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January 7 - 13, 2024

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(டிஷ்யூ, தகிடி ஊசிவானா, வைர ஊசி
கொடி பனாரஸ், வெள்ளை பனாரஸ்)
அனைத்தும் வாங்கப்படும்
நல்ல நிலையில் உள்ள புடவை மற்றும்
வேஷ்டி வாங்கப்படும்
ஸ்ரீ அன்னை ஸ்டோர்ஸ்
63, சுப்ரமணியன் தெரு, ஆரிய கௌடா ரோடு, மேற்கு மாம்பலம்
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செல்: 96006 66811 ஸ்ரீ அங்காளரமேஸ்வரி துணை செல்: 98424 59485
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இருந்தாலும் காஞ்சிபுரம் மில் விலைக்கே
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பெரிய கழுதை - சின்னக் கழுதை

வாசல் அறையிலிருந்து கத்தினான் ஜான்கி. 'இந்தக் கழுதையை வந்து பாருங்களேன்.' 'நீ ரெண்டு கழுதையைப் பெத்து வைச்சிருக்கே. எந்தக் கழுதையைப் பார்க்கச் சொல்றே ஜான்கி?' என்றான் கணவன் 'புர்'ஷோத்தமன்.

'என்னை ஜான்கின்னு கூப்பிடறதை நிறுத்துங்க. மத்தவங்க காதலே எல்லாம் டான்கின்னு விழுது' என்று கோபித்தான் ஜான்கி.

அவர்களுக்கு இரண்டு பெண்கள். முதலாம் குலோத்துங்கன், இரண்டாம் குலோத்துங்கன் என்று அழைப்பது போல முதலாம் கழுதை, இரண்டாம் கழுதை என்று அவர்களை அழைத்து வந்தார்கள். 'பெரிய கழுதைக்கு இஞ்சினியரிங் ஃபைனல் பரிட்சை நடந்து கிட்டிருக்கு' என்றான் ஜான்கி.

'தெரியும் கழுதைக்கு ஏகப்பட்ட பேப்பர் இருக்கு.' முதலாம் கழுதைக்குக் கேம்பஸ் இன்டர்வியூவில் நல்ல வேலை கிடைத்திருந்தது.

'எல்லா பேப்பரும் பாஸ் செஞ்சால்தான் வேலை கொடுப்பாங்க. இந்த சின்னக் கழுதை அவளைப் படிக்கவே விடமாட்டேங்கறா, என்னன்னு கேளுங்க.'

சின்னக் கழுதையிடம் போனான் புர்ஷோத்தமன். சின்னக் கழுதை டான் பாஸ்கோ பள்ளியில் எட்டாவது படிக்கிறான்.

'அக்காவுக்கு எக்ஸாம் இருக்கு. டிஸ்டர்ப் செய்யாதே' என்றான் புர்ஷோத்தமன்.

'அக்காவை பிச்சுக்கு வரச் சொல்லு' என்று அடம் பிடித்தது சின்னக் கழுதை. 'அக்காவோட பரிட்சை முடியட்டும். உன்னை ஆற்றங்கரைக்குக் கூட்டிண்டு போறேன்'. புர்ஷோத்தமன் சமாதானப் படுத்த ஆரம்பித்தான்.



அடுத்த நாள் மழை பெய்தது. பெரிய கழுதையின் அறைக் கதவைத் தட்டியது சின்னக் கழுதை.

'எதுக்குட அவனோட ரும் கதவைத் தட்டறே?' என்றான் ஜான்கி. 'மழை பெய்யுது. ரெண்டு பேரும் நனையலாம். செமயா இருக்கும்' என்றது சின்னக் கழுதை.

'வேறே வழியில்லே. சின்னக் கழுதையை எங்கேயாவது அடைச்சுத் தான் வைக்கணும்' என்று சொன்ன ஜான்கி அவளை வாஷிங்மெஷின் இருந்த ரூமில் அடைத்து வைத்தான்.

திடீரெனப் புர்ஷோத்தமனுக்கு அலுவலக வேலையாக வெளியூர் போக வேண்டியிருந்தது.

'டெங்கனிகோட்டா போகணும். அங்கே இருக்கிற ஏஜென்ட் சரியா வேலை செய்ய மாட்டேங்கறான். நாலு உதை உதைச் சிட்டு வந்துடறேன். அதுவரைக்கும் சின்னக் கழுதை பெரிய கழுதையை டிஸ்டர்ப் செய்யாம பார்த்துக்கோ.'

ஜான்கி பதில் பேசவில்லை.

'பதில் சொல்லேன், அட்லீஸ்ட் காதையாவது ஆட்டேன்.' ஜான்கி கீழே பார்த்துக் கொண்டே அந்த இடத்தை விட்டு மெதுவாக நகர்ந்தான்.

