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The Neighbourhood Newspaper for T. Nagar & Mambalam

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January 11 - 17, 2026

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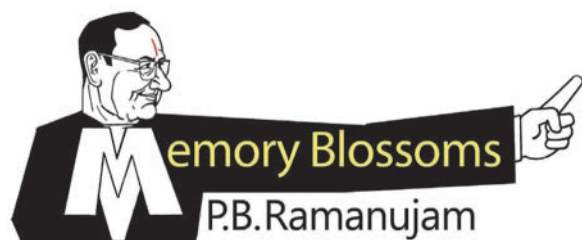
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Kamaraj and Rajaji

Kamaraj's residence was on Tirumalai Pillai Road just a few yards away from my house on Bhagirathi Ammal Street. I and my friend Sundaresan would occasionally go to his house late in the evening at 7 or 8 pm. Kamaraj was simple and friendly and would talk freely to boys like us.

One evening when I went to see him he was smoking a cigarette. As soon as he saw me he put off the cigarette and threw it away.

I said, "Sorry sir, I shall come later".

He said, "Doesn't matter. Right or wrong, people have recognised me as a leader and I should behave like a role model. I should not smoke in front of a young boy like you and set a bad example. If a teacher makes a small mistake in front of his students, the students will commit bigger blunders".

I was mightily impressed with his humility and his decision not to be a bad influence on a young boy like me.

I met him one evening in 1967 after his Congress Party had lost the election and he himself had been defeated in Virudhunagar.

He said, "People attribute different reasons for our defeat. I do not agree with any of them. The simple reason is that people have lost confidence in the Congress Party because it has committed many mistakes. We should openly admit our shortcomings".

I told him, "I also attended some post-election meetings. One of the reasons mentioned by speakers was that the election symbol of your party, a woman with a bare forehead spinning a charkha, was inauspicious. They said that voters did not want the affairs of the nation to be entrusted to a widow".

Kamaraj seemed irritated by what I said. "That is rubbish. Did not people vote for the same symbol in the Panchayat elections held last year, preferring it to other symbols like pumpkin, bucket, bicycle etc.?"

He added as an afterthought, "Perhaps you are right. We could have put a kunguma pottu on the woman's forehead".

Kamaraj was indeed a great leader who could openly admit a mistake even to a young boy like me.

Rajaji's house was in Bazulla Road very near to my house. One of his grandsons was my classmate in Ramakrishna School.

My elder brother PB Rajagopalan was an IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre. Through his batchmate KS Ramakrishnan (presently Editor of *Mambalam Times*), he had become friendly with one Charles Ryerson (Charlie), an American young man who had come on a faculty exchange program to American College, Madurai where Ramakrishnan was also a faculty member. Charlie had learnt Tamil, was much interested in Indian politics and was eager to meet Rajaji.

On my brother's request I arranged the meeting through my classmate. I also accompanied Charlie for the meeting.

Rajaji put a number of questions to Charlie to ascertain that he was not connected to the US Government or to the American media, and asked him what he wanted.

Charlie said, "My wish was only to have an opportunity to meet you". The two then had a very cordial conversation during which Rajaji replied to a number of his questions relating to Hindu religion Indian culture and politics.

Before taking leave, Charlie asked Rajaji, "Shall I ask you one last question Sir? What made you align with DMK in the last election and help it to win?"

Rajaji said, "I will tell you if you promise not to quote me in the near future".

On his promise, Rajaji replied, "Why do you think that I helped DMK to win the election? People were fed up with the Congress party and DMK was already on its way to victory. I saw the writing on the wall and decided to join the winning side. But do not quote me for some time".

I intervened and asked Rajaji, "Sir, what is meant by 'writing on the wall'?"

Rajaji said, "Don't you know? At the time of Chinese Revolution, the Government wanted to crush the opposition and banned all hostile newspapers. To inform people about forthcoming meetings, the revolutionaries would overnight write on the walls when and where the next meetings would be held and who would speak in them. Thus 'writing on the wall' means knowing beforehand what would happen in the near future".

I was enlightened by such a simple explanation of the phrase.

Another instance of Rajaji's cleverness.

His grandson, just like me, was not very bright in studies, and did not score high marks in the school final examination.

I somehow managed to get admission in Jain College.

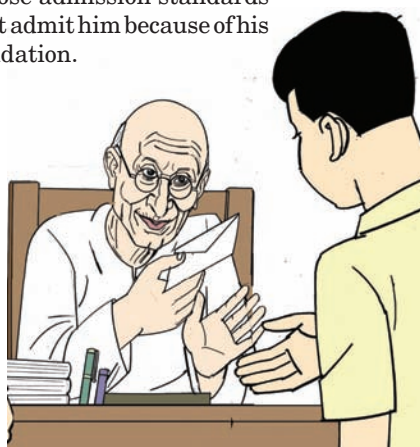
My friend wanted to join Loyola College whose admission standards were much higher and which would normally not admit him because of his low marks. So he asked for Rajaji's recommendation.

So Rajaji drafted a letter and gave it to him, and it read, "Dear Rev. Fr. Sequeira, The bearer of this letter is my grandson. He has got very poor marks and I will be surprised if you grant him admission".

Receiving such a letter from the former Governor General of India and former Chief Minister of Madras, Rev. Fr. Sequeira had no option but to grant admission to the boy.

Thus, by giving a letter that did not read like a recommendation, Rajaji achieved the purpose.

No wonder Rajaji was acclaimed as a Chanakya!



