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'கங்கா, நல்லா நெடு நெடுன்னு புடலங்காய் மாதிரி வளர்ந்துட்டா' என்றாள் அவளைப் பார்த்து. பிறகு 'என்னடீ? புடலங்காய் மாதிரி வளர்ந்திருக்கேனு சொல்றேன். வெட்கம் படாம அப்படியே நிக்கிறே?' என்றாள்.

'புடலங்காய் வெட்கப்படாது பாட்டி' என்றாள் கங்கா. தாயை இடித்துக் கொண்டாள் காழு.

'ஆனாலும் உன்னை வெட்கம் தெரியாம வளர்த்து வைச்சிருக்காளே உங்க அம்மா. நானெல்லாம் அந்தக் காலத்துல எப்படி வெட்கப்படுவேன் தெரியுமா? கன்னம் ரெண்டும் அப்படி செவந்து போகும்' என்றாள் காழுப் பாட்டி.

தீய்ந்து போன குழிப்பணியாரம் மாதிரி இருக்கும் அவளுடைய கன்னங்கள் எப்படி சிவந்தன என்று கங்கா குழம்பிக் கொண்டிருந்தாள்.

காழுப் பாட்டி ஊருக்குப் போனதும் அம்மா சரஸ்வதி புலம்ப ஆரம்பித்தாள்.

'உனக்கு வெட்கப்படவே வரலேன்னு காழுப் பாட்டி ஊர் முழுக்க சொல்லப் போறா!'

கங்காவின் அப்பா கணபதியும் சேர்ந்து கொண்டார்.

'ஆமா, இவளுக்கு சுத்தமா வெட்கப்படவே வரமாட்டேங்குது. இப்படியே போனா கொஞ்ச நாள்லே குதிரை மேல ஏறிக் கிட்டு 'வெட்கம் என்பது மடமையடா'னு பாட்டு பாடிக்கிட்டுப் போகப் போறா.'

கங்கா பிறந்தவுடன் ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் தாயார் சரஸ்வதியை வந்து பார்த்தார் கணபதி. சரஸ்வதி ஏகத்துக்கும் வெட்கப்பட்டுக் கொண்டு கணபதியிடம் குழந்தையைக் காட்டினாள்.

'அன்னைக்கு எல்லா வெட்கத்தையும் நீயே பட்டுட்டே. அதனால்தான் கங்காவுக்கு வெட்கப்பட வரலே' என்றார் கணபதி.

கங்கா வளர்ந்தால் வெட்கம் தானாக வரும் என இரு வரும் நினைத்தார்கள். ஐந்து வயது ஆகியும் கங்காவுக்கு வெட்கம் வரவில்லை.

'அக்கம்பக்கம் எல்லா குழந்தைகளும் எவ்வளவு வெட்கப்படறாங்க? நீயும் வெட்கப்படுடீ' என்று அம்மா எவ்வளவோ சொல்லிப் பார்த்தாள். கங்கா வெட்கப் படுவதாக இல்லை.

'அஞ்சலே வெட்கப்படா தது அம்பதுலேகூட வெட்கப்படாது. இவளைப் பார்த்து ஊரெல்லாம் சிரிக்கப் போகுது' என்று பழமொழியின் துணையோடு அழுதாள் அம்மா.

கங்காவுக்குப் பதிமூன்று வயதானது.

'இனிமே இவ வெட்கப்பட ஆரம்பிச்சுடுவா' என சமாதானப் படுத்திக் கொண்டாள் அம்மா. ஆனால் கங்கா நாடகத்தில் வரும் ஈட்டி பிடித்த காவலாளி போல விறைப்பாக நின்றாளே தவிர நாணிக் கோணவில்லை.

கங்காவுக்கு வெட்கம் வர வேண்டும் என்பதற்காக அம்மா சில சினிமா பாட்டுகளைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்து அவள் அடிக்கடி கேட்கும்படி செய்தாள்.

'வெட்கமாய் இருக்குதே தோழி', 'நாணமோ, இன்னும் நாணமோ' போன்ற பாடல்களை டி.வியில் போட்டாள்.

ஆனால் கங்காவோ விசு படத்தை அடிக்கடி போட்டு 'நான் வெட்கப்படலே, வேதனைப்படலே' என்ற வசனங்களைக் கேட்டுக் கொண்டிருந்தாள்.

கங்கா பெரியவள் ஆகிக் கல்யாண வயதுக்கு வந்தாள்.

'இனிமேலும் இவ வெட்கப்படாம இருக்கிறது தப்பு. பெண் பார்க்க வர அன்னைக்காவது இவ வெட்கப்படணும் இல்லே' என்று பயந்தாள் அம்மா.

ஒரு இடத்திலிருந்து பெண் பார்க்க வந்தார்கள். அம்மா பயந்த மாதிரியே தான் நடந்தது.

'மாப்பிள்ளையை ஒரு தடவை பார்த்துக்கோ. கண்ணுக்குக் கண் நேரா பார்க்க வெட்கமாகத்தான் இருக்கும். இருந்தாலும் பார்த்துக்கோ' என்றாள் பையனின் அம்மா.

கங்கா பையனின் கண்களைப் பார்த்தாள். ஒரு கண் டாக்டர் நோக்கப் பார்ப்பது போலப் பார்த்தாள். விட்டால் விரல்களால் பையனின் கண்களை அகல விரித்துப் பார்த்து விடுவாள்போல் இருந்தது.

'எங்களுக்கு மாப்பிள்ளையைப் பிடிச்சுப் போச்சு. நீங்க வர தட்சணை ஏதாவது எதிர்பார்க்கிறீங்களா?' என்று கேட்டார் கங்காவின் அப்பா.

'இல்லை, ஆனா பெண்ணு வெக்கப்படணும்னு எதிர்பார்க்கிறோம்.'