மூன்று நாட்களில் புர்ஷோத்தமன் திரும்பிவிட்டான். ஜான்கி கடைக்குப் போயிருந்தான்.

சின்னக் கழுதை பெரிய கழுதையின் அறைக் கதவைத் தட்டிக் கொண்டிருந்தது.

'கதவைத் தட்டி ஏன் டிஸ்டர்ப் செய்யறே?' அதட்டினான் புர்ஷோத்தமன்.

'போரடிக்குது, எனக்குப் பொழுது போகலே.'

வேறு வழியில்லை. சின்னக் கழுதையை எங்கேயாவது வெளியே கூட்டிப் போனால்தான் வேலையாகும் என்று நினைத்தான் புர்ஷோத்தமன்.

'வா... வெளியில் போகலாம்.'

'மாலுக்குக் கூட்டிண்டு போறியா?' 'சரி வா.'

மாலுக்குப் போனார்கள்.

'Fun cityக்குப் போகலாம்' என்றது சின்னக் கழுதை. Fun city என்பது அட்ராசிடி நடக்கும் இடம். பணம் பிடுங்கும் இடம். பேஸ்கட் பாலைக் கூடையில் போடுவதற்கும், போடாமல் இருப்பதற்கும் 100 ரூபாய் கொடுக்க வேண்டும்.

Deal or No Deal விளையாடும் காசுக்கு நான்கு Unlimited Meal சாப்பிடலாம். விளையாடி முடித்ததும் வெற்றிக்கேற்ப டெய்லரின் இஞ்ச் டேப் மாதிரி டிக்கெட்டுகளைத் துப்பும்.

1200 ரூபாய்க்கு ரீசார்ஜ் செய்தான் புர்ஷோத்தமன். சின்னக் கழுதை விளையாட ஆரம்பித்தது. ரேஸ் விளையாடியது. கழுதைக்கு ரேஸ் வருமா? தோற்றுப் போனது.

முடிவில் பாவாடை நாடா நீளத்துக்கு டிக்கெட் அவனிடம் இருந்தது. அதை Redeem செய்தால் ஒரு வாசனை எரேஸர் கொடுத்தார்கள்.

சின்னக் கழுதைக்குத் தான் அந்த வாசனை தெரியவில்லை. மறுநாள் மாலை சின்னக் கழுதையை சினிமாவுக்குக் கூட்டிக் கொண்டு போனான். படத்தின் பெயர் Don 3. ஆரம்பத்தில் டைட்டிலில் இந்தப் படத்தில் விலங்குகள் எதுவும் துன்புறுத்தப் படவில்லை என்று போட்டபோது பின் சீட்டிலிருந்து எவனோ ஒருவன் கால்களை நீட்டி இடித்தான்.

இடைவேளையில் தன் டிமாண்டை வைத்தது சின்னக் கழுதை. வெஜ் பப்ஸ், பாப்கார்ன், கோன் ஜஸ். அறுநூறு ரூபாய் அழுதான் புர்ஷோத்தமன். ஆக மொத்தம் அன்றைய செலவு 1300 ரூபாய்.

வரும்போது சின்னக் கழுதை கேட்டது.

'அப்பா, நாளைக்குப் பேப்பர் ரோஸ்ட் வாங்கித் தரியா?'

வீட்டுக்குப் போனதும் ஜான்கி கத்தினான்.

'எதுக்கு சின்னக் கழுதையை ரெண்டு நாளா வெளியிலே கூட்டிண்டு போறீங்க? அவ பாட்டுக்குப் பெரிய கழுதையோட விளையாடிகிட்டி இருந்திருப்பா இல்லே?'

'பெரிய கழுதை பரிட்சைக்குப் படிச்சிகிட்டிருக்கே, அதனாலேதான்.'

'அட அறிவுக் கொழுந்தே! பெரிய கழுதைக்குப் பரிட்சை எல்லாம் முடிஞ்சு முனு நாள் ஆச்சு' என்றான் ஜான்கி.

nandaaft@gmail.com

T. NAGAR & MAMBALAM BAZAAR

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

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Unused EB cables block pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

Bunch of thick EB cables and damaged EB equipment have been dumped on the pavement of G.N. Chetty Road (near Geetham Vegetarian Restaurant, T. Nagar).

They are blocking the way for pedestrians and pose a danger especially at night due to poor visibility.

Street name board defaced

By Our Staff Reporter

Due to frequent pasting and removal of advertisement bills, the name board of Brindavan Street (near Lakshmi Narayanan Street junction, West Mambalam) is defaced.

The street's name is not readable.

