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March 17 - 23, 2024

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### நந்தவனத்தில் ஓர் Aunty

நடராஜன் பெங்களூரில் இருக்கும் நந்தினி பூங்காவில் வாக்கிங் போய்க் கொண்டிருந்தார். அருகே வாழைக்காய் பஜ்ஜிக்குத் தோல் சேவ்வது போல ஏதோ சத்தம் கேட்டது. திரும்பிப் பார்த்தார் நடராஜன்.

‘கை வீசம்மா கை வீச, வாக்கிங் போகலாம் கை வீச’ என்று கைகளை வீசி நடந்து வந்து கொண்டிருந்தார் ஒரு ஆன்டி. அந்த ஆன்டி நடக்கும் வேகத்துக்குக் கை வீசுவது அவசியமே இல்லை. ஸ்விட்ச் ஆஃப் செய்த சிலிங் லிபேன் நிற்பதற்கு முன் மெதுவாகச் சுற்றுமே அதுபோல சுற்றி வந்து கொண்டிருந்தார்.

நடராஜனைப் பார்த்து ‘ஹை’ என்றார். நடராஜன் பதிலுக்கு ‘ஹை’ சொல்லிவிட்டு நடக்க ஆரம்பித்தார். ஏழு ரவுண்ட் சுற்றிவிட்டு ஒரு பெஞ்சில் போய் அமர்ந்தார். சிறிது நேரத்தில் மூச்சு வாங்கியபடி அந்த ஆன்டி பெஞ்ச் அருகே வந்தார். ‘ஹை’ என்றார். பிறகு ‘நீங்க தமிழா?’ என்று கேட்டார்.

‘ஆமாம்.’

‘அய், சந்தோஷத்தில் கத்தினார்.’

‘ஒண்ணு ஹை சொல்றீங்க. இல்லேன்னா அய் சொல்றீங்க. ஓய் திஸ் கொலவெறி?’

‘நான் இந்த பெஞ்சிலே உட்காரலாமா?’

‘உட்காருங்க, கை வீசி நடந்ததாலே வீலிங் வந்திருச்சு போல இருக்கு. ரிலாக்ஸ்’ என்றார் நடராஜன்.

ஆன்டி அமர்ந்தார்.

‘முடியலேன்னா ஏன் கையை அப்படி வீசணும்?’ என்று கேட்டார் நடராஜன்.

‘வாக்கிங் போறப்போ கையை வீசி நடக்கணும்னு என் பொண்ணு விசித்ரா சொல்லியிருக்கா.’

‘நீங்க பெங்களூருக்குப் புதுசா?’

‘ஆமாம், பெண்ணின் வீட்டுக்கு நேத்து தான் வந்தேன். நந்தினி பார்க்குக்கு வாக்கிங் போன்னு சொன்னா. அதனால்தான் விரைவில் விரைவில் இங்கே வந்துட்டேன். இந்த நந்தினி பார்க் நந்தவனம் மாதிரி இருக்கு. ஆனா வாசல்லே தான் ஏகப்பட்ட திங்கிற ஐட்டம் தள்ளுவண்டிகளிலே இருக்கு.’

‘இது நந்தினி பார்க். சிரித்தார் நடராஜன்.

‘இந்த நந்தவனத்தை ஒரு ரவுண்ட் சுத்தி வந்தா எவ்வளவு ஸ்டெப்?’

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‘அரை ரவுண்ட் நடந்திருக்கீங்க.’

‘ஆமாம்.’

‘மடிச்ச வைச்ச போலி மாதிரி அரை வட்டம்.’

‘போலின்னு கேலி செய்யாதீங்க ஸார்.’

‘நான் சுவீனிங்லே 15 ரவுண்ட் நடப்பேன்’ என்றார் நடராஜன்.

‘நிஜமாவா?’

‘ஆமாம், கார்த்தாலேயும் 20 ரவுண்ட் நடப்பேன். ஒரு நாளைக்கு 35 ரவுண்ட். நீங்க?’

‘நான் 35 நாளைக்கு ஒரு ரவுண்ட் நடப்பேன். எனக்கு வாக்கிங் லே அவ்வளவா இஷ்டம் இல்லை. பொண்ணுதான் வாக்கிங் போகச் சொல்லித் துரத்தி விட்டுட்டா.’

‘உங்களோட இன்னைய வாக்கிங் முடிஞ்சதா?’ என்று கேட்டார் நடராஜன்.

‘முடிஞ்சது. முதல் நாள், அதனாலே அரை ரவுண்டு நடந்தேன்.’

‘அப்போ நாளைக்கு முழு ரவுண்ட் வந்துடுவீங்க?’

‘இல்லை, கால் ரவுண்ட். நாளைக்கு வயசு இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் கூடிடும் தானே!’

‘அரை ரவுண்ட், கால் ரவுண்ட் எல்லாம் எப்படிங்க சாத்தியம்?’

‘நந்தவனத்துக்கு நாலு பக்கமும் கேட் இருக்குது. முதல் கேட்ல நுழைஞ்சு அடுத்த கேட்ல வெளியிலே வந்தா கால் ரவுண்ட்.’

