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Somasundaram playground to get facelift

By Our Staff Reporter

Somasundaram Playground (Somasundaram Street, Parthasarathi Puram, T. Nagar) will soon get a facelift with cricket practice facilities, place for yoga and walking and running tracks.

Also, the proposed boxing stadium in Gopalapuram Playground (Conran Smith Road) is taking shape and is expected to be completed by mid-2024.

Apart from boxing, the playground will have infrastructure for badminton, basketball, cricket and athletics.

J.Meghanatha Reddy (Member-secretary, SDAT) said the boxing area will have a ring and an indoor stadium to accommodate 1,000 spectators.

5% incentive on property tax payment till April 30

As per the Revenue Department's incentive scheme, property owners who pay their taxes for the 1st half (April-September) by April 30, and for the 2nd half (October-March) between Oct. 1 and 15 are eligible for 5 percent incentive, limited to a maximum of Rs. 5,000. The incentive is passed on to the property tax holders in the following half year bill.

Apart from digital platforms, property owners can pay taxes through tax collectors who are now on door-to-door collection drives and at collection centres set up by zonal offices.

Jewels, cash burgled from house in Ashok Nagar

By Our0 Staff Reporter

Unidentified men broke open the house of R. Srinivasan (62), a retired railway officer in Ashok Nagar, and escaped with 120 sovereigns of jewellery and Rs. 4,000 in cash.

The burglary happened when Srinivasan was away from home with his family.

He lodged a complaint in Ashok Nagar police station.

The police have obtained footage from CCTV cameras installed near the house to identify the culprits.

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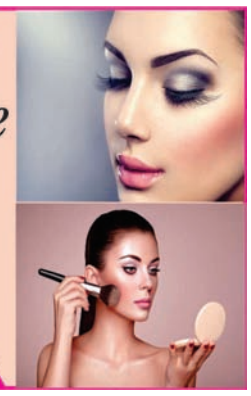

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நந்து சுந்து சிரிவிளையாடல்

சின்னக் கம்பி

விநாயகம் குளித்து முடித்துவிட்டு வந்தார். சாமி படத்திற்கு முன்னால் நின்றார். அவருக்குப் பெரிதாகப் பூஜை எல்லாம் பண்ணத் தெரியாது.

சாமி விளக்கை ஏற்றுவார். பிறகு மூஷிக வாகன என்று ஒரே ஒரு ஸ்லோகத்தை சொல்லிவிட்டு நெற்றியில் விபூதியைப் பூசிக் கொள்வார். ஊதுபத்தி ஏற்றும் பழக்கம்கூட இல்லை. ஊதுபத்தி ஸ்டேண்ட் கேட்பாரற்றுக் கிடக்கும். அரை நிமிஷ பூஜையை முடித்துவிட்டு ஆறுகால பூஜையை முடித்த மாதிரி கெத்து காட்டுவார்.

'பூஜை முடிஞ்சது. டிபன் ரெடியா?' என்று கேட்பார் மனைவி சுசீலாவிடம்.

'பூஜையா? மூஷிக வாகன சொல்லிட்டா அதுக்குப் பேரு பூஜையா? பக்கத்து வீட்டு பாலு மாமா தினசரி ருத்ரம் சொல்றார், தெரியுமா?'

இன்றும் குளித்து முடித்துவிட்டு சாமி விளக்கை ஏற்றினார். புதுத் திரி, ஆகையால் ஜ்வாலை ஒலிம்பிக் ஜோதி மாதிரி எரிந்தது. திரியை உள்ளே தள்ளிவிட விளக்கின் அருகே ஒரு சிறிய கம்பியை வைத்திருப்பார். ஒரு விரல் நீளத்துக்கு இருக்கும் சைக்கிள் ஸ்போக்ஸ் கம்பி அது.

மோதக ஹஸ்த சொல்லும்போது அந்தக் கம்பியை ஒரு அஸ்திரம் மாதிரி உபயோகித்துத் திரியைத் திருத்துவார். இப்போது அந்தக் கம்பியைக் காணவில்லை. ஈ.வி.சரோஜா மாதிரிக் கண்களை சுழற்றி நாலா பக்கமும் பார்த்தார். கம்பி தெரியவில்லை.

இருபது வருஷங்களாக இருந்த கம்பி. அது இல்லாமல் திரியை எப்படி சரி செய்வது? கடவுள் அவருடைய பக்தியை சோதிக்கிறாரா? ஏதாவது திரி விளையாடல் செய்கிறாரா?

'சுசீலா, அந்த சின்னக் கம்பியைக் காணோம். கணநாதன் கம்பியை ஒளிச்சு வைச்சுட்டு என் பக்தியோட விளையாடறார்' என்றார்.