The residents of the street have appealed to Chennai Corporation to replace the damaged sticker.



Damaged manhole covers replaced



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation workers were seen replacing the missing and damaged covers of storm water drain chambers in Moosa Street (T. Nagar).

This photo, taken at 2 p.m on Jan. 5, shows a cover replaced and the leveling work in progress.

Four drown off ECR

Four persons including a couple from T. Nagar, drowned while taking a dip in the sea off Kanathur (near Mamallapuram, East Coast Road) on Jan. 1.

The couple's daughter Niveditha (18) was rescued. The deceased were identified as Sivathanu (46), his wife Swetha and their friends Manas and Prasad. While the bodies of two, including the girl's father, washed ashore, bodies of the remaining two were found washed ashore 500 meters away from where they drowned, the next morning. Kanathur police said that when the family was playing in the water at the beach, a big wave dragged Niveditha into the sea. The remaining four got drowned while trying to save her.

The girl, who was seen struggling to stay afloat, was rescued by fishermen.

Balachander's play 'Blackout' to be staged today

By Our Staff Reporter

The popular comedy play 'Blackout', written by legendary Director K. Balachander, will be staged by the drama troupe Theatrekaran (10/6,

Jothi Nagar, West Mambalam) at 4.30 p.m and 6 p.m, on Sunday, Jan. 7 in Alliance Francaise of Madras (Nungambakkam).

V.K. Sabarivas (Co-Founder, Theatrekaran) said that the play is based on a period in 1971 when the Bangladesh Liberation War began.

During the war, which broke out between Bangla-

desh and Pakistan, since India was in between, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had stressed the concept of a blackout.

There was an hour of blackout at night where every household was ordered to switch off lights which was a precautionary method during the hour of bombing.

A time period when people switched off all forms and sources of lights to escape bombing from fighter planes, a series of comedy offerings took place at the house of Namashivayam (the main character of the play).

'Blackout' delves into the character of Namashivayam, a 50-year-old thrifty, family man, who is trying his best to hold together his spendthrift wife, a failed doctor, a student lawyer and a daughter who is preparing to elope.

The day Madras announces blackout is when Namashivayam falls in love with another woman. Who will be the first to elope that night during the blackout?

It is going to be a humorous ruckus between the family and the people of Madras.

Tickets can be purchased at the venue or by calling Theaterkaran in 98849 66613.

Week-long discourses on 'Vaishnava Samhita' from tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

Global Organisation for Divinity India Trust has organised week-long discourses in Tamil by Maharanyam Muralidhara Swamiji on 'Vaishnava Samhita', authored by Paranur Mahatma Sri Krishna Premi Swamigal.

The discourses will be delivered from 6.30 p.m to 8.30 p.m from Jan. 8 to 14 in Narada Gana Sabha, Alwarpet.

There will be Paarayanam and Kirtans of Vaishnava Samhita and Govinda Shatakam in the morning on all days.

Heavy rain forecast today

The Meteorological Department has forecast heavy rainfall in seven districts including the city on Sunday, January 7.

Cool breeze and cloudy weather marked the year's first rain spell in the city and the suburbs on Jan. 4.

The rain activity, meteorologists said, was due to the convergence of opposing winds caused by the presence of a cyclonic circulation over the Arabian Sea. Experts said the area of wind convergence may shift eastwards to the coastal areas causing downpour in Chennai on Jan. 7 and 8.

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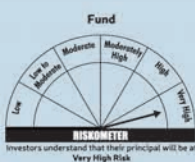
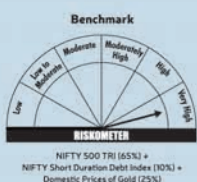


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Source: Bloomberg; Computation: In-house. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Rolling Returns calculated on a daily basis. Multi asset model portfolio considers theoretical allocation of 25% to Gold, 10% to 10Y G-secs and the rest towards Nifty 50. Equity allocation to Nifty 50 ranges from 50% to 65% based on asset allocation framework using market valuations. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future. The index used is CPI combined (2012 base).



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		Nifty 50(%)	Gold(%)
Taper tantrum	Jun '13 to Aug '13	-6.3	24.6
Correction post election rally	Mar '15 to Feb '16	-17.7	11.2
Covid pandemic	Jan '20 to Mar '20	-28.6	0.7
Ukraine-Russia conflict	Jan '22 to Jun '22	-9.0	6.3

Source: Bloomberg, In-house computation. Gold returns based on MCX Gold Index. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future.

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Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

Margazhi season: Taking bhajans to the streets

By Our Staff Reporter

As part of Margazhi Vizha, members of Sastra Satsangh (West Mambalam) will walk along streets singing bhajans early in the morning.