(To be continued) pbrassociates@yahoo.com

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Metrowater starts repair of sewer line in Sambasivam Street

A 20-foot stretch of Sambasivam Street (T. Nagar) had caved in on Dec. 24. The crater was temporarily covered with debris, and barricades were placed around it to caution motorists.

It was reported with a picture in *Mambalam Times* (Dec. 28-Jan. 3 issue).

Since Jan. 7, Metrowater workers have started to repair the underground sewer line that had caused the surface to sink. An official said that the work will be completed within a week and the damaged stretch of the road will be re-laid.

This photo was taken on Jan. 8.



Discourse on Bhagavad Gita today

Under the auspices of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar), Swami Guruvanananda will deliver a discourse in Tamil on Bhagavad Gita at 5.30 p.m on Sunday, Jan. 4 in the Ashram's premises. All are welcome.

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

OBITUARY

GAYATHRI

Gayathri (72) (resident of Mahalakshmi Flats, Mahalakshmi Street, T. Nagar) passed away on Dec. 25. She was a housewife.

She is survived by her husband M.V. Venkatraman (Coordinator in Veda Vidya Samithi, Ph: 98403 20005), son Srikishana. V, daughter-in-law N.C. Deepa and grandson Vasisht.





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‘தாத்தா, 500 கிடையாது, 200தான் வரும். டாக்டரும் அதைத்தான் எழுதியிருக்கிறார்’, மருந்தகத்திலிருந்து பெண், கம்பி ஐன்னலுக்கு உள்ளிருந்து உரத்துச் சொன்னாள்.

‘இல்லேம்மா, டாக்டர் சொன்னார். 500 தான் வேணும்’. வெளியில் நின்றுகொண்டு கவுண்டரில் கைவிட்டு மருந்துச் சீட்டைக் காட்டிய பெரியவருக்கு வயது தொண்ணூறு இருக்கலாம். கணுக்கால் வரை வேட்டி, முக்கால் கை வைத்த ஜிப்பா, கழுத்தில் சம்பந்தம் இல்லாமல் ஒரு வெள்ளைத் துண்டு, காதுகளுக்கு மேலேயும், பின் தலையிலும் கொஞ்சம் முடி. கையில் ஒரு பெரிய நீல நிறக் கோப்பு நிறையப் பழைய, புதிய மருந்து சீட்டுகள், பரிசோதனை ரிப்போர்ட்டுகள், எக்ஸ்ரே, இதயாதிக்கள்...

‘அந்த மருந்துலே 500 கிடையாது தாத்தா. இது ஒண்ணுதான் வருது’ என்று மாத்திரை அட்டையை இருபதாவது தடவையாகக் காட்டி சொல்லிவிட்டு பெருமூச்சுடன் அயர்ந்தான் அந்தப் பெண்.

காலை வேளை பெரியவருக்குப் பின்னால் வரிசை நீண்டிருந்தது. மருந்தும் வாங்காமல், பிறருக்கு வழியும் விடாமல் கவுண்டரில் நிற்கும் கிழவரைப் பார்த்து, காத்திருந்தவர்கள் எரிச்சல் அடைந்தனர்.

‘யோவ் பெரிசு, ஒண்ணு சீக்கிரம் மருந்தை வாங்கு இல்லே வழியானும் விடு. அவங்கதான் 500 கிடையாதுன்னு சொல்றாங்க இல்லே?’ வரிசையில் ஓர் இளைஞன் பொறுமையிழந்து கத்தினான். அவனுக்கு அவசரம். சப்தம் செய்ய விரும்பாதவர்கள் ‘உச்சுக் கொட்டி சலித்துக் கொண்டனர்.

டாக்டரைப் பார்க்க அவனுடைய முறை இன்னும் வராததால் ஓரமாக நின்றிருந்த ஒரு இளைஞன் அந்தப் பெரியவரிடம் சென்று, ‘இந்தப் பக்கம் வாங்க நான் பார்க்கிறேன்; மத்தவங்களுக்கு நேரமாகுதில்லே?’ என்று கூறியபடி அவரைக் கை பிடித்து, மருந்துக் கவுண்டரை விட்டு வெளியே அழைத்து வந்தான்.

‘லாரி லார், நான் ஏதாவது தப்புப் பண்ணியிருந்தா மன்னிக்கக்கங்க. இவங்க எல்லாம் கத்தறாங்க... தப்பான மருந்தை எப்படி லார் வாங்கிட்டுப் போறது?’ இளைஞனை நிமிர்ந்து பார்த்தவரின் கண்களில் கண்ணீர்.

அவருடைய கையிலிருந்த சீட்டைப் பார்த்தான். ‘200’ என்றுதான் எழுதியிருந்தது. அவன் வெளியில் காத்திருக்கும்போது டாக்டர் அவரிடம் கொஞ்சம் குரலை உயர்த்திப் பேசியது ஏன் என்று இப்போது புரிந்தது. பெரியவருக்குக் காது கொஞ்சம் மந்தம். டாக்டர் ஒருமுறையும், அவரது உதவியாளர் நர்ஸ் இரண்டு முறைகளும் மருந்துகளையும், அவற்றை சாப்பிடும் முறையையும் விளக்கியது அவனுக்கே இன்னும் நினைவில் இருக்கிறது.

‘கூடத் துணைக்கு யாரும் வரலையா?’
‘யாரு வருவாங்க?’ அவனை எதிர்க் கேள்வி கேட்டார்.

