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**நவசண்டிகா ஹோமம்**  
(Nava Chandika Homam)  
தேதி: **March 4 & 5, 2023** காலை 7 மணி முதல்  
இடம்: ஸ்ரீ காஞ்சி சங்கர மடம்,  
மேற்கு மாம்பலம் (Near Madley Subway)  
**04.03.2023**  
7.30 am - Ganapathy Poojai, Sree Chakra Poojai  
4.00 pm - Ambal Laksharchanai  
6.30 pm - Deeparadhanai  
**05.03.2023**  
7.00 am - Navachandika Homam  
11.30 am - Dhara Homam, Poornahuthi,  
Sumangali Poojai, Bala Poojai,  
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சுத்தமே இது பொய்யடா...

'வீட்டைக் குப்பை மாதிரி வைச்சிருக்கியே' என்று சுத்தினார் வைத்தியநாதன் மனைவி மரகதத்திடம்.

சோபாவில் ஒரு டவல் கிடந்தது. 'சோபாவிலே திண்டு இருக்கலாம். துண்டு இருக்கலாமா?' என்றார் வைத்தியநாதன்.

'அது நேத்து நீங்க குளிச்சுட்டுப் போட்ட ஈரத் துண்டு.'

'நேத்து நான் குளிக்கவே இல்லை.'

'இல்லை, நீங்க தலையைத் துடைச்சுக்கிட்டுப் போட்டது அது. துண்டு முழுக்க முடி இருந்தது. முடி ஏகமா உதிருது உங்களுக்கு.'

'ஐயோ... நான் குளிக்கவே. வெறுமனே முகம்தான் கழுவிக்கிட்டேன்.'

'பின்னே எப்படி முடி வந்தது? தாடிக்கூட உதிருமா என்ன?'

'இன்னும் ரெண்டு நாளிலே வீடு முழுக்க களீன் பண்ணணும்.'

'எதுக்கு?'

'அடுத்த வாரம் நம்ம வீட்டுக்கு ஒருத்தர் வரப்போறாரு. அவர் வரும்போது வீடு சுத்தமா இருக்கணும்.'

படுக்கை அறையில் ஒரு வேஷ்டி மெத்தை விரிப்பாக இருந்தது.

'கட்டிலுக்கு வேஷ்டியைப் போய் யாராவது Bedspread ஆக உபயோகிப்பாங்களா?' என்றார் வைத்தி.

'உங்க அறுபதாம் கல் யானம் நடந்ததே...'

'நம்ம...' என்று திருத்தினார் வைத்தி.

'சரி, நம்ம அறுபதாம் கல் யானம் நடந்ததே... அதுக்கு ஏகப்பட்ட வேஷ்டி பரிசா வந்தது. அதை நீங்களும் கட்டிக் கிறதில்லை. அதனாலேதான் கட்டிலிலே போட்டுட்டேன்.'

'பஞ்சகச்சத்தை Bedspread ஆகப் போட்ட முதல் ஆள் நீ தான். முதலிலே இதை மாத்து.'

'செய்யறேன்.'

'டைனிங் டேபிள் கவராக வேஷ்டியை போட்டிருக்கே. அதுலே சாப்பிடறது மகா கேவலமா இருக்கு. அசப்புலே பார்த்தா மொட்டை மாடியிலே வேஷ்டியிலே காயப்போட்ட வடாகத்தை காக்கா சாப்பிடற மாதிரி இருக்கு.'

'சரி, அதையும் மாத்திடறேன்.'

'பால்கனி கிரில் மேலே துவைச்ச துணியைக் காயப் போடாதே. மேலே இழுக்கிற கொடிதான் இருக்கே.'

'ஆமாம். அதை இழுத்து இழுத்து என் இடுப்பு பிடிச்சுக்கிச்சு. உங்க ஜீன்ஸ் ஒவ்வொண்ணும் காண்டாமிருகம் கனம் கனக்குது.'

'அதுக்காக ஜீன்ஸை ஜார்ஜெட் துணியிலே தைச்சுக்க முடியுமா? See thru' ஜீன்ஸ் போட்டா எல்லாரும் சிரிப்பாங்க.'

'சீலிங்க் முழுக்க ஒட்டையாக இருந்தது. ஸ்டோர் ரூமில் பயங்கர ஒட்டை. ஸ்பைட்ர் மேன் ரும் போல் இருந்தது அது.'

'மிக்ஸி, கிரைண்டர் எல்லாம் துடைக்கணும். அடை மாவு அடை அடையா கிரைண்டர் மேலே ஒட்டிக்கிட்டிருக்கு.'

'தினம் தினம் மாவரைச்சா அப்படித்தான் இருக்கும்.'

பூஜை அலமாரி புழுதி படிந்திருந்தது. படங்களில் திரேதாயுக காலத்து தூசு இருந்தது. படங்களைத் துடைத்தார்கள். ஒரு அழுக்கான படத்தைத் துடைத்தவுடன் உள்ளே ராமர் தெரிந்தார்.

'ராமர் இவ்வளவு நாள் ஒளிஞ்சுக்கிட்டு இருந்திருக்காரு. ஒரு வேளை வாலி மேலே அம்புவிட்ட ராமரோ?'

அதன் பிறகு பாத்திரமே சுத்தம் செய்ய ஆரம்பித்தார்கள். அதுதான் பாடாய்ப்படுத்தியது. இரண்டு நாள் கஷ்டப்பட்டதில் வீடு சுத்தமானது.