On Sunday, Jan. 7, 15 members of the Satsangh will start from the house of Suchithra Balasubramaniam (Carnatic vocalist and Harikatha exponent) on Kripa Sankari Street (West Mambalam) at 6.30 a.m. and pass along the streets of Mambalam and Ashok Nagar to reach the Sastra Satsangh Auditorium in Rangarajapuram at 8.30 a.m.

Suchitra, who is the granddaughter and disciple of Kamala Murthy of Thanjavur, and the group will sing a medley of devotional songs.

All are welcome to join the walk and for snacks afterwards.



Trench dug to connect storm water drain



By Our Staff Reporter

As the work of connecting the storm water drains on Gandhi Street and Eswaran Koil Street (West Mambalam) is in progress, a 100-ft stretch of

Eswaran Koil Street near the junction has not been black-topped.

The rest of the street upto Duraisamy subway was relaid on Jan. 2 without milling.

Photo taken on Jan. 2 shows workers of Chennai Corporation engaged in digging a trench to connect the drains at the road junction.

The second photo shows the relaid street.

There was heavy water stagnation on Gandhi Street after the heavy rains last month.

Essentials distributed among differently-abled persons

By Our Staff Reporter

On behalf of Single Teacher Schools, essentials like rice and provisions were distributed among families of 300 differently-abled persons affected by Michaung Cyclone in Dr. MGR Janaki Matriculation School (Saligramam) last week.

The beneficiaries were identified by Tamilnadu Udvikkaram Association for the Welfare of Differently Abled (TNUAWDA) (50, 53rd Street, Ashok Nagar).

B. Senthil Kumar and P. Srinivasan (Members of Single Teacher Schools), T. A. P. Varadakutti (State President) and K. Gopinath (State General Secretary) of TNUAWDA were present.

The program was sponsored by R.P. Krishnamachari (Secretary of Single Teacher Schools and MD of Tex Bio-Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Ashok Nagar). The contact numbers of TNUAWDA are 97908 20194 and 94448 91338.

AL4S Charitable Trust felicitates achiever in paralympics

By Our Staff Reporter

In appreciation of her achievements in Asian Para Games held in Hangzhou (China), 14-year-old Sharon Rachel Aby (resident of Mogappair), was felicitated by AL4S Charitable Trust (Jothiramalingam Street, West Mambalam) during the music festival in Infosys Hall (T. Nagar).

She was presented gifts including its products by Sreedevi Ayurveda Pharma (Lake View Road, West Mambalam).

M. Gopala Krishna Iyer (Founder, Sreedevi Ayurveda) was present.



Bhogi bonfire: Corporation conducts awareness event

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation's solid waste management department on Jan. 3 conducted an awareness event against burning toxic products during the Bhogi festival for school students in RKM Sarada Vidyalaya (T. Nagar).

Officials spoke against burning plastic, rubber, clothes, tyres and electric equipment as they would cause severe health hazards.

Representatives of NGOs also participated in the event.



Celebrations to mark Ram Temple consecration begin in TTD temple

By Our Staff Reporter

The three-week Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Kshetra Prana Prathishta Celebrations, organised by the Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams (TTD) to mark the consecration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on Jan.

22, began in Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam temple (Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar) on Jan. 3. K. Parasaran (Founder-Trustee member, Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Theertha Kshetra Trust), A.J. Sekar (President, TTD Advisory Committee, Tamilnadu and Pondicherry), S. Vedantam (Former President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad) were present.

On the occasion, a 10.5-foot statue of Lord Rama made of fibre was unveiled. Devotees can offer prayers till Jan. 26 to Lord Rama here.

U Ve Velukudi Krishnan gave a discourse on the incarnation of Lord Rama in Ayodhya.

Parasaran, a senior Supreme Court lawyer and former Attorney General of India, had successfully fought the Ayodhya land dispute. Vedantam said that the Ram Janmabhoomi struggle was 500 years old and he was involved in it for the past 50 years.



Vande Bharat special service to Mysore on Wednesdays

Vande Bharat weekly special train from Chennai Central station to Mysore via Bangalore was launched on Jan. 3.

The Vande Bharat train number 06037 departs from Chennai Central at 5.50 a.m. on Wednesdays and reaches Mysore at 12.20 p.m. the same day.

On the return trip, the Vande Bharat train number 06038 departs from Mysore at 1.05 p.m. on the same day and reaches Chennai Central at 7.20 p.m.

Corporation restores street lights across city

Cyclone Michaung had not only affected thousands of houses but also disrupted electricity supply across the city, affecting street lights. While normalcy returned to the city a week later, Chennai Corporation and Tamilnadu Electricity Board are continuing to receive complaints from residents about faulty street lights in all zones.