'ஸாரி, அவளுக்கு வெட்கம் deficiency இருக்கு.'

'ஏதோ vitamin deficiency மாதிரி சொல்றீங்க?' மாப்பிள்ளை வீட்டார் கோபத்துடன் போய்விட்டார்கள்.

வெட்கப்பட வைக்க ஏதேனும் கோச்சிங் க்ளாஸுக்கு அனுப்பலாமா என யோசித்தாள் அம்மா.

'வேல்ஸ் வெட்கம் அகாடமி' என்ற கோச்சிங் சென்டர் இருக்குமா எனத் தேடிப் பார்த்தாள். அகப்படவில்லை.

'திருநெல்வேலி பக்கத்துலே வீரவநல்லூர்ல நம்ம தூரத்து உறவுப் பொண்ணு யமுனா இருக்கா. அவ சதா சர்வ நேரமும் வெட்கப்பட்டுக்கிட்டே இருப்பா. அவ வீடல் வாஷிங்மேஷின் கூட வெட்கப்படும். அங்கே மூணு மாசம் கங்காவை அனுப்பினா தன்னாலே வெட்கம் வந்துடும்' என்றாள் அம்மா.

கங்காவை யமுனாவின் வீட்டுக்கு அனுப்பினார்கள்.

'நல்ல மாற்றம் தெரியுது' என்று யமுனாவின் அம்மா ஃபோன் செய்து சொன்னாள். சந்தோஷமாக இருந்தது.

மூன்று மாதங்கள் முடிந்ததும் கங்கா திரும்பி வந்தாள். கூடவே யமுனாவும் வந்தாள்.

'வாட யமுனா, அம்சமா இருக்கே. உன்னை எவன் கொத்திண்டு போகப் போறானோ?' என்று வரவேற்றாள் சரஸ்வதி. யமுனா வெட்கப்படவில்லை. மாறாக 'எவன் அவன்?' என்றாள் சரஸ்வதியை நேருக்கு நேராகப் பார்த்து.

'ஐயோ, யமுனா கங்காவை மாத்தலே. கங்காதான் யமுனாவை மாத்திட்டா' என்று கத்தினாள் சரஸ்வதி. nandaaft@gmail.com

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Unmanned excavator removes 4,700 tonnes of silt



Over 4,700 tonnes of silt and hyacinth were removed from waterways in the city using an unmanned robotic excavator.

Nearly 25 streams and canals, including those in Trustpuram, Virugambakkam and Teynampet, have been cleared. "We are working tirelessly towards clearing all the drains and waterways before the monsoon arrives," a senior Corporation official said. From the Mambalam Canal alone, around 750 tonnes of silt have been removed.

The corporation has also taken measures to clear collection wells in seven major subways including Duraisamy Subway, Madley Subway and Rangarajapuram Subway. The collection wells collect excess rainwater to prevent water inundation, and the water is pumped out of the wells once the rain stops.

Urban dense forest to come up behind LIC building

In line with the sustainable development goal of increasing the green cover and to mark the 66th anniversary celebrations, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Southern Zone, has taken up an ESG (Environmental Social Governance) initiative by creating an 'urban dense forest' on its premises in Anna Salai. The upcoming forest in the backyard of the iconic LIC building will spread over 4500 sq. ft with about 950 trees and more than 30 varieties. G. Venkataramanan, Zonal Manager, inaugurated the project on Sept. 26. Executive Director (Engineering Department) Arup Kundu was present. The employees of LIC took a pledge to save the environment and promote green cover in their neighbourhood and participated in the plantation of saplings.

Technical lab set up in local Corporation school

The 1st Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) lab setup by Fiserv (Global company dealing in payments and financial services technology) was inaugurated in Saidapet Government Model Higher Secondary School last week.

Similar labs will be setup in 7 more Corporation Schools this year. The initiative focuses on designing and developing affordable curriculum-based STEM laboratories that enable concept visualisation, exploration, experimentation and an entirely innovative way of teaching and learning.

The STEM labs in schools will be complemented by a mobile app called "Tutor Support" for the first year, and a Programme Management and Impact Assessment tool for quality control.

Man ends life on wife's 1st death anniversary

Prashanth (34) (resident of Raja Puranikar Street, Kodambakkam) committed suicide on his wife's 1st death anniversary on Sept. 20.

His wife Glory had ended her life a year back following a bout of depression and family disputes. According to police, Prashanth poured kerosene on his body and set himself on fire when no one was at home.

Hearing his screams, neighbors poured water on his body and extinguished the fire.

He was admitted in Kilpauk Government Hospital, where he died the next day.

According to police, the victim was a history-sheeter and several cases are pending against him in Kodambakkam and Mambalam police stations. According to his relatives, since his wife's death, Prashanth had become very depressed. He is survived by his 10-year-old son.

Deadline set for construction of public toilets

Chennai Corporation has fixed Oct. 31 as the deadline for the ongoing construction of public toilets in 285 locations in the city under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Administrative glitches have delayed the opening of the toilets whose construction has been completed.

In 26 locations including 5 in Kodambakkam Zone and 3 in Teynampet Zone, the construction work is yet to begin.

In addition to this, 287 e-toilets are also being installed in several places like parks, avenue roads and ring roads. A resident said that while installation of e-toilets is welcome, the question remains of maintenance and water supply. He said that many e-toilets and some public toilets installed in previous years are lying locked or are in a neglected state.

Man caught while trying to snatch necklace

Saravanan (27) was arrested on the charge of attempting to snatch a gold necklace from 50-year-old Tamilselvion Giri Road (T. Nagar).

According to police, the woman managed to hold out and raised an alarm when the accused, who was on a bike, tried to grab the chain from her when she was walking on the road. She was returning home after attending a wedding. Passersby managed to catch Saravanan before he could escape. He was thrashed and handed over to the police.

