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Vol. 29, No. 43

March 10 - 16, 2024

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எண்ணெய் வதம் செய்தனை....

'வெண்டைக்காய் வாங்கிண்டு வந்திருக்கேன்', பையிலிருந்து கொட்டினார் விட்டல்.

'மோர்க் குழம்பு செய்யறதுக்கு எதுக்கு இவ்வளவு வெண்ணைக்காய்?' என்றான் மனைவி மகேஸ்வரி.

'மோர்க் குழம்பா? அதை ஒரு மெயின் ஐட்டமா யாராவது சாப்பிடு வாங்களா? கல்யாணப் பந்தியிலேகூட அதை சாம்பாருக்கு அப்பறம் ரெண்டாவது ஐட்டமாதான் ஊத்துவாங்க. நீ இதைப் பொறியல் செஞ்சுரு.'

விபரீதம் ஆரம்பமாகப் போகிறது என்று மகேஸ்வரிக்குப் புரிந்தது.

'வாணலியில் போட்டு வதக்கி செஞ்சுரு' என்றார் விட்டல்.

'ஆரம்பிச்சிட்டங்களா இந்த வதக்கல் வேலையை? உங்களுக்கு விட்டல்லு பெயர் வைச்சதுக்கு பதிலா வதக்கல்லு பெயர் வைச்சிருக்கலாம். எதை எடுத்தாலும் உங்களுக்கு வதக்கணும்.'

விட்டலுக்கு எதுவாக இருந்தாலும் வதக்கி சாப்பிட வேண்டும். இடலியைக்கூட வதக்கி இட்லி உப்புமாவாக சாப்பிடும் இசகு பிசகான ஆள் அவர்.

'ஒரு கிலோ வெண்டைக்காய் இருக்கு. அதை Deep fry செஞ்சுரு. ஒரு கிலோ வெண்டைக்காய் கால் கிலோவாக ஆகணும்.'

'கடையிலேயே முக்கால் கிலோவைத் தூக்கி எறிஞ்சிட்டு வந்திருக்கலாம் இல்லே?' என்று விட்டல் காய்கறி நறுக்கும் பலகையையும் கத்தியையும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு வந்தார்.

'வெண்டைக்காயைப் பெருக பெருசா நறுக்கக் கூடாது. சிறுசா நறுக்கணும். அரை இஞ்சுக்கு மேலே போயிடக்கூடாது. இந்தா ஸ்கேல்.'

'எதுக்கு ஸ்கேல்? இதென்ன ஸ்கேலா? தோராயமா நறுக்கினால் போதும்.'

'நான் ஏற்கெனவே கணக்குப் போட்டு வைச்சுட்டேன். அரை இஞ்ச் அகலத்துக்கு இத்தனையும் கட் செஞ்சா 365 துண்டு வரும்.'

'அவ்வளவா? வருஷத்துக்கு 365 நான் மாதிரியா?'

'கொஞ்சம் இரு. 366 துண்டா நறுக்கிடு.'

'எதுக்கு?'

'இது லீப் வருஷம்.'

மகேஸ்வரி நறுக்க ஆரம்பித்தாள். 340 துண்டுகள் வந்தன. மாவட்டங்களைப் பிரிப்பது போல சில துண்டுகளை எடுத்து மறுபடியும் நறுக்கினார் விட்டல்.

இப்போது 366 துண்டுகள் வந்துவிட்டன.

'முதல் கட்டம் ஓவர். அடுத்தது வதக்கல். கமான், ஸ்டார்ட்.'

'இவ்வளவையும் வதக்கவா? அப்பறம் வயித்தாலே போகும்.'

ஒரு சிறிய வாணலியை அடுப்பின்மேல் வைத்தாள் மகேஸ்வரி.

'பெரிய வாணலியை எடுத்து வை. ஒரு மணி நேரம் வதக்கணும். சட்டுவத்தாலே புரட்டிப் போட இடம் வேணும்.'

'ஒரு மணி நேரம் அடுப்புலே வைச்சா பெரிய வாணலி சின்ன வாணலி ஆயிடும்தான்.'

'பேசாதே. இதோ, எண்ணெயை ஊத்தறேன்.'

இரண்டு பெரிய கரண்டி அளவுக்கு எண்ணெயை ஊற்றினார் விட்டல். எண்ணூர் துறைமுகத்தில் ஆயில் கசிந்த மாதிரி வாணலி முழுக்க எண்ணெய் ஆனது.

'ஐயோ, அத்தனையும் கொலஸ்ட்ரால்.'

'நல்லா வதக்கினா அத்தனை எண்ணெயும் ஆவியா போய் சிம்னிக்கு ஏறிடும்தான்.'

