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The Neighbourhood Newspaper for T. Nagar & Mambalam

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Vol. 31, No. 34

January 4 - 10, 2026

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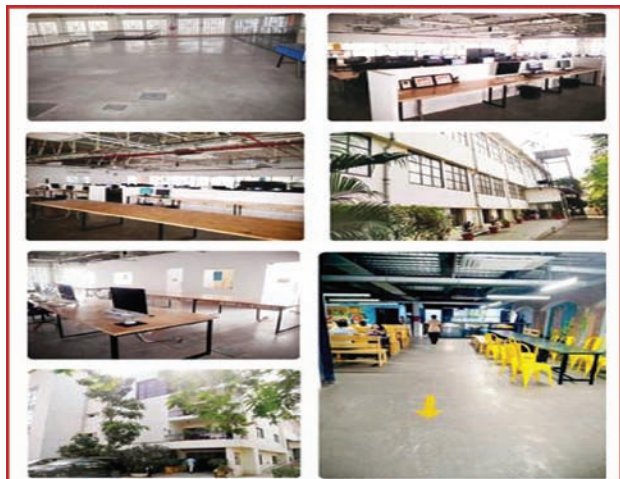
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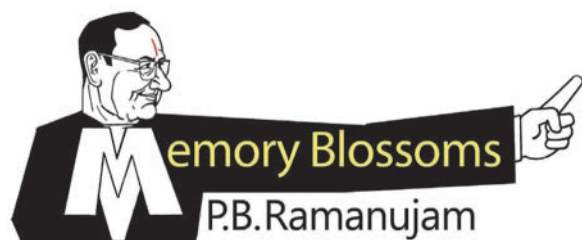
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இவ்வாய்ப்பு 04.01.2026 முதல் 08.01.2026 வரை 5 தினங்கள் மட்டுமே!



Govinda Govinda Govinda

Twelve of us were close friends since school and college, and, during our younger care-free days, could always be seen together.

We used to go to Tiruppathi on December 31 every year. Our new year would always start at the Balaji temple on Thirumalai hill.

After staying at Thirupathi overnight, we would have our breakfast at Balaji Bhavan and start climbing the hill early in the morning, singing and dancing. With all such fun, we would not feel any difficulty in climbing the steps.

In one such year, our entire gang of 12 left Chennai together and reached Tiruppathi at around 10.30 at night.

Unfortunately we could not get any accommodation there for staying overnight. We tried at hotels, cottages and the Travellers Bungalow but without success.

There used to be a school where pilgrims were allowed to stay overnight, but permission was denied to us even there on that night.

Not knowing what to do, we were walking along the TTD cottages.

There was one Ram Singh, a Sardar, in our group. His father ran a motor car spare parts shop on General Patters Road. He was quite fluent in Tamil.

He said, "Dey Ramu, your Govinda has left us in the lurch today".

I replied, "No, Ram Singh. Govinda will never abandon his devotees, and will always rush to our help even from a distance of thousand miles".

Saying this, I shouted aloud, "Govinda, Govinda, Govinda".

It was pitch dark in December night and one could not recognise even nearby faces.

Two persons were walking ahead of us and one of them, on hearing my voice, asked, "Is it Ramu? Madras Ramu?".

I said, "Yes, I am Ramu. Who are you?"

"Don't you recognise me? This is Mukundan of Meteorological Department".

Mukundan was my college friend though we had not seen each other in the past few years, and we got closer.

He asked me, "Why are you loitering like this in this cold night?"

I explained to him our plight. "We are twelve of us and have been searching for accommodation for the night"

He said, "Don't worry. I and my friend here have booked two cottages in the TTD complexes, and we can all share them. You can bring all your luggage".

With profuse thanks to Mukundan we shared the two cottages for the night.

I told Ram Singh, "Are you now convinced that Govinda will come to our help if we call him with faith?"

He did not believe what I said. "It is by fluke that your friend was walking ahead of us today", he said.

Next morning we climbed the hill, did angapradakshanam and had good darshan of Balaji after standing in a long queue.

We were very hungry when we returned to our cottage by noon.

I told Ram Singh, "I shouted 'Govinda' last night and He helped us get accommodation. Let us all shout 'Govinda' now, and He will help us get some food".

Ram Singh was not convinced but yet we all shouted in unison 'Govinda, Govinda, Govinda'.

Believe it or not, a young man emerged from the next cottage and said in Telugu, "I am from Ongole. I have a lot of temple prasaadham left. Will you please join me in eating it?"

Ram Singh asked me what he was saying.

I told him that he was requesting us to take our share of the temple prasaadham.

In fact there was enough and more of the prasaadham for all twelve of us, and we ate it all to our heart's content.

I told Ram Singh, "See, Govinda is always present within our call's distance. Did he not respond to the call of Gajendran and Draupadi? What is needed is your faith that he will come to your aid when needed".

I do not know if Ram Singh was fully convinced. So far I am concerned, Govinda has always responded to my prayers.

Govinda Govinda Govinda

The 'Thevaaram Hymn'

I knew Justice Suryamurthy well, and have pleasure in quoting him in his own words: "At the age of 15 or 16, I was a rank atheist. Our family had a coconut farm in our village and a Muslim family was living there and looking after it. The head of that family was reputed for curing snake bites, and persons from the neighbourhood who could not find cure from hospitals would come to him as a last resort. He would place some neem leaves on the victim's head, chant a few lines of some verse and the victim would be rid of the snake's venom without any further medication and return home in good health.

I was witness to such cure many times and asked him what it was that he chanted which resulted in the cure for snake bite.

He refused saying, "I cannot reveal my mantra to an atheist like you. If ever you develop faith in God, you come to me and I will tell you then".

Years rolled, I studied law and had become a judge in Pondicherry. In the meantime, I had ceased to be an atheist and developed great faith in Saivism and became well conversant with Saivite literature.

One day I remembered the Muslim gentleman and went to my village, met him and, telling him of my transformation, asked him if he would tell me the mantra at least now.

He said, "You come to me after a bath and I will tell you".

When, thereafter, he chanted the hymn in my ears, I was surprised to recognise that what he chanted was nothing but a Thevaaram hymn sung by Saint Thirunaavukkarasar to raise the son of Appoodhi Adigal when the boy had died of snake bite.

When I told him that it was a Saivite hymn, he said, "I do not know what it is. This was what my teacher taught me and I repeat it to cure my patients".