He is a civil engineer and is employed in a construction company in Nungambakkam.

He told the police that he had lost Rs. 10 lakhs last month in online gambling and took to crime for the first time to earn quick money to offset the loss.

Beware of unsolicited online requests for money

By Our Staff Reporter
Fraudsters have come up with new methods to cheat people by posing as their senior officers or as political leaders by opening Facebook/WhatsApp or any other popular online accounts and demanding gift cards worth thousands of rupees or money via UPI.

In a recent incident, a resident received an unsolicited Facebook chat from an unknown person impersonating J. Karunanidhi (T. Nagar MLA) and asking for Rs. 30,000 via UPI.

Wondering why an MLA would solicit money, the alert resident cross-checked with the MLA's office only to find that it was a fake ID.



The ID was later deleted by the fraudster.

The MLA has appealed to members of the public to be vigilant against such frauds.

Similarly, the gift card scam is also rampant. Termed 'boss scam', fraudsters attempt to swindle money from government employees and also the general public by impersonating high-ranking government officials.

Last month, a scammer, pretending to be a serving IAS officer, contacted a medical officer and demanded Amazon gift cards worth Rs. 50,000. The medical officer bought the card and sent it to the scammer. Only after contacting the IAS officer did he realise that it had been a scam.

Identities of almost all district collectors have been used by the fraudsters. They are now targeting other IAS, IPS and railway officers. The main reason is that the contact numbers of some of their subordinates are available on government websites. The scammers also explain to victims how to buy these cards.

Victims can contact 1122 or 100 if they suspect they have been scammed or lodge complaints on Kaval Udhavi app.

Parking arrangements to tackle Deepavali rush

By Our Staff Reporter

In anticipation of surge of Deepavali shoppers during weekends, traffic police have announced several restrictions in T. Nagar till Oct. 24.

Parking of vehicles will be allowed on the grounds of Ramakrishna High School and Corporation School

The entry of autorickshaws will be restricted at the following places: from Thiyagaraja Street-Thaniakachalam Salai towards Panagal Park; from Brindavan junction towards Panagal Park; from North Usman Road-Coats Road junction towards Panagal Park; from Rohini signal junction towards Panagal Park; from North Usman Road-Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai towards Panagal Park; and from Kannammappet junction towards Madley Junction.

In addition to the paid parking available, parking of vehicles will be allowed in Chennai Corporation School (Prakasam Road), Ramakrishna High School (Bashyam Street) and Ramakrishna High School (Dhandapani Street).

Local resident exhibits kolu with 100+ dolls



By Our Staff Reporter

Radha Kalyanaraman (resident of Fathima Enclave, 1B, Ramakrishnapuram 3rd Street, West Mambalam) has been keeping thematic kolus in her house for the past 33 years.

This year she displayed a 9-step kolu with more than 100 dolls and a thematic representation of Kailas. Other attractions included replicas of Iyappa temple, Pradosham temple, Ashta Lakshmi and Arupadai Veedu.

Unlike before Covid, she had lesser than She performs Lalitha Sahasranaama daily and Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati poojas. She has won several prizes in rangoli competitions. Her contact number is 9842810627.

Traffic signals at G.N. Chetty Road-Raghaviah Road junction not working



By Our Staff Reporter

Two traffic signal posts were installed last month at the junction of G.N. Chetty Road, Raghaviah Road and Srinivasa Street (near Kannadasan Statue, T. Nagar). The photo, taken at 5 p.m on

Oct. 6, shows neither of the signals working.

It is leading to confusion and traffic chaos at the busy junction during peak hours.

Garbage dumped on TNHB plot in Model House Road



By Our Staff Reporter

The unprotected TNHB plot in Model House Road (T. Nagar) is littered with garbage. There is overgrowth of vegetation. Nearby residents told this reporter that the vacant plot has been converted into an open toilet by passersby. They complained that the foul smell and unhygienic condition of the plot are a health hazard to them.

Cattle and other stray animals often take shelter in the plot, causing nuisance. They have appealed to TNHB to clean the plot.

Metrowater collects Rs. 480 crores as taxes

Metrowater has collected Rs. 480 crores in water and sewage taxes for the first half (April to September) against Rs. 372 crores last year. A sum of Rs. 153 crores was collected as arrears.

As per data, more than 9.91 lakh consumers paid taxes and charges. An official said that 4.65 lakh consumers paid in September. The highest single day collection was on the last day (Sept. 30), when around 62,000 consumers paid Rs. 26.87 crores, he said.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Drain work hits flat complex residents



Sir, I live on Postal Colony 4th Street, West Mambalam, in a flat complex where ten families reside.

Storm water drain construction work has been going on for quite some time in this locality.

Last week, contract workers started digging in front of our premises closing 3 gates and the next day they filled the entire stretch with slush removed from the drain at the street end. When enquiries were made, we were told that the workers have been shifted to a nearby site.

Now, we are unable to use the 3 gates of the 4 gates. The 4th gate left for our use is always filled with drain water overflowing from the nearby manhole. This has been overflowing for years. Ironically, the office of the AE of Chennai Corporation is located only 3 houses away. A school with more than 1000 students is also nearby. S. Venkatesan, Ph. 94449 13251

Man promotes road safety as punishment for bike stunts



By Our Staff Reporter

22-year-old Alex Binoy, who was arrested for reckless driving and performing dangerous stunts on Anna Salai (Teynampet) last month, was seen distributing pamphlets on road safety among motorists at Teynampet junction (Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar) on Oct. 2.

The Madras High Court had granted anticipatory bail to the young biker on condition that he campaigned against reckless driving.

He had also made an awareness video highlighting the dangers involved in riding motorcycles without helmets and driving four-wheelers without wearing seat belts and uploaded it on his Instagram account.