குறிப்பிட்ட நாளில் அந்த நபர் வீட்டுக்குள் நுழைந்தார்.

'வாங்க' என்று வரவேற்ற வைத்தி 'வீட்டை சுத்திப் பாருங்க' என்றார்.

'வீட்டிலே ஒரு ஒட்டைக்கூட இல்லையே' என்றார் வந்தவர்.

'ஆமாம்... சீலிங்கிலே அழுக்கு இருந்தா எனக்குப் பிடிக்காது. சீலிங்க் உட்கார்ந்து சாப்பிடற மாதிரி இருக்கணும். வாங்க, பெட்ரூமை சுத்திப் பார்க்கலாம்.'

'ஐயோ, உங்க பெட்ரூமுக்குள்ளே நான் எதுக்கு ஸார் நுழைஞ்சுக்கிட்டு?'

'பரவாயில்லை, பெட்ரூமை ஒரு கோவில் மாதிரி வைச்சுப் போம் நாங்க.'

'ட்யூப் லைட் மேலே 'உபயம் ரேணுகா'னு போட்டிருக்கறதைப் பார்த்தாலே தெரியுது.'

'என் பொண்ணு ரேணுகா வாங்கிக் கொடுத்த ட்யூப் லைட் அது.'

'பாத்திரமுக்குப் போங்க.'

'எனக்கு வரவே ஸார்.'

'போங்க ஸார், வரும்.'

அவர் பாத்திரமுக்குள் போய்விட்டு வந்தார்.

'அட்டகாசமா சுத்தமா இருக்கு ஸார். கண்ணாடி மாதிரி இருக்கு.'

'ஆமாம், வாஷ்பேசின் மேலே கண்ணாடி இருக்கு.'

'இன்னொரு பாத்திரமும் இருக்கு. போறீங்களா?'

'இல்லை ஸார், கிச்சன் எங்கே இருக்கு?'

'ஐயோ, அது சமைக்கிற இடம்.'

'கிச்சன் எவ்வளவு களீனா இருக்குன்னு பார்க்கறேன் ஸார்.'

இப்படியாக வீட்டை முழுக்க சுற்றிக் காண்பித்தார் வைத்தி. தான் கொண்டு வந்திருந்த தோல் பையைத் திறந்தார் வந்தவர்.

'தாம்பரத்திலே இருக்கற உங்க புது வீட்டுக்கு அடுத்த வாரம் குடி வந்துடறேன். இந்தாங்க அட்வான்ஸ்.'

'அப்பறம் வந்து...' இழுத்தார் வைத்தி.

'நீங்க என்ன சொல்ல வரீங்களனு புரியுது. நான் அந்த வாடகை வீட்டை சுத்தமா வைச்சுக்கணும். அவ்வளவுதானே... இந்தப் பழைய வீட்டையே நீங்க இவ்வளவு சுத்தமா வைச்சிருக்கீங்க. அந்தப் புது வீட்டை நான் வைச்சுக்க மாட்டேனா? நீங்க எப்போ வேணும்னாலும் அந்த வீட்டை வந்து பார்க்கலாம். சொல்லாமலேகூட வரலாம்.'

'நல்லது, ஆனா நீங்க இந்த வீட்டுக்கு சொல்லாமல் வந்துடா தீங்க' என்றார் வைத்தியநாதன்.



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### Frequent sewage overflow clogs traffic on Arcot Road

By Our Staff Reporter

Sewage overflow on Arcot Road, Vadapalani, is causing potholes and traffic snarls.

Road users are forced to wait for at least an hour during peak hours due to the slow pace of metro rail work.

Also, there are hospitals in the locality and due to traffic, it takes time for ambulances to reach them in time.

The sewage water overflow and the metro rail work have worsened the situation as the road is damaged and now full of potholes, a resident said.

He said the local residents and shop owners filed a complaint in the CM cell, but, the case was closed without resolving the issue.

They have urged the authorities concerned to inspect the place and find a permanent solution.

Due to the metro rail work, bus passengers are forced to take a 2-km detour from interior roads to reach the main road. With roads in bad shape, buses and tanker lorries supplying water get delayed due to heavy traffic congestion.

"There are several leading hospitals like Vijaya, SIMS and Fortis along the stretch and the ambulances are forced to wait for at least 15-20 minutes to reach the hospitals. Until there is a permanent solution to the sewage overflow and potholes, the situation will remain the same," lamented a resident.

### Complex surgery restores vision of Indonesian girl

23-year-old Atika Nazira from Indonesia came to Rajan Eye Care Hospital (Vidyodaya East 2nd Street, T. Nagar) with the hope of seeing light again after 15 years.

She was suffering from an autoimmune disease, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE). She had been on systemic steroids for the past 15 years because of which she developed glaucoma in both eyes.

She came to the hospital with total blindness in both the eyes as doctors in Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia had given up on curing her. A team of ophthalmic surgeons including Dr. Mohan Rajan, Dr. Sujatha Mohan, Dr. Archana Nivash and Dr. Jeenendhar Gothi (anaesthesiologist) performed complicated surgery on the left eye. Post-operation, the patient regained 100% vision and was discharged after a week.

She will return to the hospital after three months for specialized lasertreatment for her damaged right eye.