It was then that I realised that Thevaram is a Tamil Vedham and each of its hymns is a mantra which would bring benefit if chanted with faith even by a person of another religion who does not know what it is and what it means".

(To be continued) pbrassociates@yahoo.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. 800) and 4 cm. x 2 column (costing Rs. 1600)

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Open drain filled with sewage water



Widening of the storm water drain on Dr. Giriappa Road (near Corporation School, T. Nagar) is in progress.

The open drain is filled with sewage water, posing a severe health hazard to passersby and nearby residents.

As there are wide gaps between the barricades kept in front of the drain, it poses grave danger to motorists, especially bikers.

Nearby residents appeal to Chennai Corporation to remove the stagnant water from the drain and complete the work early.

OBITUARY

SAROJA KRISHNASWAMY

Saroja Krishnaswamy (resident of Sai Villa, 22/1, BRP 1st Street, West Mambalam. Ph: 98410 75356) passed away on Dec. 26.

She was 96 and had been a longtime resident of West Mambalam.

She is survived by two sons, seven daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Rajan Eye Care opens separate block to treat needy free

By Our Staff Reporter

Rajan Eye Care Hospital (5, Vidyodaya East, 2nd Street, T. Nagar) has been offering free service to the needy since its launch in 1995.

To further its cause, a new Nethra Seva Block was opened adjacent to the hospital on Dec. 31 to exclusively provide free eye care for the needy.

The Nethra Seva Block is equipped with YAG laser for post cataract and glaucoma, fundus camera for imaging the retina, and other sophisticated equipment to provide high quality treatment free of cost.

The block has been inaugurated under the aegis of Rajan Eye Care Hospital, Chennai Vision Charitable Trust, Rotary Rajan Eye Bank, and Rotary Club of Madras T. Nagar.

At the launch, D. Devendran (District Governor of Rotary District 3233), Dr. Mohan Rajan (Founder, Rajan Eye Care Hospital), K.S. Manian (Chairman of Emeritus NAPC Ltd.) and other dignitaries were present.

The Seva block will be open to patients from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., from Monday to Friday.



வென்டிஸ்டர் தாத்தா!

95 வயது தாத்தாவுக்கு திடீரென்று மூளையில் ரத்தக் கசிவு. ரத்தக் கொதிப்போ, சர்க்கரையோ அவருக்குக் கிடையாது. தினமும் காலையில் அரை மணி நேரம், மாலையில் அரை மணி நேரம் நடைப் பயிற்சி செய்வார். தன்னுடைய வேலைகளைப் பிறர் உதவியின்றித் தானே செய்து கொள்வார். உணவுக் கட்டுப்பாட்டிலும் சரியான நேரத்தில் தூங்குவதிலும் மிக கவனமாக இருப்பார். ஆனாலும் முதுமை அவருக்கு மூளையில் ரத்தக் கசிவை ஏற்படுத்தியது.

திடீரென மயங்கி விழுந்த தாத்தாவை அவசர அவசரமாக அருகில் இருந்த மருத்துவ மனையில் சேர்த்தார்கள் உறவினர்கள். எல்லாப் பரிசோதனைகளும் - பிரெய்ன் ஸ்கேன் உட்பட - செய்து மூளையில் ஓரளவுக்குப் பெரிய ரத்தக் கசிவு ஏற்பட்டிருப்பதைக் கண்டு பிடித்தனர் மருத்துவர்கள். அவருடைய நினைவு தப்பி இருந்ததாலும்; மூளையில் ரத்தக் கசிவினால் கபாலத்துக்குள் அழுத்தம் ஏற்பட்டிருந்ததாலும் அவருக்கு சிறிது முச்சுத் திணறலும் இருந்தது.

பொதுவாக இந்த மாதிரி ரத்தக்கசிவு இளம் வயதுக்காரர்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்டிருந்தால் ரத்தக்கசிவின் அளவையும், மூளையில் ரத்தம் கசியும் இடத்தையும் பொருத்து அவர்கள் இயற்கையாகவே தேறி வருவதற்கான சாத்தியங்கள் அதிகம். ஆனால் இந்தத் தாத்தாவுக்கு பெரிய அளவிலான ரத்தக் கசிவு ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது. அதனால் அவர் அதிலிருந்து மீண்டு வருவது என்பது நிச்சயமாகக் கூற முடியாத ஒன்று. அப்படி மீண்டு வந்தாரெனில் அதை ஒரு 'மெடிக்கல் மிராக்கிள்' (மருத்துவ அதிசயம்) என்று கூறலாம்!

இந்த நிலையில் மருத்துவமனையில் தாத்தாவை வென்டிஸ்டரில் போட்டுவிட்டார்கள். தாத்தாவின் சுவாசம் சீரானது. மயக்கம் தெளியவில்லை. இரண்டு மூன்று நாட்களாகியும் எந்தவித முன்னேற்றமும் இல்லை. உறவினர்கள் காத்துக் கொண்டிருந்தனர்.

வென்டிஸ்டர் சப்போர்ட் என்பது மெஷின்கள் மூலம் செயற்கையாக நுரையீரல் களுக்குள் பிராணவாயு (ஆக்ஸிஜன்) செலுத்தி, நுரையீரலை இயங்க வைப்பது. அதன் மூலம் பிராணவாயுவை ரத்தம் மூலம் உடலின் எல்லாப் பகுதிகளுக்கும் செலுத்துவது. உயிர் காக்கும் (Life saving) ஒரு செயல் முறை இது. இயற்கையாக சுவாசிக்கும் நிலைமை திரும்பிவிடும் என்கிற வியாதி களுக்கு, நோயாளிகளுக்கு இது அவசியம் செய்யப்பட்ட வேண்டும். ஓரிரு வாரங்களில் படிப்படியாக வென்டிஸ்டரில் சப்போர்ட் டைக் குறைத்து அதை நீக்கிவிடலாம்.

வென்டிஸ்டர்கள் நம்முடைய நுரையீரல்கள் செய்யும் வேலையை செய்வதால் அந்த நோயாளி உயிருடன் இருப்பார். ஓரிரு வாரங்களில் சரியாகிவிடக்கூடிய சில நோய்களில் வென்டிஸ்டர் அவசியமானது. 'அக்யூட் கிரைசிஸ்' (Acute crisis) என்பார்கள். அதிலிருந்து மீண்டவுடன் வென்டிஸ்டரிலிருந்து நோயாளியைப் பிரித்து விடலாம்.

