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மறக்கும் பாவை

மரகதத்துக்கு மறதி அதிகம். அவளுடைய மர மண்டையில் மெமரி சிப் வைக்க பிரம்மமும் மறந்து போயிருந்தார். ஒருநாள் ஷாப்பிங் கிளம்பினாள் மரகதம். பத்து நிமிஷங்கள் கழித்து அவளுக்குக் கணவன் கருணாகரனிடமிருந்து ஃபோன் வந்தது.

'ஷாப்பிங் போறப்ப வீட்டைப் பூட்டினியா?'
'ஆமாம், பூட்டை இழுத்துக் கூடப் பார்த்தேன்.'
'வீட்டுக்குள்ளே நான் இருக்கேனான்னு பார்த்தியா?'
'ஐயோ, பார்க்கலியே! இப்போ எங்கே இருக்கீங்க?'
'வீட்டுக்குள்ளேதான் இருக்கேன். நான் எப்படி வெளியிலே போவேன்?'

'வெளியிலே போய் என்ன கிழிக்கப் போறீங்க? டெய்லி ஷீட் காலண்டரிலே ரெண்டு மாசமா தேதி கிழிக்கலே. கிழிச்சு கிட்டு இருங்க.'

கிழித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும்போது தான் அவளுக்கு நினைவுக்கு வந்தது. வீட்டுக்கு இன்னொரு டீப்ளிகேட் சாவி இருக்கிறதே!

மனைவிக்கு மறுபடியும் ஃபோன் செய்தார்.
'டீப்ளிகேட் சாவி எங்கே இருக்கு?'
'வெளியிலே செருப்பு ஸ்டேண்டிலே உங்களோட பழைய ஷூக்குள்ளே வைச்சிருக்கேன்.'

சிறிது நேரத்தில் காலிங்பெல் அடித்தது.
'கூரியர். கருணாகரனுக்கு பேங்க் டெபிட் கார்ட் வந்திருக்கு, கதவைத் திறங்க' என்றது குரல்.

'கதவைத் திறக்க முடியாது.'
'ஏன்?'

'என்னை உள்ளே வைச்சுப் பூட்டிட்டுப் போயிட்டாங்க.'

'நீங்க உள்ளே என்ன செஞ்சுகிட்டிருக்கீங்க?'

'கிழிக்கிட்டிருக்கேன்' உள்ளே இருப்பது பைத்தியம்தான் என்று கூரியர் ஆளுக்கு உணர்ஜிதம் ஆனது.
'சங்கிலி போட்டிருக்கா?'

'ஆமா, தூங்கறப்போகூடக் கழட்டற தில்லே'. தன் கழுத்து சங்கிலியைத் தடவிக் கொண்டு சொன்னார் கருணாகரன்.
'ஸார், உங்களுக்குக் கார்டு டெலிவரி செய்ய முடியாது.'

'ஆமாம், கதவு தடுக்குது.'
'சட்டம் தடுக்குது.'

'யெஸ், கதவிலே சட்டம் இருக்கு.'
'இண்டியன் பீனல் கோட் படி பைத்தியத்துக்கு டெலிவரி செய்யக்கூடாது.'

'நான் பைத்தியம் இல்லை. நிரூபிக்கிறேன்.'
'எப்படி?'

'வாசலிலே செருப்பு ஸ்டேண்ட் இருக்கும். அதிலே என் பழைய ஷூ இருக்கும். அதிலே கை விடுங்கனேன்.'
'யோவ், உனக்கு முத்திப் போச்சுய்யா. House lockedனு போட்டு நான் லெட்டரைத் திருப்பி அனுப்பிட்டேன்.'

'House locked but receiver insideனாவது போட்டு அனுப்பிய்யா.'

அவன் பதில் பேசாது போய்விட்டான். சிறிது நேரத்தில் மறுபடியும் பெல் அடித்தது. பதில் இல்லாமல் போகவே பெல் அடித்த பக்கத்து வீட்டுப் பெருமாள்சாமி பேச ஆரம்பித்தார்.
'உங்களுக்குப் பிடிச்ச வெள்ளரிக்காய்ப் பச்சடி எடுத்துகிட்டு வந்திருக்கேன். கதவைத் திறங்க.'

'வெளியிலே வர முடியாது. வாசல் கதவு பூட்டியிருக்கு.'
'கதவுக்கு கீழே இருக்கிற சந்து வழியா இலையை சொருகி அனுப்பிங்க. அதிலே பச்சடியை வைச்சிடறேன்.'

'வைப்பீங்க, ஆனா பச்சடியோட இலை எப்படி உள்ளே வரும்? தடுக்குமே. நான் எப்படி சாப்பிடுவேன்? அந்த சந்துல என் நாக்கு நுழையாது.'