'சொல்றது ஒரே ஒரு ஸ்லோகம். அதையும் மனசுக்குள்ளே சொல்றீங்க. அது தப்பா ரைட்டான னுகூட யாருக்கும் தெரியாது. உங்களை வந்து இறைவன் சோதிக்கிறாராம்! நன்னா குனிஞ்சு தேடிப் பாருங்க.'

குனிவே துணை என்று குனிந்தார் விநாயகம். அவரின் முப்பது டிகிரி குனிவுக்குக் கண்ணில் ஏதும் தட்டுப் படவில்லை. சாஷ்டாங்கமாகப் படுத்தார். சாமி படத்துக்குக் கீழே ஒரு மர அலமாரி இருந்தது. அதன் அடியில் பார்த்தார். எதுவும் தெரியவில்லை. புரண்டு தேடினார். ஐம்பது சென்டிமீட்டருக்கு ஒரு அங்கப் ப்ரதட்சனம் செய்தார். கம்பி அகப்படவில்லை.

'திரி பெருசா எரியுது. என்ன செய்யறது?'

'தீக்குச்சியை வைச்சு உள்ளே தள்ளிவிடுங்க.'

மனைவி சொல்லே மந்திரம் என்று அப்படியே செய்தார் விநாயகம்.

'இப்போ தீக்குச்சிதான் பெருசா எரியுது. இதுக்குத்தான் கம்பி வேணும்னு சொல்றது. கம்பி எரியாது, தெரியும் இல்லே?'

கம்பி எரியாது என்ற கண்டுபிடிப்புக்கு இவருக்கு ஏன் இன்னும் நோபல் பரிசு கொடுக்கவில்லை என்று தலையில் அடித்துக் கொண்டு நகர்ந்தாள் சுசீலா.

மறுநாள் காலையில் குளிக்கவில்லை விநாயகம்.

'என்னங்க, குளிக்கலையா?'

'குளிச்சா சாமி விளக்கை ஏத்தணும். கம்பியைக் காணோம். கம்பி கிடைக்கிற வரைக்கும் குளிக்க மாட்டேன். இது கணபதிக்கும் எனக்கும் நடக்கற போட்டி. இனிமே நான் குளிக்கிறது கணபதி கையிலேதான் இருக்கு.'

அதன் பிறகு சதா சர்வ நேரமும் கம்பியின் நினைவாகவே பித்துப் பிடித்தவர்போல் இருந்தார் விநாயகம்.

சுசீலாவால் அவரைத் திட்டவும் முடியவில்லை. பதமாகக் கம்பியின் மேல் நடப்பதுபோல் ஜாக்கிரதையாக நடந்து கொண்டாள்.

விநாயகம் நான்கு நாட்களாகக் குளிக்கவில்லை. இப்படியே விட்டால் நாறிப் போய்விடுவார் என பயப்பட ஆரம்பித்தாள் சுசீலா.

அடுத்த நாள் குளித்து முடித்ததும் சாமி விளக்கை ஏற்றினாள் சுசீலா. கம்பி கிடைக்க வேண்டுமென்று மானசீகமாக வேண்டிக் கொண்டாள்.

மறுநாள் விநாயகத்தின் பால்ய சிநேகிதன் சேஷாத்திரி வீட்டுக்கு வந்தான். விநாயகம் விசனமாக இருப்பதைப் பார்த்துக் கேட்டான்.

'என்ன ஆச்சு?'

'பூஜை மேடையிலே இருந்த கம்பியைக் காணோம்.'

சேஷாத்திரி விநாயகத்தை சாமி படத்திற்கு முன்னால் அழைத்துச் சென்றான்.

'இந்தக் கம்பியா பாருங்க.'

பார்த்தார் விநாயகம். ஊதுபத்தி ஸ்டாண்டில் குத்தப் பட்டு அதே சில்வர் நிறத்தில் நின்று கொண்டிருந்தது அந்த சின்னக் கம்பி.

'போன வாரம் நான் இங்கே வந்திருந்தேன் இல்லையா? அப்போ திரியைக் குத்தி விட்டுட்டு பத்திரமா இருக்கணும்னு நான்தான் ஊதுபத்தி ஸ்டாண்டிலே குத்தி வைச்சேன். உன் கண்ணிலே படலியா?'

'சேஷாத்திரி வந்தான். திரி குத்தற கம்பியைக் கண்டுபிடிச்சிட்டான்' என்று சந்தோஷப்பட்டார் விநாயகம்.

'நான் பிள்ளையார்கிட்டே வேண்டிக்கிட்டதும் ஒரு காரணம்' என்றாள் சுசீலா.

'என்ன வேண்டிக்கிட்டே?' என்று கேட்டார் விநாயகம்.

'கம்பி கிடைச்சா பிள்ளையார்பட்டிக்கு வந்து ஒரு தங்கக் கம்பியை உண்டியலிலே போடறதா வேண்டிக்கிட்டேன்.'

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Online platform launched to support Tamil folk artistes

Tamilkalai.com is an online platform that provides opportunities for folk artistes to showcase their talents and connect with clients.