‘இதே ரேட்ல போனா நீங்க அடுத்த வாரம் ஒரு கேட்ல நுழைஞ்சு அதே கேட்ல உடனே வெளியிலே வந்துடுவீங்க.’

‘கிளம்பறேன், என் பொண்ணு என்னைத் தேடுவா.’

‘நானும் புறப்படறேன், போய் என் பொண்ணைத் தேடணும். ஊர் சுத்தப் போயிருப்பா.’

‘நான் ஃபோன் கொண்டு வரலை. வாக்கிங் போறப்படி ஸ்டைப்பன்ஸா இருக்கும்.’

‘ஃபோனுக்கா?’

‘என் வீட்டு விலாசம் மனப்பாடம் செஞ்சுகிட்டு வந்தேன். முப்பதாவது ஸ்டெப்லே விலாசத்தை மறந்துட்டேன். வீடு எங்கே இருக்குன்னே இப்போ தெரியலை.’

‘ஏதாவது லேண்ட் மார்க் சொல்லுங்க.’

‘எலைட் பார்னு ஒரு ஓயின் ஷாப் எங்க தெரு முனையிலே இருக்கு.’

‘நான் உங்களை பத்திரமா கூட்டிப் போறேன்.’

‘ஆட்டோவிலே போகலாம். இல்லைனா ஸ்டெப் கூடிடும். ஒரு ஆட்டோவை அழைத்தார் ஆன்டி.

‘எலைட் ஓயின் பார் ஹோகு’ என்றார்.

‘ஓஹோ’, நழுட்டுச் சிரிப்புடன் வண்டியை எடுத்தார் ஆட்டோக் காரர்.

பத்து நிமிடத்தில் ஆன்டியின் வீடு வந்துவிட்டது. வீட்டு வாசல் வரை வந்த நடராஜன் சிரித்தார்.

‘பக்கத்து வீடுதான் என் வீடு. பத்து ஸ்டெப்’ என்றார்.

‘ரொம்ப சந்தோஷம். ஒரு ஹெல்ப் செய்யுங்களை. நான் நந்தவனத் துலே ஏழு ரவுண்ட் நடந்ததா என் பொண்ணுகிட்டே சொல்லணும்.’

‘சொல்லிடறேன். நீங்களும் ஒரு உதவி செய்யணும்.’

‘சொல்லுங்க.’

‘நான் பார்க்கலே வெறுமனே அஞ்ச ரவுண்ட் மட்டுமே நடந்ததா என் ஓய்ஸ்கிட்டே சொல்லணும்.’ 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. 700) and 4 cm. x 2 column (costing Rs. 1400)

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### Wins Rs. 30,000 for authoring book on Vaishnavism



By Our Staff Reporter

The Tamil book "written by Navalur Narayanan (resident of 32, Soundarajan Street, T. Nagar) was selected under the Best Book on Spiritualism/Religion category by Tamilnadu Government for the year 2023.

He was presented a cash prize of Rs. 30,000.

The book is based on Vaishnavism.

### Local team excels in cricket tourney

United Front Cricket Club (T. Nagar) is leading the table with 32 points in the ongoing TNCA 1<sup>st</sup> Division League by winning two and drawing four games. 12 top cricket clubs from the city are competing in the tournament.

In the match on March 10 and 11 in Tagore Medical College Ground, it defeated Sea Hawks Cricket Club by six wickets.

After bowling out Sea Hawks Club for 180 in the 1<sup>st</sup> innings, UFCC lost all its wickets for just 116 runs and conceded a 1<sup>st</sup>

innings lead of 64 runs. But it fought back strongly to bundle out the opposition for just 65 runs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> innings and scored 132 for the loss of 4 wickets in the 2<sup>nd</sup> innings to win the match by six wickets. Its bowler Dharmendra

Jadeja scalped 12 wickets in the match.

### MTC improves connectivity with new bus routes

By Our Staff Reporter

A week after enhancing its fleet with 50 new buses, the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has introduced services across six fresh routes, creating vital links between T. Nagar, Ambattur, Tambaram, and various suburban areas. Additionally, it has expanded services to encompass industrial regions and places of interest on the city's periphery.

The newly inaugurated routes are set to conduct between eight to twelve journeys daily, facilitating travel for approximately 7,000 additional commuters. These routes have been planned to enable residents on the outskirts to conveniently access major transit points and critical locations within the central city.

New route 51T, connects T. Nagar with Madurapakkam through Velachery.

New routes 19T and 19GT are aimed at linking Kovalam on the East Coast Road with T. Nagar and Saidapet through Thiruvannamiyur.

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

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### Corporation to desilt drains

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation is set to desilt drains early this summer to keep the network ready ahead of the southwest monsoon in June.

More than 500 km of drains will be desilted at a cost of Rs. 20 crores.

Tenders were floated on March 12.

Deputy Mayor Mahesh Kumar said the city received heavy rain from June to September in 2023.