'அப்போ சிம்னிக்கு கொலஸ்ட்ரால் வந்துடுமே! ஏற்கெனவே சிம்னி பக்கவாதம் வந்த மாதிரி இழுக்குது.'

'நீ அடுப்புப் பக்கத்திலேயே இருந்து வதக்கிக்கிட்டே இரு. பச்சைக் கலர் வெண்டைக்காய் கண்டைக்காய் கலருக்கு மாறணும். அரை இஞ்ச் நீளம் கால் இஞ்சா குறையணும்.'

'இதுக்கு நீங்க கண்டைக்காயையே சாப்பிட்டுடலாம்.'

'வெண்டைக்காய் மேலே எண்ணெயை லேமினேட் செஞ்சு மாதிரி இருக்கணும்.'

மகேஸ்வரி ஒரு ஸ்டுலைப் போட்டுக்கொண்டு அடுப்பின் முன்னால் அமர்ந்தாள்.

'தேவையானா மாஸ்க் போட்டுக்கோ' என்றார் விட்டல்.

'நீங்க மொச்சக் மொச்சக்னு சாப்பிடறதுக்கு நான் மாஸ்க் போட்டுக்கணுமா? தலையெழுத்து.'

வாணலியில் காயைக் கிண்ட ஆரம்பித்தாள் மகேஸ்வரி. அரை மணி நேரம் போனது.

'வாசனை குப்பரா வருது. சொதப்பல் இல்லாம வதக்கிட்டே.'

'க்கக்கும்' முகவாய்க் கடையில் இடித்துக் கொண்டாள் மகேஸ்வரி.

'வாணலியின் மேலே ஒரு தட்டைப் போட்டு முடி வை. என் சாப்பாடு தட்டையே போட்டு முடி.'

'செய்யறேன்.'

'தட்டுலே எண்ணெய் இறங்கினதா?'

'என் பைரத் தோடுலேதான் எண்ணெய் இறங்கியிருக்கு.'

சாப்பிட உட்காரும்போது மகேஸ்வரியின் மாமா ஊரிலிருந்து வந்தார்.

'சாப்பாடு ரெடி போல இருக்கே?' என்றார் மாமா.

'மாமாவுக்கு அப்பளம் சுட்டுப் போட்டுடு' என்றார் விட்டல்.

மதியம் விட்டல் தூங்கிக் கொண்டிருக்கும்போது மாமா விடம் வெண்டைக்காயை Deep fry செய்த கதையைக் கூறினாள் மகேஸ்வரி. மூன்று நாளுக்கொரு முறை இப்படி Deep fry செய்யும் கதையையும் சொன்னாள்.

மாலை மாமாவும், விட்டலும் பேசிக் கொண்டிருந்தார்கள்.

'Deep fry செய்யச் சொல்லி மகேஸ்வரியை ஒரு மணி நேரம் அடுப்புப் பக்கத்திலே நீக்க வைச்சக் கொடுமைப் படுத்திங்களாமே?'

'இது கொடுமை இல்லை. புருஷனுக்கு செய்யற கொடுப்பினை.'

'இல்லை, இது ஸ்த்ரீ பாவம். கருட புராணத்துலே இதுக்கு தண்டனை இருக்கு.'

'என்ன தண்டனை?'

'எமலோகத்துலே எண்ணெய் சட்டியிலே போட்டு உங்களை வறுத்தெடுப் பாங்க.'

'அப்படியா?'

'ஆமாம், Deep fry' என்றார் மாமா.

விட்டல் இப்போதெல்லாம் காய்கறிகளைப் பச்சையாகவே சாப்பிடுகிறார்.



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. 700) and 4 cm. x 2 column (costing Rs. 1400)

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Ravichandran Ashwin, the artist whose art knows no boundaries

By Aakash Sivasubramaniam

The Indian off-spinner made his 100th Test appearance in the 5th Test Match in Dharamshala on March 7, a usual place of pilgrimage.

A resident of Postal Colony (West Mambalam), Ashwin has always loved to challenge the norm.

It was in his blood. He would never accept a no without reasoning, and that is perhaps even the right way to look at life.

As a young child growing up in West Mambalam, a typical Tamil Brahmin area, Ravichandran Ashwin was not just a cricketer. He was an inspiration, a cricket scientist and moreover, someone with whom I have shared a lot of tennis-ball memories.

Not many people can claim this memory, but the fact that I have played tennis-ball cricket with Ashwin at a relatively young age showed humility was always his biggest virtue. Even then, it was clear that Ashwin did not like to lose; he played street cricket passionately.

Cricketers who played with him during his youth, are so well aware of the carrom ball. I have seen it from very close quarters, including several other variations that brought him success on almost every occasion. Even after he swapped the streets for the grounds, one thing that has not ever stopped is his constant endeavour to improve.