The police had booked the petitioner and others after a video of them indulging in motorcycle stunts on the arterial road went viral on social media.

While some of them were arrested and granted bail by a lower court, Alex had approached the High Court seeking anticipatory bail.

Discourse on Bhagavad Gita today

Under the auspices of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar), Swami Satyaprabhananda will deliver a discourse in Tamil on Bhagavad Gita at 5.30 p.m on Sunday, Oct.9 in the Ashram's premises. All are welcome.

More details can be had in 2814 3896/3514/2014.

Sale of 2kg and 5kg LPG cylinders launched

By Our Staff Reporter

The Department of Co-operation launched the sale of 2 kg and 5 kg LPG cylinders on Oct. 5.

The scheme, launched in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., aims at fulfilling the needs of street vendors, fishermen, small traders and migrant labourers.

The price of a new connection of a 2kg cylinder is Rs. 961.50 including security deposit and Rs. 1,528 for 5kg cylinder. The refill cost is Rs. 253.50 and Rs. 584 respectively.

The cylinders are available at department stores and petrol bunks run by the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society (TUCS).



Buyers are not required to furnish proof of address to get a connection and a copy of any government-issued document such as Aadhaar, PAN or driving license is enough to validate the identity.

"The sale will be extended to all district cooperative wholesale stores and petrol bunks run by the cooperative department. Depending on the patronage, the department plans to sell the cylinders at all ration shops," an official said.

Corporation to maintain vertical gardens

By Our Staff Reporter

The scheme for vertical gardens on flyover walls was launched with much fanfare by the previous government.

After the DMK came to power, the initiative was continued as part of the smart city plan and, in February 2021, Chennai Corporation commenced allowing adoption of vertical gardens by private enterprises.

As several vertical gardens across the city are withering owing to lack of proper maintenance, the civic body has decided to cancel the adoption initiative to itself maintain the gardens.



Barricade lying in drain



By Our Staff Reporter

A barricade has been lying in the open trench at the junction of Ramakrishnapuram 3rd Street and its lane for several days.

RMD to expand facility to provide care for terminally ill

By Our Staff Reporter

RMD Pain and Palliative Care Trust (Raghavaiah Road, T. Nagar) launched its new initiative RMD Care on Oct. 3 in Marigold Convention Center (GRT Hotel, T. Nagar).

Ma. Subramanian (Minister for Health and Family Welfare) was the Chief Guest.

P. Jyothimal (Expert in Solid Waste Management), J. Karunanidhi (T. Nagar MLA) and G. Manilal (President, World Peace and Friendship Council) were present.

RMD Care will provide medical assistance for elders, disabled persons, person suffering from Alzheimer's disease, dementia and palliative care for terminally-ill patients from the underprivileged community. According to Dr. Republica Sridhar (Founder), the vision is to expand the facility to 500 beds in 4 years.

RMD has been providing affordable and accessible health care for the underprivileged and general sections of the society since 1994. "We have managed over 90,000 elderly and patients needing palliative care in the last 2 decades," she said.

City to get 42 new parks, none in the neighbourhood

By Our Staff Reporter

Under Singara Chennai 2.0 project, Chennai Corporation has issued work orders for 42 new parks and 11 playgrounds in the city at a cost of around Rs. 20 crores.

The parks are to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 16.19 crores and the playfields at a cost of Rs. 4.5 crores.

But none of these parks will come up in Kodambakkam or Teynampet Zones.

"The places have been identified based on the availability of space and OSR lands which is why some of the central zones like Kodambakkam and Teynampet have not featured in the list," a corporation official said.

The new parks will have walkways, children's play areas, open gym, painted compound walls, landscaping, and traditional tree varieties along with basic toilet and drinking water facilities for visitors.

Chennai Corporation currently maintains 738 parks, 220 playgrounds, 173 gyms and 204 children's parks.

Free 'General Duty Assistance' course

By Our Staff Reporter

Victory Group of Institutions (Ramakrishnapuram 3rd Street, West Mambalam) presented certificates to 25 women who completed the free 'General Duty Assistance' course it conducts.

Dr.S.Sujatha (Director, Kings College) distributed the certificates.

Dr.S.Gajalakshmi (Founder, Victory Group of Institutions) said that the 6-month course is sponsored by RPG Foundation and LokBharathi (NGO). Those who complete the course will be helped to find placement.

She said that anyone above 18 years can join the course and there is no age limit.

Those interested can contact her in 99623 60444.

Juvenile held for burglary in mobile shop

A 17-year-old boy was arrested on the charge of stealing 20 expensive phones from the mobile shop owned by Imran Khan (29) in Sathya Bazaar (T. Nagar) at night on Sept. 30.

Imran filed a case in Mambalam police station.

Police identified the culprit from the footage of a CCTV camera installed near the shop.

On questioning, police found that he was also involved in similar burglaries with two accomplices in Velachery and Taramani.

Based on the information provided by him, police arrested G. Murugan of Vyasarpadi and one more juvenile involved in the burglaries.

Online Vishnu Sahasranaamam classes for children

S.Sriram (resident of Srinivasa Pillai Street, West Mambalam) conducts online Vishnu Sahasranaamam classes for children. The next batch will start on Thursday, Oct. 20. The classes will be held 3 days in a week for 30 minutes in the evening. The fee is Rs 500 per month (for 12 classes). For more details and registration, call or WhatsApp Sriram in 93825 13825 or visit the website www.gurukulshloka.com

Annadhanam during Puratasi month



By Our Staff Reporter

Station Road Vendors Association has installed papiermache idols of PadmavathaiThayar and SriVenkatesaperumal at the junction of Kuppaiah Street and Station Road in West Mambalam which will be removed at the end of Puratasi month. The members of the association are organising Annadhanam daily which will continue till the end of Puratasi month.