அரை விநாடி அவருடைய பார்வை எங்கேயோ வெறித்துப் பார்த்தது. ‘அவனவனுக்கு அவன் பெண்டாட்டி, புள்ளைங்க பத்திதான் கவலை. போனவாரம் என்னோட அவ துணைக்கு வந்தா. இன்னிக்கு அவளுக்கும முடியலை... ஐயோ, அவ காலுக்குத் தைலம் கேட்டாளே...’ பெரியவரின் முகம் கலவரமடைந்தது.

‘200 தான் இந்த மருந்தோட அளவு. வேறே கிடையாது தாத்தா. சரியாத்தான் கொடுக்கறாங்க. வாங்கிட்டுப் போங்க’ என்றான் இளைஞன்.

‘இல்லே டாக்டர் 500னுதான் சொன்னார். நான் போய்த் திரும்பவும் கேட்டுட்டு வரேன்...’ டாக்டருடைய அறையை நோக்கிப் போகும் பெரியவரைப் பார்க்கப் பாவமாக இருந்தது. அவனும் உடன் சென்றான். அங்கு காத்திருந்த நோயாளிகளுக்கு மீண்டும் இந்தப் பெரியவரைப் பார்க்க மிகவும் ஆயாசமாக இருந்தது. உள்ளே போனால் குறைந்த பட்சம் பதினைந்து நிமிடமாவது கேள்வியாகக் கேட்டார்.

கதவருகே இவரைப் பார்த்த டாக்டர் உள்ளே அழைத்து விபரம் கேட்டார். மருந்தகப் பெண்ணை அழைத்து விசாரித்தார். பெரியவரிடம், ‘இவங்க சரியாகத்தான் கொடுத்திருக்காங்க. இந்த மருந்தோட அளவு 200 தான், வாங்கிக்கோங்க’ என்று சொல்லிவிட்டு அந்தப் பெண்ணிடம், ‘திரும்பவும் இவரை வரிசையில் நிற்க வைக்காதீங்க. மருந்தைக் கொடுத்து அனுப்புங்க’ என்று சொல்லி அனுப்பினார்.

‘ரொம்ப நன்றி டாக்டர். கஷ்டம் கொடுத்திருந்தா வெரி லாரி டாக்டர்’ கையெடுத்துக் கும்பிட்டு விட்டுக் கண்ணீருடன் வெளியே வந்தார்.

உள்ளே நர்ஸிடம் டாக்டர், ‘பாவம் பெரியவர். மறதி வியாதியுடன் கொஞ்சம் மனப் பிறழ்வும் உள்ளது. அடுத்த முறை வரும்போது வீட்டிலிருந்து யாரையாவது உடன் அழைத்து வர வேண்டும் என்று சொல்லிவிடு’ என்றார்.

வெளியே வந்த தாத்தா ஒருமுறை மருந்தகத்தையும், தெருவில் நிற்கும் நாயையும் நெற்றியை சுருக்கிப் பார்த்தார். மருந்து வாங்காமலேயே சென்றுவிட்டார்.

அந்த இளைஞன் தன்னுடைய ரிப்போர்ட்டுகளைக் காண்பிக்க அடுத்த வாரம் சென்றபோது அந்தப் பெரியவர் சுவற்றோரமாக நின்று கொண்டிருந்தார். கையில் அதே நீல நிறக் கோப்பு. அதே மருந்துச் சீட்டு.

‘என்ன தாத்தா, மருந்து வாங்கலையா இன்னும்?’ என்றான்.
‘டாக்டர் 500 தான் சொன்னார். இவங்க 200 தான் இருக்குங்கிறாங்க தினமும். இன்னைக்கு என்ன கோபமோ தெரியல அதுவும் இல்லைங்கிறாங்க. வெளியிலே வேறே கடையிலே வாங்கிக்கோன்னு சொல்லிட்டாங்க.’

‘உங்க மனைவிகூட வரலையா?’
‘ம்ஹும்... அவளுக்கு எண்டு முட்டியும் வலி. வர முடியலை’ என்றார்.

அந்தப் பெரியவருக்கு எப்படி உதவ முடியும் என்று அவனுக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. அப்போது அங்கு பெரிய மீசையுடன் நீல யூனிஃபார்மில் வந்த செக்யூரிட்டி, ‘என்ன பெருசு, ஏன் நின்று கடைக்கிற? மருந்து வாங்கலையா இன்னும்?’ என்று கேட்க, மிரட்சியுடன் பெரியவர், ‘மருந்து இல்லைங்கிறாங்கப்பா’ என்றார்.

‘அப்போ போயிட்டு அப்பால் வா. இல்லாங்காட்டி வேறே கடையிலே போயி்க் கேளு. இங்கே நின்றுகிணு கூட்டம் போடாத.’

‘நான் ஏன்யா கூட்டம் போடறேன்? 500 கிடைச்சா வாங்கிக்கிட்டுப் போகப் போறேன்’ என்றபடி திரும்பவும் மருந்துக் கவுண்டரை நோக்கிச் சென்றார்.

வரிசையில் நின்றபடி ‘500 இல்லைன்னா என்ன செய்யறது? இரண்டு 200 போட்டுக்கலாமா? நானாறுதானே ஆகும்...’ எனக் கொஞ்சம் சத்தமாகவே முணுமுணுத்தார். காது சரியாகக் கேட்காதவர்களின் இயல்பு அது! நேரே சுவற்றில் வாலைக் குழைத்தபடி பல்லி ஒன்று இருந்தது. சற்று தள்ளி, மெதுவாக ஊர்ந்து சென்று கொண்டிருந்த சிறிய பூச்சி ஒன்றைப் பிடிக்கக் காத்திருந்தது. ‘பூச்சியைப் பிடிக்குமா? இல்லே கீழே விழுந்துமா?’ என்று நினைத்தார்போல ஒரு சிலிர்ப்புடன் தலையை ஆட்டிக் கொண்டார்.