Ashwin never stops. Ashwin never quits. Ashwin never takes a break (from learning).

Being the cricket nut he is, the 37-year-old always finds that area for self-improvement. It could be how he loads up in his action, releases the ball, or grips it. There's so much thought that is constantly going on in his head.

If it isn't about his actions or his variations, the inner engineer in him takes over. What if you could use the crease slightly wider, what if you could come in closer to the umpire and deliver it within? Or what if you just don't reach the crease and deliver the ball from behind?

Ashwin has done all of the above things in his career, including the part where he has delivered the ball from behind, far away from the bowling crease.



He has bowled the carrom, that delivery which goes in with the angle, the one that sharply turns, and the others which seemingly make a batter believe that it will turn. That's what makes Ashwin extremely special.

His repertoire includes the off-break, straight delivery, carrom, arm ball, yorker, leg-

break, top spin, googly, doosra, flipper, and a seam up.

He has 354 wickets in India, the most for any bowler, surpassing the great Anil Kumble, who had 350 scalps. He has 404 wickets in Asia and is only 15 behind Kumble on that chart, with Muttiah Muralitharan still 208 wickets away.

Everyone knows the numbers, but not everyone knows Ashwin, the leader. Ashwin has never donned the title of a leader on paper in the Indian setup. But it is an open secret that he is up there as perhaps one of the most astute minds in Indian cricket's rich history. Sometimes, you don't need a title to be a leader, and Ashwin is a fitting example.

He's one of the greatest spinners of this generation if not the greatest.

Aakash Sivasubramaniam is a resident of T. Nagar and Sub-Editor at cricket.com

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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, March 10 in the Ashram's premises.

All are welcome. More details can be had in 28143896 and 28143514.

2 new bus services introduced

By Our Staff Reporter

Two new bus services to Kovalam, from T. Nagar and Saidapet terminals, were introduced recently by MTC (Metropolitan Transport Corporation).

While route 19T from Kovalam to T. Nagar will go via Muttukkadu, Thiruvanniyur and Saidapet, route 19 GCT from Kovalam to Saidapet will go via Muttukkadu, Palavakkam, Madhya Kailash and Chinnamalai.



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Daily discourses on Ramayana till April 17

By Our Staff Reporter

Acharya Rangarajan Kalyanaraman (Rangaji) is giving discourses on the epic Ramayana from 7 p.m to 9 p.m daily in Vidhyaranya Satsang Hall (125, G.N. Chetty Road, opposite Geetham Vegetarian Restaurant, T. Nagar) since March 1. They will conclude on Wednesday, April 17.

Rangaji said that the discourses are a tribute to the recently consecrated Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Rangaji is Advaita Vedanta Acharya and disciple of Guru Swami Brahmayogananda and from the lineage of Swami Dayananda Saraswati.

He assumed the Vyasa Peetham in 2014 and teaches Vedanta to more than 150 students in India, US, Singapore and Dubai.

Entry is free. All are welcome

For more details, call 98841 78792, 98847 06195.

'Sahasra Kodi Linga Dharshan'

By Our Staff Reporter

The ongoing 5-day 'Sahasra Kodi Linga Dharshan' organized by Brahmakumaris (Anna Nagar) on the occasion of its Thirumurthy Sivajayanthi in Kurungaleeswararwamy Thirumana Mandapam in Koyambedu will conclude on Monday, March 11.

Villakku pooja will be conducted from 6.30 p.m to 7.30 p.m on Sunday, March 10. Free Rajayoga Dhyana training will be conducted.

Tamil essay writing contest on March 16

In connection with International Women's Day, Jothi Madhar Sangam (3, Hanuman Koil Street, West Mambalam) has organised an essay writing competition in Tamil on the topic " " " " on March 16 in Levelup Studio (2nd Floor, 28, South Usman Road, T. Nagar, near T. Nagar Bus Stand).

Those who cannot participate in person can send a 2-minute video by reading out the essay written by them on the topic by WhatsApp to the number 86108 16088 or 96772 50039.

All registered participants will get gifts and attractive prizes will be presented to the top three winners. The event will include spot games, women fitness awareness program and cultural activities.

The last date for registration is Wednesday, March 13.

More details can be had in 86108 16088 or 96772 50039.

Brahmotsavam ends in Padmavathy Thaayaar Temple



By Our Staff Reporter

The 9-day Brahmotsavam festival was celebrated with fervour in TTD Padmavathy Thaayaar Temple (85/41, G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) from Feb. 28 to March 7.

The celebrations started with flag hoisting ceremony on Feb. 28.

Special pujas, abhishekams and alangaarams were performed daily to the presiding deity in the morning and evening. Devotional concerts were conducted from 3 p.m to 5 p.m and the deity was taken in procession around the temple in different vahanas daily.