Stray cattle seized



Following increase in penalty for stray cattle, Chennai Corporation seized 175 head of cattle running loose on the streets and fined the owners a total of Rs.5,25,000. A ten-member team, including police officers, has been assembled for each zone to capture stray cattle. Most of the animals were seized from Teynampet and Adyar zones. An official said that the campaign will be stepped up in the coming days. Owners who allow their animals to stray in the streets have been warned that harsh action will be taken. A fine of Rs.3,000 per day is charged from cattle owners. Unclaimed cattle are sent to animal welfare organisations like Blue Cross after 3 days.

Rag pickers search for scrap in silt



By Our Staff Reporter

A large heap of silt removed from storm water drains has been dumped on the margin of Mambalam High Road (near Ranganathan Subway, T. Nagar). The photo taken at around 2 p.m on Oct. 6 shows rag pickers searching for metal and other scrap in the silt. They were not wearing protective gear like gloves.

He offers free tuition for underprivileged students

In 2017, 70-year-old Raghu-nathan Ramarao (resident of 3, Nagarathinammal Colony, West Mambalam) started Kalpavriksha Free Tuition Center for underprivileged students by converting the terrace of his house into a classroom. His students are mostly from Corporation and government-aided schools. Classes are conducted daily from 6 a.m to 7 a.m and 5.30 p.m to 8.30 p.m.



“Finding students was not at all difficult as there are more than half-a-dozen schools in the neighbourhood and the word just spread,” said Raghunathan who had retired from the finance department of a petroleum company. “Love for teaching and a desire to do something for society got me to throw open a portion of my house for the cause of education,” he said.

Initially, he hired five teachers and brought many volunteers on board who would spare their leisure time for teaching a classroom. The students (from Stds. 1 to 12).

Currently, the center has five tutors whose salaries are paid with the help of donations. Raghunathan said offering lessons in the Montessori method was a turning point as it was different from what they had learnt in school and it drew many students.

With more students joining, he has converted a section of the first floor of his house into

N. Archana (resident of Vadapalani) and three of her friends trained in Montessori coaching have been volunteering at the center. “I read books to the children, another volunteer takes phoenix classes with stories and two others are trained to teach elementary science and mathematics,” she said.

“We did not take a break during Covid lockdown and

conducted classes online. To aid learning, a Smart TV was added. We prepare the students for National Means Cum-Merit Scholarship Exam and for inter-school competitions as well,” Raghunathan said.

Other than regular curriculum, students are also trained in yoga and fitness exercises.

Sports activities are conducted in a nearby ground on Sundays, and bhajans and

Thirukkural classes are conducted once a week.

The students are provided free snacks on Saturdays and are also taken on educational field trips.

A number of students who underwent coaching in the center are now pursuing professional courses like engineering and medicine.

Raghunathan’s contact number is 97908 56066 and his email id is ramaraoraghu1953@gmail.com.

Program conducted for senior citizens



On the occasion of World Elders Day 2022, Geri Care Hospital, India’s first multispecialty hospital exclusively for senior citizens, conducted a group exercise program for senior citizens - Freedom of MOVEment in the Besant

Nagar branch on Oct. 1. During the program, Geriatric Physiotherapy experts, yoga practitioners and Tai Chi experts provided exercise tips for senior citizens to keep fit and active. The event was attended by

several senior citizens who were also addressed by Dr. Lakshmi pathy Ramesh and Dr. V. Srinivas (Founder Directors of Geri Care) on the impact of exercises. A fall risk assessment camp was also conducted.

La Ganesan admitted to hospital

By Our Staff Reporter

Former Tamilnadu BJP leader and present Governor of Manipur, La Ganesan (77) (a resident of T. Nagar) was admitted to MGM Hospital, Aminjikarai, after he developed chest pain on Oct. 1.

La Ganesan was appointed as Governor of Manipur last year. Currently, he is also serving as the acting Governor of West Bengal.

He had come to Chennai on a personal visit.

5 held for forcing women into prostitution

By Our Staff Reporter

In two separate raids on Oct. 4, police arrested three women (residents of K.K. Nagar) and two men (one a resident of T. Nagar) for allegedly forcing young women into prostitution.

On a tip-off, police raided an apartment in Thiruvengadasami Street (Saligramam) and rescued four women (natives of Andhra) who had been lured to Chennai with jobs and forced into prostitution.

Police arrested Shanthi (50) from the apartment and two of her accomplices Devi (38) and Seetha (47) the same day for running the racket.

In another similar incident, police rescued two women from an apartment in Abbasali Street (Saligramam) and arrested V. Karthikeyan (46) (a resident of T. Nagar) and his partner Benedict Nelson (53) for running the sex racket.

The rescued women were admitted to a government home.

Water stagnation following rains on Oct. 6



By Our Staff Reporter

After the heavy rains on Oct. 6, water stagnated on several roads in T. Nagar. With storm water drain works incomplete in several places, the residents are concerned about inundation and other problems with the monsoon expected. The photo shows water stagnating on Vaidyaraman Street (T. Nagar).

Signboard topples across pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the rains at night on Oct. 4, a traffic signboard toppled across the pavement at North Usman Road-Parthasarathyapuram Road junction, T. Nagar.

The signboard is blocking the way for pedestrians.

Photo shows a woman forced to walk on the road as the pavement on the stretch is blocked.

Cables buried, RMU installed on Moosa Street



Before



Now

Following the report 'Live cables running overground' published in *MambalamTimes* (Sept. 18 - 24 issue), the cables running overground were buried and the debris blocking 1/3rd of the carriageway next to the overhead transformer, outside Nandhini Flats (61, Moosa Street, T. Nagar) was removed. The EB cables running overground were posing a danger to pedestrians. The old junction box has been replaced with Ring Master Unit (RMU).