### Man posing as plumber steals jewels from flat on Raju Street

By Our Staff Reporter

A man posing as a plumber stole 40 sovereigns of jewellery from the flat of Venkatasamy (65) on Raju Street (West Mambalam) on Feb. 17.

Police said the man knocked on the door when Venkatasamy's wife Padmavathi (62) was alone in the flat.

He told her that her husband had sent him to repair a leak in one of the bathrooms.

On the pretext of locating the leak, he went to all the bathrooms in the house and left after 30 minutes stating the job was done.

After he left the house, she went into the bedroom and saw the steel cupboard open and 40 sovereigns of jewellery stolen.

Venkatasamy filed a complaint in Ashok Nagar police station.

The police have obtained footage from CCTV cameras near the apartment complex to identify the burglar.

### Open EB box closed after report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Open EB junction box near Madley Subway' published in Mambalam Times (February 19 - 25 issue), the missing doors were replaced in the TNEB junction box installed on the road margin adjoining the compound wall of a college on the service lane of Madley Subway (T. Nagar) last week.

The open EB junction box with live cables was hazardous to unwary passers-by, especially children.

**Rs. 51.27 lakhs fine collected for wrong side driving**

In a special drive organised for three days from Feb. 20 to 22 to curb wrong side driving by motorists, traffic police booked 15,239 cases and collected a total fine of Rs. 51.27 lakhs from offenders.

During the drive, the fine was collected on the spot. In cases where the violators could not pay on the spot, the vehicle was seized.

Since Jan. 1, 60,181 cases were booked and Rs. 1.31 crore was collected as fine amount for wrongside driving.

"The special focus on wrong side driving will continue," an official said.

**Enjoy an outing today morning in traffic-free Pondy Bazaar**

For the second consecutive Sunday, under the joint initiative by Times of India, Chennai Corporation and City Traffic Police, the stretch of Thyagaraya Road (between Pondy Bazaar police station and junction of Singaravelu Street, Pondy Bazaar) will become a 'No Honk' area between 6 am to 9 am on Sunday, Feb. 26, with no motorised vehicles being permitted. Residents can run, play and cycle freely on this stretch without fear of traffic.

The main attractions are sports activities like cricket, cycling, traditional games, basketball, badminton, table tennis, archery and skating. Booths have been set-up along the road where the above facilities have been created.

The main attractions this week include Combat Session by Kratos, first aid awareness by Alert, and fitness and zumba sessions.

An ambulance will be stationed to handle emergencies. Similar program will be held on the same stretch on Sunday, March 5 and Sunday, March 12. All are welcome

**EPFO / ESIC grievance addressal meet tomorrow**

The Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and ESIC are jointly organising NAN 2.0 (Nidhi Aapke Nikat- PF Near You) and ESIC-Suvidha Samagh-ammeeting from 9 a.m and 5.45 p.m on Monday, Feb. 27 in two locations including DMS Annex Building (Anna Salai Teynampet). Several activities will be conducted during the program including redressing the grievances of members/pensioners, insured persons and beneficiaries and employers, providing assistance to seed UAN KYCs, file e-Nomination and upload the details of contractors and awareness program on new initiatives/reforms among others.

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**Cables lying on pavement**



Unused cables have been lying for several days on the pavement at the junction of Pinajala Subramaniam Street and Dhandapani Street in T. Nagar.

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## Lessons on how to face exams

Reema Joyice J and Joshua Chelladurai of Ex4 in Action are helping students get over anxiety and stress before appearing for examinations.

During a typical session conducted by the duo, the participating students are asked to first write down their answer to the question: 'What can I do?'

"Say, if a student is not up-to-date with his/her subjects and has little time to handle them, we ask him/her to write down how he/she can utilise the little time available in the best possible way," said Joshua.

From there, the student is taught how to plan his/her time on a daily basis.

The duo is prepared to conduct exam-management sessions depending on the school and the number of students signing up for a session.

For details, call 7200723415.

### Helpline numbers

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) runs a free IVRS service that can be availed of by students and parents. Call 1800-11-8004.

National Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS) can be reached at 14416 for timely help for anyone in distress.

To deal with suicidal thoughts, reach out to volunteers from SNEHA at 044 2464 0050

### Counselling support at hand

Last year, Y's Service Club of Chennai, based in Karapakkam, associated with KCG College of Technology to initiate a counselling program for government school students on Rajiv Gandhi Salai (Old Mahabalipuram Road).

Through presentations, students were taught how to identify signs of depression and reach out for help. With exams round the corner, the team from the institute is ready to offer guidance to schools that want it for their students. This service is offered free.

Contact Revathy Dhushyanthan, student counselor, KCG College of Technology, in 7305993777.

### Showing them the way

R. Raja is a Tamil professor who deals with challenges arising out of an impaired vision. From his school days, he has managed the challenge and made a mark. When the exam season is round the corner, he visits schools across the districts to help visually-challenged students appearing for board examinations. "One can increase the morale of students by informing them about the opportunities available to them after completing their schooling. Many would be encouraged to study better and get scholarships," said Raja, a guest faculty in Government Arts College for Men, Nandanam.

Recently, he conducted a session for 65 students of a blind school in Thanjavur. Schools in Tiruchi and Krishnagiri are next in line for Raja's motivational sessions. There is better awareness among students studying in blind institutions in Chennai, he said.