மிகவும் வயதானவர்களுக்கு இந்த வென்டிஸ்டரை உபயோகிக்கும் முன் உறவினர்களைக் கலந்து ஆலோசிப்பதுடன் வென்டிஸ்டரை நீக்கிவிட்டால் நோயாளிக்கு என்ன ஆகும், வென்டிஸ்டரை போடாவிட்டால் என்ன ஆகும் போன்ற விவரங்களை உறவினர்களுடன் விவாதித்து அதற்குப் பிறகு வென்டிஸ்டரில் இணைப்பது நல்லது.

வென்டிஸ்டர் இருப்பதால் வரும் குழப்பங்களைத் (complications) தவிர்க்க, ஓரளவிற்கு எளிதாக சுவாசிக்க உதவும் வகையில் செய்யப்படுவது 'டிரகியாஸ்டமி' எனப்படும் முச்சுக் குழலில் துளையிடும் ஒரு சிறு அறுவை சிகிச்சை. தாத்தாவிற்கு 'டிரகியாஸ்டமி' செய்வதற்கு உறவினரின் அனுமதியைக் கேட்டனர் மருத்துவர்கள். இந்த நிலையில் உறவினர்களால் ஒரு முடிவு எடுக்க முடியவில்லை. அவர்களுக்கு என்ன செய்து என்று தெரியவில்லை. எவ்வளவு காலத்திற்கு வென்டிஸ்டரில் அவரை வைத்திருப்பது என்பது ஒரு பெரும் கேள்விக்குறியாக அவர்கள் முன் நின்றது. 'டிரகியாஸ்டமி' பயமுறுத்தியது.

தாத்தாவின் மூளையில் ஏற்பட்ட ரத்தக் கசிவிலிருந்து மீண்டு வருவது மிகவும் கடினம். அவரைப் போன்ற வயதானவர்களை வென்டிஸ்டர் போன்றவற்றுடன் இணைத்து சிரமப்படுத்தாமல் 'கன்ஸர்வேடிவ் மேனேஜ்மென்ட்' என்ற வகையில் மிதமான சிகிச்சை அளிப்பதுதான் நல்லது.

இதில் உறவினர்களால் சில சமயங்களில் முடிவெடுக்க முடியாது! தாத்தாவின் மீது இருக்கும் அத்தீமான பாசத்தினால் இவர்களால் ஒரு முடிவை எடுக்க முடியாத நிலையில் மருத்துவர்கள்தான் உறவினர்களுக்குத் தெளிவாக சொல்ல வேண்டும்.

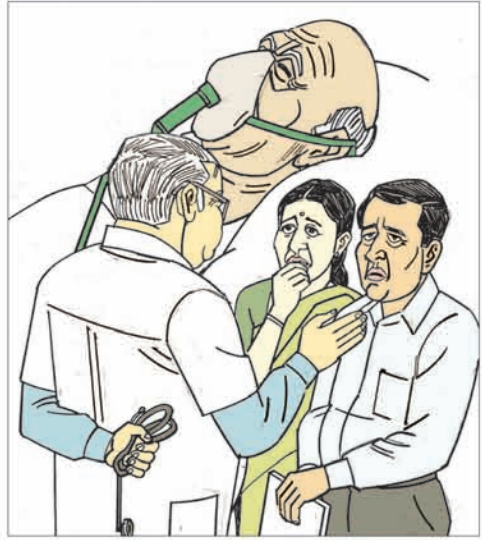
என்னிடம் வந்த உறவினர்களிடம் நான் இந்த விவரங்களை எடுத்துக் கூறி 'தாத்தாவிற்கு வந்திருப்பது வயதானவர்களுக்கு வரக்கூடிய 'ஸ்ட்ரோக்'. இதிலிருந்து அவர் மீள்வது அவ்வளவு நிச்சயமாக சொல்ல முடியாது. அவரை அதிகமாக சிரமப்படுத்தாமல் சாதாரண மருந்துகள் கொடுத்து வீட்டிலேயே பார்த்துக் கொள்வதுதான் நல்லது. இவரது வயதிற்கும், ரத்தக் கசிவிற்கும் வென்டிஸ்டர் தேவையில்லை. அதனால் ஏதாவது உபயோகம் இருக்கிறதா என்றும் நிச்சயமாக சொல்ல முடியாது. நீங்கள் உங்கள் முடிவை மருத்துவமனை டாக்டர்களிடம் சொல்லலாம். தாத்தாவை வென்டிஸ்டரிலிருந்து விடுவிப்பது நல்லது. அவருடைய வாழ்வு நிறைவான வாழ்வு. அவரை அதிகமாகத் துன்புறுத்தாமல் இருப்பது தான் நாம் அவருக்கு செய்யும் மிகச்சிறந்த சேவை' என்று சொல்லி அனுப்பி வைத்தேன். அவ்வாறே அவர் வென்டிஸ்டரிலிருந்து டிஸ்கனெக்ட் செய்யப்பட்டு வீட்டிற்கு அனுப்பப்பட்டார். உறவினர்கள், நண்பர்களின் குழப்பங்களைத் தீர்க்கும் வகையில் 24 மணி நேரத்தில் அமைதியாக இவ்வுலக வாழ்வை நீத்தார் அந்தப் பெரியவர். ஓம் சாந்தி.

என் மீது அன்பும், மதிப்பும் நிறைந்த பெரியவர் ஒருவர் என்னைப் பார்க்க வந்தபோது அவருக்கு 70 வயது இருக்கும். மிகவும் ஆரோக்கியமான உடலுடன் வலம் வந்து கொண்டிருக்கும் அவருக்கு ஏதோ தலைவலி என்பது போல வந்ததால் அவரை சிடி ஸ்கேன் எடுப்பதற்கு அனுப்பி வைத்தேன். எடுத்துக் கொண்டு வந்த அவர் என்னை அன்புடன் கடிந்து கொண்டார்! அவருக்கு இந்த மாதிரிப் பரிசோதனைகள் செய்வதெல்லாம் பிடிக்கவில்லை.