'ஆமாம் இல்லை. கதவை எப்படித் திறக்கிறது?'
'சினிமாவிலே எல்லாம் ஓடி வந்து கதவு மேலே தோள் பட்டையால மோதுவாங்க. அந்த மாதிரி மோதுனால் கதவு திறந்திடும்' என்று உபாயம் சொன்னார் கருணாகரன்.

'உள்ளே யாராவது தூக்கு மாட்டிகிட்டா தான் அந்த மாதிரித் திறப்பாங்க. ஒண்ணு செய்யுங்க. நீங்க தூக்குக் கயிறை மாட்டிகிட்டவுடனே என்னைக் கூப்பிடுங்க. கதவை நான் உடைக்கறேன்.'

'மிஸ்டர் பெருமாள்சாமி, எங்க வீட்டு செருப்பு ஸ்டேண்டிலே என் ஷூவுக்குள்ளே கையை விடுங்கனேன்.'

'இதுக்கு பதிலா நானே தூக்கிலே தொங்கலாம்.'
'பிறகு பெருமாள்சாமி செருப்பு ஸ்டேண்டில் தேடினார். அங்கு சாவி இருக்கவில்லை.

வெள்ளரிக்காய்ப் பச்சடி மீண்டும் ஷேட்டுக்கே போனது. சாவகாசமாக ஷாப்பிங் முடிந்து திரும்பி வந்தாள் மரகதம்.
'செருப்பு ஸ்டேண்டிலே இன்னொரு சாவி இருக்கு இல்லை? யாரையாவது அதை எடுக்கச் சொல்லியிருக்கலாம் இல்லை. நீங்க என்ன பைத்தியமா?'

'அதிலே சாவி இல்லை.'
'அட்டா, நான் மறந்து போய் பக்கத்து வீட்டுப் பெருமாள் சாமியோட செருப்பு ஸ்டேண்டிலே சாவியை வைச்சுட்டேன்' என்றாள் மரகதம்.

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Arts fest held in Krishna Gana Sabha



By Our Staff Reporter

On July 13 and 14, Yagnaraman July Fest - an eclectic arts festival covering classical, traditional, film, folk, independent and fusion genres was held in Krishna Gana Sabha (T. Nagar).

"The Yagnaraman July Fest has been happening since 2008, and it's a confluence of elements from different genres - contemporary, mixed genre, and various art forms coming together," Saashwathi Prabhu (CEO of Krishna Gana Sabha) said. The event is founded in memory of R. Yagnaraman, the Founder-Secretary of the Sabha, and the fest takes forward his vision.

On July 13, renowned singers Saindhavi, Gowtham Bharadwaj and Haricharan Seshadri presented a 90-minute concert of Carnatic and Hindustani classical music and old Tamil cinema songs with classical ragas.

On July 14, Aayana Dance Company performed 'Dhruva: Songs of Faith', a dance tribute to Lord Hanuman.

Discourse on Bhagavad Gita today

Under the auspices of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar), Swami Guruvaramananda will deliver a discourse in Tamil on Bhagavad Gita at 5.30 p.m on Sunday, July 21 in the Ashram's premises. All are welcome.
More details can be had in 2814 3896 and 2814 3514.

Babies used for begging, rescued

By Our Staff Reporter

Three babies who were being used by women for begging at traffic junctions, were rescued by social activists on July 10, and handed over to the police.

The Child Welfare Committee, after conducting an inquiry, directed the police to hand over the three babies to the custody of Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust (G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar).

According to police, on July 11, a group of social activists led by an advocate, found three women with three babies along with an elderly couple, were begging near Kutchery Road signal junction in Mylapore.

On information, a police team detained the three women with the babies and the couple, and informed CWC members.

Police arrest 77 history-sheeters across the city

In a special drive conducted on July 13 and 14, the police arrested 77 history-sheeters in Kodambakkam, Adambakkam, Pazhavanthangal, Anna Square, Chintadripet, and Kotturpuram. They also arrested one suspect from K.K. Nagar against whom a non-bailable warrant was issued by a court.

Police Commissioner A. Arun said that the special drive against anti-social elements was being carried out to prevent criminal activities and identify history-sheeters or persons with criminal antecedents. On his orders, special teams, led by inspectors and under direct supervision of 12 Deputy Commissioners, conducted searches across the city under the 'Drive Against Rowdy Elements' (DARE).

Youth arrested for robbery

Police on July 17 arrested a 19-year-old M. Abinash on charge of robbing a 42-year-old man on Arcot Road on July 15.

Police said that Abinash has five robbery cases pending against him. The victim, P. Senthil is a resident of T. Nagar, and runs a welding workshop in Porur.

At around 6 p.m. on July 15 when Senthil was walking along Arcot Road, Abinash threatened him at knifepoint and robbed him of his gold ring and mobile phone. Based on Senthil's complaint, police identified the accused from the footage of CCTV cameras installed near the scene of the crime. He was produced before a magistrate and remanded in judicial custody.