On March 3, thousands of devotees participated in the special procession in Gaja vahanam from the temple via G.N. Chetty Road (AGS Cinemas), North Boag Road, Vijayaraghava Road and back to the temple.

Bombay Chaat House opens on Chakrapani Street

By Our Staff Reporter

Bombay Chaat House was recently opened at 27, Chakrapani Street, West Mambalam, near Five Lights.

The shop serves chat items like pani/masala puri, samosa, channa, Bombay masala toast, paneer toast etc and sandwich items.

An inaugural discount of 10% is being given on bills of Rs.100 and above till March 17.

Chinese items like gopimanchurian, noodles, paneer etc. are available in the evening.

Fresh juice items are also available.

K.Ragunathan (proprietor), who has 15 years' experience in the catering industry, told Mambalam Times that the

ingredients used in the food items are of high standard and cleanliness is maintained during food preparation.

The outlet is open from 12 noon to 10.30 p.m on all days.

The phone number of the shop is 98404 89092.




Nachikulam L. Saravanan (Vice President, South Chennai District BJP) Visited Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi who arrived to attend the BJP general meeting held on March 4 at YMCA Ground, Nandanam, Chennai-35. Nachikulam Saravanan Welcomed the PM

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OBITUARY



DR. C.R. VENKATARAMAN

DOB: 09/10/1933 DOD: 07/03/2024

Retd. Senior Physician, Public Health Centre, H/o. Santha Venkataraman (Resident of New No 25, Old No. 11, Bhakthavatsalam Street, West Mambalam) passed away peacefully.

Deeply mourned by his Children, Grand & Great Grandchildren.

Ph: 044-2474 2060

Waste dumped despite cautionary signboard



By Our Staff Reporter

Last month, a signboard cautioning against parking of vehicles, vending or causing any type of encroachments was installed on the service lanes of Madley Road, adjoining the subway.

The signboard also warns that strict action will be taken against the offenders.

Despite the cautionary board, nearby vendors and residents continue to dump waste on the service lanes.

This photo, taken at 3 p.m. on Feb. 28, shows damaged plywood boards dumped next to the overflowing garbage bin.

The signboard clearly states that "As per High Court Order numbers 36900/2006, parking of vehicles, putting up shops or vending on the roadsides or creating any kind of encroachment is strictly prohibited on both the service lanes and the U-turn sections".

What is the point of installing the signboard just to obey a court order and then not implement it in its true spirit, ask residents.

Two weeks back, *Mambalam Times* had published a photo showing heaps of vegetable waste dumped at the very spot.

Unless stringent action is taken against the offenders, this will continue and soon encroachments will also begin on the stretch causing nuisance to pedestrians, nearby residents and motorists as it has been for several decades.

Damaged plywood boards dumped on pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

Damaged plywood boards, cardboard sheets and other wooden waste has been dumped on the pavement of Janakiram Street (West Mambalam).

This photo was taken on March 5.

1360 special buses operated for Shivarathri

By Our Staff Reporter

The transport department operated a total of 1,360 special buses from March 7 to 9 from Chennai to several districts for Shivrathri and Muhurtham days.

Buses were operated to Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchy, Kumbakonam, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari, Thoothukudi, Coimbatore, Salem, Erode and Tiruppur from Kilambakkam terminus.

Anna Main Road two-way again



By Our Staff Reporter

After five years, 2-way traffic has been restored on Anna Main Road connecting KK Nagar, Nesapakkam, and Ramapuram.

Chennai Corporation has relaid a portion of the road that was closed for Metrowater work. K. Dhanasekaran (Councillor, Ward 137) said Metrowater is constructing a new pumping station on 7th Street to divert sewage flow from one pipeline beneath Anna Main Road.

"Once this is done, load on the channel will reduce, and possibilities of cave-ins will be addressed," he said. Though two-way traffic has been restored, encroachments have not been completely cleared.

Residents said over the past five years, many MTC buses, including those plying from KK Nagar through Nesapakkam, Saligramam, and Vadapalani, stopped using the congested lane and opted for the 100-ft road instead. This has caused hardship for commuters.

Gopinath felicitated for services to disabled



By Our Staff Reporter

K. Gopinath (State General Secretary, Tamilnadu Udvikkaram Association for the Welfare of Differently Aabled, 70/50, 53rd Street, 9th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) was felicitated for his social service activities by Lions Club International District 324-N last week.

J. Vijayarani (Additional Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Tamilnadu) was the Chief Guest. The poetry book " ", " written by Vijayarani was presented to Gopinath in appreciation of his decades of service to the disabled community across Tamilnadu.

K.G. Anilkumar (District Governor, Lions Club) and G. Manilal were present.