According to data from the civic body, Zone 6 (Thiru. Vi. Ka. Nagar) recorded the highest number of complaints, followed by Zone 9 (Teynam-pet).

A TNEB officer said that of the complaints received every day through the public grievance redressal system, six to 10 are redressed. Sufficient stocks of poles have been procured, and work on installing them in the identified dark spots will begin soon.

Launch of movie 'Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar' held in T. Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

The launch of the movie titled 'Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar', based on the life of India's first woman freedom fighter Velu Nachiyar, was held on Jan. 3 in Thevar Mahal (T. Nagar).

Produced by J. M. Bashir under Trends Cinemas banner and directed by R Aravintha Raj, the music for the movie will be composed by A.R. Rehman. While Bashir will enact the role of the important character Periya Maruthu, his daughter Ayisha, who is making her debut in movies, will play the lead character of Velu Nachiyar.

Bashir said that the script of the film has been developed after studying historical documents.

J. Sridhar will be the cinematographer and the stunts will be choreographed by Miracle Michael.



Obesity and its health complications

By Dr. C. Rajeswaran and N. Kripa

Obesity is increasingly prevalent in India and is commonly seen even in teenagers, young mothers and menopausal women.

Overweight and obese persons are more susceptible to Type 2 Diabetes, heart attack, stroke, liver failure, kidney failure, erectile dysfunction, infertility and cancer.

In addition, persons with excess weight are under confident and have low self-esteem.

Factors contributing to obesity include genetics, environmental factors, poor dietary habits like regular consumption of food high in sugar and fats, lack of physical activity, psychological factors (stress and depression), medical conditions and socioeconomic status.

Based on WHO classification, Indians are classified as obese if Body Mass Index (BMI) is more than 25 kg/m².

But BMI is not a good measure of obesity.

This is why in our clinic, we do Body Composition Analysis (BCA). BCA measures percentage of fat, muscle, water and bone, which helps clinicians decide the best mode of treatment.

A person may have an excessive body fat percentage but still may fall under normal BMI. This is called Normal Weight Obesity (NWO). A person is said to be "Normal Weight Obese" if he/she has an increased body fat percentage but with a BMI less than 25 kg/m².

Why should one lose weight?

Obesity can lead to hypertension, cataracts, pulmonary disease, dyslipidemia, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, gallbladder disease, severe pancreatitis, gynaecologic abnormalities, osteoarthritis, skin conditions and gout.

Losing weight helps in lowering diabetes risk, lowers blood pressure, reduces knee pain, lowers the risk of heart disease, improves sleep apnea, reduces cholesterol levels and more importantly improves confidence and self-esteem.

Relationship between Obesity and Cancer

Obesity may lead to cancer of the large intestine, stomach, uterus, ovaries, breast, thyroid, prostate, kidney, oesophagus (food pipe) and pancreas. Cancer occurs when cells multiply uncontrollably and damage the adjoining healthy cells.

Quick weight loss can be counter-productive and always seek help from an experienced medical team before considering weight loss.

Dr C. Rajeswaran is a Senior Endocrinologist and N. Kripa is a Senior Clinical Dietitian with The London Obesity & Endocrine Clinic, Flat No B1, 1st Floor, New No 14, Old No 20, Dr. Nair Road, T. Nagar, Ph: 63699 87199.

Dismantled transformer dumped on pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

A dismantled transformer belonging to Tamilnadu Electricity Board, has been dumped on the pavement outside Chennai Corporation playground on Somasundaram Street, Parthasarathi Puram, T. Nagar.

A nearby shopkeeper told *Mambalam Times* that the transformer has been lying at the spot for several months.

He has appealed to TNEB to remove the transformer from the spot.

OBITUARY

KU KA SELVAM

Former DMK MLA Ku Ka Selvam passed away on Jan. 2.

He was 70, and had been a longtime resident of Kodambakkam. He started his political career under former Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran.

After MGR's death, he joined DMK in 1997. He was MLA of Thousand Lights constituency from 2016 to 2020. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.



Tamil Isai Vizha held in Ramakrishna Mission School

Tamil Isai Vizha was held in Sri Ramakrishna Matriculation Higher Secondary School (T. Nagar) on Jan. 2.

M.P. Saminathan (Minister for Information and Broadcasting) was the Chief Guest.

The event was organised by Vada America Tamil Sangha Peravai Isaikadal Panpattu Arakattalai.

Former West Bengal Additional Chief Secretary Balachandran and Iyal Isai Nataka Mandra Member Secretary Vijaya Thayanban participated.