"The model code of conduct is expected to be announced soon and it will be in place till May end. So, we want to speed up some basic work," he said. Last year, many areas such as KK Nagar and T. Nagar faced waterlogging because the drains did not have adequate carrying capacity.

The drains are being desilted in several areas, including Kodambakkam, Teynampet, Vadapalani, Perungudi, Valasaravakkam and Alandur.



# Bala Mandir completes 75 years in its service to deprived children

By Our Staff Reporter

On March 10, Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust (8, G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar, Ph: 044 48679207, 90031 64447) completed 75 years of unwavering support for children facing adversity.

It was founded as Bala Mandir by K. Kamaraj (Freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu) and S. Manjubhashini (Freedom fighter, woman activist and social worker) with the support of Ramnath Goenka (Founder of *The Indian Express*).

The celebrations started with a prayer for universal peace on March 7 and a meeting of volunteers and partners on March 9.

On March 10, a documentary 'Every Child Matters', on the units of Bala Mandir was screened, and a book on the historical perspectives of Bala Mandir was released by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and the first copy was received by Lars Odd Pettersen (Chairman, Braade-Stiftung). The children of the Home and the Schools presented cultural programs to showcase the activities of Bala Mandir.

At 10 a.m on Sunday, March 17, Kalaimamani Bharathi Thirumagan and team will perform Villupattu in Satyamurthi School (T. Nagar).

A note about Bala Mandir The founders were actively involved in its first 25 years and helped set up the home in T. Nagar for orphaned and destitute children and the various educational institutions to support the children. Inspired by Gandhiji, the founders laid a strong foundation of integrity, dedication and child-centricity that remain unchanged till today.

The next 25 years leading to Golden Jubilee in 1999 saw a transition when the organisation was renamed as Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust in memory of its late Founder. Manju bhashini continued her tireless work to strengthen the organisation by adding new services to Childcare and education – Socio-Economic Units, a Vocational Training Centre and a Medical wing. A Home for girls was opened in Nagercoil.

Today, it has transformed itself into a more professional organisation with well-established processes. It has now integrated with Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (T. Nagar) and BMRF (a specialist in Early Childhood development and Parenting) and the starting of the Kinship Care program, conceived as a "virtual home" of Bala Mandir supporting a large number of orphaned children who lost one or both parents and live with their kith and kin.

Presently, the following divisions function under Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust, each with their own organisation and resources, yet well integrated by a common vision and management



**Home for Early Childhood Care:** It was started in 1949 with a unique policy to admit children only below 6 years to provide shelter, care and opportunities for development. With 10-20 children in each age group, admissions and exits take place every month. The Reception unit shelters the children on a temporary basis, to help them move on to the Adoption Unit (from where they can then be given for adoption) or the Children's Home unit or are handed back to their birth parents.

**Home / Hostel for Older children:** For children above 6 years, Bala Mandir has two homes (one in Nagercoil for girls and one in Chennai for boys and girls) who continue from early childhood admission to 18 years. As the challenge is in rehabilitation into society facing the changing perspectives of young adults and of the government policies, the Trust is exploring future options for starting a hostel attached to the school, catering to the socio-economically disadvantaged children who need a more conducive environment than their current homes to pursue knowledge, develop skills and become responsible citizens.

**Schools:** The Bala Mandir schools in Chennai have been there since the 1950s and were started initially to support the children of the Bala Mandir Home and later admitted children from the nearby socio-economically backward classes. It includes Tamil medium schools aided by Government and self-financed section for English medium. Due to sharp drop in demand for Tamil medium education, the primary school is now fully English medium offering the best quality edu-

cation. As the headcount is dropping in High School as well, transiting it to full English medium self-financed school is underway.

The self-financed English medium classes are supported by CSR donations with a nominal fee. Breakfast and lunch are provided for all of its students who come from underprivileged families and are mostly first-generation learners. The school provides the best of facilities including Smart classes, Computer, and Innovation/STEM laboratory. Additional floors are planned to be built above the main school buildings and thus create an integrated school in one location from Pre-KG to Standard 12 with focus on English medium. One of the unique features of the school is the "inclusion" program which admits and supports children with special needs in the primary school.

Currently, the schools have 400 children and are equipped to grow to over 800 to 1000 children.

**Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (MNC):** It is an early intervention centre for children with learning disabilities and associated conditions. Started as an independent NGO in 1989, MNC has been operating from one of the buildings in the Bala Mandir complex since 1994 and became an integral part of Bala Mandir in 2018.

It provides early intervention services through its indigenously developed Upanayan program. 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 out of the school.

**Research and Resource Centre:** It was started in 1983 for doing research on issues related to the operations of Bala Mandir and efficacy of Ayurveda on child development. Today it has expanded its activities and specialises in issues related to 'parenting' with a special focus on Early Childcare and Development (ECCD) and its related psychological issues. Over the years the unit has worked with various partners in India supported by child welfare organisations like UNICEF, CIDA, ChildFund, IFMR and CCFC. One such project for the past decade is ECCD intervention in 21 villages in Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur District.