கவுண்டரில் இருந்த பெண் தாத்தாவைப் பார்த்தவுடன் மற்றுமொரு உரையாடலுக்குத் தயாரானாள்.

என்ன தோன்றியதோ தெரியவில்லை, திடீரென்று வரிசையிலிருந்து வெளியே வந்த தாத்தா விரைவாகத் தெருவை நோக்கி நடக்க ஆரம்பித்தார். அந்த இளைஞனைக் கடந்து போகும்போது, ‘ரொம்ப லாரி, நான் உடனே போகணும். வீட்ல அவ தனியா இருப்பா இல்லே... மருந்து கொடுக்கணும்...’ என்றவாறே அவனுடைய பதிலுக்குக் காத்திராமல் தெருவைக் கடந்து, எதிர் திசையில் நடக்கலானார். கையிலிருந்த மருந்துச் சீட்டைப் பார்த்தபடியே நடந்தார்.

‘நாளைக்காவது 500 கிடைக்குமா?’



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 (Sai-dapet), Natesan Park (T.Nagar), Sivan Park (K.K. Nagar), Corporation Sports Ground (Ashok Nagar and Jafferkanpet).

It will add to the city’s festive aspart 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, Thappa-ttam, Karagattam, Kaava-diattam, Thevarattam, Sevaattam, Kolattam, Oyilattam, Silambattam, Paraiyattam, Maanattam, Mayilattam, Periya Melam, Poikaal Kudhirai, Devara-ttam, Kalari, Villupaatu and Kaaliyattam during the 4-day event.

Vidyodaya School alumni meet on Jan. 26

Vidyodaya Schools Alumni Association has organised the Annual Alumni Meet from 2 p.m to 6 p.m on Monday, Jan. 26 in Vidyodaya Girls School (T. Nagar).

There will be high tea, food stalls and fun games. This alumni meet is being held every year for the past 26 years.

Retired and retiring teachers will be felicitated.

Rs. 10,000 educational scholarships will be awarded to 12 meritorious students from underprivileged families.

The school is 102 years old and around 2700 students are presently studying in it. Alumni’s can attend with their families. For more details, contact Vasanthi in 98410 94333

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ANNOUNCEMENT

On account of Pongal Holidays, there will be no issue of *Mambalam Times* on Sunday, Jan. 18. Our next issue will be distributed on Jan. 25

The Editor & staff of *Mambalam Times* wish you a Happy Pongal!

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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.

Large pothole closed after report



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Lake View Road damaged' published in *Mambalam Times* (January 4-10 issue), Chennai Corporation workers repaired the large pothole formed on Lake View Road (near Kamakoti Street junction, West Mambalam) with ready-mix concrete on Jan. 6.

Previously, the pothole was loosely covered with debris and a barricade was placed in front of it to caution motorists.

Pollution Control Board campaigns for safe Bhogi



By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board has embarked on an awareness event against burning tire, plastic, rubber and other such materials that produce toxic fumes during the ensuing Bhogi festival.

It has roped in auto drivers to spread the message.

The photo taken on Jan. 7 shows an auto driver distributing pamphlets to passersby and his vehicles displays a big banner to highlight the campaign.

Bharathiyar Day celebrated in PSBB School

By Our Staff Reporter

The birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati was celebrated in PSBB School (T. Nagar) on Jan. 7.

R. S. Murali (Alumnus) was the Chief Guest.

The school's choir rendered the song 'Viduthalai Viduthalai' with patriotic fervour.

Students rendered poems composed by Bharati and performed a thematic group dance set to the poet's song and a skit based on the song 'Odi Vilayadu Pappa'.

They also recited the new Aathichoodi and delivered speeches.

Competitions were held and prizes were awarded to the winners.

210 participate in veterans' tennis tourney



By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Seniors Tennis Club organised an Open Tennis Tournament for senior citizens on Jan. 3 and 4 at YMCA Grounds (Nandanam).

The tournament featured 210 players in the age group of 45 years to 75 years.

The matches were conducted across 7 different age groups, and prizes were presented to the winners by the Chief Guest Dr. V. Singaravivelu (Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon, Kauvery Hospital). The Club plans to conduct the tournament every year.

Campaign for safe Bhogi held in Jeeva Park



By Our Staff Reporter

Jeeva Park Walkers' and Joggers Association (T. Nagar) organised an awareness event against burning tire, plastic, rubber and other such materials that produce toxic fumes during the ensuing Bhogi festival in Jeeva Park on Jan. 3.

Members of Rotary Club of Chennai Port City, Lions Club of Central Madras and ExNoRa Greater Chennai participated in the campaign. K. Muthukumar (Program Officer, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Tamilnadu) was the Chief Guest.

ExNoRa is continuing the campaign at various other locations till Jan. 13.

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

Thematic Pongal displayed outside shops to attract customers



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

The photo taken on Jan. 9 shows a Pongal-themed village house displayed outside a leading textile showroom on Usman Road (T. Nagar).

Appeal for donation for annadhaanam

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Azhwargal Achar-yargal Kainkarya Sabha (13, Kasi Viswanathar Street, West Mambalam) will conduct its annual 'Garuda Sevai Utsavam' at Thirunangur Divya Desam Temple (Thiruvallur-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.

Seminar on standardization of products for disabled persons

By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. MGR Home and Higher Secondary School for the Speech and Hearing Impaired (MGR Gardens) has organised seminar on 'Standardization of products useful to individuals with Disability and Way Forward' from 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m on Saturday, Jan. 17 in its premises.

