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The Neighbourhood Newspaper for T. Nagar & Mambalam

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3000 autos engaged to spread voter awareness

To emphasise the importance of achieving 100 percent voter turnout in the Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly election on April 23, Chennai Corporation has launched a campaign to display voter awareness advertisements on 3,000 autos across all 16 assembly constituencies within the city limits on April 15.



The stickers feature the message 'Let's cast our vote, let's not take cash' and highlight the election date. These 3,000 autos will crisscross the 16 assembly constituencies till April 22.

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Keeping tabs on poll-eve activities



As the campaign for the Assembly election is nearing, the officials deployed in the Static Surveillance Teams (SST), who play a critical role in curbing the flow of poll inducements like cash and valuables, have their task cut out. Since the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the election schedule on March 15, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has been in force. Under these rules, these teams have to seize cash above Rs 50,000 without documents or jewellery without bills. Purchasing goods worth more than Rs 10,000 without valid paperwork is also flagged. Across the city, 48 flying squads, 48 Static Surveillance Teams, and 32 video surveillance teams have been deployed. Each of the 16 constituencies has eight vehicles—three flying squads, three SSTs, and two video surveillance units. Photo taken on April 15 shows an SST team checking vehicles on Venkatna-rayana Road (T. Nagar). "We spend two hours at one spot and rotate across four locations daily. At each location, we inspect 40 to 50 vehicles," an official said. He said that the most difficult period is the 72 hours leading up to polling day on April 23. "That's when the ECI focuses most on preventing last-minute cash and freebie distribution," he said.

Colour-coded poll booths to assist voters

For the first time, polling locations across the 16 assembly constituencies in Chennai will be colour-coded to assist voters at polling locations where more than ten polling booths are co-located. Additionally, signboards will be installed to guide voters along coloured pathways, helping to prevent confusion at these large polling booths. Specific signage will help voters identify and follow the correct coloured path to their designated booth. These arrangements also prioritise Persons with Disabilities, and dedicated racks will be provided for the public to store their mobile phones, an official said.

பழைய பட்டு புடவை பணமாகிறது
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Justice Mishra – Not Enamoured of Flattery

One evening in June, 1990, I got a call from my friend, R. K. Kumar - a Chartered Accountant. Both of us were nominee directors in the Board of Chrome Leather Company - nominated by Central Bank of India.

He invited me to accompany him for a dinner engagement and said, "We are going to meet a VIP. You must come with your wife". In a light-hearted manner I said, "I am not interested in meeting a VIP and that too in his house. You are the only VIP for me and no one else".

But still, in order to please him, I agreed to go with him and reported at his house at 7 pm. I was in for a pleasant surprise. The VIP whom we were going to meet was Justice P. S. Mishra, who had just been transferred from Patna and had come to take charge here as Judge of Madras High Court.

Mr. Kumar introduced me to him as a non-controversial and non-political lawyer. We had an interesting time talking on various topics. During the conversation, Justice Mishra referred to Article 226 of Constitution of India as an ocean in which "one can swim this way or that way".

He wanted to know about Chennai High Court and various lawyers practicing here. I spoke about Mr. MRN, Mr. NCR, Mr. Biksheswaran who were practising on the original side. I also mentioned the names of Mr. Chandru, Mr. Vaigai and a few others who were coming up very fast in their practice. He also enquired about the law firm King and Partridge.

That was my first interaction with Justice Mishra; more was to come.

In a few weeks after he took charge, an interesting case came up before him. It was with reference to the action of an Inspector of Police. It was alleged that the Inspector had helped the owner of a house property in Anna Nagar by admitting the tenant in a mental hospital and forcibly evicting his wife from the house. Allegations and counter allegations were made by the parties.

After hearing the arguments, Justice Mishra ordered the arrest of the Police Inspector. Such severe action against a police official was rare. All newspapers flashed this news and Justice Mishra became the hero of the Madras Bar overnight.

Next day, a resolution of the members of the Madras High Court Advocates Association was drafted appreciating Justice Mishra for his order. The Association was scheduled to pass the resolution in the afternoon and displayed the draft on the notice board.

I copied the text of the proposed resolution and went to the Lordship's chamber. I had to wait for a while to see him. When he saw me, he asked why I had not come to his house on Deepavali day. He said that he had kept ready Bihari sweets, paan etc for me. I was proud that he treated me as a friend and felt happy.

Then I opened the topic of the resolution. I read the text and he listened with attention. I noted that his first response was one of happiness. But he thought for a moment and asked me Justice : What is your opinion?