Music festival in Vani Mahal from tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha has organised Nadaswaram and Carnatic vocal concerts from Monday, July 22 to Friday, July 26 in its premises in 103, G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar.

On the inaugural day, Vani Vadhya Kala Nipuna award will be presented to renowned Nadaswaram vidwan Seshampatti Sivalingam and Vani Laya Kala Nipuna award to Thavil vidwan Thirunageswaram T.R. Subramaniam.

The awards which include a cash component, have been instituted by V. V. Ramaswamy (Managing Director, Bhaggyam Constructions, Chennai) in memory of his mother V. Janaki.

The felicitation will be done by B. Sairam (Principal, Tamilnadu Government Music College) in the presence of Kalaimamani C.V. Chandramohan.

Following are the details of the concerts:

July 22:

6.30 p.m.: Nadaswaram concert by Tiruvannamalai P. Balaganesan, B. Bageswari, B. Harini and B. Kanimozhi, accompanied on the Thavil by

Tiruvannamalai T.K. Mohan and M.A.S. Purushothaman

July 23:

6.30 p.m.: Nadaswaram concert by M. Karthikeyan and Koleri G. Vinothkumar, accompanied on the Thavil by Adyar D. Senthilkumar and Gummidipoondi R. Jeeva

July 24:

6.30 p.m.: Nadaswaram concert by T.K.R. Ayyappan and T.K.R. Meenakshi Sundaram (Thirumeignanam Brothers), accompanied on the thavil by Thirukadayur T.G. Babu and Nellore S. Nagendran.

July 25:

5 p.m.: Vocal concert by C.R. Vaidyanathan, accompanied by A.G. Venkatasubramanian (violin), M.S. Venkatasubramanian (mridangam) and S. Sainath (ghatam)

6.45 p.m.: Vocal concert by V. Sankaranarayanan, accompanied by Nagai Muralidharan (violin), Trivandrum Balaji (mridangam) and V. Suresh (ghatam)

July 26:

5 p.m.: Vocal concert by Gayathri Venkatesan, accompanied by R. Raghul (violin), T.R. Sundaresan (mridangam) and Papanasam S. Sethuraman (kanjira)

6.45: Vocal concert by Uma & Radhika (Chinmaya Sisters), accompanied by V. Srikanth (violin), J. Vaidyanathan (mridangam) and G. Ravichandran (ghatam)

Entry is free. All are welcome.

Lakshmi poojai in temple on Friday

By Our Staff Reporter

Lakshmi poojai will be performed at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 26 in Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar).

All devotees are welcome.

Jothi Madar Sangam's anniversary on Saturday

By Our Staff Reporter

Jothi Madar Sangam (Jothi Flats, 8/3, Rameswaram Road) is celebrating its 47th anniversary from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 27 in Balaji Kalyana Mandapam (1, Sundaram Street, T. Nagar).

There will be chanting of Lalitha Sahasranaamam, spot games, free eye check-ups, variety entertainment programs, and cookery and craft contests.

The activities of the Sangam include promoting cultural and creative talents of its members.

Its members also undertake social service activities like educating the poor and training the underprivileged in vocational skills.

It also conducts regular workshops on making wire baskets, organic manure, soap and dhoop making.

For more details, contact Jothi Madar Sangam in 99403 59552 / 98411 58018.

All are welcome.

Humour Club meets today

By Our Staff Reporter

Humour Club of T. Nagar will meet at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 21 in The Stenographers' Guild (1, Guild Street, T. Nagar, behind Siva-Vishnu Temple).

Kalaimamani R. Saravanakumar (Actor, Director and Motivational Speaker) 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.

Karuna Sagar completes 20 years



By Our Staff Reporter

Karuna Sagar (Unit of RMD Group of Hospitals and Trust, 13, Raghaviah Road, T. Nagar) celebrated its 20th anniversary on July 17.

It offers palliative care to terminally-ill patients.

As part of its celebrations, traditional games like Parama-

padham, Adu Puli Attam, Pallanguzhi and many more were organised for its inmates.

Members of Kreedha (an organisation that promotes traditional games) and students of AMM School (Kotturpuram) interacted with the patients.

Dr. Republica Sridhar

(Founder, RMD Group) felicitated the members of Kreedha and the students.

RMD has provided care the more than 1 lakh patients in the last 20 years.

It runs palliative care centres in T. Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Maduravoyal and Amarambedu.

Its contact number is 93810 16588.

Gajendra moksham in temple tank today



By Our Staff Reporter

Gajendra moksham will be conducted at 8 p.m. on Sunday, July 21 in the tank of Sri Kothandaramar Temple, K. R. Koil Street, West Mambalam.

The idol of Sri Ranganathar will be taken in procession in Garuda vahanam around the temple.

All are welcome.