'டாக்டர், நீங்க சொன்னதுக்காக இந்த டெஸ்ட் எடுத்து இருக்கேன். இனிமே இந்த மாதிரி டெஸ்ட் எல்லாம் எனக்கு வேண்டாம். ஒருவேளை நான் மயக்கமாக நினைவு இல்லாமல் இருந்தால் நீங்கள் தான் பார்க்கப் போகிறீர்கள்! எனக்கு ஒரு சத்தியம் செய்து கொடுங்கள். அந்த நிலையில் எனக்கு எந்தவிதமான ஊசியோ, பரிசோதனைகளோ செய்யக்கூடாது. எந்தவிதமான புதிய சிகிச்சை முறைகளையும்; முக்கியமாக இந்த வென்டிஸ்டரை என் மீது உபயோகப்படுத்தக் கூடாது' என்று கேட்டார்! நான் லேசாக சிரித்து வைத்தேன்.

வென்டிஸ்டரில் இருந்து எடுத்த பிறகு ஒரு பயனுள்ள வாழ்வை அவர்கள் வாழ்வார்கள் என்ற சாத்தியம் இல்லாதபோது தேவையில்லாமல் வென்டிஸ்டரில் போடுவதில் எனக்கு உடன்பாடு கிடையாது. அதுவும் 80 வயதுக்கு மேல் ஆனவர்களுக்கு.

சில வருடங்கள் சென்று அந்தப் பெரியவர் காலையில் நடைப் பயிற்சிக்குக் கிளம்பும்போது தாகம் எடுக்க மனவியிடம் ஒரு டம்ளர் தண்ணீர் வாங்கிக் குடித்துத் திரும்பி ஒரு அடி வைப்பதற்குள் அங்கேயே மயங்கி விழுந்தார். ஐந்து நிமிடத்திற்குப் பிறகு எழுந்திருக்கவே இல்லை. எல்லோருக்கும் இப்படிப்பட்ட அனாயாச மரணம் ஏற்படுவதில்லை. அப்படி ஏற்படுபவர்கள் புண்ணியம் செய்தவர்கள்! நான்கூட அவருக்குக் கொடுத்த சத்தியத்தை மீறவில்லை; அவர் மீற விடவில்லை!



Big crowd for Vaikunta Ekadesi in TTD temple

By Our Staff Reporter

Thousands of devotees visited TTD temple (Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar) on Dec. 30 for Sorga Vaasal darshan on the occasion of Vaikunda Ekadesi.



Special arrangements were made to manage the crowd and a battalion of police provided security to prevent any untoward incident.

An official of the temple trust said that more than 50,000 devotees had Swarga Vaasal darshan on Dec. 30.

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OBITUARY



Soroja Krishnaswamy (96) aka Bajji Paatti (resident of BRP First St., West Mambalam) passed away on 26th December. After her husband's (MSK) demise in 1990 it was Soroja Amma who took the burden to raise the family and assist in arranging marriage for the children. She was a determined and staunch woman and she had such a respect from all corners of the family and friends circle.

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M.K. Parthasarthy
S/o Sri. M.K. Raghavan
Retd. SBI Manager
DOD: 03.01.2022

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Trial runs on Vadapalani-Poonamallee metro stretch to start soon



By Our Staff Reporter

With the track works nearing completion, Chennai Metro aims to start trial runs on the 6-km stretch from Vadapalani to Poonamallee depot in its Phase II project from mid-Jan.

A senior official said that nearly 4,000 workers have been deployed along the corridor to accelerate the work on the double-decker metro corridor.

He said that about 3,000 workers are engaged in viaduct and deck slab construction, 600 in track-laying, and the remaining 400 in traction and signalling works as commercial operations are being targeted for end-January or early February. To meet the deadline, 57 cranes have been pressed into service.

Chennai Metro had originally planned to open the first Phase II section of 9.5-km on the Poonamallee-Porur stretch in December, but that plan got delayed due to certification issues.

Thematic Pongal displayed outside shops to attract customers



By Our Staff Reporter

Thematic Pongal displays have been set up outside big textile showrooms to attract shoppers.

The photo taken on Jan. 2 shows a Pongal-themed village house displayed outside a leading textile showroom on Usman Road (T. Nagar).

Lake View Road damaged



By Our Staff Reporter

A large pothole formed on Lake View Road (near Kamakoti Street junction, West Mambalam) has been temporarily closed with construction debris.

A barricade has been placed in front of the damaged section to caution motorists.

Nearby residents request Chennai Corporation to repair the road early.

This photo was taken on Jan. 2.

Essentials gifted to visually challenged persons

By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with New Year, the members of Kodai Charitable Foundation (16, Giri Street, Gokulam Colony, West Mambalam) gifted groceries and rice bags to 25 visually challenged persons on Dec.31.

The Foundation works towards empowerment of the deprived community in areas including health, education, skill development, and hygiene.



Bazullah Road sinks at Arumbal Street junction



By Our Staff Reporter

The road has started to sink as several cracks have developed on Bazullah Road (near Arumbal Street junction, T. Nagar). It poses danger to motorists. This photo was taken on Jan.2.

Scholarships provided to underprivileged students

By Our Staff Reporter

Sree Sabarimalai Bhaktha Educational and Social Trust (West Mambalam) provides educational and medical support to the needy.

The Trust celebrated its 15th anniversary in Mithilapuri Marriage Hall (West Mambalam) on Dec. 31.

During the event, educational scholarships were awarded eight meritorious students and medical assistance provided to two persons from poor families.

Two conservancy workers were felicitated for their services, and T.T. Natarajan (Veteran Trade Union Leader) was honoured for his outstanding contribution to trade union movement. On Jan. 1, the Trust organised group chanting of Rudram at Ayodhya Mandapam (West Mambalam).

Kalpathy V. Sivakumar (Founder of the Trust) and other office bearers were present. Sivakumar's contact number is 98412 35582.



Woman arrested for stealing friend's jewellery

By Our Staff Reporter

The K.K. Nagar Police arrested a 30-year-old woman on Dec. 27 on charge of stealing gold jewellery from her friend's house in K.K. Nagar.

Police said when Jayalakshmi (34) (resident of Arcot Road, K.K. Nagar) found that jewellery kept in the house had gone missing on December 19, she lodged a complaint with R-7 K.K. Nagar Police Station.

After investigation, police arrested her friend Monisha (30) (a resident of Adambakkam) and recovered part of the jewellery from her.

Investigation revealed that Monisha had stolen the jewellery when she had visited the victim's house two weeks back.

Appeal for donation for annadhaanam

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Azhwargal Achariyargal Kainkarya Sabha (13, Kasi Viswanathar Street, West Mambalam) will conduct its annual 'GarudaSevai Utsavam' at Thirunangur Divya Desam Temple (Thiruvallu-Thirunagari, near Sirkazhi) on Monday, Jan. 19.

