அப்படி ஒரு கேள்வி எப்படி வந்தது? அவள் கால் மேல் கால் போட்டு ஆட்டிண்டு காலத்துக்கும் சாப்பிடலாம்.’

‘ரொம்ப சந்தோஷம். ஆட்டிண்டே சாப்பிட்டும். கேட்கவே மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருக்கு. எல்லாம் சரியாக வந்தால் தையிலேயே கல்யாணம் பண்ணிடலாமா? ஏன்னா அதுக்கு அப்புறம் என் பிள்ளையாண்டான் பழையபடியும் அமெரிக்கா போகணும். அப்பிள்ளை வேலை. கையோடு பெண்டாட்டியையும் அழைச்சுண்டு போகலாம்னு சொல்றான்.’

‘உங்க பிள்ளை அமெரிக்கா வேணா போகட்டும், அண்டார்ட்டிக்கா வேணா போகட்டும். அதைப் பற்றி எனக்குக் கவலை இல்லை. ஆனால் என் பெண்ணு மைலாப்பூரை விட்டு ஒரு இஞ்ச்கூட நகரமாட்டாள்.’

‘ஸார், கல்யாண கலாட்டாலே தாலி கட்ட மறந்தானாம்னு சொல்றதுண்டு. சொல்ல மறந்துட்டேன். நாங்க பார்த்த வரையிலே ஜாதகம் பொருந்தறதுன்னு எங்க ஜோஸ்யர் சொன்னார்.’

‘எவன் அவன்? அரை வேக்காடாக இருப்பான். கிறுக்கன். என் தாய் மாமாவே ஒரு ஜோஸ்யர். 92 வயது. நாளைக்கும் விடுவிடுன்னு நடப்பார். ‘இந்தப் பிள்ளையின் ஜாதகத்தைத் துணி உலர்த்தற கழியாலே கூடத் தொடக்கடாதுனு பொட்டிலே அடிச்ச மாதிரி சொல்லிட்டார். அவர் சொல் எங்களுக்கு மந்திரம். ஹூம்! கார்த்தாலே என் டைம் வேஸ்ட்.’

‘ஸார், மன்னிக்கணும். நீங்க என்னவா இருக்கீங்க? இருந்தீங்க?’

‘அதெல்லாம் உங்களுக்கு எதுக்கு? இருந்தாலும் யாருன்னு சொல்லிட்டுனும். மெட்ராஸில் உள்ள பள்ளிக்கூடத்தின் பெயரைச் சொல்லி ‘நான் அங்கே ஹெட்மாஸ்டரா இருந்து ரிடையர் ஆனவன். என் ஸ்டூடென்ட்களுக்கெல்லாம் நான் டெரர். என்னைப் பார்த்தாலே தொடை நடுங்கும்.’

ஹெட்மாஸ்டரே இப்படி இருந்தால் கீழே படிச்ச பசங்க எப்படி இருப்பாங்கன்னு நினைக்க பீதியாக இருந்தது.

‘ஸார், எனக்கே தொடை நடுங்கிறது. உங்க பெண்ணுக்கு நல்ல வரனாக வந்து மகராசியாக இருக்கணும்னு சர்வேஸ்வரனை வேண்டிக்கிறேன். தப்புசாமி ஸார், மன்னிக்கணும் குப்புசாமி ஸார்’னு சொல்லி ஃபோனை வைத்துவிட்டேன்.

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## T. NAGAR & MAMBALAM BAZAAR

This column is intended to help small businesses to have a cost-effective advertisement medium. Advertisement in this section will be in standard panel sizes of 4 cm. x 1 column (costing only Rs. 600) and 4 cm. x 2 column (costing Rs. 1200)

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### Corpn to build 45-km-long drain network

Several months after Chennai Corporation finalised the environmental assessment report for the missing link storm water drain project, it has commenced implementing it.

According to an Corporation official, online tenders were floated on Sept. 16 for 43 packages covering several stretches in core city zones. “The project will be implemented at a cost of around Rs. 120 crores and funds have been sanctioned by the World Bank,” the official said. 144 stretches close to 45 kilometers have been identified where storm water links are absent.

“We have to demolish around 33 km of old drains and reconstruct 45 km of drains,” the official added.