**Kinship Care:** The Kinship Care program is the latest activity of Bala Mandir which started post-Covid pandemic. Over the last 2 years, the program has evolved and now it supports over 800 children who have lost one or both parents either to Covid or due to other causes. The program is currently in 9 districts around Chennai and is being expanded to 5 districts around Coimbatore.

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## Traffic diversion on Venkatanaryana Road due to metro work

By Our Staff Reporter

Traffic diversions have been implemented on a trial basis on Venkatanaryana Road (T. Nagar) in view of the proposed construction of the Nandanam Metro Station.

Vehicles coming from Anna Salai towards T. Nagar via Venkatanarayana Road are restricted at Nandanam Signal junction and diverted towards Link Road (Reverted as one way), Model House Road Junction, South West Boag Road (Right turn) and take a left turn on Venkatanarayanan Road to reach their destination.

All vehicles including MTC buses coming from Burkit Road (T. Nagar) via Mooparappan Street are diverted to take a right turn at South West Boag Road junction (one way), CIT Nagar 4th Main road (left turn), CIT Nagar 3rd Main Road to reach Anna Salai.

Vehicles coming from South West Boag Road and South Dhandapani Street are restricted to ply towards Venkatanarayana Road. Instead, they are allowed to ply on CIT Nagar 4th Main Road, CIT Nagar 3rd Main Road towards Anna Salai to reach their destination.

The trial period for these traffic diversions aims to assess their effectiveness in ensuring a smoother flow of traffic amidst the anticipated construction activities by Chennai Metro.

## Street closed for constructing storm water drain



By Our Staff Reporter

As Chennai Corporation is constructing storm water drain in 1<sup>st</sup> Street (Corporation Colony, T. Nagar), the 20-foot-wide street has been closed for motorists.

Photo shows an excavator used to dig a trench on one side of the street to lay the drain.

## App shows women safe areas

By Our Staff Reporter

Thanks to 'My Safetipin App', women in the city can now identify which areas and routes are safer before commuting.

The app was launched by Corporation Commissioner J. Radhakrishnan on March 7.

The App, prepared by NGOs Prajanya and Safetipin in collaboration with Chennai Corporation, also has a provision that allows women to update safety parameters of areas and routes based on their experience.

Safety audits have been introduced into it through data visualisation and mapping. NGOs have sourced the pedestrian and safety details such as lighting, access to public places, bus stands and people's presence in public places. So, when women commuters press a locality, a 10-point safety score pops up, Goohelping them make better decisions on how and when to venture out. They can also update safety details of location by capturing photos, conditions and submit. A backend team will review and update it.

As per the app, the safety score for Central railway station is 6.4, Cathedral Road: 8.2, Anna Nagar: 8.4 and T. Nagar: 8.6.

The app sources real-time maps from Google to provide routes, and users can click the option "get tracked" and add a friend to join the journey.

It also has a location sharing feature where women can send their live location to their family or friends for safety.

Support section has direct calling options to women helpline, child helpline, police stations, legal help, shelter homes and state commissions.

The app can be downloaded from Google Playstore for Android phones.

## Appeal for volunteers, donations to feed the homeless



By S. Vidyaaakar

While our culture imbibes the term 'Atithi Devo Bhava', meaning Guest is GOD, we often forget the plight of homeless, destitute and orphans forced to live on the street.

For them, hunger is their only companion.

Now, you can help bring a smile back on their faces by contributing to the 'Vaanga Saappidalam', free food distribution movement, started by Udavum Karangal.

The NGO has been distributing dinner prepared hygienically in its kitchen to around 500 homeless in the city.

The food packets are distributed by its volunteers.

To help feed more homeless persons, the NGO seeks volunteers and donors.

Volunteers can help the NGO in food preparation, packing and distribution.

Donations for the cause can be made online through the

website <https://www.myhelpinghands.org/donate/> or through the following links

1. <https://payments.cashfree.com/forms/DonateUK>

2. <https://forms.gle/FFUfhNttzKYDtdt26>

All donations are exempted under 80G of the IT Act

*Vidyaaakar is the Founder of Udavum Karangal which has been providing care to destitute for over 3 decades.*

## E-cigarettes seized from shops in T. Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

Nearly 1,500 packs of e-cigarettes were seized from shops across the city for the first time in a combing operation by the city police on March 11.

Police and public health experts say these devices, which come in a variety of shades and shapes with flavours such as candy, fruit, alcohol, and menthol, are getting a new generation of early teens hooked on nicotine.

The Union health ministry prohibited the manufacture, sale, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes in 2019, they are available in shops that sell imported goods, besides online.

E-cigarettes, also called vape pens or mods, are battery-operated devices that heat a liquid until it turns into a mist or aerosol, which is inhaled. The aerosol contains nicotine, harmful chemicals, and flavouring agents. Some e-cigarettes also contain marijuana. "The sale is illegal. We want to ensure they are not available online or offline," Asra Garg (Additional Commissioner of Police, Chennai North) said.

After raiding shops in areas including T. Nagar, K.K. Nagar, Saidapet and Kodambakkam, police arrested six persons.