2-year B.Ed course in Special Education

By Our Staff Reporter

Vidya Sagar (1, Ranjith Road, Kotturpuram), a 38-year-old organisation working for differently abled persons, is offering 2-year full time B. ED Special Education (Multiple Disabilities).

The course fee is nominal.

On completion of the course, one can get admission in mainstream school or special school or start their own rehab center, take-up Teacher eligibility test for Government jobs, or go for higher studies.

The course is affiliated to Tamilnadu Teacher Education University and is equivalent to B.Ed General Education and is recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India.

For more details, call 98400 35203 or email to hrd@vidyasagar.co.in

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Branches blocking streetlights pruned



By Our Staff Reporter

Following complaints by residents, workers of Tamilnadu Electricity Board pruned the high-level branches of avenue trees that were blocking the illumination from streetlight posts on Station Road (West Mambalam).

This photo taken in July 17 shows a hydraulic ladder used to prune the tree branches.

Narrow roads, damaged streets trouble residents and motorists



By Our Staff Reporter

"Inconvenience caused for a better tomorrow," reads the blue barricades that are placed by the Chennai Metro across the city, where roads are dug up for building the rail network and stations.

But such boards are not enough to calm down commuters in Kodambakkam as the ongoing construction works have made Arcot Road too narrow to travel.

Nearby streets have also suffered deterioration, say residents.

South Sivan Koil Street is one such stretch that has been in bad condition for over 8 months now and makes commuting difficult for the motorists.

As Arcot Road remains busy during the peak hours, motorists take to interior streets to reach their destination. However, the inconvenience is doubled due to the damaged condition of the interior stretches.

Sporadic rains have worsened the situation for the residents of the area as they lead to inundation. "When roads are damaged waterlogging makes lives difficult. Motorists deserve better. It's time for action to be taken to fix our roads and improve our commute," Girija, another resident said.

An official from the zonal office said that the maintenance of the road has been delayed due to the ongoing metro rail work.

Free course on running

Chennai Runners is conducting a free 8-week course on running titled Couch to 5K. All are free to join.

The classes are held at 5.30 a.m on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays outside Starbucks (G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar).

For details contact, Vijayavani in 98849 37007 or M. Ramsubramanian in 73580 96014.

Storm water drains yet to be interlinked



By Our Staff Reporter

The ongoing construction of storm water drains (SWDs) has been the city's bane for the last couple of years. With only 3 months left for the onset of the northeast monsoon, the Chennai Corporation has speeded up the storm water drain works under various projects.

However, it has only focused on completing the construction. The civic body has not interlinked the drains, nor has it linked the drains to the water bodies, which is one of the most effective ways to prevent inundation during the monsoon.

Almost all areas in the city have drains, but just a few hours of rain inundate most of them. Due to a lack of interlinking, there is no space for the excess water to flow into the natural waterways or channels.

When contacted, a senior official said that around 75% of interlinking work has been completed in the city. He said the construction work has speeded up, and most of the work is completed in core areas. He said the interlinking is expected to be finished by September.

"We have also intensified desilting the drains and clearing silt catch-pits in all zones," he said.



Surface caves in on Brindavan Street



By Our Staff Reporter

Traffic was disrupted on Brindavan Street (near Duraisamy Subway, West Mambalam) after a portion of the surface caved in on July 18. The cave-in created a 2-foot-wide and a meter-long pit. Corporation workers covered the pit with construction debris.

Traffic police barricaded the area to caution motorists and pedestrians.

Free dialysis center in Saidapet Peripheral Hospital

Wockhardt Foundation has inaugurated a free, state-of-the-art dialysis center at the Government Peripheral Hospital (Jenis Street, Saidapet). This center aims to provide essential support to patients with kidney diseases, offering free dialysis, counseling, and nutritional guidance. Staffed by experienced medical professionals, the center ensures top-quality care for its patients. For more information, contact Dr. Sriram in 89394 04040.

Film Director Ravishankar commits suicide

By Our Staff Reporter

Film Director and Songwriter R. Ravishankar (63) ended his life in his house on 63rd Street, 10th Sector, K. K. Nagar on July 13.

Neighbours got alerted when a foul smell started to emanate from Ravishankar's flat, which was locked from inside.

On receiving information, a police team broke the front door and found Ravishankar had committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan.

Ravishankar had directed the 2002 Tamil film, Varushamellam Vasantham and was the songwriter for the hit song, 'Rosapoo chinna rosapoo' from the movie Suryavamsam. Police said that Ravishankar was undergoing treatment for a health trouble.

His body was moved to a government hospital for post mortem. He was a bachelor, and is survived by his sister and brother. K. K. Nagar Police have registered a case and are investigating.

5 held for smuggling tobacco

By Our Staff Reporter

Police on July 17 arrested five persons, including two residents of K.K. Nagar, who allegedly smuggled banned tobacco products from Andhra Pradesh for the purpose of selling them in the city.