The Corporation has also commenced desilting the existing storm water drains ahead of the northeast monsoon.

### Man held for murdering father

A 20-year-old man, who stabbed his father to death while drunk, has been arrested by the MGR Nagar police. The deceased S. Selvam (45) was a resident of K. K. Nagar.

Police said that Selvam sent his son Prakash away to a separate rented house in the same locality a few months back since the latter was addicted to liquor.

Prakash went to Selvam’s house to meet his mother. Since he was drunk, an argument broke out between Selvam and Prakash and the latter allegedly stabbed Selvam with a knife and fled the spot. Selvam was rushed to the government hospital in K. K. Nagar, but he was declared brought dead.

### Sacked conservancy workers demand reinstatement

Representatives of conservancy workers, whose services were terminated in January this year have been demanding reinstatement.

The services of around 900 conservancy workers engaged under the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) were terminated without notice though the work was not outsourced to a private contractor in all the zones. One of the affected workers told *MambalamTimes* that they were sacked to accommodate permanent workers who had to be moved from other zones due to outsourcing of conservancy work. He said that majority of them are women who were forced to take up conservancy work for financial reasons, and are now struggling to support their families.

He added that the private operators are also not engaging them due to age criteria and other conditions.

They have undertaken protests outside local zonal offices and also outside Ripon Buildings, but have still not been reinstated despite assurances by officials. More than 50% of the sacked workers have put in more than 10 years of service with Chennai Corporation.

“I have stopped sending my sons to school as I am no longer able to pay the school fees. Now they sit at home without education,” says Lakshmi, 35, a contract sweeper. Her husband Ramesh, also a contract worker with Chennai Corporation, now does odd jobs to make ends meet.

Mariamamma, 45, is another civic worker who lost her contract job. She is the sole breadwinner of her family. She has two college-going children, an aged mother and a diabetic husband to take care of.

### Three held for attacking van driver, damaging vehicles

K. K. Nagar police arrested three persons including a juvenile on Sept. 12 on the charge of attempting to rob the driver of a milk van at around 4 a.m on Sept. 11 in K. K. Nagar. The attack happened when the victim Umashankar (21) was unloading milk sachets from the van.

When he thwarted the attack and managed to drive away, the culprits flung stones and damaged the vehicle’s windshield.

During investigation, police found from the CCTV footage that the culprits, identified as Karthick, Aravind and Dinesh, also damaged several parked vehicles following the failed robbery attempt.

They were remanded to judicial custody.

## Bridge over subway nears completion



By Our Staff Reporter

Construction of the foot overbridge across the Nungambakkam subway to the burial ground service road near Loyola College is nearing completion.

The Rs. 5-crore project to build the 24-meter-long and 5-meter-wide bridge was awarded in December 2020 by Chennai Corporation and is to be completed by February 2022. "The steel girders have been assembled and the work will be completed soon," said an official.

It will help ease the traffic flow from Nungambakkam to T. Nagar and Anna Nagar which face huge traffic jams at the subway entrance and at the Loyola College junction because travellers who get down at Nungambakkam railway station usually cross the road at these points.

## Abandoned auto blocks pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

An autorickshaw in dilapidated condition has been lying on the pavement of Kannaiah Street (T. Nagar) for the past six months.

It is an eyesore and is blocking the way for pedestrians.

## Sruuthi wins prizes in online talent contests

Sruuthi (a resident of 44/21, Bhagirathi Ammal Street, West Mambalam) won two prizes in the 'Talent E-Fest 2.0' online cultural contest conducted by Rotaract Club of Dhanalakshmi College of Engineering on Sept. 11. She came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Variety event which included singing and dancing and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Dubsmash event for enacting a scene



from the movie Darbar. She is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year B.Com student in MOP Vaishnav College (Nungambakkam).

She is also a stage artiste and has her own drama troupe.

She is the daughter of S. Shivprasadh (well known stage artiste) and granddaughter of yesteryear actor late R. S. Manohar.

## 2-year-old dies after falling from bike

Two-year-old Sai Danishka died after falling from her father's bike in Pondy Bazaar on Sept. 14.