Me : (with some hesitation) If Your Lordship says 'No' to this resolution, it will be good. In that case Your Lordship will become more popular. Moreover, if the order were to be set aside on appeal, the resolution cannot be withdrawn from minutes book of the Association and it would become an embarrassment both to the Association and to Your Lordship.

Justice : Yes! Yes!.... I also thought so. I am glad that you gave your opinion frankly. After all, I am doing my duty. Such resolutions may not be in good taste.

Justice Mishra then dictated a letter to the President, MHAA, thanking its members for their enthusiasm and saying, at the same time, that he would be happy if the resolution is dropped. He sent the letter through his PA.

At about 2 pm, the president, Mr. Gandhi, read the letter at the start of the meeting. You cannot imagine the spontaneity of the applause and the response from the members.

As apprehended by me, after about six months, Justice Mishra's order was set aside by a two-member Bench presided by Justice Swamikannu.

My reason for recording this incident is to appreciate His Lordship's desire to avoid publicity.

Later Justice Mishra was promoted as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court, and then retired as Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

Nagesh with Kanchi Periyava

During my assignment to conduct the election in Nadigar Sangam I got acquainted with a number of cine actors including comedian Nagesh. I had long conversations with him.

He told me of his visit to Kancheepuram to have darshan of Paramacharya. At that time the Sage was staying in a small nearby village in a small hut next to a well.

With great humility Nagesh asked Paramacharya who was the author of the Vedas.

Paramacharya looked at him and asked him, "அது இருக்கட்டும். சரியான வழி இல்லாத இந்த இடத்துக்கு நீ எப்படி வந்தே? அதை சொல்லு".

நாகேஷ்: இந்த இடத்துக்குக் கார் வர முடியாதுன்னு சொல்லிட்டாங்க. அதனாலே காரை ரோட்டிலேயே நிறுத்திட்டு அங்கேயிருந்து ஒரு ஒத்தையடிப் பாதையிலே நடந்து வந்தேன்.

பெரியவா: அந்த ஒத்தையடிப் பாதை யார் போட்டது?

நாகேஷ்: அதை யாரும் போடலை. பல பேர் நடந்து நடந்து அதுவே பாதையா உருவாயிருச்சு.

பெரியவா: அதே போலத்தான் வேதமும். யாரும் அதை எழுதலை. நம் முன்னோர் பல பேர் கொஞ்சம் கொஞ்சமா contribute பண்ணிப் பண்ணி அதனாலே இப்ப நமக் கெல்லாம் வழிகாட்டியா இருக்கிறது தான் வேதம்.

நாகேஷ் என்னிடம் மிகுந்த பயபக்தியுடன் சொன்னார் "எவ்வளவு பெரிய விஷயத்தை எவ்வளவு எளிமையா பெரியவா புரிய வெச்சா!"

(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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119 from Manidhanaeyam Academy pass UPSC, TNPSC exams

By Our Staff Reporter

26 candidates from Manidhanaeyam Free IAS Academy (28, 1st Main Road, near Nandi Statue, CIT Nagar, Nandanam) who cleared the Indian Forest Service (IFoS) preliminary and main examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) are set to appear for the interview.

In addition, 93 candidates who cleared the Group I preliminary and main examinations conducted by the Tamilnadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) are also set to attend the interview. Established in 2005, the academy run by Manidhanaeyam Charitable Trust offers free coaching to aspirants from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Over the past 20 years, more than 5,000 candidates have secured government jobs through the academy.

Activity-based summer camp for students

Four Cups has organised an activity-based summer camp for school students at the Love Hope Company (2nd Floor, 25, Thirumalai Pillai Road, Satyamurthy Nagar, T. Nagar). It is designed to build confidence, creativity and social skills.

The camp is divided into two age groups: 5-8 years and 9-12 years, and will be held from May 18 to May 22.

For details, contact 91500 47110.

OBITUARY

SHANTHA KRISHNAMURTHY

Shanthi Krishnamurthy, a long-time resident of G.N. Chetty Road (T. Nagar) passed away in USA on March 7.

She was 94, and had resided in T. Nagar for more than 40 years.

She was the mother of Indra Nooyi (former Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo,

USA) and Chandrika Krishnamurthy Tandon (Grammy awardee and Partner in McKinsey and Company, USA).

She is survived by her two daughters, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Hold seminar on traditional education

The seminar 'Traditional Education and its Relevance Today' was organised on April 13 by Medha Gurukulam (675/15, 48th Street, 9th Sector, K.K. Nagar) in its Shastra Gurukulam located on 11th Street, near Anjaneyar temple, Nanganallur.

20 boys and girls are presently studying in the gurukulam. V. Kamakoti (Director, IIT-Madras) was the Chief Guest.