The accused were apprehended when a police team was conducting vehicle checks at the Alandur roundabout.

Around 2.30 a.m., the police personnel intercepted an autorickshaw with four passengers, including two women passengers.

As the driver and passengers were evasive when questioned, the police personnel searched the vehicle.

They recovered nine bundles of banned tobacco products, which had been hidden under the driver's seat of the autorickshaw.

The accused were identified as Kathirvel and N. Kamaraj of K.K. Nagar, N. Murugan, K. Devi and L. Devi.

Free sloka classes

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam will conduct free sloka classes from next month in Dr. Dorairaj Sadan, 12, Thanikachalam Road, T. Nagar.

It is open to all age groups. For more details, call 63742 99950, 80561 96410.

Is anything interesting happening in your street or locality?
Please inform **Mambalam Times!**

Art takes flight at this show inspired by birds

The Avian Metaphor – an exhibition of artworks inspired by birds, is on display in Artworld Sarala's Art Centre (12, 3rd Street, off Cenotaph Road, Ganeshpuram, Rathna Nagar, Teynampet) till Tuesday, July 23.

Curated by art historian Ashrafi Bhagat, the show has six participating artists – Bhawana Sonawane, Sajitha R. Shankar, Thejomaye Menon, Selva Senthilkumar, S. Portarasan and Yuvaraj Velu

From Alfred Hitchcock's movie The Birds, to Vincent Van Gogh's painting The Kingfisher, birds have inspired artists to express complicated feelings in nuanced ways, Ashrafi said.

The artworks exhibit freedom, grace, wisdom, peace, melancholy and more, he said.



Thejomaye's works exude vibrancy with the usage of bold colours.



"She had the Wings" by Bhawana Sonawane
Bhawana's four works on display portray avian protagonists in simplified yet dreamlike compositions, symbolising travel, and a utopian existence.



Portarasan's Unity of Native

The art exhibition is open for visitors from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Entry is free. All are welcome.

Sruuthi enters India Book of Records

22-year-old S. Sruuthi (resident of 44/21, Bhagirathi Ammal Street, T. Nagar) got her name entered into India Book of Records and was certified by India's World Records for being the first dramatist to sing a Tamil song woven with the name of 72 Melakarta Raagas while acting in the Tamil play 'Vallamai Thaarayoh' dedicated to M.S. Subbulakshmi. She leads the drama troupe Naatya Nadha Nataka Sangamam. She is the daughter of dramatist S. Shivprasadh and granddaughter of thespian late R.S. Manohar. She is pursuing MBA in Great Lakes Institute of Management.



Tamil play Thazhal Veeram to be staged on Saturday

The Tamil play 'Thazhal Veeram', written by veteran dramatist T.V. Radhakrishnan, and produced and directed by S. Sruuthi (resident of 44/21, Bagirathi Ammal Street, T. Nagar), will be staged at 6.45 p.m. on Saturday, July 27 in Dr Nalli Kuppaswami Vivekananda Vidyalaya (Korattur).

The play will be staged by Sruuthi's drama troupe Naatya Naadha Nataka Sangamam.

While Sruuthi enacts the lead role, her father S. Shivprasadh will enact the role of a cook in the play.

Admission is free. All are welcome.

Remains of axed trees dumped on Giri Road



By Our Staff Reporter

Two dead trees were cut a month back on Giri Road (T. Nagar). The remains of the axed trees have not been removed and remain dumped on the road margin. They block the way for pedestrians and motorists.

Mayor flags off educational tour for students



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Mayor R. Priya flagged off educational tour vehicles for Std. 4 and Std. 5 students, studying in Corporation, Primary and Middle schools at Ripon Buildings on July 18.

A total of 1,255 students from 18 primary schools, including West Mambalam and Ashok Nagar, participated in the flagging off ceremony for the educational tour.

24,700 students from 208 primary schools and 130 middle schools from Chennai are scheduled to visit educational destinations such as Children's Park, Birla Planetarium, Anna Centenary Library, Signal Park, Police Museum, Vandalur Zoo, and Perambur Rail Museum, during the current academic year.

These tours aim to enhance the learning experiences and overall development of the school students. In the initial phase, 298 buses have been allocated at a cost of Rs 31.29 lakhs to transport the students. The tours will be conducted in phases till December. School headmasters will be given appropriate directions to ensure the students' safety," Priya said.

LPG cylinders block pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

More than 30 LPG cylinders are seen stored on the pavement surrounding the name board of Madurai Veeran Koil Street (West Mambalam).

They block the way for pedestrians.

Chennai worst hit by noise pollution among metros

By Our Staff Reporter

Navin Nishanth of Arcot Road in Vadapalani has been unable to sleep these days, as the metro rail construction work in the area that goes on through the night keeps him awake.

In other places, construction work, traffic and use of loudspeakers have robbed residents of their sleep and peace.