The accident took place when Jayaraman of Royapettah was taking his wife and two children to T. Nagar on the bike.

At Thyagaraya Road-South Boag Road junction, the two-wheeler hit a moving car while turning. In the impact, Sai Danishka fell off the bike and suffered injuries on her head.

She was taken to a private hospital in Nungambakkam, where she was declared brought dead. On information, the Pondy Bazaar traffic investigation police registered a case and sent the body for post-mortem.

## Two old students gift sewing machine to Anjugam School



By Our Staff Reporter

S. Chandrasekaran and Radha Suri (old students of Anjugam School, West Mambalam) gifted an electric sewing machine worth Rs. 12,000 to the school's craft department recently. The machine will be used by the students of the tailoring and embroidery vocational course.

## Trench closed improperly in Muthurangan Salai

By Our Staff Reporter

A 50-foot-long trench dug by TNEB workers in Muthurangan Salai (T. Nagar) for relaying a damaged cable, was not closed properly after the work was completed.

It is causing hindrance to motorists and pedestrians.

Nearby residents have appealed to Chennai Corporation to close the trench properly and black top it.



## Repro Finance donates oxygen concentrator



By Our Staff Reporter

Repro Micro Finance Limited (T. Nagar) donated an oxygen concentrator and sewing machines to Golden Butter-

R.S. Isabella (Managing Director, Repco), A. G. Venkatachalam (Director), Stella Mathew (Managing Trustee, Golden Butterflies) and Dr. Republica Sridhar (Founder, RMD Pain and Palliative Care Trust, T. Nagar) participated in the function.

Golden Butterflies provides care for underprivileged children suffering from chronic disorders and terminal ailments.

For more details about the organisation, visit the website <http://www.goldenbutterflies.in/>

flies Children Palliative Care Foundation (A.K. Samy Nagar, 2nd Street, Secretariat Colony, Purasawalkam) under its CSR project.

## Three held for running brothels

By Our Staff Reporter

Mambalam police arrested three persons including a woman on Sept. 13 for running a brothel in a purported beauty parlour in an apartment in T. Nagar.

After investigation, police also raided two more brothels being run in 'spas' run by them in Nungambakkam and Aminjikarai.

Seven women who were allegedly forced into the trade were rescued.

Following a tip-off and monitoring of online advertisements, police kept a watch on the parlour and used a decoy to trap the culprits.

They were identified as Monisha (30) of Arumbakkam, A. Krishnan (27) of T. Nagar and Ashok (34) of Teynampet.

## 50% of active Covid cases from 5 central zones

By Our Staff Reporter

Despite the daily number of new cases remaining stable at around 180, nearly 50 percent of the new cases are from the five zones in the central region of Chennai Corporation.

According to Corporation data, 189 and 174 new cases were reported on Sept. 14 and 15 respectively.

Of these, 79 cases were from Teynampet and Kodambakkam Zones and 102 from Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, Ambattur and Anna Nagar Zones.

Of the five central region zones, more new cases are from Teynampet, Anna Nagar and Kodambakkam Zones.

It has also resulted in the increase of active cases in the five central zones.

The active cases in Kodambakkam had crossed 200 on Sept. 11 and increased to 244 on Sept. 15.

On Aug. 30, Kodambakkam had the highest (183) active cases among all zones in the city.

Presently, seven of the 15 zones have more than 100 active cases of which four zones are in the central region.

On the other hand, all the north zones have less than 100 active cases with Manali and Tiruvottiyur having 28 and 30 active cases respectively (lowest in the city).

## Vanigar Sangam demands quick completion of Smart City project

Tamilnadu Vanigar Sangam (Ankalin Peramaippu) has demanded that Chennai Corporation clear encroachment by parked vehicles in Pondy Bazaar in T. Nagar, which is getting a makeover under the Smart City project. This would resolve the traffic congestion in the locality.

Moreover, the Sangam has also appealed for completion of the project soon and allotment of traders' space and formation of a joint committee with traders' participation to fix uniform rent for commercial complexes across the State.

## Partially uprooted tree may fall



The trunk of a partially uprooted tree outside 17/9, Postal Colony Cross Street, West Mambalam is resting on a nearby telephone pillar box and its branches are resting on overhead cables. As it may fall any moment, residents have appealed to Chennai Corporation to cut and remove the tree.