Founded by entrepreneur Venkatesan Ramar (resident of Burkit Road, T. Nagar), the launch of the platform was held in the city recently.

Manikandan, a member of Tamilkalai, said the platform aims to uplift the Tamil folk artiste community by providing it with opportunities across the globe.

"We have a rich cultural heritage of various Tamil folk art forms. Unfortunately, many of these art forms are dying, and those that remain do not have a platform to perform or be seen. Venkatesan, along with co-founders T. Gifty and R.S. Ramkumar (resident of 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar), researched the folkart forms and met artistes, leading to the launch of the online platform," Manikandan said.

The platform lists over 30 folk arts, including poikkalkudhiraiaatam, kummiattam, kolattam, sevaiattam, kaniyankoothu, puraviattam, kattaikuthu, purana attam, and brindavanakummi.

The team hopes to create a sustainable ecosystem that enables the growth of Tamil folk art and provide a steady income for artistes. "Clients can book artistes online without intermediaries or having to hunt for contact details. In addition to supporting folk artistes, the team aims to educate the younger generation about these art forms and encourage appreciation," he added.

Legal action against property tax defaulters

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation will take legal action against property tax defaulters.

Out of 100 defaulters from the last financial year (2022–23), around 30 percent of owners have paid their tax dues.

"We will be taking legal action against those who failed to pay the tax," a senior official said.

He said regular notification has been given to the owners through SMS and WhatsApp.

Officials attend to civic lapses after reports in *Mambalam Times*

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation and Metrowater officials took quick action to resolve the following civic issues reported last week in *Mambalam Times*.

Dismantled hoardings and other scrap dumped on the pavement outside 21/9, Thanikachalam Road, T. Nagar, near Arcot Street, were removed by workers of Chennai Corporation on April 19.

Similarly, Metrowater workers set right the sewage block in the underground chamber on Giri Road, opposite Sri Siddhi Vinayagar Temple, T. Nagar on April 18. Nearby residents had complained to *Mambalam Times* that sewage had been overflowing from the manhole and collecting on the street for more than a fortnight and the officials concerned were not taking action in spite of complaints. The residents said that it had become a health hazard and had led to proliferation of mosquitoes.

They thanked the officials for their quick action after the report was published in *Mambalam Times*.

Awarded Fellowship for prowess in computer architecture

30-year-old Akash Sridhar (a resident of California and former resident of West Mambalam) was awarded the title of 'Fellow' by the prestigious Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), USA.

He is one of the youngest to receive the fellowship.

Those who have made a global impact with their achievements in engineering, technology, or related disciplines are presented this fellowship. IET presently has more than 1,69,000 members spread across 150 countries.

Past recipients of the fellowship include Nobel laureates like J.J. Thomson and Tim Berners-Lee (inventor of the World-wide Web).

Akash graduated with a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering from the University of California.

His research has helped improve and achieve high branch prediction accuracy for CPUs which has been a groundbreaking feat among his other research contributions.

He has also contributed to the development of Pyrope, an open-source hardware description language. Several of his works have been published in top research venues and have been cited by top experts across the world.

He also actively contributes to the education domain to help future engineers benefit from his experience. The open-source tools developed by Sridhar are used by top US universities as a part of their curriculum.

He serves as a Board of Studies member in SRM Easwari Engineering College (affiliated to Anna University, Chennai) and helps review and refine the curriculum and regulations of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. He is currently working as a Senior CPU Architect in Qualcomm.

Akash's parents Sridhar and Meena and grandparents G. Ramakrishnan and Meenakshireside in 10, Swaminathan street, West Mambalam

Their contact number is 98408 73864.

New clinic on Brindavan Street offers treatment at low rates

By Our Staff Reporter

Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Medical Centre was inaugurated on April 21 in 77, Brindavan Street, next to Shri BS Mootha Girls Senior Secondary School, West Mambalam.

It is a unit of Shri Rajasthani Jain Samaj Educational Trust and will be run by R & R Hospitals (67/27, Burkit Road, T. Nagar).

Ma.Subramanian (Minister for Health & Family Welfare), J. Karunanithi (T. NagarMLA) and Narendra Srisrimal (Industrialist) participated in the inaugural function.

The clinic will function from 8 a.m to 4 p.m on all days except Tuesday.

The fee for general medical consultation is Rs. 30 and for consultation with specialists Rs. 50.

A general physician will be available for consultation on all days.

Orthopedician, gynaecologist, diabetologist and nephrologist will be available for consultation only on prior appointment once a week.

The medical centre also provides diagnostic services at low costs.

It will conduct free eye check-up onTuesdays and comprehensive health check-up once a month.

Shri Rajasthani Jain Samaj Educational Trust has been offering service for the deprived community since 1967.

It has been running BS Mootha School for girls since 1970. Nearly 3000 students, including many from poor families, are currently studying in the school.