Thousands of devotees from across Tamilnadu attend the festival each year. The Sabha will be providing free lunch to all the devotees during the festival.

The Sabha has appealed to readers of *Mambalam Times* for donations for the annadhaanam.

Donors can call 90251 11829 / 90428 13964 / 93823 16777.

Special poojas in Sai Seva Samaj on Tuesday

By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with Sankatahara Chaturthi, special poojas and abhishekam will be performed at 6.30 p.m on Tuesday, Jan.6 in Shirdi Sai Seva Samaj (21, Jai Shankar Street, West Mambalam).

All are welcome.

The Samaj is constructing a 3-storey building for annadhaanam and other functions opposite the temple.

Donations are welcome.

Donors can contact in 84282 42842 or 93428 50974 or 72004 33455.

Chennai Sangamam from Jan. 14 to 17

The annual cultural festival 'Chennai Sangamam Namma Ooru Thiruvizha', organised by Tamilnadu Department of Art and Culture, will be held daily from 6 p.m to 9 p.m from Jan. 14 to Jan. 17 at several places in the city including Corporation Playground (Saidapet), Natesan Park (T. Nagar), Sivan Park (K.K. Nagar), Corporation Sports Ground (Ashok Nagar and Jafferkanpet). It will add to the city's festive as part of Pongal celebrations.

Grand musical and dance events will be performed by leading artistes and 200 folk artists at the inaugural event.

1500 folk artistes from across Tamilnadu will participate and perform Naiyyandi Melam, Thappattam, Karagattam, Kaavadiattam, Thevarattam, Sevaiattam, Kolattam, Oyilattam, Silambattam, Paraiyattam, Maanattam, Mayilattam, Periya Melam, Poikaal Kudhirai, Devarttam, Kalari, Villupaatu and Kaaliyattam during the 4-day event.

Chennai Book Fair from Jan. 8

By Our Staff Reporter

The 49th edition of the Chennai Book Fair 2026 will be inaugurated by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday, Jan. 8 at YMCA Grounds (Nandanam).

It is being organised by Booksellers' and Publishers' Association of South India (BAPASI).

K.S. Shanmugam (President, BAPASI) said that the book fair will be held till January 21, 2026.

It will be open from 11 a.m. till 8.30 p.m. on all days.

He said that there will be over 1,000 stalls with more than 10 lakhs titles, featuring publishers from Tamilnadu, other states and from Malaysia, Japan, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

A discount of 10% will be offered on all books.

Shanmugam said that every evening, there will be speeches by scholars and writers.

The Muthamizhaarigna Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi Porkizhi Award for the year will be awarded for poetry, short story, novel, plays and others.

Competitions will be held for school students and reading practice will be given to them during the fair.

Wheelchair service will be available for the elderly and disabled.

The venue has ample 2-wheeler and car parking facility.

A police outpost, fire service, ambulance service and first aid are arranged at the venue.

Rotary Club installs CCTV network in Muthal Thalaimurai Trust

By Our Staff Reporter

Rotary Club of Chennai Mithra in association with Rotary Club of Chennai Mambalam and five other Rotary Clubs, spearheaded a community initiative of installing a CCTV network in Muthal Thalaimurai Trust (Kannagi Nagar).

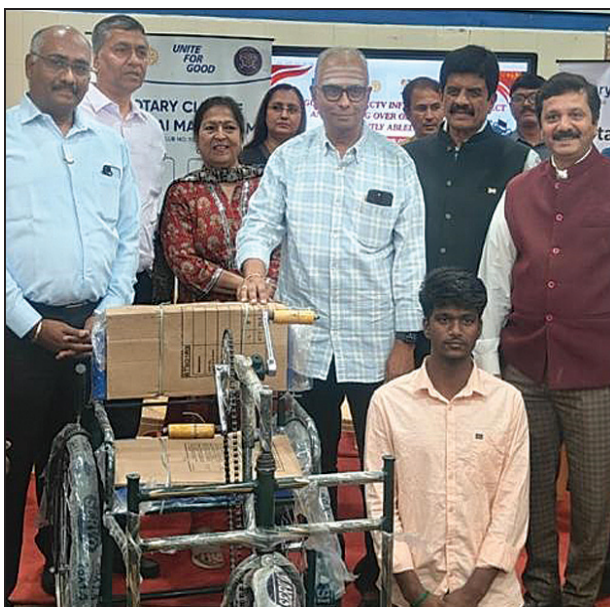
The CCTV network was inaugurated on Dec. 31.

The event saw the participation of several Rotarians and members of the Trust.

Disability aids including wheelchair were donated to differently abled persons.

The Trust empowers communities through education and sustainability.

For more details, contact C. Muthusamy (Charter President, Rotary Club of Chennai Port City) in 94440 61166.



Sai Enterprises specializes in civil works

By Our Staff Reporter

Sai Enterprises (43/15, 1st Floor, opposite Vallabha Ganapathy Temple, Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam) specializes in all kinds of civil works including water proofing, structural repairs, reinforcement works, renovations, reconstruction and new construction.

Its Founder K. Saravannavel (M.E, Structural Engineering) told *Mambalam Times* that it uses a proven German waterproofing technology to fix leakage problems with 10 years warranty.

I had worked for several years in Larsen & Toubro gaining invaluable experience, before starting Sai Enterprises. We have so far completed 4000 civil works across Tamilnadu and South India, he said. He was recently felicitated by Global Human Peace University for his achievements in civil engineering.

He is a resident of Srinivasa Iyengar 2nd Street (West Mambalam).

His contact numbers are 93815 01700, 76676 55544 and 94454 15955.

For more details, visit www.Saenterprises5.com.



Special poojas in Aachi Amman Temple till Jan. 14



By Our Staff Reporter

For New Year, special poojai followed by special alangaaram was performed to the presiding deity in Devi Sri Aachi Amman Temple (T. Nagar) on Jan.1.

Special poojas, abhishekam and alangaaram will be held daily in the morning and evening till Jan. 14.

The temple will remain open from 7 a.m to 10 a.m and from 5.30 p.m to 8 p.m on all days. All are welcome.

For more details, call 99400 70888.

Leaning BSNL junction box



The BSNL junction box installed at the junction of Arulambal Street and Bagirathiammal Street (T. Nagar) can fall at any time as it is leaning precariously.