4 meritorious students were given scholarships during the event. A 3-day Shastra Sabha with 20 scholars from all over India was conducted. For more details visit: www.medha.gurukulam.org or call 90437 20870.

Free Sanskrit classes from tomorrow

Mambalam Samskrita Vidyalaya celebrated its 70th anniversary last month.

It conducts free Sanskrit course based on Chittor syllabus.

The classes are held daily in the evenings at Ahobila Mutt School (116, K.R. Koil Street, West Mambalam).

Anyone above 10 years can join. Exams are conducted at the end of each term in the 2nd week of March and September. The next batch starts on Monday, April 20.

Interested persons can register at the venue. For more details, call 99624 22480 or 98843 64620.



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அன்புமிக்க சுஜாதா,
ஓய்ந்த நேரங்களில் பெண்களுக்குச் சிறந்த பொழுதுபோக்கு ரசமாக, இன்பமாக இருப்பதற்கு என்ன செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டிருக்கிறாய். புதுதில்லி போன்ற நகரங்களில் இருப்பவர்களுக்குப் பொழுது போதாது. அப்படி இருக்க நீ ஏனோ இப்படிக் குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறாய். ஆனால் இன்பம், ரசம், எளிமையென எழுதியிருப்பதால் அதற்கு நான் விடை எழுதுகிறேன். குடும்பத்துக்குத் தேவையான கைவேலைகள் எவ்வளவோ இருக்கின்றன.

தவிர சென்னையில் 'சென்னை தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர் சங்கம்' மகாநாடு நடைபெற்றது. உள்நூலிலிருந்தும், வெளியூரிலிருந்தும் நூற்றுக்கணக்கான எழுத்தாளர்கள் கூடிப் பேசினார்கள், சிரித்தார்கள், விவாதித்தார்கள். அதில் பெண்களும் கலந்துகொண்டு மகாநாட்டைச் சிறப்பித்தனர். எழுத்தாளர்களுடைய உற்சாகத்தையும், நன்மதிப்பையும் பார்க்கும்போது பெருமையாகத்தான் இருந்தது. மற்றக் கலைஞர்களை உற்பத்தி செய்யும் கலைஞர்கள் நாங்கள் என்று நிமிர்ந்து நின்றார்கள் போல மன்னர்கள்.

பெண்களாகிய நமக்கு எழுதும் கலை மிகவும் பொருத்தமானது. ரசிகமணி டி.கே.சி அவர்கள் கலை, கதைகள் அடுப்பங்கரையில் தான் பிறக்கின்றன என்பார். அரிசி கொதிக்கும் உலைச் சத்தத்தின் ஓசை இன்பமும், உரலில் நெல் குத்தும்போது நாட்டுப் பெண்கள் பாடும் பாடலில் அபிநயமும் இருப்பதாகச் சொல்லி மகிழ்வார்.

நாம் தினந்தோறும் உடல் வளர்ச்சி, அறிவு வளர்ச்சி எல்லாம் அடையும் பாதையில் தான் முன்னேற முயற்சி செய்கிறோம். அந்த முயற்சியில் தடை ஏற்படும்போதுதான் நம் மனமும் சோர்ந்து விடுகிறது. அறிவு வளர்ச்சிக்குப் படிப்



பது மிக அவசியம். அதை ஒட்டி மிகச்சிறந்த இன்பம் தரும் கலை எழுதும் கலையாகும். காகிதத்தையும், பேனாவையும் வைத்துக் கொண்டு உட்கார்ந்துவிட்டால் எழுத வருமாவெனக் கேட்பாய். உண்மைதான்! சங்கீதம் என்று எடுத்துக் கொண்டால் ஒரே பாட்டை அவரவர்கள் எத்தனை விதமான பாணியில் பாடுகிறார்கள்? அதில் எவ்வளவு நுட்பம், மாறுபாடுகள்! குறைந்த காலத்தில் அதாவது ஒரு சட்டதிட்டமான கால அளவுக்குள் சங்கீதத்தின் சகல மேன்மைகளையும் அறிவுறுத்துவதுதான் கலை. கதைகள் எழுதுவதும் ஓரளவு அவ்விதமே. கதைகளோடு பிறக்கிறோம், வாழ்கிறோம். சின்ன வயதில் அதை, பாட்டிகளிடம் கதை கேட்கிறோம். பெரியவர்களான பிறகு குழந்தைகளுக்குக் கதை சொல்லி இன்பம் அடைகிறோம். இருக்கிற விஷயத்தைக் கவர்ச்சிகரமாகக் கற்பனையோடு சொல்லுவதுதான் கதை. கதை சொல்வதில் மற்றைய நாடுகளுக்கு நம் நாடு பின்னடையவில்லை. இன்று அவசர வாழ்க்கை. வாழ்க்கையை ஒட்டி ரசமாக எழுதப்படும் சிறுகதைகளைப் படிக்கும் வாசகர்கள் பல்லாயிரக்கணக்காக இருக்கிறார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு தனி மனிதருடைய வாழ்க்கையும் ஒரு முழு நாவலாகுமென்று ஓர் அறிஞர் சொன்னார்.