For more details and appointments, call 044-47784848 from 8 a.m to 4 p.m

Corporation removes encroachments from footpaths

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has intensified the drive to remove encroachments, both temporary and permanent, from the footpaths and roads to facilitate pedestrian movement and improve traffic flow.

On April 15, encroachments were removed from footpathsofRajamannar Salai (K.K. Nagar) and permanent structures on pavements from commercial areas in T. Nagar, Kodambakkam and Teynampet.

An official said that the Corporation has identified more than 500 temporary encroachments in Thiru Vi Ka Nagar and Kodambakkam zones and these will be removed in the coming days.

Many residents and resident associations have lodged several complaints of alarming increase in encroachments along Usman Road and its side roads.

After completing the work on storm water drains,which is still going on in several roads, the Corporation will improve facilities for pedestrian movement.

Residents can call helpline 1913 to report civic issues caused by encroachments along roads and footpaths.

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OBITUARY

SHRI K.S. SRINIVASAN

Aged 84 years, passed away on 18th April, 2023. He was retired from Chennai Telephones and had been a resident of Mambalam for more than 70 years. He is survived by his wife Smt. S. Mythili and two sons S. Padmanabhan & S .Aravind

Deeply mourned by family & friends

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EB attends to civic lapses after report in *Mambalam Times*

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the reports published in *Mambalam Times* (April 9-15 issue), TNEB officials took immediate action to resolve the following civic issues.

An empty cable drum left on the pavement at the junction of Arya Gowda Road and Brindavan Street Extension (T. Nagar) was removed and in the other instance, a large unused RMU (Ring Master Unit) lying near the EB transformer at the junction of Padmanabhan Street and Periyar Road (T. Nagar) was removed.

Nearby residents thanked *Mambalam Times* for publishing the reports and TNEB for its quick action.

Old buildings make way for modern apartment complexes

By Our Staff Reporter

While scores of people are moving away from the city in search of houses costing up to Rs. 1 crore, the demand for luxury real estate in prime locations of the city is witnessing a spike.

Property consultants and developers point out that first-time home buyers, especially from affluent sections, are flocking to apartment complexes that offer amenities, location advantage, ease of maintenance and aesthetic designs.

P. Kruthivas of Pushkar Properties (Anna Nagar) and Secretary of CREDAI (Chennai) said that earlier premium localities were located in Adyar, Besant Nagar, T. Nagar, Poes Garden etc. "Now, Kodambakkam, K. K. Nagar, West Mambalam and Ashok Nagar have come into this segment. The maximum land parcel available is two grounds to six grounds and people prefer quality over volume. As the cost is high, the final product is also expensive," he said.

A majority of the properties that have come for redevelopment are those owned by elders whose children live abroad.

"They have a sentimental value attached to the house, so they prefer redeveloping it instead of selling it," he said.

Raj Kumar Reddy, managing director, Vishranti, said there is a dearth of affordable land and labour. "The younger generation is moving out of independent houses and getting into luxury complexes that offer all amenities. For them, size and price do not matter. Such people prefer four-to-five-bedroom apartments spread over 2,500 to 5,000 sqft," he added

***Mambalam Times* can be accessed in www.mambalamtimes.in**

Support group for hemophilia patients in T. Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

Members of Hemophilia Society - Madras Chapter (Parthasarathi Puram, T. Nagar, Ph: 22541652)are making preparations for their annual picnic — this time, on Sunday, April 23 in a resort near Sriperumbudur.

Hemophilia is a genetic disorder that causes the person to bleed excessively. It is usually inherited and about one in every 5,000 males is born with the disorder.

The society was founded by the couple K. Parthasarathy and Usha Parthasarathy, who had lost their 7-year-old son due to hemophilia.

As they knew the challenges in getting medicines and even an ounce of blood then,they started the society and slowly gathered members.

This annual picnic is one of the most remarkable events in its calendar.

The event is usually organised around World Hemophilia Day observed on April 17.

The day trip is an opportunity to bring those with haemophilia together and instil fresh confidence in them to face the challenges posed by the genetic disorder.

"One consideration that goes into the choice of a place for our picnic is that it must have a swimming pool as hydrotherapy plays a big role in the therapy for those with this condition," R. Sathyanarayanan (Secretary) said.

Besides quiz, games and other activities aimed at getting people to unwind and relax, psychosocial sessions for parents of children with haemophilia are also planned.

"We are expecting close to 100 persons to join us, including toddlers," Sathyanarayanan said.

A humble start

In the mid-1980s, seven individuals felt the need to address the needs of patients and caregivers and started the Hemophilia Society of Tamil Nadu, which is an affiliated to the Hemophilia Federation of India.

Today, the Society has chapters in Trichy, Salem, Tirunelveli, Karaikal, Kanyakumari and Madurai.

Parthasarathy said the Madras Chapter has come a long way. "We used to conduct workshops for various clubs and doctors as awareness about hemophilia was low then," he said. "Our aim is to ensure patients in villages get medicines."