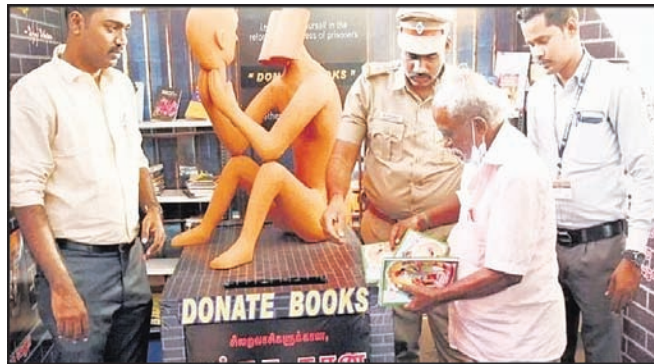
Prison Dept. sets up stall at book fair to collect books

By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Prison Department has set up a stall in the ongoing 47th Chennai Book Fair at YMCA (Nandanam) to collect books from donors, which will be added to prison libraries across the State.

Prison Department officials said that they have received over 300 books and invited members of the public to donate more books in the coming days. Visitors can register at the stall for donation and the officials will arrange for doorstep collection of the books.

The donated books will be distributed across the nine major central prisons.



Buy coffee powder, get sugar free

By Our Staff Reporter

Shri Venkateswara Coffee (4/58, Kuppiah Street, West Mambalam, near Station Road Police booth) is offering equivalent weight of free sugar on purchase of 1 kg., 500 gm. or 250 gm. of coffee powder.

The shop was opened in 1984. Its factory is located in 61, 12th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, near Devi Karumariamman Temple.

According to its proprietor, it sources export quality coffee seeds from Chickmagalur (Karnataka).

He said that specialising the combination of chicor especially for Brahmins is an attraction for the shop. Free home delivery is available for orders of 500 gm. and above. Homemade vathal, vadam, pickle and appalam are also available.

To place orders, call 98415 50670, 89397 28670 and 950013 3252 (factory).

Roads damaged by rain relaid



Several roads damaged by the heavy rains have been relaid. Residents complained that the roads have been relaid without milling as is the prescribed norm, thereby increasing their level.

Photos taken on Jan. 3 shows South West Boag Road and Srinivasan Street in T. Nagar relaid recently.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sunken manhole cover in pavement



Sir, The top of the storm water drain serves as the pavement of Gopal Street (T. Nagar).

Debris has been dumped on one end of the pavement, near Sundaramurthy Street junction.

A few feet away, while the manhole cover has sunk into the storm water drain chamber, it is also protruding a foot above the surface.

It poses grave danger to pedestrians as they can trip and fall and suffer grievous injuries.

I appeal to Chennai Corporation to place the cover properly and to remove the debris. **P. Manirathnam, Gopal Street, T. Nagar**

Damaged manhole covers in subway



Sir, There are a number of manholes in Madley Road subway whose covers are damaged making them dangerous for pedestrians, especially senior citizens using the subway to go from T. Nagar to West Mambalam and vice versa.

I appeal to Chennai Corporation to repair or replace the manhole covers.

I have attached the photo of a damaged manhole cover. **K Jayaprakash, Chandra Flats, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam**

Vijayakanth used to serve food to needy in T. Nagar

Sir, I am a resident of K.K. Nagar.

I had served as PRO of late actor Vijayakanth at the initial stages.

He and his assistants used to then stay in Rohini Lodge (Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar) while shooting in Chennai.

At that time, Vijayakanth used to serve food for at least 30 to 40 needy persons daily near the lodge which made passersby mistake it for an eatery.

I still remember that some passersby used to approach and ask if there was a restaurant inside the lodge.

He was known to do a lot of charity work and helped a number of underprivileged students pay their fees. He also gifted autos to more than 250 persons for their sustenance. **Singaravelu, 7th Avenue, K.K. Nagar**

Essentials distributed

By Our Staff Reporter

J. G. Hindu Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School (West Mambalam) distributed relief materials on Dec. 2 among 400 families severely impacted by the floods.

The relief package included 5kg rice, rava, wheat, tea, sugar, oil, seasoning ingredients, a bedsheet and a towel.

Students and staff of the school also contributed funds for buying the materials.

Three bus routes from T. Nagar to Kilambakkam terminus



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has released a list of MTC buses to be operated to the newly opened Kilambakkam bus terminus from different parts of the city.

Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated the Kilambakkam bus terminus, named Kalaigai Centenary Bus Terminus (KCBT), last week. According to the CMDA, operations of south bound buses from Koyambedu CMBT will be shifted to Kilambakkam.

The operations of SETC (State Express Transport Corporation) and private omni buses will immediately move to Kilambakkam, while operation of TNSTC (Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation) and PRTC (Puducherry Road Transport Corporation) will be announced later. MTC buses from T. Nagar terminus (51A, 51AX, V51X) will be operated at intervals of 10 minutes.