Overhanging name board removed after report

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Elevated board poses danger' published in *Mambalam Times* (Dec. 28, 2025-Jan. 3, 2026 issue), the elevated name board loosely fixed outside a construction site on Chakrapani Street (near Railway Border Road, West Mambalam) was removed on Jan. 2.

The name board, fastened to two 20-foot-long Casuarinas poles, was tied to a branch of the tree on one end and to overhead broadband cables on the other end.



Vishnu Sahasranaama paaraayanam held daily

By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with Marghazhi, Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Vishnu Sahasranaama Mandali (West Mambalam) is conducting Vishnu Sahasranaama paaraayanam at 6.30 p.m daily in Venkatesa Perumal Devasthanam (School Road, Mettupalayam, West Mambalam). It will conclude on Jan. 15. All are welcome.

For more details, call 98412 94449.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stray dog nuisance outside Panagal Park



Sir, A number of stray dogs are roaming freely on North Usman Road (near Pangal Park, T. Nagar) for the past several days, causing nuisance to pedestrians and motorists.

They often squat within the bus shelter located near the park and rest on the bench, forcing commuters to wait in the open.

This photo I took on Jan. 2 shows six dogs roaming on the road near the bus shelter.

I appeal to Chennai Corporation to capture and relocate the dogs. **R. Parthasarathy, Govindu Street, off G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar.**

Appeal to relay Kumaran Colony 1st Street



Sir, Kumaran Colony 1st Street (Saidapet) is in a bad condition and has not been relaid for over two years.

Due to the recent storm water drain work, the condition has further deteriorated. Only temporary patch works are undertaken on complaints, and that too does not last for more than a month.

As the road offers connectivity to West Mambalam via Old Mambalam Road and Aranganathan subway, many office goers use the road daily.

As the battered surface is covered with loose gravels, it throws up a dust storm every time a vehicle passes-by causing severe air pollution.

Following rains, the surface gets slushy and slippery.

I appeal to Chennai Corporation to relay the road early.

R. Saravanakrishnan, Kumaran Colony, Saidapet.

PB Ramanujam's column

Sir, I enjoy the 'Memory Blossoms' articles by advocate P.B. Ramanujam published in *Mambalam Times* every week.

They provide an insight into how a leading advocate handles cases taking a humane approach, treating the clients as one among his family members.

For such advocates who handle their cases with compassion, their satisfaction in getting justice for their clients is more important than the fees they get.

May their tribe grow so that the clients get a fair deal. **Jayaram Sivaram, T. Nagar.**

Corporation to implement city-wide smart parking system

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation will soon implement a smart parking management system in over 25 locations across the city, starting with T. Nagar and Anna Nagar.

As per the Comprehensive Mobility Plan of Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA), the target is to implement regulated and priced parking across 36 high-demand areas and off-street locations.

Other areas in the neighbourhood where the system will be implemented in phases include K.K. Nagar, West Mambalam, Ashok Nagar, Teynampet and Saidapet.

The study for smart parking management in Anna Nagar and T. Nagar have already been done and Corporation has floated tenders for a five-year smart parking project under a public-private partnership.

Encroachments reappear on Ranganathan Street and Usman Road



By Our Staff Reporter

Despite Chennai Corporation's drive on Dec. 9 to remove encroachments from Ranganathan Street and North Usman Road (T. Nagar), they have reappeared on both the roads.

The encroachments by shops and vendors occupying carriageways and footpaths are causing hardship to shoppers. They are put to risk as they are forced to walk on the road. Due to the oncoming Pongal festival, Ranganathan Street is witnessing an overwhelming influx of shoppers, from children to senior citizens.

Regular commuters pointed out that walking through the area has become extremely difficult due to encroachments, especially since the street is a key access route to Mambalam railway station.

While the footbridge provides a safer passage for commuters, users have expressed concerns over insecurity, especially women and senior citizens.

Tree roots damage compound wall



By Our Staff Reporter

The roots of an avenue tree are weakening the compound wall of an apartment complex at the junction of Rajamannar Street and Arulambal Street (T. Nagar recently).

Minor cracks have developed on the compound wall.

Six months back, another section of the compound wall collapsed after an avenue tree fell on it.



Tree stump removed after report



Before

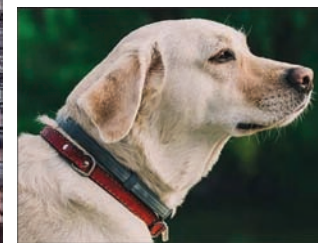


Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Tree stump blocks carriageway' published in *Mambalam Times* (Dec. 28, 2025 - Jan. 3, 2026 issue), the stump of a dead tree with its roots was removed from the road margin on Dr. B. Narasimhan 2nd Street (North Boag Road, T. Nagar). It was blocking the carriageway.

Microchipping helps lost Labrador to be reunited with its owner



By Our Staff Reporter

Thanks to an animal activist, Chennai Corporation's mandatory microchipping initiative has helped a pet owner get his missing Labrador back.

The animal activist rescued the Labrador, which he found wandering on a street in West Mambalam, and brought it to the Kannamapet Animal Birth Control centre to check if it was microchipped.

After the Veterinary Officer at the centre found that the dog was microchipped, he scanned the database to get details of the owner and contacted him over phone.

On receiving the call from the doctor, the owner Sriram (a resident of West Mambalam) arrived at the center to take back his dog.

Sriram said that his Labrador, named Tommy, had run out of the house and gone missing in the early hours on Dec. 19 after breaking free from the leash.

He thanked the rescuer and Veterinary Office for their kind act.

Offers free Vishnu Sahasranaam classes

Visva Vishnu Sahasranaam Samasthan (VISVAS) conducts free online and offline sahasranaam classes.

It will start the next batch soon at different venues in the city including T. Nagar.

To enrol in the next batch, contact VISVAS in 89460 51082 or visit www.visvasvsn.org.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Classified Advertisements under the heads *Accommodation Required, Automotive, Catering, Educational, Home Service, Packers & Movers, Situations Vacant, Etc...* will be published on this page.

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ASHOK NAGAR, 7th Avenue, near GRT School, KVB Bank, new flat for sale, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor apartment, bath attached, 910 sq.ft, UDS 367 sq.ft, rate Rs. 1.10 crores. Ph: 90425 52842, 98411 93685.