While the women's group meets on 1st Saturday of the month, the men's group meets on second Saturdaysin T. Nagar

If one is a patient with hemophilia looking for some psychological support or want to know more about this genetic disorderhe/she can drop in at Challa Mall in T. Nagar on weekdays between 10 a.m and 4 p.m.

Light post lying on pavement

By Our Staff Reporter

A fallen 20-foot-long street light post has been lying on the pavement ofDuraisamy Road, near Usman Road junction, T. Nagar for several days.

In addition to the post, a bunch of damaged cables is also lying on one side of the pavement. They pose a danger to unwary pedestrians.

Nearby residents have appealed to TNEB to remove the post and the damaged cables.

Buttermilk booth opened on Brindavan Street

Nachikullam L.Saravanan (resident of West Mambalam and District Vice President, South Chennai BJP) has installed a water and buttermilk booth on Brindavan Street, WestMambalam near Lakshmi Narayanan Street for the benefit of passersby.

More than 30 liters of buttermilk are being distributed from 11 a.m every day.

He can be contacted in 96001 06990.

Special abhishekam in Usman Road temple at 9 a.m today

By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with Guru-peyarchi, special abhishekam and alangaaram will be performed to Guru Bhagavan at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 23 in Sri Siva-Vishnu temple (Usman Road, T. Nagar).

It will be followed by Maha deepaaraadhanai.

All are welcome.

100 women attend villakku pooja

By Our Staff Reporter

More than 50 women participated in the villakku pooja inHayagreevar Temple, Raghaviah Road, T.Nagar on April 14 conducted as part of Tamil New Year celebrations.

Madras Varsity to introduce web-based learning courses

By Our Staff Reporter

University of Madras has proposed several initiatives, including a proposal to start the mode of web-based learning and online course content.

A senior official from the Higher Education Department said that apart from web-based training, the university has proposed to develop the infrastructure facilities such as network development and classroom facilities for the purpose of discussion forums through email, video conference, and live lectures (video streaming) through the web.

According to the official, the University of Madras' Institute of Distance Education (IDE) is planning to start new courses in emerging areas such as B.Sc., Data Science and MBA., Data Analytics in distance mode from the coming academic year.

He said the University and Keio University, Japan and the RIKA Institute, India executed a MoU for the purpose of furthering cooperation in education and research and development activities for five years.

Damaged car removed after report in *Mambalam Times*

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Car lying on Giri Street' published in *Mambalam Times* (April 9 – 15 issue), the damaged car dumped on Giri Street (near North Usman Road junction, T.Nagar), was removed by traffic police on April 18.

The car had remained at the spot for more than six months.

Damaged vehicles dumped outside Panagal Park

A number ofvehicles damaged in accidents or seized by police have been dumped on the road margin adjoining the compound wall of Panagal Park (Prakasam Street, T. Nagar).

The vehicles are an eyesore and block the usable width of the carriageway.

A regular park visitor told this reporter that passersby have converted the stretch into an open urinal and the unsanitary condition is a health hazard for park visitors. He has appealed to traffic police to remove the vehicles from the location.

Little Angels gives kids individual attention

Little Angels (12, Balaji Avenue 2nd Street, Thirumalai Pillai Street, opp. Vidyodaya School, T.Nagar.) is a Montessori-based play school being run by Meena Rajiv Nathan for 24years.

The school has more than 400 toys and educational games to facilitate the children's learning process. Children are given individual attention with extensive training through play way activities andeducational toys,

LittleAngels school has been adopting unique and innovative teaching methods with a team of well-trained teachers and staff. Keeping in mind the tender age of the children, CCTV cameras have been installed in the school. Little Angels also offers daycare afterschool.

Drawing, chess, yoga, dance, storytelling, Hindi, time abacus andphonics classes are conductedby professionals.Tuition is also offered.

Little Angels is a study center for B.Ed (correspondence) course. Montessori and advanceddiploma are also available (Affliated to Bharatidasan University).

Apart fromcelebration of festivals, Sports Day and Annual Day arecelebrated.

A summer camp is being conducted till May 12. For details call 9884290540 or go to www.littleangles.in

Election for town vending committee on April 27

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation on April 22 announced the list of 56 candidates, including 16 women, who have been validly nominated in the election to the town vending committeeon April 27.

11 candidates, including three women belong to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community, five candidates to other backward castes, 11 to minority communities.Six candidates have disabilities and 12 belong to open category,officials said.

Kodambakkam zone has the 2nd highest of 12 candidates while two have been nominated from Teynampet zone.

Six candidates will be elected on April 27 for the town vending committee to take decisions pertaining to regulation of street vending in various parts of the city.

If anything interesting is happening in your neighbourhood please inform *Mambalam Times.*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drain built but road width reduced

Sir, The storm water drains in Cart Track Road were constructed in September-October 2022.