The devices are imported from the US, Malaysia, and China and sold at Rs.1,800 to Rs.6,000 per device.

"They are designed to attract young people," said Indian Dental Association former president Dr Vidyaa Hari Iyer, who runs a cessation clinic in West Mambalam.

## Steel flyover to be ready by September

The city will get its first steel flyover on South Usman Road (T. Nagar) by September 2024.

This photo taken on March 14 on 1<sup>st</sup> Main Road (CIT Nagar) shows an excavator engaged in the work.

The 1.2km-long flyover, being built at a cost of Rs. 131 crores, will cover South Usman Road-Burkit Road and Madley Road

junction; South Usman Road-South West Boag Road and New Boag Road junction; and CIT Nagar North Road T-junction.

It will help motorists from Anna Salai cross Panagal Park junction in a few minutes.

It will have a width of 8.4 m, encompassing two lanes with an up-ramp at CIT Nagar Main Road stretching 140m, an up-ramp at Usman Road for 120m, and a down-ramp for 100m.

Both sides will have 4m wide service roads, and 1.5m wide footpaths. The up-ramp and down-ramp from the existing Usman Road flyover at the Burkit Road junction have been completed.

Currently, 117 out of 177 concrete piles, 33 out of 53 concrete pile caps with pedestals, 27 out of 53 steel piers and pier caps, and 83m of the 107m retaining wall with crash barriers have been completed.

"Currently, to enter T. Nagar from Anna Salai, motorists have to go via CIT 1st Main Road or take Venkatanarayana Road at Nandanam junction, or take Sir Thyagaraya Road or Vijayaraghava Road from Teynampet.

This new flyover will be connected to the North Usman Road flyover, which will help motorists from Anna Salai cross Panagal Park in a few minutes.



## Sewer chambers desilted

By Our Staff Reporter

Following complaints of blocks in sewer line, Metrowater desilted the sewer chambers on Eswaran Koil Street (West Mambalam) on March 14.

Photo shows a suction machine used to remove the block in a sewer chamber in the middle of the road.



**Women Helpline 1091**



## Little Angels Playschool completes 25 years

By Our Staff Reporter

Little Angels Playschool (13, Balaji Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Thirumalai Road, T. Nagar, opposite Vidyodaya High School) will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Day at 10 a.m on Saturday, March 23 in Sir PT Thyagarayar Kalaingarangam (68, G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar).

Sheeba Ninan (Correspondent, Union Christian School, Chetpet) will be the Chief Guest.

All alumni students are welcome.

The playschool was started in 1999 by Meena Rajiv Nathan.

It has won several awards for offering quality education.

In the last 25 years, it has offered Montessori education to thousands of children and prepared them for the rigours of regular schooling. She told *Mambalam Times* that the playschool is located in the heart of T. Nagar.

It offers a secure, friendly, homely, clean and hygienic environment. It offers homework assistance, tuitions and other extra-curricular activities to keep the child occupied and spend the time effectively.

It also conducts drawing, chess, yoga, dance, story-telling, Hindi, Karate and phonics classes.

Little Angels is an accredited study centre for B.Ed Degree correspondence course.

Montessori certificate and Advanced Diploma in Montessori courses are also conducted.

Its contact numbers are 044-28342236, 044-28341368 and 98843 90540. For more details, visit the website <https://www.littleangels.in/>.

## Raised manhole cover poses danger for pedestrians



By Our Staff Reporter

One of the manhole covers of the storm water drain on the pavement of Narasimhan Street (West Mambalam) is not fixed properly.

The raised cover poses a danger for pedestrians, especially the elderly, as they can trip and fall and suffer serious injury. It is even more dangerous at night due to poor visibility.

Chennai Corporation should take immediate action to refix the cover.

## Damaged power cable replaced



Following outage of power for more than 6 hours, EB workers were seen replacing a portion of the damaged power cable connecting two pillar boxes on Kothandaramar Temple Street (West Mambalam). The photo was taken at 2 p.m on March 13.

## Eco Park developed by Exnora near Pallavaram Periya Eri

By Our Staff Reporter

An Eco Park developed near Pallavaram Periya Eri at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs organised by Exnora International Foundation (EIF) (Vijayaraghava Road, T. Nagar) was opened to the public last week.

The money was contributed by PayPal from its CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds.

The money was utilised for rejuvenating the Eri and developing the park.

A.R. Ragul Nadh (Director of Environment and Climate Change) and Alagu Meena (Tambaram Corporation Commissioner) were the Chief Guests.

The park has a walkers' path, well-equipped children's play area, exercise equipment for elders and a gym. Sheela Pascal (Director, PayPal), Sai Sheela (Administrator, PayPal) Senthur Pari (President, Exnora), K. Gopinath (PRO, Exnora) and other members were present. Gopinath's contact numbers are 97908 20194 and 94448 91338.



## AAVIN Women Welfare Society donates Rs. 2.39 lakhs to needy organisations



By Our Staff Reporter

AAVIN Women Welfare Society (Pasumpon Muthuramlingam Devar Salai, Nandanam) celebrated International Women's Day with donations last week.