## New Giri Street to be relaid after report in *Mambalam Times*



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'New Giri Street in battered condition' published in *Mambalam Times* (September 5-11 issue), Corporation workers started repairing the road on Sept. 16.

The trench at the road junction was filled levelled and the barricades were removed.

A Corporation official told this reporter that the surface is being milled and will be black topped soon.

## Velammal student enters India Book of Records

By Our Staff Reporter

K. Asna Shahans (LKG student in Velammal Vidyalaya), aged 3 years and 11 months, entered the India Book of Records by answering the maximum number of questions in General Knowledge in 30 seconds. Her attempt was recorded by a team from India Book of Records in the city last week.



## Night conservancy work resumes amid staff problems

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has commenced a drive to promote conservancy operations at night, following the launch of new battery-operated vehicles and compactors recently.

However, officials said that they are facing several challenges, including absenteeism among workers in a few divisions, in implementing the plan.

Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi said that conservancy operations at night had been extended to more roads in areas including Kodambakkam, T. Nagar and Teynampet with the launch of new compactors and vehicles.

Parandaman (a resident of T. Nagar) told this reporter that night shift workers are cleaning and removing garbage only from the bins on the main roads and not from the designated interior roads. Many workers, mainly women, are reluctant to come for night duty. One of the main reasons cited by women workers is lack of access to toilets in most private commercial buildings at night. Many public toilets are also closed at night. There were complaints of non-availability of drinking water from 9 p.m to 4 a.m.

Around 30% of the workers on night duty had been absent for a few days in many divisions. Many complained that they live in far-off places and find it difficult to commute at night due to lack of public transport.

2,688 workers, 158 compactors, 57 mechanical sweepers and 481 battery-operated vehicles covering 12,713 bins have been deployed for night conservancy work.

## Genetic Analysis Laboratory inaugurated in DMS Complex

By Our Staff Reporter

The Genetic Analysis Laboratory was inaugurated by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin in DMS Complex (Teynampet) on Sept. 14.

The facility has been established at an estimated cost of Rs. 4 crores on the Directorate of Medical Services campus in DMS Complex.

The new facility will help testing of Covid samples for genome sequencing which were hitherto sent to labs in Bengaluru or Telangana, resulting in delayed results of the analysis and treatment.



## Free health check-up for tanker drivers



By Our Staff Reporter

Gayathri Hospital (run by Udavum Karangal in Thiruverkadu) organised a free general health check-up and eye-screening for 50 contract drivers of Indian Oil Corporation in Chembarambakkam on Sept. 17.

## Country bomb hurled at house in K. K. Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

Police have registered a case and launched a search for unidentified men who hurled a country bomb at a house in K. K. Nagar on Sept. 14.

Police said that the gang was targeting Suman, who has been looking to avenge the murder of his brother Mani in 2018. The Maduravoyal police had arrested 10 suspects for Mani's murder. Members of the same gang are suspected to have targeted Suman fearing a revenge attack.

The bomb exploded with a big noise. While none was injured in the incident, Suman's house was damaged. CCTV surveillance footage showed that the gang reached the spot on three bikes, hurled the bomb at the house's entrance and escaped.

## New traffic diversions in Kodambakkam

By Our Staff Reporter

New traffic arrangements have been introduced on Arcot Road from Kodambakkam Power House to the 80 Feet Road junction to facilitate work on the Chennai Metro phase 2 project. The changes will be in place for at least a year.

As per the new arrangements, there is no diversion for vehicles coming from Porur to Kodambakkam bridge.

Vehicles on Arcot Road coming from Kodambakkam Bridge and proceeding to Saligramam/Porur are diverted via Dr. Ambedkar Salai, Ashok Nagar police station, Second Avenue junction, P. T. Rajan Salai, Raja Mannar Salai and 80 Feet Road.

Vehicles on Arcot Road coming from Kodambakkam Bridge to Vadapalani junction are diverted at Power House junction via Ambedkar Salai, Ashok Nagar police station, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 100 Feet Road and Vadapalani junction.