The road was recently relaid but this has resulted in effective width of the carriageway being reduced by 35 to 40 percent as shown in the photograph.

The portion of the road on which the storm water drains have been constructed does not serve even as a pedestrian way as its surface is uneven.

The effectiveness of the storm water drains is yet to be tested since the intensity of the rains during the 2022 monsoon was nowhere as in 2021 or 2012.

It appears the design is faulty from concept to execution.

Hope some corrective actions will be taken. **P. K. Subramanian, Aishwarya Apartments, Gandhi Street, T Nagar, Ph. 98402 93321.**

Furniture shop blocks pavement, carriageway

Sir,A furniture shop has been encroaching on the pavement of 7th Avenue, near the traffic signal in Ashon Nagar for the several months.

The shopowner has also displayed his productson half of the carriageway.

They are hindering the free movement of vehicles, especially during peak hours.

It is also unsafe for pedestrians as they are forced to walk on the road.

The encroachments ars causing traffic congestion during school opening and closing time at the junction of 7th Avenue and 4th Avenue as there are three schools in the vicinity.

I appeal to Chennai Corporation and traffic police to evict the furniture shop from the spot.**A. S.Thirumalai, 5,Vinayagam Street, West Mambalam**

Stretch of Umapathy Street battered

Sir, A 20-foot stretch of Umapathy Street, near Thambiah Road junction,has been in battered condition for more than a month.

A trench dug by Metrowater was not closed properly after the work was completed.

It is now improperly covered with construction debris and the stretch is unsafe for motorists.

It leads to heavy traffic congestion at the junction during peak hours and school opening and closing time.

Though a barricade has been placed to caution motorists, minor accidents have taken place at the spot.

I appeal to Chennai Corporation to repair the damaged road and blacktop it at the earliest. **R. Swaminathan, Thambiah Road, West Mambalam.**

Unbearable environment

Sir, I am a resident of Tanjore Road, T. Nagar. Conditions at the end of the road near Duraiswamy Subway have become unbearable. There is an auto stand where a number of autos are parked. On the opposite side is a tea shop where many bikes are always parked with people smoking all the time. People drive very rashly over this part of the road. The police should take action soon. **Lavanya**

Illegal bike racing continues

Sir, Illegal motorbike racing in Chennai is becoming a growing concern for motorists and pedestrians, with police struggling to put an end to it.

Despite taking several measures, the racers continue to pose a serious threat to public safety.

Based on a tip-off, traffic police placed checkpoints at multiple locations at Nandanam junction (Anna Salai) at night on April 18 to catch the culprits.

But, the bikers refused to stop and instead sped away through the checkpoints, putting the lives of bystanders in danger.

Though police officers gave chase, the riders managed to escape.

The video has gone viral on social media, with many expressing their concern over the reckless behaviour of the bikers.**R. Senthilnathan, Lake View Road, West Mambalam**

Mental health outreach program for police

By Our Staff Reporter

Aware of the importance of mental health, the city police, taking the government's 'Magizhchi' program to the next stage, have joined hands with MS Chellamuthu Trust & Research Foundation (MSCTRF) and institutions such as NIMHANS to run an outreach program for their personnel.

'Magizhchi' was launched last year to treat personnel with problems like clinical depression, alcohol addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder.

A special team comprising psychiatrists, social workers and psychological counsellors identified around 1,000 personnel in the city who needed help. After evaluation, a personalised treatment plan was developed for each person. While those needing immediate help were admitted to hospitals, others were provided medication, one-to-one counselling and group sessions and follow-up calls.

"I don't think I would have been alive today," said a policewoman attached to Ashok Nagar police station who had developed suicidal tendancies due to personal and work-related stress.

At the event held last week in K.K Nagar to commemorate one year of 'Magizhchi', police commissioner Shankar Jiwal said the program was for personnel hesitant to visit the centre. "They can talk to experts through video calls for the first few weeks. Soon, we plan to rope in social workers and students to reach their doorsteps," he said.

Tuber festival held in Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya

About 2,500 kg. of tubers, including purple yams, black and red gingers and pale green turmeric, were sold at the second Tuber and Seed Festival in Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya (T. Nagar) on April 16.

Prakasam, who had put up a stall at the festival, told *Mambalam Times* that he sold all his products by afternoon. He had displayed six types of turmeric, including white, black, pale green, Lakadong and Kasturi. "These have higher curcumin value when compared to regular turmeric," he said.

Manukumar, a representative of a farmers-producers company in Mysore, said the firm produced millets, paddy and tubers. "Our purple yam is used to make ice creams, cakes and even halwas. It is used as a natural colouring agent. It can be used as regular white yam, since it has a very similar taste," he said.

A member of Organic Farmers' Market,which had organised the festival, said tubers are easier to grow, have a longer shelf life and more nutrients than potatoes and yams.