During the event, eminent academicians, clinicians, policy experts, and institutional leaders will deliberate on the standardization of products and systems that support individuals with disabilities, with a clear focus on future-ready accessibility and inclusion.

Nanogenarian dies in road accident

By Our Staff Reporter

A 92-year-old man was killed after a speeding two-wheeler hit him in Lake View Road (West Mambalam) at around 8 p.m on Jan. 5.

Police said that when the victim was returning home, a two-wheeler hit him and sped away. The victim fell on the road and suffered injuries in the head and body.

He was taken to ESIC Hospital (K.K. Nagar) where the doctors declared him brought dead.

The Pondy Bazaar Traffic Investigation police have registered a case and are searching for the biker.

42,000 copies of this edition are delivered FREE every Sunday!

ShreyasVidyalaya offers job-oriented course in accounting / finance

By Our Staff Reporter

Shreyas Vidyalaya (49, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam) offers a specialized FinChamps course that will be beneficial to students, graduates, working professionals and audit and consultancy firms.

It covers Business Accounts and MIS, Corporate Tax and GST, Accounting Software and Cloud Accounting, Data Analysis, AI Tools and Payroll management.

A senior faculty member at Shreyas told *Mambalam Times* that the course is a combination of rigorous academic coaching and practical exposure to real world applications like working on mock portals that mimic real offices.

Shreyas Vidyalaya was started by Shreyas Management Consulting Services that offers consulting and advisory services related to accounting, compliance, assurance, taxation and legal to more than 200 entities. For more detail and to enroll, call 88678 52243 or 97910 04708.

Kolam contest in Lake View Road today forenoon

In connection with Pongal, the members of Bharathiya Janatha Party (T. Nagar Wing) have organised Kolam competition from 9 a.m on Sunday, Jan.11 in Lake View Road (West Mambalam). It is restricted to 50 participants.

Prizes will be awarded for the four best kolams judged by a team, and it will be distributed by Uma Anandhan (BJP leader and Councillor of Ward 134).

For registration, call 77085 11853 or 98844 99973.

Local resident presents bharatanatyam in dance festival



H. Abhinaya (resident of 85, Maruthi Apartments, K.R. Koil Street, West Mambalam) presented a bharatanatyam concert on Jan. 6 in the ongoing Bharatham festival in Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha (G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar). She is a disciple of Mrinalini Thyagarajan.

Pongal-themed pictures adorn wall outside school



In connection with Pongal festival next week, the students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School (9th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) are drawing Pongal-themed pictures with socially relevant messages on the wall adjacent to the main gate daily since Jan. 8.

This photo was taken Jan.9.

Local club wins veterans' ball-badminton tourney



By Our Staff Reporter

Vinayaga Ball Badminton Club (Ashok Nagar) won the Veterans' Ball-Badminton Tournament held in Arani last week. 25 teams participated in the tournament.

Colourful kolams for Pongal



By Our Staff Reporter

With Pongal just around the corner, women are drawing colourful kolams on the streets in front of their houses to celebrate the festival by giving the neighbourhood a colourful look.

"We spend hours perfecting our kolams with colourful powders," Subhiksha (30), a resident of Postal Colony (West Mambalam) said, showing off her detailed floral design outside her home.



Park to be developed under Y-shaped flyover



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has started to develop a park under the Y-shaped flyover on Bazullah Road (T. Nagar).

The surface has been levelled with concrete and foundation has been laid on both the sides to erect a fence to prevent encroachment and parking of vehicles. A senior Corporation official said that a children's play area and a garden will be developed in the space along with landscaping, CCTV surveillance and solar-powered lighting.

This photo was taken on Jan. 8.

Free Telugu classes from Feb. 7

By Our Staff Reporter

World Telugu Federation (113, Ankur Plaza, G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) will commence its next batch of free Telugu course from Saturday, Feb. 7 in its premises.

The classes will be held on Saturdays from 4 p.m to 5 p.m.

Free study materials will be given to the students.

Interested persons may call 99403 68880 or 73055 57322 for registration.

Special programs in Goh Samrakshana Sala on Jan. 16



By Our Staff Reporter

Goh Samrakshana Sala (4, Kasi Viswanathar Koil Street, West Mambalam) will celebrate its 50th anniversary and Mattu Pongal on Friday, Jan.16 in its premises.

A special Gho poojai will be performed on the occasion.

R.R.Gopaljee (Publisher, Dinamalar) will be the Chief Guest.

P. Haridas (President,

Goh Samraksha Shala and Senior Advocate), V. Murali (Secretary) and M. Anantharaman (Treasure) will be present.

The following are the program details:

7 a.m: Mangala isai by Mambalam V. Ramachandran and party.

7.30 a.m: Veda paaraayanam by Veda Vidya Samithi group.

8 a.m: Bhajans by Harekrishna group.

8.30 a.m: Devaram and Thirupugazh bhajans by Mathangi Sankar and party.

10 a.m: Special gho poojai with prayer and maha sankalpam.

10.20 a.m: Procession of cows through nearby streets

12 noon: Felicitation of the employees of the Gho Shala

All are welcome. For more details, contact 94457 31636 or 63690 54629 or 98400 48649.

PHC's new scheme on consultation fee

By Our Staff Reporter

To mark its 73rd anniversary, Public Health Centre (174, Lake View Road, West Mambalam) has announced a special scheme called 'Arogyam - 26'.

Under the scheme, patients can pay Rs. 1,000 in advance and avail consultation with any of its doctors 26 times, restricted to maximum 4 times a month.