"Also, street vendors have resorted to cone loudspeakers to sell their wares. Many elderly and patients in our area suffer from the incessant noise," R. Velayuthan (Social worker, Environmentalist and resident of Burkit Road, T. Nagar) said.

Though honking is prohibited in silent zones during the whole day and in residential zones after 10 p.m., police do not have the resources to monitor violations, he said.

In a recent report published by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Chennai recorded the highest noise pollution of 83.6dB (decibels) among metro cities including Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai.

The prescribed limit is between 40dB to 75dB.

"With more urbanisation in the city, there will be more construction activities and infrastructure development, which will lead to more noise pollution," he added.

MTC to launch double-decker e-buses

By Our Staff Reporter

Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) is set to launch electric double-decker buses to its public transport fleet next year.

In the 1st phase, Chennai Corporation has floated a tender for the procurement, supply, operation, and maintenance of 500 e-buses.

Under the Rs 960-crore project, World Bank will contribute 70 per cent of the funds while the rest will be borne by Tamil Nadu Government.

A private company will own, operate and maintain the e-buses while the routes and fares will be fixed by MTC.

An official said that Ashok Leyland's EV arm Switch Mobility conducted a test run of an electric double-decker bus in the city in August last year.

Chennai has a long history of double-decker bus service starting from the 1970s. The double-decker buses were taken off the road in the 1980s but were re-introduced in 1997. These buses were operated on 18A routes from High Court to Tambaram till 2008.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bags containing silt dumped outside my house



Sir, Bags containing silt have been dumped outside my house on Brindavan Street Extension in West Mambalam for more than two months.

In spite of several complaints, Chennai Corporation is not removing the silt bags from the spot.

With intermittent rains, the silt from the torn bags spill all over the place causing a foul smell. It is a severe health hazard and has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

I appeal to Chennai Corporation to remove the silt bags from the spot immediately. **Nandakumar, New No. 25, Old No. 11, Brindavan Extension First Cross Street, West Mambalam, Ph: 94451 63651.**

Tower clock in Jeeva Park stops ticking



By Our Staff Reporter

The four clocks in the 20-foot-tall tower in Jeeva Park (G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) are not working.

Each of the static clocks is showing a different time.

This photo was taken at 2.50 p.m. on July 17.

Unused car blocks carriageway



By Our Staff Reporter

A car with deflated tyres is seen parked on the pavement of Arcot Street (T. Nagar).

A nearby resident said that the car is parked at the spot for more than 2 months.

It blocks the entire pavement width and usable width of the carriageway, causing obstruction to motorists and pedestrians.

Kamaraj's birth anniversary celebrated in Sarada Vidyalaya



By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with the birth anniversary of K. Kamaraj, Lions Club of Central Madras and Exnora Greater Chennai jointly organised 'Drawing and Oratorical Competition' on July 15 in Sarada Vidyalaya (Muthurangan Salai, T. Nagar).

Prizes were distributed to the winners.

G.K. Geetha (Principal) presided over the function.

R. Thiagarajan (Former Head of Sanskrit Department, Presidency College), R. Viswanathan (President, Lions Club of Central Madras), R. Govindaraj (President, Exnora) and other senior members of Exnora were present. They spoke on the virtues of Kamaraj.

Vehicles in 'no parking' zone impounded



By Our Staff Reporter

Following complaints by residents, 2-wheelers parked in the 'No parking zones' on Natesan Street (T. Nagar) were seized by traffic police on July 18.

Photo shows 2-wheelers being loaded onto the recovery vehicle. The vehicles will be released to the owners after payment of fine.

List of vending zones to be declared soon

By Our Staff Reporter

After a delay of several years, Chennai Corporation is set to announce the final list of vending zones this month, as the town vending committee held its fourth meeting on July 16.

An official said that the first list of at least 776 vending zones will be announced soon.

He said that the Corporation will also start erecting nameboards declaring 493 streets as non-vending zones and the work to remove street vendors from these 493 streets will also begin simultaneously.

Of the 15 zones, Teynampet Zone will get 74 vending zones.

Meanwhile, the committee members are also expected to recommend 297 additional streets for inclusion on the list of vending zones.

As 100 additional streets in Kodambakkam Zone have been recommended by members, areas such as T. Nagar are expected to get a large number of vending zones, once traffic police officials approve.

Corporation officials said



that the residents will be permitted to object to the inclusion of their streets on the list of vending zones even after the final list is announced.

The Commissioner will take a decision to remove the names of roads from the list of vending zones.

T. Nagar resident Badrinayanan said that vending was taking place in almost all streets with the tacit knowledge of the authorities.