The event was held on March 8 in Habibullah Road (T. Nagar).

The Society donated essentials worth Rs.2.15 lakhs to needy organisations from funds supported by the employees of Aavin.

T. Mano Thangaraj (Minister for Milk and Dairy Development), S. Megalinda (Chief Vigilance Officer, Aavin), M. Gowhar Jahn (former HOD, Ethiraj College for Women), R. Sivakamasundari (President, Aavin Women Welfare Society), D. Manickavalli (Vice President), M. Kalpana (General Secretary), Little Sujeetha (Joint Secretary), S. Revathi (Treasurer) and A. Precilla (Joint Treasurer) participated.

The donations included Rs. 90,000 to Vishranthi Home for Aged for buying vessels and a hot box, Rs. 30,000 to Samarpana Home for Children towards cost of TV and washing machine, Rs. 60,000 to Gnanadharshan (Home for visually challenged girls) towards 5-litre milk card for 1 year and 30 sarees and Rs. 35,000 to Salvation Trust for buying a tailoring machine and accessories. The program concluded with fun games and cultural programs.

For more details, contact Sivakamasundari in 94444 52689.

## 'Vadumaanga' sold on Station Road



By Our Staff Reporter

'Vadumaanga' and watermelon signal the arrival of summer.

'Vadumaanga' is especially popular among the Brahmin community. A number of vendors were seen selling the tender mangoes on Station Road, West Mambalam.

They were selling 'kaambuvadu' (ones with pinkish stem intact) and 'porukuvadu' or 'kottinavadu' (mangoes fallen from trees).

Arunagiri, a vendor, told *Mambalam Times* that the 'kaambuvadu' is priced higher at Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 per kg. based on the quality and can be preserved for upto a year, and 'kottinavadu', sold at Rs. 200 per kg., upto 6 months. They are sourced mostly from Andhra Pradesh, Madurai, Coimbatore and Thirumoorthy Hills, he added.

## Humour Club meets today

By Our Staff Reporter

Humour Club of T. Nagar will meet at 4 p.m on Sunday, March 17 in The Stenographers' Guild (1, Guild Street, T. Nagar, behind Siva-Vishnu Temple).

Theatre artiste and cine actor Bakthi Saran will be the Chief Guest.

There is no entrance fee.

All are welcome to participate and share their jokes.

For more details, contact S. Sekar (Founder) in 97907 75571.

## Free consultation on finance management

By Our Staff Reporter

Kanzzo (64, North Mada Street, Mylapore, near Kapaleeswarar Temple) is an NGO founded by Kasinathan (alumnus of IIM).

It offers free consultation on finance management including tax planning, Inflation management, Income Generation and Insurance.

It also helps senior citizens to obtain PAN Card and to file IT returns for free.

It is open for consultation from 3 p.m to 6.30 p.m from Monday to Saturday.

No prior appointment is necessary.

For more details, call 93822 11111 or 92822 33333.

## Yoga, personality development classes on Sundays

Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama invites only males in the age group of 16 to 25 years to participate in free personality development programs on Sundays from 9 a.m to 12 noon in its premises in 3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, near Panagal Park, T. Nagar. Based on the philosophy and teachings of Swami Vivekananda, the classes will cover mental development, motivational speeches, recitation of slokas from the Gita and other personality development programs, and group discussions. Yoga classes will also be conducted.

The fee is Rs. 100 per month.

The classes begin on Thursday, March 28

As seats are limited, prior registration is compulsory.

For registration, call Surya-moorthy in 93808 99525 or Swami Guruvarananda in 8779407274.

## Discourse on Bhagavad Gita today

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar), Swami Guruvarananda will deliver a discourse in Tamil on Bhagavad Gita at 5.30 p.m on Sunday, March 17 in the Ashram's premises.

All are welcome.

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



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A tragic tale during a medical emergency

Sir, Despite living in a metro city like Chennai and in a center location like T. Nagar, I had to face the brunt of lack of emergency help in a medical crisis, leading to the passing away of my 77-year-old mother-in-law.

On March 2 at around 8 p.m, she developed health complications accompanied by breathlessness.

As had been advised by her doctor, we immediately started calling the ambulance of the private hospital in Kodambakkam that she regularly visits. Despite repeated attempts, we found that the line was dead.

We then started calling other ambulances and after frantic attempts, one reached our place only after 35 minutes. The driver cited the delay was due to traffic congestion due to the ongoing metro rail work in T. Nagar.

The oxygen cylinder in the ambulance was empty and there was no BLS in the van.

The crucial golden hour was lost and so was the patient's life.

In the central part of a metro city, can't citizens expect better facilities?

1. This private specialty hospital is a prominent one and we would expect them to have ensured availability of their emergency number 24 x 7.

2. Private ambulances should all be networked under one banner, accessible over a common emergency number. All the ambulances should mandatorily have fully functional first aid equipment.

I am sure I am not the only sufferer in such a situation and there must be similar tragic incidents happening daily due to lack/inadequate infrastructure to manage such a populated city.