Velammal students excel in sports

By Our Staff Reporter

K.K. Prajin (Std. 6 student in Velammal Main School, Mogappair) came 1st in 100 meters and 400 meters races in the Under-12 boys' category in the State Level Kids Athletic Meet organised by Kids Sports Academy in SDAT Nehru Park (Chetpet) last month.

T. Divyashri (Std. 7 student) came 2nd in individual Kata in the Under-12 category in the 6th JVSS Interschool State Level Kids Karate Tournament organised by Karate Indian Organisation in Kelambakkam last week.

Greenery to be improved in all major parks

By Our Staff Reporter

To improve the green cover, Chennai Corporation will plant atleast 50 saplings in all its major parks, playgrounds and river bunds in each division, Mayor R. Priya announced on April 18.

The growth of the plants, whichwill be maintained by contract workers,will be monitored by the ward councillors and zonal officers.

The initiative is part of the development works going on in parks and playgrounds. A majority of the saplings will be of native variety, an official said.

In addition, under the Singara Chennai project,the Corporation plasto develop Miyawaki forest in its schools with spacious playgrounds. At present, the city has 786 parks, 104 road medians, 113 traffic islands, and 163 roadside parks.

Of the total number of parks, 584 parks are being maintained on a contract basis, 145 parks are maintained by Corporation, and 57 parks have been adopted by resident associations and corporates.

42,000 copies of this edition are delivered FREE every Sunday!

'Thiruvasagam Mutruvodhal' today

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of ApparArutpaniMandram, Nirmala Ravi and party will present 'Thiruvasagam Mutruvodhal' from 8.30 a.m to 2 p.m on Sunday, April 23 inArulmiguSoundreswarar Temple, Saidapet.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in 99417 55111.

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, April 23 in the Ashram's premises.

All are welcome.

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

Snake Park announces special tour for kids, parents

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Snake Park (Guindy) has announced a series of special programs this summer to impart knowledge and awareness on reptiles.

The program is specially designed for students and parents accompanying them, the Snake Park said in a press release.

It would be scheduled from 10 a.m to 1 p.m every weekend till the end of May.

Guided tours around the park, interaction with experts, Q&A sessions, discussion with animal keepers, reptile thematic drawing, and quiz are included in the program.

The entry fee is Rs. 500.

For registration and queries, contact 9443560574, 94447 48914.

Gang hacks college student, one held

N. Karthick (23), a resident of T. Nagar, suffered grievous injuries after he was attacked with machetes by a 5-member gang on South Boag Road (T. Nagar) at night on April 17.

One of the gang members, identified as Ramesh (25), was arrested by Mambalam police the next day. Police are on the lookout for the remaining four members of the gang.

Karthick is undergoing treatment in Government Royapettah Hospital.

According to police, at night on April 17, the victim, a 3rd year college student, was walking alone on South Boag Road, when the gang waylaid him and attacked him with machetes.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that the gang consisted of Karthick's friends and they attacked him due to a previous enmity.

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T.NAGAR, Dhandapani Street, 1600 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, pooja room, ground floor, basement car park, lift, semi furnished, vegetarians only. Ph: 98400 55767, 24744098, 9884425479.

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ASHOK NAGAR, 62nd Street, near little Flower School, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, covered car park, 925 sq.ft, Brahmins only, east facing, pets not allowed, CCTV, brokers excuse, rent Rs. 21750, plus maintenance Rs. 700. Ph: 94444 22596, before coming.

T. NAGAR, 12, Shivaji Street, near Burkit Road & Bus Stand, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, 1st floor apartment, bath attached, rent Rs. 11000, 5 months advance. Ph: 9176495473, 9841193685.

WEST MAMBALAM, Viswanathan Street, 2 bedrooms flat, 979 sq.ft, 2nd floor, lift, covered car park, Brahmins only, no brokers. Ph: 9444482782.

ASHOK NAGAR, Gokul Flat, 6th Avenue, opp. GRT School, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, 400 sq.ft, ground floor flat. Ph: 93441 32819, 9840609128.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 20, Giri Road, Deepashram Flat, 700 sq.ft, 1st floor, single bedroom flat, hall, dining, kitchen, for immediate occupation, small vegetarian family preferred, no car park, rent Rs. 12500. Contact: Krishnan, Ph: 9841411839, 044-43512424.

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Man in inebriated state drowns in Adyar River

By Our Staff Reporter

A 48-year-old man, in an inebriated condition, accidentally stepped into the Adyar River in Jafferkhanpet and drowned at night on April 14.

His body was recovered by Fire and Rescue Services personnel the next morning and sent for postmortem.

The man was identified as Edison (resident of Vellai Thottam, West Mambalam).

Late evening on April 14, Edison, who was drunk, was seen sauntering near the canal of the river.

He then allegedly went into the river and got stuck in the mud there. He could not get out and drowned.

Petrol, diesel prices remain unchanged

By Our Staff Reporter

As on April 20 in Chennai, the price of a liter of petrol and diesel has been constant over the last 334 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.