"The whole of the service lanes of Usman Road have become vending zones leaving little space for public movement. While demarcating vending zones, the authorities should take into account its impact on the neighbourhood, as most streets have residential colonies. An area with no residential concentration, school, temple should be selected for vending zones. The set-up should in no way deter

Free coaching for TNPSC exams

By Our Staff Reporter

Free coaching for TNPSC Group II and Group IIA First Level examination is being conducted since July 13 in State Career Guidance Center (2655, Guindy Industrial Estate, Guindy).

Admissions are open and candidates interested in joining the classes should bring their filled-out application form, a xerox copy of their Aadhaar card, and a passport-size photograph to the center.

For more details, send email to decgc.chennai24@gmail.com.

Amma canteens to be overhauled

Amid complaints of not being maintained properly, Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on July 18 announced that Amma canteens, that sell food at highly subsidised price, will be upgraded at a cost of Rs 21 crores.

He announced that Rs 14 crores will be spent on upgrading 388 canteens, including those in seven government hospitals, while Rs. 7 crores will be allotted for procuring new utensils.

At Amma canteen, idli is priced Re. 1 each, and a plate of Pongal, variety rice or plate of chapatti with side dish is priced Rs. 5. On an average, 1.05 lakh people use Amma canteens in the city.

While rice and wheat are supplied through Tamilnadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCS), a cooperative society in Triplicane provides vegetables, provisions, and gas cylinders.

The government has spent Rs 148.4 crores in the past three years towards wages for members of self-help groups who run the canteens, while Rs 400 crores was released by Chennai Corporation and Rs. 69 crores was spent by the government on subsidy for rice and wheat.

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WEST MAMBALAM, near Postal Colony, resale flat for sale, 1370 sq.ft, UDS 800 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, prime location, 1st floor, covered car park. Contact: Premshanthi Realtors, Ph: 9003287101.

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WEST MAMBALAM, Lake View Road, near Railway Station/Lingam Coffee, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor apartment, balcony, bath attached, rent Rs. 18000, advance 6 months, car park. Ph: 90425 52842, 98411 93685.

ASHOK NAGAR, 23, 23rd Street, 7th Avenue, 1819 sq.ft, semi-furnished flat 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, study, 1st & 2nd floor, duplex flat with five balconies. Rent Rs. 35000. Ph: 98844 20518, visit on Sunday 3 p.m to 7 p.m.

WEST MAMBALAM, Block A, Apartment 7, Srinivasa Apartment, Thambiah Road, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, for rent, vegetarians only. Ph: 98674 06047.

ASHOK NAGAR, 11th Avenue, 1200 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, 2 years, lift, wood work, covered car park, prime area, rent Rs. 42000 (negotiable). Ph: 94442 15263.

WEST MAMBALAM, Prashanth Enclave, Rukmani Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, pooja, semi-furnished, 2nd floor, 2-wheeler parking, rent Rs. 17000, pure vegetarians. Ph: 94444 41840, 86086 05539.

T.NAGAR, Ramanujam Street, near Thriumala Tirupathi Devasthanam, 150 sq.ft, commercial space, for selling vegetarians foods, office, clinic. Ph: 98402 66023.

T.NAGAR, North Usman Road, 1400 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, with lift, covered car park, wood work, security, 24 hours water, rent Rs. 45000. Ph: 84382 33806.

WEST MAMBALAM, Postal Colony 1st Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, recently renovated, car parking can available at outside. Ph: 94447 13117.

K.K.NAGAR, near PSBB School, 40 feet Road, 1200 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, balcony, modular kitchen, 2nd floor, lift, car park, semi furnished, CCTV camera, rent Rs. 20000, 5 months advance, family/office/bachelor/lease Rs. 20 lakhs. Ph: 99419 99191, 98419 27338.

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Chief Secretary inspects storm water drain works

By Our Staff Reporter

Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena inspected storm water drain and other monsoon-related works at 15 locations in the city, including T. Nagar, on July 11.

Meena said that due to above normal rainfall in June, the monsoon preparedness works, that is usually done later in the year ahead of the northeast monsoon, has begun now in full swing.



He said that three permanent disaster management centres will be set up in Chennai and suburbs in the next two months. In addition, the Corporation will set up 19 relief centres ahead of the monsoon and will be fully stocked with essentials.

Corporation has started work to set up permanent pumps at places near canals to drain out water from low lying areas in case of flooding.

Meena said that work on around 40km of storm water drains is pending and it will be completed by August 31.

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Avenue trees face decline amid urbanisation, finds study

The study 'Slow and Systematic Elimination of Avenue Trees in Chennai' by O.M. Murali (Geographer and independent researcher) and S. Rajarajan (former Vice-Chancellor of SRM University, Sonapat, Haryana) was presented during a three-day workshop held in Madras University last week.

It examined the state of avenue trees along Thyagaraya Road, Venkatnarayana Road, and G.N. Chetty Road in T. Nagar, which fall under Teynampet and Kodambakkam Zones.