Gopinath's contact numbers are 97908 20194 and 94448 91338.

Tamil book on Sankara Nethralaya released



By Our Staff Reporter

Varalaatru Suvadugal, a book on Sankara Nethralaya, written jointly by T.S. Surendran (Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya and resident of T. Nagar) and Dr. A. P. Irungovel (resident of Anna Nagar) was released on Feb. 24. The 560-page book is priced at Rs.600.

The book gives a detailed history of Sankara Nethralaya since its opening in 1978, inauguration of its eye bank in 1999, about its Founder Dr. S. S. Badrinath, eye donation campaigns, charitable services and its other achievements.

Irungovel has been working in Sankara Nethralaya since 1992. To buy a copy of the book, contact him in 98408 21919.

Local hospital conducts renal transplant

By Our Staff Reporter

A 41-year-old man, who had a complex medical history and two failed kidney transplants, underwent a kidney transplant in a private hospital in Vadapalani.

The man, an Indian Australian, had undergone two kidney transplants over the past two decades, both of which eventually failed.

The transplant team in Melbourne ruled out the option of a kidney transplant, leaving him with the option of continued dialysis.

He approached the transplant team in Kauvery Hospital (Vadapalani).

After evaluation, his wife and younger brother emerged as potential kidney donors. The team selected his young brother as the donor but complications arose as the patient had antibodies against his brother's kidney in significant strength coupled with rare antibodies in his blood, raising the risk of rejection by 80%. He accepted the desensitisation protocol and underwent transplant surgery.

Post-surgery, the team monitored the transplanted kidney for potential antibody-related injuries. One month after surgery, he was free from dialysis and his kidney function was back to normal.

Prabhu Kanchi, nephrologist, Swaminathan Sambandam, kidney transplant surgeon, and their team performed the procedure.

Minister inaugurates various projects in Saidapet

By Our Staff Reporter

Health Minister Ma Subramanian laid the foundation stone for a community health center and inaugurated the Kalaignar Centenary Library Building at a cost of Rs 30 lakhs in Saidapet on March 4.

He also inaugurated a ration shop constructed at a cost of Rs 20 lakhs.

Following the inauguration, he laid the foundation of a community health centre, which is being developed at a cost of Rs 1.50 crore in Chinnamalai, Venkatapuram.

The centers are aimed at making healthcare accessible in the urban residential areas for basic healthcare facilities, and cutting down the patient workload at tertiary care hospitals.

He also laid the foundation stone for an Anganwadi center in 3rd Street, Annamalai Nagar, West Mambalam.

The building will be constructed at a cost of Rs 35.45 lakhs through the Constituency Development Fund.

Besides this, a new building is being constructed for an indoor playground in RV Nagar in Jaffer Khanpet.

Evoke, Little Popsicles offer career programs in teaching

By Our Staff Reporter

Evoke Learning Centre (9A, Swaminathan Street, West Mambalam) and Little Popsicles Pre-School are together offering a wide range of programs and services designed to meet the diverse needs of teachers.

From early childhood education to high school tutoring, its comprehensive curriculum covers various subjects and ensures well-rounded training.

A staff member told *Mambalam Times* that traditional teaching methods with cutting-edge technology and innovative teaching practices are bridged to create an immersive and interactive learning environment.

Apart from academic excellence, essential life skills like fostering creativity, communication, problem-solving, and collaboration abilities are taught.

Other learnings include leadership programs and community engagement initiatives to empower teachers to make a positive impact on society.

Programs offered are Nursery Teacher Training (NTT), Montessori Teacher Training (MTT), Primary Teacher Training (PTT), Parents Orientation Program, Comprehensive Reading Readiness, Phonic Support, Branding Preschool Environment and Spoken English. It also has a branch in Adyar.

Its contact numbers are 96060 51069 and 93452 13722.

Roadside Entrepreneur



R. Maniarasan (57) sells flowering plants for a living. He procures the plants from local nurseries.

He was seen selling the plants on Srinivasa Street (West Mambalam). He sells them at Rs. 50 each.

He told *Mambalam Times* that he earns around Rs. 600 per day. He is a resident of Jaffer Khanpet.

"I was a construction labourer for more than 25 years, but had to leave that livelihood due to poor health," he said.

GST revision drives up costs of civic projects

By Our Staff Reporter

The cost of infrastructure projects, such as bridges and roads, has started increasing in the city as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate has been increased for work contracts and sub-contracts.

For instance, the project cost for the Usman Road bridge in T. Nagar has increased from Rs. 131 crores to Rs. 164 crores owing to GST rate changes and rising cost of shifting of utilities, such as pipelines of Metrowater and cables of TNEB.