An EB official told *Mambalam Times* that RMUs occupy less space and easier to maintain.

Port Trust-Maduravoyal expressway by December 2024

Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways) on Oct. 4 announced that the 20.5 km elevated expressway between Maduravoyal and Chennai Port Trust will be ready by December, 2024 at a cost of Rs. 3,204 crores.

After nearly a decade of delays, the Union Environment Ministry granted the project Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance last year. The project aims at easing traffic in the city and enabling free movement of freight to the port. 12 km. of the corridor be double-decked.

The corridor starts inside Chennai Port and continues along the banks of Cooum until Koyambedu. Beyond Koyambedu, the alignment follows the existing NH-4 Highway and terminates after Maduravoyal junction.

Along its path, the proposed corridor passes through major urban and commercial corridors such as Chintadripet, Nungambakkam, Egmore, Aminjikarai, Arumbakkam, Koyambedu and Maduravoyal.

CD Nayagam School secretary completes 67-km 'Walkathon'

By Our Staff Reporter

'DrTNS67 Walkathon' was organised by CD Nayagam T. Nagar Higher Secondary School, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar on Oct. 1.

The 67-km 'Walkathon' was conducted to create an awareness about the free education offered by the school and walking for good health.

The school's honorary secretary, Dr. T. N. Shanmugam, led the 'Walkathon' from Alandur Metro station at 3.15 a.m and was joined by teachers, school employees and other enthusiastic persons. The 'Walkathon' passed along GST Road, Kelambakkam Road, OMR, Sardar Patel Road, Gandhi Manda-



pam Road, Anna University, Cenotaph Road, Anna S a l a i , T e y n a m p e t Alaiamman Temple, Thomas Nagar Road, Melony Road, Bahavantham Street, Venkatanarayana Road and culminated at the school at 7.15 p.m. Most of participants walked 30 to 40 km. V. Sivasailam (68 years) walked a distance of 53

km. Dr. S. Natarajan (81 years) and Dr. V. Subramanian (87 years) joined the 'Walkathon' at Anna University gate. About 100 students of the school and a few teachers joined the 'Walkathon' at Alaiamman Temple, Teynampet. Dr. T. N. Shanmugam (Secretary of the school) was the only one to complete the

67-km 'Walkathon'. Information and Broadcasting Minister Vellaikovil Swaminathan and T. Nagar MLA J. Karunanidhi greeted those who participated in the 'Walkathon'. They also presented certificates to the 36 participants and medals to V. Sivasailam and Dr. T. N. Shanmugam.

Awards for Sarada Vidyalaya teachers



By Our Staff Reporter

Lions Club of Chennai Millennium Friends, Sri RKM Sarada Vidyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School, T. Nagar and Exnora Greater Chennai jointly organised Teachers Day celebrations recently in the school's premises. Mohamed Naveen presented Best Teacher awards to Headmistress Jayanthimala and 28 teachers.

Tree trunk blocks way to house



By Our Staff Reporter

A 10-foot axed tree trunk is lying in front of the gate of an apartment complex in Plot 36/9, Moosa Street, T. Nagar.

The residents are finding it difficult to take their vehicles in and out of the building.

They have appealed to Chennai Corporation to remove the tree trunk from the spot.

Potholes closed with debris



As a temporary measure, a Corporation worker was seen filling the potholes with debris at the junction of Mooparappan Street and South West Boag Road in T. Nagar on Oct. 6. The junction is unmotorable due to its battered state and motorists are put to hardship. The recent rains have added to the woes.

Man ends life after harassment by loan recovery agents

23-year-old Narendran (a resident of Ashok Nagar), was found hanging from the ceiling of his house on Oct. 3.

He was a software engineer and worked for an IT firm in Perungudi.

Investigation revealed that he took his life after receiving threats from loan app operators.

Officials checked his phone and found several loan apps like Handy Loan, Cash Been, More Loan, Honey Loan, Home Cash, Yash Rupaya, Future Credit, Cash Tower and Buddy Cash. Narendran's family told the police that he had taken a loan of Rs. 33,000 through a loan app. After delay in repayment, the employees of the app allegedly sent messages and made phone calls to his friends, spoke ill of him and claimed he had not repaid the loan.

They also threatened to send his obscene images to his family and friends. Unable to bear the torture, Narendran committed suicide. A case has been registered for abetment of suicide under the relevant sections of the IT Act. Special teams have been formed to trace the accused, police said.

Shoddy drain work causes water stagnation

Recent spells of rains saw T. Nagar residents suffer due to improper stormwater drain work.

Rangan Street has been dug up for SWD work, forcing motorists from the street to take Usman Road service lane or Rameswaram Road. Hawkers on the service lane make it even harder to navigate.

Residents also point to the SWD worksites not having barricades on Rameswaram Road, or even any signage to alert people, which can cause accidents. Apart from this, the contractors have built the SWDs on a level higher than that of the road. T. Nagar Resident Welfare Association members point out that eventually the roads will also be elevated, leading to more waterlogging.

Despite reaching out to Chennai Corporation with pleas to fix these issues, they have not received a response.

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WEST MAMBALAM, D-13, Anand Square, Govindan Road, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, 430 sq.ft, 3rd floor, price Rs. 25 lakhs (negotiable). Ph: 98412 67595.

ECR, Beach Resort Villa in Koovathur, DTCP approved, gated community with all amenities, land area 810 sq.ft, built up area 1000 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, duplex villa, launching offer price Rs. 38 lakhs only. Ph: 98414 06777.

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WEST MAMBALAM, Devanathan Colony, independent house, around 2300 sq.ft land, construction of G+1, around 4000 sq.ft, excellent condition, Brahmins only, price Rs. 2.75 crores (slightly negotiable), ready for sale. Ph: 98408 07181.