Vehicles on Arcot Road coming from Vadapalani junction are not allowed to take a right turn at Duraisamy Salai. Instead, they can reach Duraisamy Salai via Power House junction, Dr. Ambedkar Salai and Ashok Nagar police station junction.

Vehicles coming from Ashok Pillar have to proceed on Dr. Ambedkar Salai, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Duraisamy Salai and Arcot Road to reach Kodambakkam bridge.

One way:

Duraisamy Salai between Arcot Road and Power House junction.

2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from Dr. Ambedkar Salai to 100 Feet Road junction.

Ambedkar Salai between the Power House and Ashok Nagar police station junction.

## Drama troupes begin live shows

With easing of Covid lockdown protocols, sabhas are getting ready to start live shows by drama troupes and musicians.

Dramatist Y. Gee. Mahendra told *Mambalam Times* that his United Amateur Artists (UAA) group will give its first performance since March last year on Sept. 18 in Bharat Kalachar YGP Auditorium (Satyapurthy Nagar, T. Nagar).

The troupe will stage its popular play 'Ithu Nyayama'.

"We have started rehearsals and all the members are keen on getting back on stage. The proceeds will be used to provide aid for struggling drama technicians," Mahendran said.

Sabhas are also gearing up to stage music performances.

A senior member of a popular Sabha told this reporter that supporting artistes and technicians have been severely impacted by the lockdown due to loss of livelihood. "We hope to support them through various associations by holding fundraising shows by top Carnatic musicians and theater artistes in the coming days," he said.

Similarly, local churches have also started choir performances. Mellow Circle Choir will hold a live event on Sept. 26 in Union Christian School Auditorium (Chetpet).

Theater personality Denver Anthony Nicholas will perform the musical 'Ramses' on Sept. 18 and 19 at 3 p.m and 7 p.m in Alliance Francaise of Madras (Nungambakkam).

As per the Covid protocols, only participants who have taken both doses of vaccine will be allowed and the sale of tickets has been restricted to 50% capacity.

## Group gifts cycles to struggling workers

By Our Staff Reporter

Every day, 72-year-old M. Babu has to travel from Perumbakkam to his cobbler shop in Kodambakkam. While he has been making the journey for years, the pandemic brought with it a whole host of problems.

"Even when restrictions eased, I had to walk all the way so that I could earn enough. Or ask for lifts from riders passing by," he said. But today, he need not rely on public transport or the goodwill of strangers to get to work. The WCCG Chennai Cyclists, who got to know about his travails, gifted him a cycle under its initiative Project Annamalai.

The project, launched a year ago, aims to present bicycles to the deprived so that they can commute easily within the city. "When there was no public transport during the lockdown, many people who had no other means found it difficult to commute," said Divagaran (Founder-member of the group). The group has distributed nine cycles so far and is now looking for donors to keep the initiative going. "Though we may not notice them on the road, many people still use cycles to get around," he said.

With the support of the cycling community in Chennai, the initiative is now being scaled up. "We have a donor-beneficiary model. Donors can sponsor a new cycle or donate used ones. People can refer beneficiaries and their needs will be vetted and verified by our team of volunteers," Divagaran said.

He added that they have got more requests and will be giving 11 more bicycles soon.

If you know someone who needs a bicycle for his/her commute and livelihood, then fill up this form: <https://forms.gle/KciYK5QuvpW54RR68>

## Vidya Sagar offers B.Ed course in Special Education

By Our Staff Reporter

Vidya Sagar (1, Ranjith Road, Surya Nagar, Kotturpuram) is a 36-year-old organisation working with persons with disabilities.

It offers a 2-year full-time B.Ed course in Special Education (Multiple Disabilities and Inclusive Education) which is affiliated to the Tamilnadu Teacher Education University and recognized by Rehabilitation Council of India.

On completion of the course, students will get employment opportunities in mainstream schools or special schools.

For more details, call 98400 35203 or 94441 2388 or send email to [hred@vidyasagar.co.in](mailto:hred@vidyasagar.co.in).

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WEST MAMBALAM, Umapathy Street, 1800 sq.ft, vacant land, CMDA approved plot, 4 side compound with well / bore, East & South facing, price Rs. 4.10 cores, full white, Brahmins only. Contact: Dr. G., K.G. Devakumar, Ph: 80561 95826.