For some years now, Raja has been working to empower visually-challenged girl students by helping them get admission in colleges. He runs a hostel for them in Choolaimedu. "Finding boarding and lodging is difficult for the blind and this challenge discourages them from coming to the bigger cities for higher studies," said Raja, adding that they currently have 35 beneficiaries. He wants more students to take up careers in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) and requests colleges to have an open mind about admitting the differently-abled to STEM courses.

Raja can be contacted in 9940393855

## Food delivery agent held for attacking MTC driver

By Our Staff Reporter

Two weeks after an MTC bus driver was attacked by a two-wheeler rider, apparently because the driver did not give way for his bike at Neelankarai on ECR, police identified the attacker and arrested him.

He turned out to be a food delivery agent.

The police team apprehended the suspect R. Balaji (26) (resident of Postal Colony, West Mambalam) with the help of CCTV camera footage.

Balaji intercepted a bus, route number 119-G plying from Guindy to Semmancherry, near the Taramani bus stop on Feb. 19, after parking his bike across the road in front of the MTC bus.

Then, he picked up a quarrel with the bus driver Vinoth Kumar (37) for not giving him space to overtake the vehicle.

In the melee, Balaji attacked Vinoth Kumar and sped away on his bike. Based on Kumar's complaint, police registered a case and arrested Balaji.

**Mambalam Times can be accessed in [www.mambalamtimes.in](http://www.mambalamtimes.in)**

## Nandanam metro exit to be closed

By Our Staff Reporter

Passengers walking out of Nandanam metro station towards T. Nagar will be forced to take exit points of the station on the opposite side or on Anna Salai, as the entry/exit on Venkatanarayana Road is set to be closed for phase-2 work.

While Chennai Metro officials said they have not closed access on Venkatanarayana Road yet, station staff are informing passengers that it is going to be shut.

"Why can't they provide alternative easy access in and out of the station," R Sundar, a T. Nagar resident, said.

He said the only other access point to the station from T. Nagar side is on Anna Salai but it is a long walk from Venkatanarayana Road.



## Toilet lying at road junction



By Our Staff Reporter

An unused mobile toilet is lying at the junction of Venkatanarayana Road and Sivagnanam Road in T. Nagar.

## Local team wins TT tourney



Andhra Social and Cultural Club (Vijayaraghava Road, T. Nagar) organised a table-tennis tournament in its premises on Feb. 19.

Six teams (Lions, Warriors, Sunrisers, Titans, Super Kings and Royals) consisting of

players from premier clubs in the city participated in the tournament. The Lions team, led by C. N. Sridhar (resident of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ashok Nagar), won the tournament by scoring 52 points. Royals team was runner-up and Sunrisers came

3<sup>rd</sup>. The other members of the winning team were Swetha, Vidya Chandar, Suresh-kumar, Sirish, A. K. Natraj, Gopakumar, Ramachandra Reddy and G. D. Ranka. While Sridhar scored 9 out of 10 points, teammate Swe-

tha scored 10 by winning all her matches.

Renowned sportspersons namely boxer Devarajan (Arjuna Awardee), Shiny Wilson (Athlete) and Sharath Kama (TT ace) presented the prizes to the winners.

## Work under way to beautify fountains

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has given 74 locations, including road junctions, grade separators and parks, a makeover with fanciful designs of fountains in various zones of the city.

The number of fountains at the city's junctions and public spaces has increased from 26 to 74.

Royapuram zone has the largest number of fountains, with the work completed at 25 locations. Tondiarpet has 10 fountains, Adyar eight, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar five, Anna Nagar four, Teynampet three, Perungudi three and Madhavaram three.

## Chennai bus stands to get facelift soon

City bus stands, including the Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus (CMBT) in Koyambedu, will soon get improved basic amenities as the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), and Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) have been instructed to work to uplift the facilities.

During the meeting, the importance of maintaining bus stands hygienically and resolving the waterlogging issues during monsoon was emphasized.

Officials are planning to adopt the model implemented successfully by Chennai Corporation to reduce waterlogging in Ripon Buildings. The Corporation had built large sumps near Ripon Buildings and installed motors to pump water to the waterways such as Buckingham Canal to reduce waterlogging during the rain.

"A committee will be formed with the participation of officials to coordinate the works," the official said.

He added that the committee will also take measures to maintain the toilets, seating arrangements, and other facilities.

Apart from improving the existing facilities to drain rainwater, the committee will look into modifying the gradient levels of the bus stands wherever necessary. During monsoon, the city bus stands get inundated forcing commuters to wait on the roadside for buses.

Most of the bus depots maintained by MTC including T. Nagar bus depot get flooded during heavy rains.

The MTC maintains around 30 bus stands across the city while Chennai Corporation maintains the Broadway bus stand. CMDA maintains Koyambedu CMBT and Madhavaram bus stand.

## 7-foot Shiva lingam kept for darshan in Sai Seva Samaj



By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with Mahasivarathiri, a 7-foot tall Shiva Lingam was kept for darshan on Feb. 18 and 19 in Shirdi Sai Seva Samaj (Jaisankar Street, West Mambalam).

The lingam was adorned with flowers and a dhoti.

A member told *Mambalam Times* that the lingam, which weighs around 100 kg. was made from metal. It can be dismantled and will be on display only during Mahasivarathiri and other auspicious connected with Lord Shiva.

He said more than 1000 devotees had darshan of the lingam.

## Trial run of disabled-friendly buses conducted

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the Madras High Court's direction, Tamil Nadu Government has started trial run of low-floor 'kneeling' buses manufactured by Ashok Leyland.