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ASHOK NAGAR, near 100 feet Road/Vadapalani Metro Railway Station, P.T. Rajan Salai, 930 sq.ft, UDS 441 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, 1 big hall, kitchen, balcony, 7 years old, 1st floor, lift car park, power backup. Ph: 93810 30933.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 1, K.V. Colony 4th Street, near Ayodhya Mandapam, small independent outhouse, hall (split A/c), kitchen, bath attached (geyser), Brahmins family, ready to occupation, well/bore/metro water, separate EB meter, rent Rs. 7500, advance Rs. 30000, no separate room, no brokers. Ph: 98400 44614.

WEST MAMBALAM, 16, Moorthy Street, near 7th Avenue & Ayodhya Mandapam Bus Stop, 2 bedrooms apartment, hall, kitchen, bath attached, 2nd floor, rent Rs. 14000, 6 months advance. Ph: 91764 95473, 98411 93685.

WEST MAMBALAM, Kanagadhara Virtue, Srinivasa Iyer Street Extension, off. Iyyappan Street, 785 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, covered car park, lift, CCTV, 2nd floor, rent Rs. 20000 (negotiable). Contact premises on Sunday, 9a.m to 11.30a.m. Ph: 98840 00156, no pets, preferred Brahmins/vegetarians.

WEST MAMBALAM, Balakrishnan Street Extension, 2 bedrooms flat, covered car park, 1000 sq.ft, only vegetarians, no brokers. Ph: 99623 31847, 94980 39152.

T. NAGAR, Bagavantham Street, opp. TTD, 720 sq.ft flat, 2 bedrooms, semi-furnished, modular kitchen, power backup, recently renovated, vegetarians preferred, for rent/lease, no brokers. Ph: 98406 35109, 98867 09525.

K.K. NAGAR, 10th Sector, near PSBB School & Amman Koil, 1100 sq.ft built-up, East facing, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, spacious flat, 1st floor, available from 1st November, rent Rs. 23000, 2-wheeler parking. Ph: 94439 01035.

WEST MAMBALAM, Hanuman Koil Street, newly renovated, sem-furnished, 2 bedrooms apartment, hall, kitchen, 800 sq.ft, 2 bathrooms, ground floor, 24 hours water, geyser, 3 phase EB, small vegetarian family only, immediate occupation. Ph: 96323 81052.

Stormwater drain work to be completed by Oct. 15

By Our Staff Reporter

With Indian Meteorological Department predicting 35 to 75 percent additional rainfall compared to the average rainfall this year, residents are worried as the mega storm water drain project is unfinished at several locations in the city including this neighbourhood.

Following a multitude of complaints by residents, Chennai Corporation has assured them that the work will be completed by Oct. 15.

N. Sundaram (resident of Lake View Road, West Mambalam) told *Mambalam Times* that looking at the state of work in several places, it will be impossible to complete the work in a proper manner by even the end of this year. "I travel 20 km. to work by bike daily and see dug-up roads all over with no work progressing in several places. In such a state, I wonder how the Corporation is sure that the work will get over by mid-October," he said.

KKSSR Ramachandran (Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management) on Oct. 6 said that as part of monsoon preparedness, 11 companies of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and five companies of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) are kept ready in addition to Fire and Rescue services.

WEST MAMBALAM, Postal colony 2nd Street, 490 sq.ft, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, ground floor, 24 hours water, rent Rs. 10000, Brahmins only. Ph: 98841 42037.

K.K. NAGAR, 30th Street, 6th Sector, near PSBB School, single bedroom, ground floor house, 750 sq.ft, rent Rs. 12000, vegetarians only, no brokers. Ph: 80887 57745.

KODAMBAKKAM, United India Colony, 2nd Cross Street, near Liberty, 720 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, no lift, 2-wheeler parking only, good water, partly furnished flat, pure vegetarian family, rent Rs. 15000, 6 months advance, no brokers. Ph: 98403 08088 or email nsri62@gmail.com.

WEST MAMBALAM, 10/22, Srinivasa Pillai Street, opp. Satya Narayana Temple, 3 bedrooms, road facing, 2nd floor, no lift, 1211 sq.ft, sufficient water, Brahmins. Ph: 99406 60313, 89393 20142.

WEST MAMBALAM, Kripasankari Street, 3 bedrooms, spacious hall, kitchen, private terrace, for immediate occupation, on 2nd floor of an independent house for vegetarians only. Ph: 98841 53903, 89396 25979.

T. NAGAR, 39, Ramanujam Street, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, with cot, 24 hours water, 2 wheeler parking, 2nd floor, rent Rs. 10000, suitable for bachelor and small family, interested vegetarians contact owner whatsapp: 98406 35408.

ASHOK NAGAR, 10th Avenue, near Grace Super Market, 1100 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, semi furnished, 3rd floor, lift, covered car park, 24 hours security, rent Rs. 24000, family/bachelor/office. Ph: 73053 44555.

T. NAGAR, Rajachar Street, behind Joy Alukkas, prime locality, 1150 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, modular kitchen, bath attached, 2nd floor, lift, water heater, built in cupboard, window A/c, watch man, rent Rs. 33000, 1 closed car park. Ph: 94443 87253, 94453 87253.

WEST MAMBALAM, Easwaran Koil Street, 1 bedroom flat, hall, kitchen, 3rd floor, rent Rs. 10000, 6 months advance. Ph: 73581 85170.

Contaminated water in drain



By Our Staff Reporter

Contaminated water is stagnating in the open drain at Postal Colony 1st Street-7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar junction.

Madras LIC Building is 66 years young

By M.R. Anand

I was born in 1954, and the construction of the iconic LIC Building on Mount Road was completed in 1956.

The 14-storey building was then touted as Madras' first 'skyscraper'. It was only when I was 7 years old that I got to see the building when my father took me there.