Fielding harmonious melodies

By Our Staff Reporter

In the bustling landscape of Pondy Bazaar in T. Nagar, a



compassionate mentor, Sixtyeight-year-old S. Kedarnath, residing in his ancestral home in T. Nagar, has inspired young aspirants of cricket and music to learn from his experience.

A former cricketer with the State Bank of India himself, Kedarnath seamlessly transitioned from the world of athleticism to mellifluous notes by founding Kedaram, a



music organisation, in 2016.

Every year, he conducts Kedaram Isai Vizha to bring the best Carnatic vocalists, violinists, and percussionists for the next generation, while honouring the veterans.

A disciple of ghatam maestro Vikku Vinayakram, he used

to carry his ghatam to his guru's concerts for 12 years.

"Pursuing MSc in Vivekananda College, I played as an opening batsman for the South Zone. Every person has a choice of pursuing what he/she is good at, and I chose cricket," he said. Looking at his performance, one of the selectors, AGM R Chandrasekharan, a former state spinner, invited him to join SBI. Kedarnath has played against cricketers like Gundappa Viswanath, Bishen Singh Bedi and Roger Binny.

After taking voluntary retirement from SBI, Kedarnath has been coaching since 2001 on the grounds of his alma mater Ramakrishna Mission School (T. Nagar).

He has trained successful cricketers like Murali Karthick and current Indian player Ravichandran Ashwin.

To pursue his interest in music, Kedarnath launched Kedaram Isai Vizha as a two-day concert in 2016.

Every year, a music competition is conducted, inviting 10-15 schools to encourage Carnatic music and the winner gets the opportunity to perform for two hours at the Vizha.

As part of the event, awards are presented to leading musicians.

This year 'Kedaram Gana Murthy' was presented to vocalist GS Mani.

Blocks cleared in sewer chambers



By Our Staff Reporter

Following complaints of sewage blocks leading to reverse flow in ground floor houses, Metrowater workers deployed a super sucker machine to clear the blocks in the underground sewer manholes in New Boag Road (T. Nagar).

This photo was taken at 2 p.m on Jan. 3.

Discourse on Bhagavad Gita today

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar), Swami Guruvanananda will deliver a discourse in Tamil on Bhagavad Gita at 5.30 p.m on Sunday, Jan. 7 in the Ashram's premises. All are welcome.

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

Makkaludan Mudhalvar camps end today

By Our Staff Reporter

Makkaludan Mudhalvar special camps are being held since Jan. 5 from 9.30 a.m to 5.30 p.m in the zonal offices of Chennai Corporation in all the 15 zones including Kodambakkam and Teynampet to enable residents to redress their grievances regarding civic amenities and taxes. They will conclude on Sunday, Jan. 7.

Petitions relating to property tax, water tax name change, trade license, enabling drinking water and sewage water connections, birth and death certificates can be submitted in the camps.

New property value for 3 lakh roads, streets announced

By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Government on Jan. 3 fixed the composite value for property on more than three lakh roads and streets across the state.

In Chennai, the composite value for close to 1.5 lakh streets and roads has been announced, the highest being Rs. 28,500 per sqft in and around Boat Club area. Registration charges are a flat 7% of the composite value.

"We have not covered all streets as some may not be suitable for multi-storied buildings. We arrived at the value based on the lowest rate in a basic apartment complex", an official from the State Registration Department said.

International book fair from Jan. 16 to 18

By Our Staff Reporter

The 2nd edition of the annual Chennai International Book Fair (CIBF) will be held in Chennai Trade Centre (Nandambakkam) from Jan. 16 to 18.

It will be open from 9.30 a.m to 8 p.m.

Publishers from over 38 countries will participate in the book fair.

It has been organised by Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation and Educational Services, an enterprise of the Government of Tamilnadu.

The theme for CIBF this year will be "Writing: from Pots to Bots", emphasizing how writing has evolved over time from its humble beginnings with pot shreds to Artificial Intelligence.

An array of activities such as book launches, seminars, panel discussions, and workshops will be held.

Participants include authors, educators, librarians, researchers, students and aspiring writers from across the country who can gain valuable insights into the publishing industry.

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Special abhishekam to Lord Hanuman on Thursday

By Our Staff Reporter

On account of Hanumanth Jayanthi, special abhishekam and alangaaram will be performed to Lord Hanuman at 10 a.m on Thursday, Jan. 11 in Siva-Vishnu Temple (Usman Road, T. Nagar).

It will be followed by Maha Deepaaradhanai at 10.30 a.m. All are welcome.