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WEST MAMBALAM, Ganapathy Street, 750 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, lift, 24 hours water, 10 years old, no brokers. Ph: 98400 19804, 94423 78707.

WEST MAMBALAM, Giri Street, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 1 balcony, semi furnished, 25+years, 550 sq.ft, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, no lift, price Rs. 42 lakhs (negotiable), no brokers. Ph: 097425 39569.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 106/147, Lake View Road, BBCLake View Villa, opposite Jaya Gopal Garodia School, 875 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, balcony, wood work, all electrical fittings, open car park, rent Rs. 16000, vegetarians only. Ph: 98412 27817.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 27/13, Moorthy Street, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, only vegetarians. Ph: 93455 95891, 90030 84908.

T. NAGAR, Vasan Street, self contained upstairs portion, available for vegetarians, rent Rs. 12000, no brokers. Ph: 98410 40883.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 5/6, Ramakrishnapuram 1<sup>st</sup> Street, near Sita Ram Vidhyalaya School, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, ground floor, 2-wheeler parking only, marble flooring, woodwork, rent Rs. 15000. Ph: 99623 60622.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 21/9, Rajagopal Street, near Anjugam School, commercial / office space, 700 sq.ft, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, rent Rs. 12000, 2 wheeler parking. Ph: 89394 64160, 99625 16804.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 39/6, Postal Colony 1st Street, 1000 sq.ft, 1st floor, 2 bedrooms, hall cum dining, modular kitchen, service area, small balcony, flat with lots of cupboards, 2 toilets, no car park, rent Rs. 20000 fixed, No brokers. Ph: 99403 06072.

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**Idly batter too from Vijayalakshmi**

S. Vijayalakshmi (resident of LIG flats, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ashok Nagar), who has been selling millet health mix for 5 years, has introduced idly/dosa batter. "Our customers who buy millet health mix want idly/dosa batter also," she told *Mambalam Times*. "The batter is prepared with good quality rice and urad dhal," she explained. It is available in 1 kg packs. She can be contacted in 97907 72370.

**Local MLA uses technology to address public grievances**

T. Nagar MLA J. Karunanidhi is using modern technology to communicate with the residents of his constituency aiming to resolve their grievances quickly. A card with a WhatsApp number, email address and QR code has been distributed by the party workers among houses in T. Nagar constituency. Residents can use this to express their grievances and complaints. The complaints are registered in the software called JIRA to rectify and monitor grievances reported by the public. The software not only helps to resolve complaints but also monitors the time it takes and their current status.

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## 'Valaikaapu' organised for 100 women



Integrated Child Development Scheme and Lions Club of Chennai Skyline jointly organised 'Valaikaapu' (Baby Shower) for 100 women in a program conducted in M.K.

Stalin Mini Hall (MuthuranganSalai, T. Nagar) on Sept.17.

The program was inaugurated by J. Karunanithi (T. Nagar MLA), Syed Ahmed (Past District Governor, Lions Club of Chennai Skyline), Shadan (President), Junaid (Secretary) and other Lions Club members were present.

New sarees and items were given to the women.

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## Lamp-posts lying on Sathyanarayana Street



By Our Staff Reporter  
Lamp-posts lying on the margin of Sathyanarayana Street, West Mambalam.

**Gukesh wins 900 Euros in chess tourney**



By Our Staff Reporter  
G. Gukesh (Std. 10 student in Velammal Vidyalaya) came 4<sup>th</sup> and won a cash award of 900 Euros (around Rs. 77,000) in the Concello de Carballo Clasico Open Chess Championship held in Spain last week. He scored 8 out of 9 points.

In 2018, he won 5 gold medals in the 2018 Asian Youth Chess Championship. He holds the record for the second youngest grandmaster at the age of 12 years, 7 months, and 17 days.

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**இலவச எலும்பு பரிசோதனை முகாம்**

**தேதி: 19.09.2021 ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமை**  
**காலை 10 முதல் 2 மணி வரை**

**இடம்: எஸ்.எம். கிளிநிக், எண்.6, சிவஞானம் தெரு, பாண்டிபுஜார் தபால் நிலையம் அருகில் தி.நகர்**

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