'Kneeling' buses, which are used by many European countries, can lower body or entrance doors to facilitate boarding by people with disabilities (PwDs) and elderly passengers.

The tenders to procure the buses were floated last year.

In the trial run, the transport department took a group of disability rights activists and advocates (from both sides) on a 'kneeling' bus along different city routes including T. Nagar.

MTC officials said the trial run covered major corridors without a problem.

The low-floor buses even managed narrow residential colony roads necessitated by metro divisions, said Vaishnavi (an activist).



## NGO to launch food bank for stray animals

City-based NGO Hope for Critters (HFC) launched Vetri pet food bank on Feb. 24. A member said that it is the first of its kind food bank for stray and rescued animals in the city. The initiative is to ensure that no animal living on the streets starves.

"There are a lot of food banks for humans, but none for animals. This food bank will be exclusively for stray, rescued dogs and cats. It is completely equipped with its own kitchen that will prepare more than 100 kg. of wholesome meals including dry foods and wet foods every day. And it will be a balanced nutritious meal for the animal," said Kirthana Raamsukaesh, founder of HFC, an animal rescue and rehabilitation center that is fast becoming a prominent voice and force for all the animals in the city.

She added that pet owners whose animals died due to illness can contribute the stocked food to the bank that would feed the stray animals.

The team will conduct feeding drives on its own to feed community pets and the kitchen will be open for other animal enthusiasts as well who can collect the meals to feed their community pets.

"There are many feeders, caretakers, and individual animal activists who ensure that stray dogs and cats are fed every day. So, they can avail of food from the bank, and a one-time registration is required, to prepare enough quantity of food. And they can pick up the food at the food bank located in Thiruvanniyur," said Kirthana. Based on the response to this initiative, the NGO plans to extend the service by setting up branches in several areas in the city.

## Natesan Park not to have metro station

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Metro has scrapped the proposal for Natesan Park metro station, which was planned in phase-2, in T. Nagar. The nearest station to the locality will now be Panagal Park.

T. Nagar is linked on corridor-4 which connects Light-house with Poonamallee bypass. Natesan Park station has been scrapped as the distance between the station and the next one on either side, Panagal Park and Nandanam, is less than 700m.

The 118.9km phase-2 planned with 128 stations is likely to be ready by 2026.

"There is no station at Natesan Park," L.Girirajan, CMRL spokesperson, said.

Those who want to go shopping in Pondy Bazaar or near Panagal Park may have to alight at Panagal Park station.

The other station to come up in the locality will be



Nandanam.

In 2021, CMRL officials discussed scrapping four stations - Natesan Park, St. Joseph's College, Foreshore Estate and Doveton - as the distances between these stations and the one next to them were less than a kilometre.

Besides, it was also aimed at cutting down the project cost from 89,000 crore to 61,843 crore. These stations were also not mentioned when the CMRL floated construction tenders.

In T. Nagar, Natesan Park

station, planned as an underground station at 20.7m depth, was 625m away from Nandanam station, which will be built under Nandanam junction-Venkatanarayana Road intersection.

The next station in T. Nagar is Panagal Park, to be built under the park, is 623m from Natesan Park station. CMRL had initially planned the Natesan Park station inside the park but later changed it near a school on Venkatanarayana Road.

## Free dental check-up held in Jeeva Park



Dhantraalayam Dental and Orthodontic Centre (T. Nagar. Ph: 81485 16642) organised free dental check-up on Feb. 12 in Jeeva Park (G. N. Chetty

Road, T. Nagar). A team of dental surgeons and paramedical staff headed by Dr. L. Rajasekhar (M.D.S) conducted the check-up.

It was followed by a talk on recent advances in dentistry, common dental ailments and oral hygiene. 250 residents attended the camp.

## Road damaged at Habibullah Road-Arulambal Street junction

By Our Staff Reporter

Three-fourth width of the road at the junction of Habibullah Road and Arulambal Street in T. Nagar is damaged, causing hardship to motorists. The bitumen surface has disappeared



and the battered stretch is covered with loose gravel. Dust is thrown up every time a vehicle passes. The surface is unsafe for motorists. Several minor accidents have been reported on the stretch. Nearby residents have appealed to Chennai Corporation to relay the damaged portion immediately.

## Car rally for the visually impaired today

The National Association for the Blind, O2 Health Studio and Madras Motor Sports Club are hosting the 32nd car rally - Braille on Wheels - for the visually challenged on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 9 a.m from Savera Hotel (146, Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, Mylapore).

The car rally brings together visually impaired and persons with normal eyesight. The navigator and the driver are dependent on each other during the drive. The navigator has to read out the instructions which are in Braille for the driver to follow the rally route.

Each team member contributes to a smooth ride, as per their physical ability.

With the navigator and the driver having a common goal, their interaction for over two days during the 'dummy rally' and the actual event gives rise to a camaraderie which often develops into a strong friendship, according to the organisers. For more details, contact 97109 47355 / 98410 79163.

## Offer from new electrical shop on Brindavan Street

By Our Staff Reporter

Iconic Electrical & Sanitary Store was opened recently in 49, Brindavan Street, near Nayagara Juice center, West Mambalam.

It sells electrical items and sanitaryware of all leading brands and accessories for air-conditioners.

It offers one LED bulb free on minimum purchase of Rs.100 till Saturday, March 4.

Its contact number is 9498386762.