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T. NAGAR, Thomas Road, Valaththee Apartment, 1230 sq.ft, UDS 993 sq.ft, 1st floor, G + 1 flat, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2 attached, bathroom, one common bathroom, 2 balconies, 13 years old, allocated car park. Ph: 93808 37110, 94443 42737.

T. NAGAR, Abdul Aziz Street, 650 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, UDS 315 sq.ft, 1st floor, 2 balconies, 2-wheeler parking, price Rs. 70 lakhs (negotiable). Ph: 91711 26661.

ASHOK NAGAR, 11th Avenue, prime location, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 894 sq.ft, UDS 462 sq.ft, covered car park, vegetarians preferred. Ph: 94447 94030, 70101 98662.

KODAMBAKKAM, United India Colony, built-up 810 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, lift, semi furnished, Rs. 65 lakhs (negotiable), residential flat. Contact: Agent, Ph: 63835 63425.

RENTAL

WEST MAMBALAM, Kripasankari Street, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, rent Rs. 30000 (slightly negotiable). Ph: 99627 01967.

WEST MAMBALAM, Satyapuri Street, near Duraisamy Subway, 2 bedrooms, ground floor flat, 2 bathrooms, for immediate occupation, vegetarians only. Contact: Narasimhan Ph: 99410 12956, 99402 47179.

T. NAGAR, Krishna Street, North Usman Road, opp. Joyalukkas, 3 bedrooms apartment, hall, kitchen, 1 covered car park, furnished. Ph: 98418 21909.

WEST MAMBALAM

Gapanapathy Street, Near SRM, 1.5 BHK, G/F, 700 sq.ft, No Car Park, Working Family, Only for Veg., No Broker Rent Rs.18000

1 BHK, 2nd Floor, 450 sq.ft, No Car Park, Lift, Working women or Small Family. Only for Veg., No Broker Rent Rs.12000

99621 54277

WEST MAMBALAM, 22/10, Raghavan Colony, near Govindan Road, two combined portion, ground floor with good water facility and ventilation, 2-wheeler parking, Brahmins only, Rs. 11000, no brokers. Ph: 984051 3200, 96771 85056.

T. NAGAR, near PSBB School, 1 bedroom flat, hall, kitchen, marble flooring, rent Rs. 12000, employee, vegetarians only, no brokers. Ph: 96770 50155.

ASHOK NAGAR, 12th Avenue, 3 bedrooms, hall, modular kitchen, 1800 sq.ft, 2nd floor, lift, covered car park, balcony, full wood work, big tiles, south facing, false ceiling, rent Rs. 45000, vegetarians only. Contact: Satish Ph: 95661 79922, 93805 66667.

WEST MAMBALAM

Kuppaiah Street, 2 BHK Flat Ground Floor, Working Women / Family and Also Ground Floor Available for Office Space / Shop. 89254 77083

T. NAGAR, near T.T.D. Temple/ off. V.N. Road, commercial space 200 sq.ft, for office, clinic, shop, like home links, sweets stall, bakery, medical, cool drinks, ice cream, Xerox, stationary etc. Ph: 98402 66023.

T. NAGAR, sadullah Street, 800 sq.ft, 1st floor, 2 bedrooms flat, 2 bathrooms, balcony, semi furnished, lift, car park, rent Rs. 32000, including maintenance, north facing, CCTV, working people only. Contact: Agent Ph: 99419 91008.

T. NAGAR, near Hyundai Showroom, for office space, 1000 sq.ft, ground floor, independent building, rent Rs. 55000, covered car park, 50 feet road, posh location, no brokers. Ph: 95000 65865.

WEST MAMBALAM, Easwaran Koil Street, 800 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, well maintained house, spacious parking facility available for two/four wheeler, vegetarians only. Ph: 94447 13117.

WEST MAMBALAM, 4/18, Muthalamman Koil Street, hall, kitchen, attached bathrooms, for rent, only one person, bachelor, office goer or tuition centre, strictly for Brahmin, rent Rs. 6500. Ph: 98407 29065.

T. NAGAR, Moosa Street, ground floor, spacious and well-maintained, 1 bedroom hall, kitchen, includes A/c, inverter, prime locality. Suitable for company-employed families only. No brokers. Ph: 98407 32486.

WEST MAMBALAM, near Srinivasa Theatre, rental residential, spacious, 2 bedrooms, 1st floor house, west facing, wardrobes, covered parking, Rs. 28000. Ph: 89396 35971, 89396 35973.

WEST MAMBALAM, near Arya Gowda Road, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, 800 sq.ft, rent Rs. 20000, or lease, vegetarians only. Ph: 90801 64510.

T. NAGAR, off. South Boag Road, close to Shivaji's House, 2 bedrooms apartment, hall, kitchen, 900 sq.ft, lift, no car park, bachelors only. Ph: 94447 13117.

ASHOK NAGAR, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, lift, car park, Brahmin/vegetarian family. Contact: Consultant Ph: 97101 04967.

ASHOK NAGAR, 7th Avenue, near Manoj Bhawan Hotel, 1100 sq.ft, new flat, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 2nd floor, lift, semifurnished, CCTV, covered car park, rent Rs. 26000, family/bachelors/office. Ph: 73053 44555.

K.K.NAGAR, near Ramapuram, 40 feet Road, Sri Ram Apartment, newly painted, 1000 sq.ft, 1 big hall, 2 master bedrooms, 1 balcony, lift, car park, wood work, camera, security, family rent Rs. 20000, lease Rs. 15 lakhs, bachelor Rs. 25000, office Rs. 30000. Ph: 9941999191, 9841927338.

ASHOK NAGAR, Raghava reddy Colony, 550 sq.ft, single bedroom, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, no lift, 2 wheeler parking, rent Rs. 12500, vegetarians only. Ph: 93618 41024.

SITUATION VACANT (GENERAL)

WANTED female in-charge for Acupuncture clinic in T.Nagar. Salary around Rs. 12000. Timing: 9.30 a.m to 6p.m. Clinic working on all days except Fridays. Candidate should have basic computer knowledge. 98401 21766.

Firm managing park maintenance siphons off workers wages

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has cancelled the contract of a private firm after it allegedly failed to disburse wages to park maintenance workers and is suspected of fabricating

bank documents to fraudulently claim payments from the Corporation.