I now wonder who should take the blame? **Choodamani Vasudevan, T. Nagar.**

### Piped water supply restored in Vivekanandapuram 1<sup>st</sup> Street

Sir, Residents of Vivekanandapuram 1<sup>st</sup> Street (West Mambalam) were suffering due to intermittent piped water supply.

But last week, regular supply was restored thanks to the quick action by Metrowater officials.

A group of residents had made a representation about the problem to Prakash (Asst.Engineer, Metrowater) and Uma Anand (Councillor, Ward 134) and requested replacement of the 50-year-old pipeline.

As a temporary measure before the pipes are replaced, the AE arranged for desilting and cleaning of the existing pipeline which resulted in improved supply to both the sumps and through the hand pumps.

The residents have also requested Prakash to arrange for flushing of the pipeline to further improve the supply. **Jothimani, Vivekanandapuram 1<sup>st</sup> Street, West Mambalam**

## Chennai Metro starts tunnelling towards Chetpet lake



By Our Staff Reporter

A giant tunnel boring machine (TBM) will shortly start tunnelling several meters underneath Chetpet lake to build a tunnel to operate driverless trains as Chennai Metro has commenced tunnelling in Chetpet.

The tunnelling began on March 10 and will take around two months to get close to Chetpet lake.

The machine will cross the lake to reach Kilpauk metro station site on Poonamallee High Road.

An engineer at the site said three TBMs including two towards Sterling Road metro and one towards Kilpauk are at work in Chetpet.

"Boating activity will continue in the lake. Our tunnelling work is several meters underneath the bed of the lake. It will not cause any disturbance above," an official said.

At present, tunnelling is underway in several locations including T. Nagar, Greenways Road and Aynavaram. The 116.1km phase-2 will be opened in stages from 2025-2028.

## Food safety officials seal two restaurants

By Our Staff Reporter

In a surprise inspection, 19 teams of Tamil Nadu Food Safety officials on March 13 inspected 214 eateries across Chennai to check the use of harmful artificial colouring agents in food.

The officials said, in T. Nagar, they found artificial colours were being mixed beyond permissible levels in chicken dishes and biryani.

They seized around 80 kg. of stale chicken and 50 kg. of biryani mixed with artificial colours from a restaurant in Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar. The restaurant was shut down.

Another restaurant on South Usman Road was also shut down due to unhygienic conditions. The officials also collected 25 samples from different places to send them to laboratories for testing.



## Jothi Madhar Sangam celebrates Women's Day



By Our Staff Reporter

Jothi Madhar Sangam (70/44, Burkit Road, T. Nagar, Ph: 9841158018) celebrated Women's Day on March 13. More than 75 women participated.

Lakshmi Raghukumar (President) told *Mambalam Times* that competitions in music, dance, writing and games were conducted and prizes presented to the winners.

Women conservancy workers were felicitated and gifts were given to them.

## Glaucoma awareness marks Women's Day program

Rotary Rajan Eye Bank and Rotary Club of Madras (T. Nagar) jointly celebrated International Women's Day with a special glaucoma awareness program in Rajan Eye Care Hospital (5, Vidya-daya East, 2nd Street, T. Nagar) on March 8. The event highlighted



the pivotal role of women in healthcare. Actress Vimala Raman and Dr. Kumudha Ramanathan (Radiologist) were the Chief Guests. Dr. Mohan Rajan (Chairman of Rajan Eye Clinic) highlighted that 80 percent of the staff in his hospital are women.

Parallel to the celebration of Women's Day, Rajan Eye Care dedicated efforts to raise awareness about glaucoma, a leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide. Dr. Mohan emphasised the importance of early detection and treatment in combating the condition.

"Glaucoma, unlike cataract, is a blinding disease. Women are more prone to glaucoma than men. Most of the eye problems are resource dependent but cornea blindness alone depends on people. Eye donation can help the condition. Every death should be followed by eye donation by default," he said.

## Special events held on World Kidney Day

TANKER Foundation organised a gala of events to observe World Kidney Day on March 14. The program, was organised in association with International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and International Federation of Kidney Foundations-World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA). The events included a roadshow by theater artiste Aravindh Sundar held in Natesan Park and Jeeva Park in T. Nagar. A screening camp that covered 200 autorickshaw drivers was organised in ARJ Party Hall (Anna Nagar). Volunteers distributed caps and bookmarks at stalls in bus stands, petrol bunks, Besant Nagar beach and railway stations to create awareness among the people. Ripon Buildings was lit up, and leaflets were distributed at the arrival and departure terminals of Chennai airport.

## Couple involved in surrogacy deal held

By Our Staff Reporter

A 26-year-old woman and her live-in partner were arrested by Teynampet police on March 13 on charges of wrongly claiming to be a couple so that the woman could become the surrogate mother for another couple.

She had allegedly promised to carry a baby for Rs 3 lakhs.

As per the Surrogacy Act 2021, practising commercial surrogacy is banned.

The issue came to light when G. Radhika and her live-in partner K. Gunasekaran (resident of T. Nagar), claiming to be Radhika's estranged husband Gopi, appeared before a medical board at the Directorate of Medical Science office.