## Three held for mobile phones snatching

Ashok Nagar police on Feb. 20 arrested three persons, who were part of a gang that has been snatching mobile phones in K.K. Nagar, Mambalam, Ashok Nagar and surrounding areas.

The snatching spree was first reported by S. Prasanth, 22 of Ashok Nagar who lost his mobile phone to a bike-borne duo while he was walking at the junction of Rajamannar Salai and P.T. Rajan Salai at 9.45 p.m on Feb. 12. Following his complaint, K.K. Nagar Police began an investigation and scrutinised the scene of occurrence, besides analysing CCTV footage. Following an investigation, police arrested R. Kirubakaran of Vadakarai, Red Hills, and 'Mavu' Vicky alias Vignesh, 19 of Gandhi Nagar, Red Hills, who were directly involved in the snatching. Based on information given by the duo, police also arrested Nagoor Meeran, 36 of Tondiarpet who received the stolen mobile phones.

Police said the accused Kirubakaran and Vignesh, along with their associates, had been snatching mobile phones in at least three places in K.K. Nagar, Mambalam, Ashok Nagar and at two localities each in Vadapalani and Thirumangalam.

Meeran bought these stolen goods at cheap prices, and sold them off at higher rates.

Police recovered 16 mobile phones, a knife and a two-wheeler from the accused and have launched a hunt to nab other accused.

## Petrol, diesel prices remain unchanged

By Our Staff Reporter

As on Feb. 24 in Chennai, the price of a liter of petrol and diesel has been constant over the last 279 days at Rs.102.63 and Rs. 94.24 respectively.

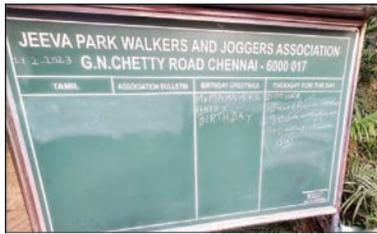
The government has approved the practice of daily determination of fuel prices in line with international crude oil prices.

Oil companies are therefore regulating petrol and diesel prices on a daily basis, keeping a check on fluctuation.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Walkers' Association installs notice board outside Jeeva Park

Sir, A new notice/information board was installed outside Jeeva Park by Jeeva Park Walkers' and Joggers' Association last week. It will have a bulletin about the Association's activities, birthday



greetings for its members and a 'Thought for the Day' quote. Members of Rotary Club of Chennai Port City participated in the inaugural function. **C.Muthusamy, Rotarian and Past President of Jeeva Park Walkers' & Joggers' Association, Ph: 9444061166.**

### Water contamination for months in Postal Colony

Sir, Metrowater supplied via pipeline is contaminated with sewage water for the past few months in Postal Colony 1<sup>st</sup> Street (West Mambalam).

It is a serious health hazard for residents.

I made an online complaint about the problem in the Metrowater portal (complaint no.230129100512) in the 3rd week of January and a member of our Residents' Association made a complaint in person in the local Metrowater office. In the 1<sup>st</sup> week of this month, Metrowater workers made an inspection and said the problem is sorted out by pumping water from the hand pump which has no foul smell. They asked me to clean my sump which cost me Rs. 2,500. But to my dismay, when I opened the valve the same issue of water contamination again surfaced and I have now wasted Rs. 2,500 for no fault of mine.

When I again raised a complaint, the officers told me that the problem of contamination is due to digging for the storm water drain in which the pipelines have got damaged. The issue involves many residents on our street. I request the officials to take immediate action and find a permanent solution as we are unable to use the water supplied through the pipeline. **S. K. Arun, 6/6, Postal Colony 1<sup>st</sup> Street, West Mambalam. Ph: 98410 17152**

### How noise pollution affects students

Sir, Noise pollution is a serious issue and not much thought is given to bringing it down, especially in residential areas.

The lockdown period was an eye opener to the benefits of a noise-free environment. Once the lockdown eased and normalcy returned, the noise level has again shot up. The next few months are critical for students who are preparing for board, entrance and competitive exams and for those living in areas with high noise pollution, it can be a deterrent to their studies. Many areas in West Mambalam and T. Nagar have high noise levels like Jubilee Road, Brindavan Street, Veerasami Street, Raju Street and more. There should be a ban on unnecessary honking and residential areas should be declared no-horn zones from 8 p.m to 8 a.m.

There is also a proliferation of high end bikes whose silencers are modified to produce loud noise and are fitted with powerful horns. Youths whizz on them through residential areas at high speed under the very eyes of the police and hardly any action is taken against them. I also appeal to the citizens of all religions to curb the noise level during festivals for the welfare of all. The patrol police should be empowered to take action against activities that cause high noise levels. A combined initiative of the public and the police can help keep a control on noise levels. **V. R. Sridhar, West Mambalam. Ph: 9884568963.**

### Metro work impacts life of residents around Panagal Park

Sir, A year back, around 3000 sq. meters area of the iconic Panagal Park (T. Nagar) was handed over to Chennai Metro for construction of the underground Panagal Park metro station under its Phase 2 project. As per reports, around 150 trees in the park have been felled so far.

Though the remainder of the park is open to public, the footfall has gone down and many regular visitors prefer to use other parks like Jeeva Park and Natesan Park.

Due to the ongoing metro work, traffic changes were put in place around Panagal Park in November last year.

These changes will be in place for 3.5 years as the phase 2 project of Chennai Metro is expected to get over by mid-2026.