An identity card will be issued to them under the scheme.

The scheme is restricted to 100 persons.

The last day to register for the scheme is Jan.31.

For more details, call 78450 73773 / 88258 15703

Sell decorative pots for Pongal



By Our Staff Reporter

K. Vasu (resident of 64/84, Canal Bank Road, CIT Nagar), has been selling Pongal pots from his residence for more than three decades.

"Apart from regular customers, I also get orders for decorative pots from companies", he said.

Vasu said that the prices of the pots range from Rs. 150 to Rs. 600 depending on the size and design.

He also sells flower pots, earthen lamps and pots used during marriage ceremonies.

His contact number is 97103 88220.

Usha Vadivel, a 3rd generation potter, has been selling colourful pots for Pongal for several years in 182/170, Klodambakkam High Road opposite Periyar Road, T. Nagar.

She was seen decorating and giving finishing touches to the pots.

Her contact numbers are 97101 13397 and 93821 84555.

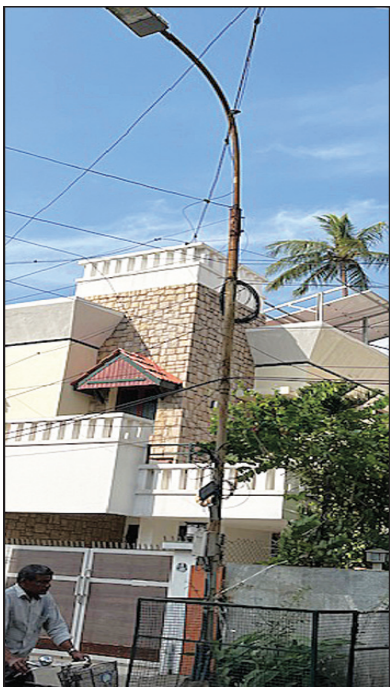
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leaning street light post

Sir, A street light post on Sivasailam Street (Balamuthukrishnan Street junction, T. Nagar) is starting to lean under the weight of a number of cables and a broadband equipment attached to it.

As it can fall at any time, it poses danger to unwary pedestrians.

I appeal to TNEB to take immediate action. **R. Chandrasekaran, Sivasailam Street, T. Nagar.**



Sewage water stagnating in storm water drain

Sir, The storm water drain in front of my house on Vasudevapuram Street (West Mambalam) is filled with sewage water.

It is causing foul smell throughout the day, and is a severe health hazard to nearby residents and passersby. It is also leading to proliferation of mosquitoes.

The piped water supply is also getting contaminated.

Despite raising complaints, no action is taken by Chennai Corporation to clean the storm water drain.

I appeal to Chennai Corporation and Metrowater to resolve the problem early. **Gowrishankar, 5 Vasudevapuram Street, West Mambalam, Ph: 98401 63448.**

Children's play area developed under flyover



Chennai Corporation is developing a children's play area under G.N. Chetty Road flyover (T. Nagar).

Photo taken on Jan. 7 shows that the surface has been levelled with concrete and a slide, monkey bar and spring rider have been installed. A Corporation official said that for the safety of children, rubber mat will be installed on the floor.

He said that more play equipment will be added and the play area will be opened by next month.

Akshaya Collections offers gift items for all occasions

By Our Staff Reporter

Akshaya Collections (72, 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) sells novelties, gift items and sarees.

It has been in business for six years and has a good collection of gifts for marriage, Navaratri, house warming, seemantham, upanayanam, sadhabishagam, shasthiaphapoorthi and other such occasions.

It also accepts bulk orders at competitive prices.

The shop is open from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and from 4.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on all days.

For more details, call Eswari in 91762 94506.

80 old friends meet after many years



By Our Staff Reporter

M. Babu (resident of Sampangi Street, West Mambalam) organised a meet in West Mambalam on Jan. 4 for 80 old friends who had been resident of West Mambalam for several years during their formative days before shifting out to different places across the country for personal and professional reasons. Babu said that they spent a very good time reminiscing the old days. The meet ended with lunch. Babu's contact number is 98414 75566.

Fountain built under Usman Road flyover



By Our Staff Reporter

A new fountain was built in the space under Usman Road flyover (T. Nagar) two months back as part of the beautification project. It was inaugurated last week.

This photo was taken on Jan. 7.

Free Teacher Training Course for housewives from Jan. 20

Shraddha Maanu Foundation (9/12, Vidyodaya 2nd Cross Street, T. Nagar) invites 12th-passed housewives to join its free Muthar Padi (First Step) program, a Teacher Training Course, that enables them to start a home-based tuition centre for primary school students and earn a living. On successful completion of the course, the Foundation will provide the necessary support in starting the tuition classes. The course starts on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

For registration, call 72007 00179 or 98404 73557.

N. Madhumathi (CEO, Shraddha Maanu Foundation) said that the certified course includes 100-hours of classroom sessions followed by 75 hours of on-the-job training.

She said that the participants are trained in functional English, teaching methodologies, primary maths, science, value education and life skills.

On completion of the program, the trained educators can either join the 'after school centres' run by the Foundation or start their own tuition centres.

For more details, visit <https://shraddhamaanu foundation.org>

Damaged car abandoned on road margin

By Our Staff Reporter

A car in a dilapidated condition is seen abandoned on the road margin outside Chennai Telephones Staff Quarters (33, 2nd Main Road C.I.T. Nagar).

A nearby resident told this reporter that the car has been parked at the spot for over 6 months.

It blocks the usable width of the carriage-way.

This photo was taken on Jan.8.