The GST rate for contracts involving pipeline work and the associated sub-contracts has been increased from 12% to 18%. The GST for contracts involving earthwork and the associated sub-contracts has also been increased from 5% to 12%.

Bharat Rice sold in Vivekanandapuram



By Our Staff Reporter

Subsidized Bharat Rice, Bharat Atta, Bharat Dal and onions were sold from the mobile van of NAFED (National Agricultural Corporation Marketing Federation Limited) on March 6 in Vivekanandapuram 1st Street (West Mambalam).

It was organised by the local residents welfare association. The sale will be conducted

on the 4th day of every month.

What is Bharat Rice?

After introducing Bharat Atta (subsidized wheat flour last year), the Central Government last month introduced Bharat Rice at a subsidized rate of Rs. 29 per kg.

The subsidized rice is sold in 5 kg and 10 kg packs through NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar.

It is available for purchase from mobile vans and outlets of the three central co-operative agencies, and it will also be available through other retail chains including e-commerce platforms very soon.

Along with the subsidized rice, consumers can also buy subsidized Bharat Atta, Bharat Dal (Rs. 60 per kg) and onions at Rs. 25 per kg at these outlets and mobile vans.

Delay in laying storm water drain



By Our Staff Reporter

The work of laying a storm water drain in Balakrishnan Street (West Mambalam) was started in January.

According to nearby residents, the work is progressing at a slow pace.

As the earth removed from

the trench has been dumped on the roadside, it has reduced the usable road width.

Further, pedestrians are forced to walk on the narrow road and thereby risk their lives, as slabs for covering the drain are heaped on the pavement and its surface is

covered with rubble.

The residents have appealed to Chennai Corporation officials to inspect the work and urge the contractor to complete the work soon.

Drinking water contamination in Giri Street



Following complaints of water contamination, Metrowater workers dug a pit to locate the leakage in the Metrowater pipeline in Giri Road (West Mambalam) on March 6.

Photo shows a man at work at the site. The leakage was plugged the same day and water supply was restored.

Shiva Opticals special offer on lenses

By Our Staff Reporter

Shiva Opticals (80, Usman Road, T. Nagar) is extending 'Buy One Get One Free' offer on purchase of lenses.

A package consisting of eye test, frame and lens is priced at Rs. 700.30% discount is offered on contact lens and 15% on contact lens solution.

The shop stocks all major brands including Bausch & Lomb, Johnson

Fasttrack, Ray Ban and Varilux.

It has branches on Arya Gowda Road (West Mambalam) and in Mylapore.

Its phone numbers are 044-42079779 and 044-43589775.

8-month online course on Vedic Astrology

By Our Staff Reporter

Vedanga Jothidam Saptharishi Centre for Study and Research is conducting an 8-month online course in Vedic Astrology from Sunday, March 10.

The classes will be held on Zoom application once a week on Sundays from 10.30 a.m to 1 p.m. Students can join by Sunday, March 24.

Narayanan Srinivasa Sarma (MA in Astrology) with over 22 years in the field will conduct the classes.

He has so far trained over 1000 students.

He told *Mambalam Times* that the syllabus is based on old texts written by learned sages.

The students will be provided with online materials and with audio and Power Point presentation after every class. The course fee is Rs. 3,000 covering 32 classes.

Anyone interested in astrology can join the course.

For registration and other details, call Narayanan in 9381713052 or Niranjana in 7904588509.

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No. 10, Raja Annamalai Road, Purasawalkam, Chennai - 600084. Ph: 8122541925

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open trench unsafe for road users



Sir, The work of widening the storm water drain in Thambiah Road (West Mambalam) is in full swing.

As there are wide gaps between the barricades placed along the trench dug to widen the drain, it is unsafe for motorists and pedestrians, especially at night due to poor visibility.

I request Chennai Corporation to instruct the contractor to use additional barricades to cover the gaps. **P. Munuswamy, Veeraswamy Street, West Mambalam**

Traffic worsens after restoration of 2-way system

Sir, Ever since it was announced that the two-way system will be restored in Anna Salai, residents were a happy lot as they thought this would reduce their travel time by half.

Unfortunately, the opposite has happened.

Heavy traffic congestion even during non-peak hours has made the commute along Anna Salai a nightmare for motorists.

And the two-way system seems to be the root cause for this.

These traffic jams start right from Gemini flyover because of which traffic moves at snail's pace till the Greaves Road junction.

Anna Salai was made one-way in certain sections in 2012 due to the Metro Rail construction. Last month, the 2-way system was restored.

Earlier, I used to wait for four to five minutes at Nandanam and Pondy Bazaar signals.

But now the wait is 10 to 15 minutes. The exponential growth in vehicles since 2012 must have been taken into account before bringing back the two-way system.