Though 2 months have gone since the traffic changes were made, residents, motorists and pedestrians continue to face hardship caused by the traffic diversions. For residents of Raja Street (behind Panagal Park), it is now a two-way traffic zone due to the traffic changes. The noise level has gone up drastically and the residents find it difficult to cross the road, especially during peak hours. Senior citizens are put to hardship and even routine errands like visiting banks or other chores has become a challenge.

The traffic diversions have increased the travel time due to the detours and also because of the added congestion. Panagal Park to Duraisamy subway is now 2 kms longer and takes extra 15 minutes to reach during normal hours and sometimes 30 to 45 minutes during peak hours.

Passengers are also put to hardship due to shifting of bus stops forcing them to walk longer distances.

After partial closure of the park, the corner near Usman Road flyover has been converted into an open urinal and difficult to pass through due to the foul smell and unhygienic condition.

To added to the problems, roadside eateries have cropped up around Panagal Park, that block the pavements and road margins, thereby forcing pedestrians to walk on the road.

Though the ongoing metro rail work is for the benefit of the residents and will improve commute and connectivity, I appeal to Chennai Corporation to keep the road margins and pavements free of encroachment and misuse. Chennai Metro should restore the lost greenery in Panagal Park before handing it back to Chennai Corporation. **Hannah Sarah Abraham**

## Kumbhabhishekam of TTD's new temple next month



### By Our Staff Reporter

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam's new temple dedicated to Goddess Padmavathi Ammavaru (the divine consort of Lord Venkateswara) in 83,85/41, Lakshmi Colony, G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar, is nearing completion.

MahaKumbhabhishekam for inaugurating the temple will be conducted in March.

The erection of the new 'Dwajastambham' (flagpost) was ceremoniously carried out by the temple priests in the new temple complex on Feb. 23.

The temple is being constructed on a 14880 sq.ft plot donated to TTD by noted South Indian actress P. Kanchana.

The total cost of construction is Rs.8 crores of which the cost of Rajagopuram is Rs.1.1 crores.

The cost of Rajagopuram has been met by AJ Sekhar Reddy (Special invitee to the TTD Trust Board).

Sekhar Reddy, V.Veerabrahmam (IAS) and the local committee members of TTD took part in the 'Dwajastambham' erection ceremony.

## 'Gananathan bhajans' today morning

### By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha (Vani Mahal, G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) has organized 'Shri Gananatham Bhajare', an insight into the compositions of Muthuswami Dikshitar, dedicated to Mahaganapathi, by R.K. Shriram Kumar, at 10 a.m on Sunday, Feb.26.

All are welcome.

## Velammal team runner-up in State-level kho-kho



### By Our Staff Reporter

The Under-14 boys team of Velammal Main School (Mogappair) was runner-up in Kho-Kho in the State-level Republic Day Games held in Kongunadu Engineering College (Trichy) last week. 38 teams from across Tamilnadu took part in Kho-Kho.

## Thyagaraya Road in bad condition



A 50-foot-stretch of Thyagaraya Road (opposite Naidu Hall, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar) is in a battered condition, causing hardship to motorists. The bitumen surface has been washed away, leaving behind loose gravel. The slippery and uneven surface is unsafe for motorists, especially 2-wheeler riders. Since motorists try to avoid the damaged portion, the usable road width is reduced to half.

## OBITUARY

### S. RADHAKRISHNAN

S. Radhakrishnan (resident of West Mambalam, Ph: 9444086058) passed away on Feb. 17.



He was 89, and had been a resident of West Mambalam for 60 years.

He had retired as Office Superintendent from Madras Telephones.

He was a life member of Sri Ram Samaj.

He is survived by his wife, sons, daughter, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Awareness program conducted for Stds. 10,11,12 students

### By Our Staff Reporter

Corporation Girls Higher Secondary School (Ashok Nagar) on Feb. 16 conducted an awareness program for Stds. 10, 11 and 12 students to help them tackle anxiety and to help them prepare better for the board exams in March.

The program included a motivational speech by actor Dhamu, cultural programs and pep talk by teachers.

The teachers told the students about higher education opportunities and the importance of scoring well in exams.

R. Thamilarasi (Headmistress) said that around 2,200 students participated in the program.

## Asst. Professor poses as beggar to attack wife

### By Our Staff Reporter

An Asst. Professor of a government college posed as a beggar and attacked his wife with a blade leaving her injured at night on Feb. 16.

Police said the man suspected the woman of infidelity as the couple had 18-year age gap.

M. Kumaraswamy, 56, is Asst. Professor of History in Nandanam Arts College for Men.

His wife K. Jeyavani, 38, works in a private engineering college.

They live in Egmore.

On Feb. 16, at around 7 p.m., Jeyavani got down from an MTC bus at Egmore bus stop and was walking towards her house when a man who appeared to be a beggar and had his face covered pounced on her and slashed her with a blade.

"Kumaraswamy aimed for her face but she covered it with her hands. Later, she found that it was her husband and ran away. Kumaraswamy chased her and slashed her several times before a crowd gathered. He managed to flee," said a police officer.

Police said Kumaraswamy had planned to murder his wife posing as a stranger.

He has been booked under charges including attempt to murder and sections of the Women Harassment Act.

## Discourse on Bhagavad Gita today

### By Our Staff Reporter

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, Feb. 26 in the Ashram's premises.

All are welcome.