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.

Each advertisement of Real Estate and Rental must relate to only one premises and its address must be given clearly. The charges are Rs. 1000 upto 30 words. Display Rs. 320 per col. cm

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REAL ESTATE (SELLING)

T. NAGAR, G.N. Chetty Road, near Jain Temple, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, pooja, 1200 sq.ft, covered car park, lift, vacant flat for sale. Contact: Chandran, Ph: 97898 64370, 98410 16931.

WEST MAMBALAM, Brindavan Street, flat for sale, spacious 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, ground floor, carpet area 1146 sq.ft, UDS 571 sq.ft, north & east facing, 3 entrances, pooja, good ventilation, open car park, suits residential/commercial, clear title. Ph: 94999 22996.

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WEST MAMBALAM, near Ayodhya Mandapam, independent house for sale, 1800 sq.ft land with 3000 sq.ft building, (G+1), 9 bedrooms, 4 portions, monthly rental income Rs. 80000, covered car park, 3 sources of water, good ventilation, clear title, suits residence/office/ guest house / hostels etc. Ph: 94999 22996.

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Contact:

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WEST MAMBALAM, near Kittu Park, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 700 sq.ft flat, UDS 492 sq.ft, bike parking only, west facing, ground floor, 28 years old, price Rs. 72 lakhs. Ph: 99412 49719.

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98410 51622

ASHOK NAGAR, near Brown Star Hotel, approx 1500 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, gated community flat, lift, covered car park, 5 years old. Contact: Consultant Kailash Ph: 97101 04967, 90036 74560.

RENTAL

K.K. NAGAR, Munusamy Salai, near PSBB School, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, semi-furnished, rent Rs. 21000, strictly vegetarians only, open car park. Ph: 98847 78430.

T. NAGAR, G.N.Chetty Road, 2000 sq.ft, 3 bedroom, first floor flat, lift, fully cupboards, covered car parking, Rent Rs. 53000. Ph: 84382 33806.

WEST MAMBALAM, 7, Janaki Ammal Street, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, ground floor, well/sump, 2-wheeler parking, rent Rs. 11500, vegetarians only. Contact: Mr. Venkatesan, Ph: 98408 39707.

WEST MAMBALAM, Ganesh Flat, 9, Manickam Street, near Mambalam Railway Station, 2nd floor, 750 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, no lift, no car park, vegetarians only. Ph: 89255 33887.

T.NAGAR, Gopalakrishnan Road, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 1200 sq.ft, 3rd floor flat, north facing, covered car park, lift, rent Rs. 43000, plus maintenance Rs. 2000. Contact: Agent Ph: 99621 07304.

WEST MAMBALAM, Jagannath Nivas, 26/48, Subramanian Street, near Indian Bank / Arya Gowda Road, single bedroom, 24 hours water, independent house, ground floor, 2-wheeler parking, maximum 3 persons, rent Rs. 13000, vegetarians and Brahmins only. Ph: 97898 15972.

WEST MAMBALAM, Jaishankar Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, semi-furnished flat, 1st floor, road facing, 24 hours water, lift, open car parking, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 35000. Available for immediate possession. Ph: 98842 44051, 94861 25925.

KODAMBAKKAM, Azeed Nagar 3rd Street, 1100 sq.ft, ground floor of independent house, for rent (January to October only) with open car park. no pets, family preferred. no brokers. Ph: 99622 41449.

WEST CIT NAGAR, 13/7, 1st Cross Street, near Nandhi Statue. spacious 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, 3rd floor, no lift, road side view, 2 balconies, rent Rs. 15000. Contact: R. Narasimhan, Ph: 98410 92678.

WEST MAMBALAM, No. 1- B, Kasi Viswanathar Koil Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, bike parking, 800 sq.ft, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 25000, advance 6 months, ready to occupy. Ph: 98848 04760.

WEST MAMBALAM, 17/2, Sampangi Street, opp. Kittu Park, near Sankara Madam, ground floor, 600 sq.ft, double bedroom, attached bathroom, bike parking, rent Rs. 21000, 8 months advance, car park Rs. 2000 extra. Ph: 99410 03989, 94999 65089.

WEST MAMBALAM, Ramakrishnapuram 2nd Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, spacious flat, A/c, geyser, fans, bike parking, ready to occupy, small Brahmin family, no brokers. Ph: 87788 20260.

T. NAGAR, Giri Road, situated in a prime location, close to Padmavathi Temple, spacious 2 bedrooms apartment, a well-maintained, interested tenants. Ph: 98408 07342.

WEST MAMBALAM, Subramanian Street, 3 bedrooms house, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, car park, lift, vegetarian/non veg. family/bachelors, Rs. 40000, plus main-tenance, ready to occupy. Ph: 63799 63547.

WEST MAMBALAM, Brindawan Street Extension, near Arya Gowda Road Bus Stop/K.S. Academy, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor apartment, balcony, bathroom attached, rent Rs. 28000, advance 5 months, cupboards, car park. Ph: 90425 52842, 98411 93685.

WEST MAMBALAM, Janakiraman Street, independent 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1200 sq.ft, 1st floor, separate EB, Brahmins only. Ph: 94440 40066, 98405 01183

T.NAGAR

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Fans, Semi furnished,
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Ph: 98406 23076

WEST MAMBALAM, Thambiah Road, single bedroom, with bathroom attached, rent Rs. 7500, vegetarians only. Ph: 98403 42249.

CIT NAGAR, near Alpha School, 1200 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 3rd floor, lift, car park, semi furnished, security, rent Rs. 35000 (negotiable), 6 months advance, vegetarians family only. 73053 44555.