Moreover, traffic spills onto inner roads in T. Nagar and Teynampet, making heavy traffic snarls the norm in these residential areas too.

Another reason for the congestion is the battered state of some stretches on Anna Salai that slows down the motorists. **S. Deepa, T. Nagar.**

Nutrition program held for parents of differently-abled children

Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (18, Prakasam Street, T. Nagar) organised its annual food festival titled Nutrifest on March 8 in its premises for the parents of its students.

The event helped parents learn about nutritive value of foods, best way of preparation using traditional food items and on innovative presentation.

The focus was on balanced diet for their special children.

This year's theme was 'Incorporation of millets in daily diet'.

Madhuram Narayanan Centre was started 33 years ago and provides early intervention services for children with intellectual disability and associated conditions through its indigenously developed Upanayan program.

S. Vasanthi (Director) told *Mambalam Times* that the program is totally parent involved and apart from education, involves therapies through yoga, physical education, physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapies, and music.

Till date, 6500 children have passed through the annals of the school, she said.

She said that the students are provided with healthy food daily. Her contact number is 99410 72227.

For more details, visit mncindia.org.

Mambalam Times can be accessed in www.mambalamtimes.in

Ranganathan Street to get cleaned up

By Our Staff Reporter

To promote waste segregation and make commercial areas litter-free, Chennai Corporation and Urbaser-Sumeet launched 'Namma Commercials - Namma Kadai Namma Poruppu' in Ranganathan Street, T. Nagar on March 2.

This initiative, kicked off by J. Radhakrishnan (Corporation Commissioner), aims to involve local businesses in the mission to keep commercial areas litter-free by emphasizing the importance of waste segregation at the source.

As part of the initiative, around 160 blue and green bins, symbolizing biodegradable and

non-biodegradable waste respectively, were distributed among some shops. Additionally, stickers promoting the cause of segregation were handed out, aiming to spread awareness among the public and shopkeepers alike.

There are over 750 shops in the area, and they were encouraged to place two bins in their shops for source segregation.

A yellow cloth bag machine was unveiled for public use to encourage shoppers to opt for cloth bags over plastic ones

This inaugural event marks the beginning of a series that will occur regularly on two Saturdays each month across different zones.



Storm water drain work in progress



By Our Staff Reporter

Storm water drain work, started three weeks back, is progressing well on Babu Rajendra Prasad 1st Street (West Mambalam).

After reinforcing the sides with concrete, work on covering the drain with slabs is in progress.

The contractor told *Mambalam Times* that the work will be completed before March 31.

The street residents appealed to Chennai Corporation to relay the road after the work is completed.

Long queue for admission to Corporation School, Ashok Nagar

With admissions for the new academic year (2024-25) commencing on March 1, there was a long queue of parents waiting to get admission for their children in Corporation Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar.

It enrolls students from Std. 6 to 12 and presently has 4500 on its rolls. While even parents from poor families prefer to admit their children in private schools, this government school has continued to remain popular for the past few years.

A senior teacher of the school said that they have been achieving close to 100% admissions in the past 5 years and on March 6 alone, 500 seats were filled of the total of 600 seats in Std. 6 alone.

The students often join here after dropping out from matriculation and private schools in the area, she said.

The school has been producing 100% pass in board exams for several years and many of its students have got admission in professional courses.

EB pillar box in bad condition

By Our Staff Reporter

The EB pillar box on West Road (CIT Nagar West) is in rusted condition.

It is lying partially open as one of its doors is damaged. A nearby resident told *Mambalam Times* that there is frequent problems of power fluctuation and outage of one or two phases as the panels within the pillar box are worn out and need to be replaced.



He appealed to TNEB to repair the pillar box and replace the damaged door.

Corporation fixes glitches in some smart poles

15 of the 49 smart poles erected across the city were repaired and refixed by Chennai Corporation last week.

Inaugurated with fanfare in 2021 under the Nirbhaya Fund, the smart poles were designed to offer free wi-fi, SOS connectivity to a control room in Ripon Buildings, CCTV cameras and an array of features for pedestrian safety.

Except for the smart pole installed near Ashok Pillar (Ashok Nagar), the rest of them installed in Natesan Park, G.N. Chetty Road, Thyagaraya Road (near Hawkers Complex) and Venkatanarayana Road (T. Nagar) were either lying defunct or had been vandalized.

After the report was published in *Mambalam Times* and other dailies two weeks back, 12 poles including the poles on G.N. Chetty Road and Venkatanarayana Road have been partially restored.

Several roadside vendors continue to encroach on the space surrounding the smart pole on Thyagaraya Road.

As proper awareness was not created by Chennai Corporation, many do not know they can raise complaints or summon help using the 2-way communication facility on the poles. The facilities have been let out for maintenance to a contractor for 5 years.