Officers became suspicious as Gunasekaran could not answer their questions and they lodged a complaint.

Police said a few weeks back, a woman named Sasikala approached Radhika and offered her Rs 3 lakhs to become the surrogate mother for a couple in the city.

Radhika accepted the offer and created a fake Aadhaar card for Gunasekaran in Gopi's name.

## Demonstration of voting machine

By Our Staff Reporter

Ahead of the 18th Lok Sabha election, Election Commission has flagged off awareness Demonstration of voting machine campaign vehicles to inform the public about the functioning of electronic voting machines.

On March 6, one such vehicle was seen stationed on Jawaharlal Nehru Road (near Ashok Pillar junction, Ashok Nagar).

A team of Chennai Corporation staff demonstrated the use of the voting machine to the public.

The vehicle will be stationed outside public places like parks and on major roads in T. Nagar, West Mambalam, Ashok Nagar and K.K. Nagar.

## Techie jumps to his death off 3-storey building

By Our Staff Reporter

A 36-year-old software engineer ended his life by jumping from the terrace of his three-storey apartment complex in KK Nagar on March 11.

The man was identified as Gopalakrishnan, who lived on Raja Mannar Salai in KK Nagar.

According to police, he had recently separated from his wife and son, and was undergoing treatment for mental issues in a private hospital.

The KK Nagar police registered a case of unnatural death, and further investigation is on.



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WEST MAMBALAM, 10/22, Srinivasa Pillai Street, opp. Satyanarayana Temple, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 3 bedrooms, 3 phase, sufficient water, road facing, prime area, 2-wheeler parking only, immediate occupation, pets not allowed, Brahmins, pure vegetarians, no brokers. Ph: 9940660313, 893920142.

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## ED conducts searches in offices in T. Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths on March 13 carried out searches in around 10 places of different business entities in the city including T. Nagar, Teynmapet and Kodambakkam.

This is the third search by ED targeting businessmen in the last two weeks. However, the agency has not revealed the details of the seizures made in the earlier searches, nor the background for the operations.

The office of Sai Sukran Pvt Ltd in T. Nagar and KS Software Solutions in Teynampet were searched.

The targeted premises were guarded by armed CRPF personnel to restrict unauthorised entry.

## EmpowHER Gym for women inaugurated

Health Minister Ma. Subramanian on March 9 inaugurated EmpowHER Gym, a gym for women constructed at a cost of Rs. 35 lakhs, on Kodambakkam Road.

The Minister said the gym, constructed using the Councillor's Ward Development Fund, is the first gym for women in the north region of the Chennai Corporation.

South Chennai Member of Parliament Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Virugambakkam MLA A.M.V. Prabhakara Raja, Deputy Mayor M. Mahesh Kumar, Zone X Ward Committee Chairman M. Krishna Moorthy, Councillor M. Sridharan, and senior Corporation officials were present.

## Neonatal Care Unit for Saidapet Hospital

By Our Staff Reporter

Health Minister Ma Subramanian laid the foundation stone for the construction of additional floors of the Neonatal Care Unit at the Saidapet Government Hospital on March 13.

The hospital is being redeveloped at a cost of Rs 26.50 crores.

A total of Rs 15.50 crores has been allotted for additional buildings for Neonatal Care at the Saidapet Hospital.

The health minister said that the hospital receives about 1,000 patients on a daily basis from across Chennai.

Since there has been a demand for providing additional facilities, they

are being provided in a phased manner.

X-ray facilities and 13 dialysis units have already been set up at the hospital.

The construction of a three-floor building at an estimated cost of Rs 11 crores was started a few months back.

The new facilities besides the neonatal unit will include 13-bed children ward, scan room, doctor's rooms, three operation theatres, and post-operation room.

## No Entry sign board relocated by miscreants



By Our Staff Reporter

As 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue was made one-way, a 'No Entry' signboard was fixed to a barricade kept at its junction with Balakrishnan Street (West Mambalam).

As miscreants have moved the barricade with the signboard to the roadside outside an apartment complex, it is creating confusion among motorists who enter 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue only to realize after driving a distance that the road is closed at the other end. It is also leading to minor accidents.



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## Part of Thambiah Road closed for storm water drain work

The stretch of Thambiah Road (between Station Road and Thiruvengadam Street, West Mambalam) has been closed due to the ongoing storm water drain work. Barricades have been placed at the junction of Thiruvengadam Street to block vehicles from entering the road. But 2-wheelers riders are moving the barricades to make space



to enter/leave the street.

The work is in full swing and is expected to get over within a month. Last December, due to the torrential rains caused by Cyclone Michaung, Thambiah Road (West Mambalam) was worst affected.

Flood waters entered several low-lying houses as there was nearly two feet of water on the road for almost two days.

The 1km long road is one of the major thoroughfares that connects West Mambalam with

T. Nagar. It lies between Ramakrishnapuram 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Chakrapani Street and has intersections with several more streets that connect to several temples and schools.

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