Man held for biting cop's finger

By Our Staff Reporter

A police constable who went to attend a domestic violence distress call in KK Nagar on Dec. 31, had his finger bitten by the woman's husband, when the cop tried to pacify him.

The man was arrested.

The incident happened when Constable Mubarak of KK Nagar police station was sent to attend the distress call after information from the police control room.

When Mubarak arrived at the house, he found the complainant's husband, identified as R. Shanthakumar (23), behaving in an aggressive and violent manner.

When Mubarak held him tightly, Shanthakumar, in a bid to loosen the grip, bit the cop's finger and fled the house.

He was arrested the next day and remanded to judicial custody.

CMRL records 9.11 crore passenger ridership in 2023

9.11 crore passengers travelled by Chennai Metro in 2023.

The number saw a significant increase from last year which recorded 6.09 crore passengers between January to December.

As per data, since operations commenced in June 2015, 25.01 crore passengers have travelled in metro trains.

The number dwindled to 1.18 crore passengers in 2020 due to the impact of Covid and reached 2.53 crores in 2021. Since then, the number witnessed a steady rise as demand among passengers too saw a spike. Due to this, the number rose to 6.09 crore passengers in 2022 and 9.11 crore passengers in 2023. Chennai Metro continues to offer a 20 percent discount on all e-payment tickets.

Car sans number plates abandoned on road



By Our Staff Reporter

A car without number plates has been remained abandoned on the margin of Vidyodaya Main Road (T. Nagar) for over two years, a nearby resident told Mambalam Times.

He appealed to traffic police to remove the vehicle from the spot.

Open EB pillar box poses danger

By Our Staff Reporter

The TNEB pillar box on the pavement of South West Boag Road, opposite Indian Bank (T. Nagar) is lying open.

It poses the danger of electrocution to unwary passersby, especially at night due to poor visibility.

Nearby residents have appealed to TNEB to close the pillar box.



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Chennai Book Fair kicks off

By Our Staff Reporter

The 47th edition of Chennai Book Fair (one of the biggest annual platforms for Tamil publishers) organised by The Book Sellers and Publishers Association of South India (BAPASI) began on Wednesday, Jan. 3 in YMCA Grounds

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(Nandanam).

Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated the fair which will conclude on Jan. 21.

S. K. Murugan (Secretary, BAPASI) said the book fair features 915 stalls with more than 800 titles.

Apart from the regular publishers, 27 new members of

Bapasi have also been allocated stalls. Non-members, who approached Bapasi, have also been accommodated.

Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi Porkizhi Award and other BAPASI literary awards were presented to distinguished authors and publishers on the inaugural day, he said.

10% discount is offered on

all books.

The fair is open from 11 a.m to 9 p.m on Sunday and govt. holidays and from 2 p.m to 8.30 p.m on the other days.

Authors from other states as well as institutes promoting literature like the International Institute of Tamil Studies, Centre's Sahitya Akademi, National Book Trust

of India and Thanjavur Tamil University are participating in the fair. Wheelchair service is available for the elderly and disabled.

The venue has ample 2-wheeler and car parking facility. A police outpost, fire service, ambulance service and first aid are present at the venue.



South Usman Road flyover to be ready by year-end

By Our Staff Reporter

Construction of the flyover over South Usman Road (connecting Anna Salai with T. Nagar) is expected to be completed by December 2024.

Chennai Corporation Commissioner J. Radhakrishnan, who inspected the site, said work on the Rs. 1.3-crore project is progressing fast.

The flyover, with steel pillars, is 1.2 km. long and will have two lanes.

A service lane is being created beneath the flyover and it will also have pavements of 1.5 meters width beneath.



Currently, piers have been placed and concrete works are in progress.

The flyover will have entry and exit ramps at Madley junction, near Ranganathan Street and Panagal Park.

With more than 20,000 vehicles passing from CIT Nagar to T. Nagar, this flyover will decongest the traffic for vehicles heading to Mambalam, T. Nagar, Kodambakkam and Nungambakkam, from Anna

Salai. It will reduce travel time on South Usman Road, Burkit Road, Madley Road, South Boag Road, and New Boag Road.

The new flyover will be connected to the existing Usman Road flyover that ends before Vivek Junction.

Once connected, motorists from Anna Salai can directly reach T. Nagar through this flyover skipping the busy Madley junction.

Manhole covers damaged



By Our Staff Reporter

After the surface of Ellaiamman Koil Street (West Mambalam) was damaged in the heavy rains last month, was relaid last week.

But some of the damaged covers of the underground sewer chambers on the street have not been replaced.

Photo taken on Jan. 5, shows a damaged manhole cover near the junction of Joth Ramalingam Street (T. Nagar).

It poses a danger to motorists.

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