WEST MAMBALAM, near Arya Gowda Road, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, ground floor, rent Rs. 13000, vegetarians only. Ph: 90801 64510.

T. NAGAR, Near Hindi Prachar Sabha, fully furnished, ready to move-in, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 2 cots, 3 seater sofa, 2 new A/c, fridge, Wi-Fi, TV, inverter, rent Rs. 48000 + maintenance Rs. 1800. Ideal for short/long term stays. Only 2-wheeler parking. Vignesh, Ph: 70105 50610.

WEST MAMBALAM, very close to Railway Station, Babu Rajendra Prasad 2nd Street, 550 sq.ft, 1st floor, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, well maintained house, Brahmins only. Ph: 94447 13117.

T.NAGAR, Tilak Street, 1100 sq.ft, ground floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, separate drawing, dining and service area, east facing, 1 covered car park, rent Rs.32000, vegetarian only. Ph: 96771 48822.

T.NAGAR, off. North Usman Road, 1100 sq.ft, spacious 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor house, covered car park, Brahmins only. 94447 13117.

SITUATION VACANT (GENERAL)

NGO K.K.Nagar requires, experienced Accountant having - Tally, Excel, bookkeeping knowledge, statutory payments, claims through system. Retired Person in the early 60's residing in the vicinity of K.K.Nagar. Ph: 98416 15333.

WANTED female staff with degree and basic computer knowledge for a pharmacy in West Mambalam. Ph: 99401 31393, 95510 60556.

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Koodaravalli Utsavam in Srimath Ramanujas today

By Our Staff Reporter

Garudapuram Srimath Ramanujas (Giri Street, West Mambalam) has organised Koodaravalli Utsavam from 7 a.m to 8 a.m on Sunday, Jan. 11 in its premises.

100 vessels filled with butter and sweet Pongal will be offered to the deity, and distributed to the devotees as prasadam after the poojas. Devotees can have special darshan from 5 p.m to 8 p.m on prior registration. All are welcome. For details, call 98415 02313.

Special poojas in Aachi Amman Temple till Jan. 14

By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with Margazhi, special poojas, abhishekam and alangaaram is performed daily in the morning and evening to the presiding deity in Devi Sri Aachi Amman Temple (T. Nagar).

It will conclude on 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.

Piped water supply affected in parts of T. Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

Residents in parts of T. Nagar faced a 24-hour water supply disruption on Jan. 8 as the operation of the MRC Nagar water distribution station was suspended to facilitate the interlinking of a drinking water pipeline in Mandavelipakkam.

The piped water supply was resumed at 8 a.m on Jan. 9.

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Chennai Book Fair begins



Thatzal Trip New Ride Booking App

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There is a new arrival at Ride Hailing space in TN! Thatzal Trip (Pronounced That's all Trip), is a new normal Ride getting app from Drawaura Tech Markets P Ltd, a Chennai based startup recognised by Startup India, Govt of India.

Thatzal Trip, with over 10,000 drivers onboarded, has some very interesting and unique features to offer to both Drivers and Clients. In a crowded Ride booking segment where only cities benefit much in Ride booking through an app.

Thatzal Trip is available both in Chennai and all the outskirts of TN including all Tier-II, III, IV of TN!

Thatzal Trip offers not only local trips but also Rental and Outstation right from Auto rides. Further the app offers rides in vehicles not only Autos and Cabs but also Maxi cabs, upto 22 and 25 seaters mini buses for intercity and tourist operations. Thatzal Trip breaks barriers and helps Drivers to also offer their own rates and routes and allows Clients to check rates and proximities, change, and pick up rides of Drivers including prices and locations apart from doing their own bookings.

Clients can also go through Drivers ratings, proximity and

opt to request rides from select Drivers based on their preferences.

Rates are market determined for each ride based on situations, traffic, and urgency as decided mutually between Drivers and Clients after a bargain!

Thatzal Trip is set to change the culture of Ride booking segment for good where a ride confirmation happens only after checking the ratings, rates, proximity, quality of the vehicle and drivers and hence there are no waits, cancels, and last minute rate hike shocks for customers and drivers as well!

Thatzal Trip is available in both Android (Google play Store) and iPhone (App store) free now to Drivers and over a period, it's costing only a small amount for only completed rides!

WhatsApp +91 7708163731



By Our Staff Reporter

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

It has been 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 is open from 11 a.m. till 8.30 p.m. on all days.

He said that there are 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% is offered on all books.

Shanmugam said that every evening, scholars and writers speak on various topics.

Wheelchair service is available for the elderly and disabled.

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

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

**The publication
that is most
popular with the
residents of
Mambalam &
T.Nagar?
MAMBALAM
TIMES!**

Pongal gift hampers distributed



By Our Staff Reporter

Pongal gift hampers are being distributed to all rice ration cardholders from Wednesday, Jan. 7 to Monday, Jan. 12.

Each hamper consists of 1 kg raw rice, 1 kg sugar, one sugarcane, and cash of Rs. 3,000.

Picture taken in Jan. 7 shows consumers waiting outside the ration shop on Dr. Nair Road (near Thyagaraya Road junction, T. Nagar) to collect the gift hampers.



Free Vishnu Sahasranaamam classes

Visva Vishnu Sahasranaamam Samasthan (VISVAS) conducts free online and offline sahasranaamam 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.

பழைய பட்டு புடவை பணமாகிறது

வெள்ளி ஜரிகை, பட்டு புடவை, பட்டு வேட்டி, பழைய பேன்ட், சர்ட், புடவை மற்றும்

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