Protest calls for ban on bike-taxi service

By Our Staff Reporter

Auto-Taxi Drivers Union affiliated to CITU held a protest on April 17 near Tarapore Tower (Anna Salai), calling for a ban on bike-taxi service.

Following the ban of bike-taxi service in other states, the union called for the ban as it affects the livelihood of the auto/taxi drivers and alsoposes a risk to passenger safety.

More than 500 drivers participated in the protest.

Rs. 285 crores property tax collected between April 1 and 15

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has reported a record-breaking property tax revenue collection in the financial year 2022-23, with a total of Rs. 2,044 crores collected.

Out of this amount, Rs. 1,522.86 croreswas collected as property tax.

From April 1 to 15, the Corporation collected more than Rs. 285.38 crores as property tax.

Among the 15 zones, Teynampet zone recorded the highest collection of Rs. 61.84 crores.

On April 15 alone, the last date for property tax collection without penalty, Teynampet zone collected Rs. 9.86 crores.

In the special camp held on April 8 and 9, 2.56 lakh property owners paid tax and availed of the 5% incentive.

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This shop specialises in 'madisar' sarees

By Our Staff Reporter

9YARDZ (1st floor, 30 RajabatherStreet, T.Nagar) specialises in traditional 9-yard 'madisar' sarees.

Established in 2016, the shop offers over 22 varieties of 'madisar' sarees with prices ranging from Rs.700 to Rs.25,000.

The shop claims to beIndia's largest online 'madisar'selling site (www.9yardz.com).

12-yard and 13-yard sarees are also available in a few varieties.

The shop offers customised 'madisar' stitching at Rs.850.

The shop also stocks dhotis of all lengths (even 18/10), towels, 'swami vastrams' and 'pattupavadai'.

Six-yard sarees and blouse bits are also sold.

The shop accepts bulk orders for weddings and other events. Its contact number is 9361186668

Special program in K. R. Temple

By Our Staff Reporter

A special program has been organized in Arulmigu Kothandramar Temple, K.R.Koil Street, West Mambalamfrom April 26 to May 6as part of Brahmotsavam festival.

There will be special processions including Garuda Vahanam at 7 p.m on April 29, HanumathVahanam at 7 p.m on May 1 and temple car processionfrom 5.30 a.m on May 3. All are welcome.

Ramana Bhagavan aradhana today

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Ramana Bhaktha Samajam, West Mambalam, will observe the 73rd Aradhana of Maharishi Sri Ramana Bhagavan from 4.30 p.m on Sunday, April 23 at 27/12A, Thambiah Road, West Mambalam.

The program includes recital of Vedhams, Aksharamanamalai and Bhagavath Geethasaram.

Sarvamangala Bhajan Mandali, Nanganallur, will perform Namasankeerthanam. All are welcome.

Satsangham is conducted at 5 p.m on Sundays at the same venue. For details contact Ravishanker N, in 97890 32863.

Resident beautifies compound wall

By Our Staff Reporter

A resident of New Giri Road (T. Nagar) has beautified the compound wall of his house with attractive traditional rangoli drawn on a terracottacolourbackgroundand placed a number of pots with different plants along the compound wall.

He told *Mambalam Times* that it not only enhances the look and promotes culture, but also dissuades miscreants from defacing the wall.

Buttermilk distributed outside Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Kanchi KamakotiPeetam (Easwaran Koil Street, West Mambalam) is distributing buttermilk freedaily among passersby from 11 a.m to 3 p.m outside its premises.

The buttermilk is prepared with 100 liters of milk and the quantity will be increased based on the demand. A member told *Mambalam Times* that the free distribution will continue till the end of June.

Dustbin topples across pavement

By Our Staff Reporter

A dustbin made of aluminum with separate sections for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste toppled across the pavement ofMooparappan Street, near Burkit Road junction, T. Nagar two weeks back.

It was installed six months back under the Singara Chennai 2.0 project of Tamilnadu Government. Nearby shopkeepers have appealed to Chennai Corporation to re-install the bin or remove it from the spot as it is blocking the way for pedestrians.

Local players excel in YMCA TT tourney

By Our Staff Reporter

R. Karthik Srinivas and C. N. Sridhar (residents of Ashok Nagar) figured in the finals of the YMCA Table Tennis Tournament conducted on April 15 in YMCA (Kodambakkam). Karthick won by beating his compatriot in straight sets11-7, 11-9.

In the semifinals, Karthik defeated Thiayagarajanand Sridhar defeated Saravanakumar.

Bothra elected Rotary District Governor

By Our Staff Reporter

Mahaveer Bothra (resident of Nathamuni Street, T. Nagar) was elected unopposed as the Governor of Rotary International District 3233 for 2024-25. He has been a senior member of Rotary Club of T. Nagarfor several years.

Bothrahas been extending assistance to needy organizations.

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