The study showed that in 2004, 317 trees were surveyed on these roads. The survey considered factors such as biological names, physical features such as height, width of canopy, circumference of the trunk, health status by external appearance, and human factors such as nailing, wounds, digging, surface covering, and debris.

Additionally, a comparison of the number of trees on the three roads between 2004 and 2024 revealed a marginal increase in the total number of trees from 317 to 327.

Only 201 trees of the current tree population are over 20 years old, which indicated that 113 trees (of the total 317) planted in 2004 or before were not present.

G.N. Chetty Road and Thyagaraya Road saw the most tree gains, whereas Venkatnarayana Road experienced the highest



tree loss, the study revealed.

According to the research, 241 trees in the three areas were found to be healthy. However, 76 trees exhibited symptoms of stress, 41 had debris dumped around their base, 135 had nails on their trunks, 231 had pavements around their base, 89 showed external injuries, and 53 were exposed due to digging operations.

A senior Corporation official said that due to continuous infra and maintenance works, planting of more avenue trees is not taking place.

Sharanya Ari (Deputy Commissioner, Education), who looks into the Parks Department as well, said that as recommended in the study, the Corporation is finding new Open Space Reservation lands to establish more parks to create lung spaces.

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CM Stalin visits Amma canteen in Teynampet



By Our Staff Reporter

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin made a surprise visit to the Amma canteen located on K.B. Dasan Road (Teynampet) on July 18. The staff there were taken by surprise to see the Chief Minister walk-in.

After tasting the food there, he interacted with the staff members and the customers. He later announced that Rs. 21 crore has been allocated to upgrade all the 368 Amma canteens functioning in the 200 wards of Chennai Corporation.

Contests for school students on July 27 and 28

By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with Janmashtami, Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya (T. Nagar) has organised drawing, music and sloka competition for school students on Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28 in Geeta Bhavan Trust (Avvai Shanmugam Salai, Gopalapuram).

Following are the details:

Saturday, July 27:

10 a.m.: Nursery to Std. 6: Fancy dress on any character from Ramayana/Mahabharata

2 p.m.: Nursery to Std. 10: Slokas recitation from Bhagavad Gita

Sunday, July 28:

9 a.m.: Pre-KG to Std. 10: Drawing competition on any sequence from Ramayana/Mahabharata. Participants must bring their own drawing materials

2 p.m.: Std. 8 to 12: Group devotional / patriotic bhajans and Carnatic and Devotional music contests.

The last date for registration is Wednesday, July 24.

Prizes will be distributed to the winners on Aug. 27.

For more details, contact P. Maruthi in 9176624283 or send email to gbhavantrust@gmail.com, gandhiangift@gmail.com

55 EMUs to go off track for three weeks

By Our Staff Reporter

The daily routine of lakhs of suburban train commuters is set to get disrupted, with the Chennai division of the Southern Railway announcing the cancellation of EMUs on the Chennai Beach-Tambaram stretch for three weeks from Tuesday, July 23.

This stretch has the highest patronage among the four suburban sections.

The cancellation has been announced due to remodelling of the yards, an elaborate engineering work to remodel the lines at some major stations.

New chariot for Kesava Perumal Temple



By Our Staff Reporter

A new chariot is to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 59.40 lakhs for Chenna Kesav Perumal Temple (Govindan Road, West Mambalam).

A special poojai was performed on July 10 to start the work in the presence of P. Sekar Babu (Minister of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department), K. Renukadevi (Regional Joint Commissioner, HR & CE), M. Krishnamurthy (Zonal Committee Chairman, Chennai Corporation), M. Sridhar (Councillor, Ward 140) and K. Senthil (Executive Officer of the temple).

Group chanting of slokas by students



Parampara (Chennai) organised chanting of Vishnu Sahasranaamam, slokas from Bhagavad Gita and Naaraayaneeyam on July 17 in Sree Narayana Mission Senior Secondary School (West Mambalam). Std. 5 to Std. 9 students of the school participated.

One of the students P. Vedaaswau, holds the record for non-stop chanting of slokas for 12 hours

1.48 lakh more women added to Urimai Thogai scheme

Tamilnadu Government on July 15 credited Rs 1,000 under the Kalaingar Mahalir Urimai Thogai (KMUT) scheme to more than 1.48 lakh women whose applications were earlier rejected, after considering their appeal. According to officials, the amount under the scheme was credited to around 1.15 crore families in the month of July. The State government launched the scheme of distributing Rs 1,000 monthly honorarium to 1.06 crore eligible women in the State from September 15, 2023.

Free online Bhagavad Gita classes on Sundays

By Our Staff Reporter

Gurukul Sloka Classes (West Mambalam) will conduct online Bhagavad Gita classes for children in the age group of 5 to 12 years on Sundays.

It will benefit the students who wish to participate in the Bhagavad Gita Competition to be conducted by Chinmaya Mission on September 24.

For registration, contact S. Sriram in 9382513825



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