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

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**Rally to mark 'Mother Language Day'**



**By Our Staff Reporter**  
Shiri Shankarlal Sundarbai Shasun Jain College for Women (T. Nagar), Tamil Ilanganal Inbath Tamil Mandram and News 7 Anbupalam jointly conducted an awareness rally on 'International Mother Language Day' on Feb. 21.

More than 200 students carrying placards participated in the rally.

The rally was inaugurated by A. Stalin (Inspector, R1 Mambalam Police Station). S. Padmavathi (Principal) was present.

**Parking woes on Burkit Road**



As vehicles are parked on both sides of Burkit Road (T. Nagar), its usable width is reduced. Photo taken at around 3 p.m on Feb. 21 shows a tanker lorry struggling to manoeuvre through the narrow space between two vehicles (a van and a car) parked on opposite sides of the road. A nearby resident told this reporter that parking of vehicles on both sides is causing lot of difficulties.

He pointed out that the pavements are also misused for parking 2-wheelers by employees of nearby shops and shoppers visiting Usman Road and Ranganathan Street.

Pedestrians are put to risk as they are forced to walk on the busy road. He has appealed to traffic police to earmark only one side of the road for parking and to take strict action against those parking their vehicles on pavements.

**'Unjavrithi bhajans' to mobilise donations for Rama Navami mahotsavam**

Members of Sri Jayadeva Bala Baktha Bhajan Mandali (12, Prasanth Enclave, 15, Rukmani Street, West Mambalam) will sing 'Unjavrithi bhajans' on the streets of West Mambalam from 7.30 a.m to 11.30 a.m on Sunday, Feb. 26, to collect donations for performing Rama Navami Janana Mahotsavam and Sita Kalyanam in Thorappadi village situated near Tiruvannamalai from March 30 to April 3.

Devotees will start from Rukmani Street and pass along Gopalan Street, Moorthi Street, Mahadevan Street, K.V.Colony, Ramakrishnapuram, Postal Colony 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets, Ashok Nagar 7th Avenue, Sri Devi Colony, Bank of India Colony, Samiyar Garden Street and other nearby streets.

Residents may contribute in cash or kind (rice, dhal and jaggery) for performing the utsavam. Rama Navami Mahotsavam and Sita Kalyanam are being performed in Thorappadi village for more than 300 years with the blessings of Kanchi Paramacharyas.

More details can be had from S. Krishnan (Treasurer) in 94444 41840.

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Kerala Govt. award for  
Malayalam teacher

By Our Staff Reporter

Radha Devi, a Malayalam teacher and member of Akshara Malayalee Cultural Association (K. K. Nagar), received the 'Bodhi Adhya-paka Puraskar Award' from the Government of Kerala recently. The Association felicitated her last week for winning the award in a function in Vadapalani.

N. Murali Nambiar (Presi-dent), N.Rajeeva Prakash (General Secretary), S.Sudhakaran (Vice President) and K. K.Sasidharan (Treasurer) were present.

The Association has been conducting free Malayalam classes for several years. Its contact number is 98400 48318.

Wins 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in drawing contest

V. G. Yuvalakshmi (Std. 9 student in Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, K.K. Nagar) won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the drawing competition conducted by Aavin in Virugambakkam on Feb. 12. The competition on the theme 'Kodaiyil Kulumai - Kuzhanthaigalum Aavin Ice creamum' was conducted as part of Aavin Day celebra-tions. Yuvalakshmi is also learning Bharatanatyam, Carnatic and Hindustani vocal music and creative arts.



She has won prizes in various talent competitions including the Samarthy Prodigy Award in the field of music and arts from Dorai Foundation last year.

Her contact numbers are 97908 20194 and 94448 91338.

Navachandika Yagam and Sree  
Chakra puja in West Mambalam

By Our Staff Reporter

Sree Jnanambika Research Foundation for Vedic Living, started under the direction and guidance of Seshadrinatha Sasthriyal (Retired Principal, Madras Sanskrit College) has organised 'Subramania Moolamanthra Yochitha Navachandika Yagam' and 'Sri Chakra Pooja' on March 4 and 5 in Sankara Mutt (West Mambalam)

Ramakrishna Srauthikal will lead the Chakra pooja and Girish Kumar (disciple of Seshadrinatha Sasthriyal and Managing Trustee) will head the Navachandika Yagam.

The yagam is for global peace, protection of cows, protection from pandemics, removal of sufferings and prosperity for all.

This is a part of continuous yagna program performed across the country. All are welcome.

For more details, visit www.vedicliving.in. Ph: 96334 81966 / 93817 34380.

Sports meet conducted for  
differently-abled children

A sports meet for children with intellectual disability, developmental delays, and associated disabilities was conducted last week by Madhuram Narayanan Center for Exceptional Children (MNC) (18, Prakasam Street, Gangai Karai Puram, T.Nagar).

More than 100 children from the centre, other special and mainstream schools participated in the event.

Competitions like balancing walk, zig-zag pattern walk, printing on paper, holding bubble tube, packing school bags, decorating pattern, seven stones and sorting balls, among others were conducted.

Inter-school games were conducted for children from both special and mainstream schools in the 3-6 years category. The games were designed based on the disability of the children.

Jaya Krishnaswamy (Founder of MNC), S. Kris-hnan (Honorary General Secretary), Vimala Kannan (Principal), parents and teachers were present. Vimala said the school was founded 32 years back and provides early intervention for children with intellectual disability, Autism, Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and other such disorders.

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