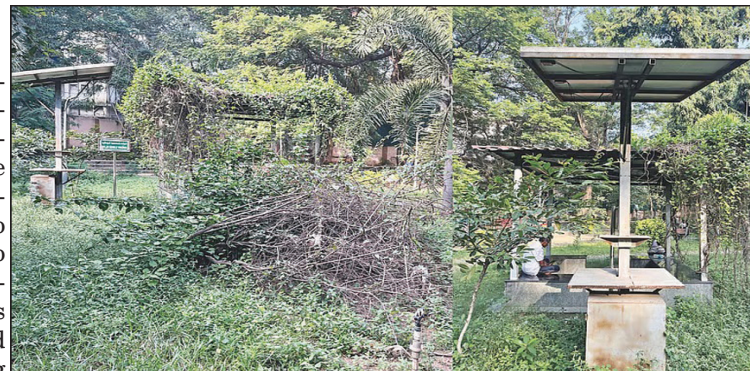
The firm was maintaining major parks in the city including Sivan Park (K.K. Nagar), CIT Nagar Park (3rd Main Road), Natesan Park (T. Nagar) and Anna Park (United India Colony, Kodambakkam).

Residents have also raised concerns about deteriorating park conditions due to poor maintenance by the firm.

Loganathan (resident of CIT Nagar) said that the CIT Nagar Park is in a state of neglect with overgrown weeds, unpruned trees and damaged infrastructure.

"Despite repeated complaints, no action has been taken," he said.

A senior Corporation official said that many of the workers affected belong to deprived communities and have migrated from villages in Tiruvannamalai, Tindivanam, Vellore and Vilupuram, seeking a better live-



lihood. He said that they have not been paid for the past three months.

"The contract has been cancelled and appropriate action will be taken against the company.

A new contractor will be appointed soon. The Corporation will directly ensure payment of Rs. 761 per day to each worker until then," the official said.

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Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Panchapakesan

By Our Staff Reporter

AL4S Charitable Trust (West Mambalam) presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to N. Panchapakesan (Founder, Chennai Sai Sankara Matrimonials, 9th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) on Jan. 1 in Infosys Hall (Ramakrishna Mission School, T. Nagar) for his decades of service in the field of matrimony and being instrumental in the conduct of over 2 lakhs marriages.

He has also been offering free matrimonial and other services to the disabled community for over three decades.

The award was presented to him by Dr. H.V. Hande.



Beneficiaries enrolled under various government schemes

By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary, a special meet was organised on Dec. 25 in VMA Hall (Srinivasa Iyer Street, West Mambalam) to enrol temple priests, roadside vendors, and other beneficiaries in various central government welfare schemes.

H. Raja (Senior BJP Leader) and Uma Anandhan (Councillor, Ward 134) were present.

It included issuance of Medical Health Insurance policies under the AB-PMJAY scheme, loan of up to Rs. 1 lakh to roadside vendors, and enrolment of children in small savings scheme. For more details, contact Uma Anandhan in 94445 43373.



Thousands visit temples for New Year



By Our Staff Reporter

Scores of devotees visited temples in view of New Year on Jan. 1.

This photo taken at around 11 a.m on Jan. 1 shows a long queue of devotees outside TTD Temple (Venkatnarayana Road, T. Nagar).

Similar queues were seen outside several temples in the neighbourhood.

Pictures of deities affixed on wall to prevent defacement



By Our Staff Reporter

The compound wall of Corporation Middle School (Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, near Moopathamman Temple, T. Nagar) was painted last week.

To prevent defacement by pasting of posters, banners printed with pictures of deities have been fixed on the wall.

Earlier, the stretch along the compound wall was misused as an open urinal.

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NIGHT PANT
190
ONLY

CULOTTE
240
ONLY

PALAZO - LEGGINGS - NIGHTY ALSO AVAILABLE

OUR SHOPS
T NAGAR - VIRUGAMBAKKAM -
GERUGAMBAKKAM - TIRUPUR - TIRUNELVELI

ஆரோக்கியம் - 26



பப்ளிக் ஹெல்த் சென்டர் **73**ம் ஆண்டில் அடியெடுத்து வைப்பதை முன்னிட்டு ஸ்தாபகர் திரு.**M.C.சுப்பிரமணியம்** அவர்களின் நினைவாக **வொதுமக்கள்** பயன்பெறும் வகையில் **ஆரோக்கியம்-26** என்ற சிறப்பு திட்டத்தை அறிமுகப்படுத்துகிறோம்.

இத்திட்டத்தில் சேர விரும்பும் பயனாளிகள் **01-01-2026 முதல் 31-01-2026 வரை** சேரலாம். முதலில் வரும் **100** நபர்கள் மட்டுமே இத்திட்டத்தில் சேர முடியும்!! சிறப்பு சலுகை கட்டணம் ரூபாய் **1,000/-** மட்டும் செலுத்தி பயனாளர் அட்டை பெற்று, கீழ்க்கண்ட சலுகைகளை பெறலாம்.

பயன்கள்

- ✓ **அடுத்த 12 மாதங்களுக்கு** வெளி நோயாளியாக (Out Patient) **PHC-ல்** உள்ள எந்த துறை மருத்துவரை வேண்டுமானாலும் சந்தித்து ஆலோசனை பெறலாம்
- ✓ **வருடத்திற்கு 26** முறை மருத்துவ ஆலோசனை பெறலாம்
- ✓ **PHC-ல் 2026-ம்** ஆண்டு நடைபெற உள்ள கீழ்க்கண்ட இலவச முகாமிலும் பரிசோதனை செய்து கொள்ளலாம். **PFT, HBA1C, FBS, URIC ACID TEST, THYROID TEST, LIPID PROFILE, LIVER PROFILE, KIDNEY PROFILE, DENTAL SCREENING, BP CHECK UP, AUDIOGRAM TEST**

நிபந்தனைகள்

- 1) வருடத்திற்கு **26** முறை மட்டுமே மருத்துவ ஆலோசனை பெறலாம்.
- 2) அதிகபட்சமாக மாதத்திற்கு 4ஆலோசனை மட்டுமே (EVERY VISIT COUNTS).
- 3) **ஆரோக்கியம் -26** பயனாளர் அட்டை 365 நாட்களுக்கு மட்டுமே செல்லுபடியாகும்.
- 4) விசாரணை கவுண்டரில் (ENQUIRY COUNTER) அட்டையை காண்பித்து பதிவு செய்யவும். **OP** கவுண்டரில் பில் செய்த பிறகு மருத்துவரை சந்திக்கலாம்.
- 5) இந்த திட்டத்தில் பணம் வாபஸ் கிடையாது.



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