ED conducts searches in premises of real estate firms

By Our Staff Reporter

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 1 launched search operations on the premises of some Chennai-based real estate entities in T. Nagar, Thiruvannamiyur and Anna Nagar.

Iyra Builders and Vishnu Granites in T. Nagar were some of those targeted by the ED to gather evidence of money laundering and financial misconduct.

Enforcement officers collected digital financial documents, account records, and property holdings associated with the targeted entities for verification.

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Contact : 98407 33444

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ASHOK NAGAR, Raghavan Colony, individual house for sale, land 1968 sq.ft, with old house. Contact: Premshanthi Realtors Ph: 90032 87101.

K.K.NAGAR, near Amman Kovil, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, balconies, 1100 sq.ft, UDS 600 sq.ft, 7 years old, lift, covered car park, power backup. Contact: Premshanthi Realtors Ph: 90032 87101.

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T.NAGAR, Bazullah Road, near Vani Mahal, 1000 sq.ft, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2 attached bathrooms, 24 hours water, covered car park, vegetarians only, rent Rs. 25000. Ph: 99626 42881.

WEST MAMBALAM, 7, Giri Street, near SRM School, Thambiah Road bus Stop, 2 bedrooms apartment, hall, kitchen, ground floor, bath attached, wood work, wardrobes, car park, rent Rs. 20500, 5 months advance. Ph: 90425 52842, 98411 93685.

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WEST MAMBALAM, Lake View Road, near Bharathiram Kalyana Mandapam, 800 q.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, 2nd floor, lift, open car park, rent Rs. 18000, maintenance Rs. 1500. Ph: 98847 81912.

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K.K. NAGAR, 11th Street, near Sivan Park/Pillayar Koil, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 12000. Ph: 98406 09403.

WEST MAMBALAM, near Aranganathan Subway, luxury, 1800 sq.ft, fully furnished with A/c, car park, for office purpose, suitable for call centre also. Contact: Babu, Ph: 93807 11715.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 154, Lake View Road, very near to Railway Station, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, dining hall, western toilet, attached bath, car park, working people preferred, rent Rs. 19500 (negotiable). Contact: Agent A.C. Sarathy Ph: 81489 59362

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Port City Nidhi offers loans to buy jewellery

By Our Staff Reporter

Port City Nidhi (64, North Mada Street, Mylapore, near Kapaleeswarar Temple) is a 30-year-old Government of India approved firm.

It has introduced a novel and innovative scheme for purchase of branded jewellery.

It offers loan to purchase jewellery from leading jewellery showrooms like GRT, Kumaran, Saravana, Jeyachandran, Tanishq, Lalithaa and more shops in the city.

The buyer has to pay only Rs. 3 lakhs, and the remaining Rs. 7 lakhs will be given as loan by Port City Nidhi.

The loan has to be repaid in 12 monthly instalments with a monthly interest of Rs 1.04 per Rs 100.

The company also offers 11% interest on Nakshatra Deposit Scheme. For more details, call 9382211111 or 9282233333.

Restaurant offer free mini coffee with any dish

By Our Staff Reporter

Only Coffee (16/17, Station Road, West Mambalam), a pure vegetarian restaurant, offers a Mini Coffee free on ordering any dish from 4 p.m to 10 p.m till Sunday, April. 14.

The restaurant is open from 6.30 a.m to 10 p.m.

Party orders are undertaken.

Its contact numbers are 89259 05782 and 89259 05784.

Corporation shelves plan to relay 472 roads

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has dropped the plan to relay roads in the vicinity of Metro Rail construction sites, ongoing Metrowater projects and flood mitigation works.

Of the 6,327 roads identified for relaying in 2023-24, at least 275 in localities such as Valasaravakkam, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Nagar, Anna Nagar, Kodambakkam, Teynampet, and Alandur have been dropped from the list due to storm water drain and other works taken up by Chennai Corporation and Metrowater.

A total of 11 roads in Thiru. Vi. Ka. Nagar, 15 roads in Teynampet and 14 roads in Kodambakkam will not be relaid due to the ongoing metro rail works.

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Special poojas for Lord Muruga

By Our Staff Reorter

On account of Panguni Uthram, Thirumurugan Trust (West Mambalam) will conduct special poojas for Lord Muruga on Friday, March 15 in Balaji Wedding Hall (Sundaram Street, behind Agasthiyar Temple, T. Nagar).

Discourses on Kanda Purana will be delivered. Devotional music concerts and bhajans will be conducted in the morning and evening.

'Annadhanam' will be from 8 a.m to 8 p.m.

Devotees are welcome to

donate rice, groceries, etc for details, call L. Saravanan the 'Annadhanam'. (Event Coordinator) in 96001

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