For me, it then stood like a soldier - tall and upright, its light green glass panes glittering in the afternoon sun, stirring my heart.

A friend of my father who worked in LIC took me to the roof of the building to have a bird's eye view of Madras City. The ride in the lift itself was thrilling as I had never before stepped into a lift nor seen one. The first thing that took my breath away was the sea which kept sending wave after wave, one behind the other, towards the shore. As there were few tall buildings in the city then, from the terrace, I could see the tower of Parthasarathy Temple, the steeple of Santhome Church, the Lighthouse, hills of Pallavaram and St. Thomas Mount.

Coom River was like a black serpent slithering its way through the city to discharge its waste into the sea. I could also glimpse the magnificent statue of 18th century English Governor Thomas Monroe, Madras Central Station and Ripon Buildings.

All these views were without the aid of binoculars. Last week, on a trip to Chennai, I had a chance to look at this solid solemn building from the window seat of the MTC bus I was traveling in. It was a nostalgic memory for me as to my eyes, the building still stands as majestically as it did then, but I am sure not much of the view would be left from atop that building now, except probably a concrete jungle.

The iconic landmark of the city has appeared in many old Tamil movies. As a major fire engulfed the building in the mid-seventies, I remember thousands including myself converging to have a look at the site and wondering if the building would survive or could be restored. Many like me could not think of a Madras City without the LIC building. Police came and drove us away, and I too received a lathi-hit on my calf which kept throbbing with pain for a long time.

When Chennai Metro was digging a tunnel beneath Anna Salai many old-timers like me worried that the excavation might weaken its foundation. But nothing of the sort happened and the building thrives.

I am sure it has played a significant role in expanding the customer base of LIC in Tamilnadu.

I remember, for relatives coming from other parts of Tamilnadu, seeing LIC building was one of the tourist destinations.

In spite of many high-rise buildings sprouting in the city, the LIC building for old-timers like me continue to hold a special place in the heart. M.R. Anand is a past resident of T. Nagar. His email id is mr.m.r.anand@gmail.com.

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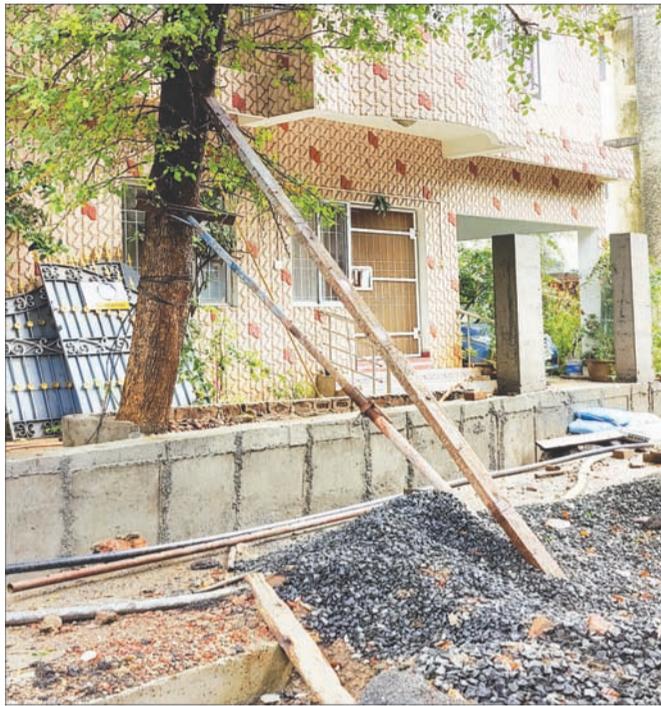
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Leaning tree supported by logs



By Our Staff Reporter

The compound wall of a house in Postal Colony 3rd Street (West Mambalam) collapsed when Chennai Corporation workers dug a trench to lay a storm water drain 2 weeks back.

As the roots of a tree adjacent to the compound wall inside the house also got damaged, the tree started to lean precariously with the danger of falling.

It has been supported with two wooden logs.

Reconstruction of the compound wall is in progress.

Corporation to redraw zonal boundaries

Chennai Corporation has started the process of delimitation of the boundaries of existing zones.

A proposed map of new zones and the process of delimitation of the boundaries are underway. "The final decision on new zone boundaries will be announced by Tamilnadu Government after the completion of the process, based on suggestions and objections from various stakeholders," officials said.

The Corporation currently has 15 zones.

The proposed map shared by the authorities shows 23 zones divided into 200 wards,

Video Ramesh presented 'Ratha Dhana Chemmal Award'



Video Ramesh (Founder-President of Chennai Samugha Vizhipunarchi Trust, Kuppiah Street, West Mambalam) was presented 'Ratha Dhana Chemmal Award' by SV Sekar's Shugar Foundation last week.

He is a frequent blood donor and had donated for the 50th time on Oct. 1 during the blood donation drive conducted in M.R. Mahal (Lake View Road, West Mambalam).

The award was presented by M.P. Saminathan (Minister of Information and Publicity), J. Karunanidhi (T. Nagar MLA) and councillors K. Elumalai

Pet adoption drive today

Kowmari, an animal activist, started a non-profit organisation called iAdopt that aims at transforming the concept of owning a pet to adopting a pet. iAdopt has organised a pet adoption drive titled 'Pawlywood Fest' in Kala-kshetra Exhibition Grounds (79-84, Kalakshetra Colony, Thiruvannamiyur) on Oct. 9, 15 and 16. Those who are interested in adopting can walk in with their valid ID or address proof along with their house video to adopt dogs and cats.

"The drive aims at finding homes for Indian mongrel pups, dogs, kittens and cats," Kowmari said.

(Ward 133) and Uma Anandan (Ward 134) were present.

He is the State President of Tamilnadu Photo and Videographers Trade Union.

His contact number is 9841811020.

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