பெண்களாகிய நமக்கு எழுதும் ஆற்றல் நீறு பூத்த நெருப்பைப்போல் இருக்கிறது. புதுமையாக எழுத நம்மால் முடியும். அதை வளமையாகச் செய்ய நம்மால் சாத்தியமாகும். நம்முடைய கவித்திறனும் குறைவில்லை. சிந்தனை செய்யும் சக்தி இருக்கிறது. உண்மையை ஒட்டி எழுதும் வசதி நமக்கு உண்டு. சிருஷ்டி செய்யும் சக்தி நம்முடைய செல்வம். இவற்றுக்கு மேல் வேலைக்கும் வன்மை நமக்கு இருக்கிறது. இவற்றைச் சேர்த்து உருப்படுத்துவதற்கு வேண்டிய பொறுமையை இயற்கை நமக்கு அதிகமாகவே அளித்திருக்கிறது. நாம் ஏன் பேனா அரசிகளாக ஆக முடியாது?

நீ எழுத முயன்று பார். சிறந்த கலை மனத்தைத் தூய்மைப்படுத்தும். உன்னால் ஓர் இலக்கிய சிருஷ்டி செய்ய முடிந்தது என்று அறியும்போது உண்டாகும் இன்பத்துக்கு நிகரே வேறெதுவும் இல்லை.

Book on Madras Kali Bari temple released

By Our Staff Reporter

A book on the history of Madras Kali Bari temple (Umapathy Street, West Mambalam) titled 'The Path was Traversed' was released on April 14.

The book written by Pranab Basu, was released by 99-year-old A. N. Srinivasa Rao (President Emeritus of Madras Kali Bari) in the presence of Ajoy Kumar Chakraborty (President, Madras Kali Bari), Bimalendu Saha (Secretary), Neelaveni (Joint Secretary), Pournam Thara (Committee Member) and Ravi Prakash (son of A.N. Srinivasa Rao).

The 160 pages book is priced Rs. 100.

Pranab told *Mambalam Times* that to write the book, he did extensive research over the past 8 months to collect all the important details about the temple from its inauguration in 1965 from books, journals, newspapers and by interacting with its current and past members.

He said that the book provides a comprehensive insight into the temple as it stands today and will remain an invaluable part of Madras Kali Bari history, serving as a reference for the ideas, vision, and objectives of the temple for generations to come.

A copy of the book can be purchased from Madras Kali Bari office.

For more details, call 94443 83840.

Free drinking water and buttermilk for passersby

By Our Staff Reporter

To quench the thirst of passersby in the searing heat, members of Palani Murugan Padayathrai Kuzhu are distributing free water and buttermilk since April 17 to passersby outside Ayodhya Mandapam (Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam).



It will go on till May 31. It has been organised by Nachikulam L. Saravanan (Chairman of the Kuzhu), and the program was inaugurated by Uma Anandhan (Councillor, Ward 134). Those who wish to support the cause, can contact Saravanan in 96001 06990.

Bicycles gifted to government school students



By Our Staff Reporter

Tivoli Gardens Owners' Association (Saligramam) refurbished old bicycles and gifted them to the students of Corporation Higher Secondary School (opposite Ram Theater, Kodambakkam) on April 10. In addition to the cycles, the Association also gifted 200 notebooks, 300 pens and sweets to the students.

Usharani (Headmistress) and senior faculty members were present.

For more details, contact R. Suresh (Vice President, Tivoli Gardens Owners' Association, Ph: 98403 98419).

Admission open for Std. 6 and Std. 11 in MB Jain School

Admissions are open for Std. 6 and Std. 11 in Shri Mangichand Bhandari Jain Higher Secondary School (7, Madley Road, T. Nagar).

The 55-year-old school is a unit of S. S. Jain Educational Society. The last date for submitting completed application forms for students seeking admission to Std. 6 is Thursday, April 30, and for those seeking admission to Std. 11, within 7 days of publication of Std. 10 board exam results. For Std. 11, it offers both Commerce and Science Groups with the option to choose either Computer Science or Business Maths in Commerce Group.

A senior faculty told *Mambalam Times* that the school is equipped with smart classrooms, well-equipped lab and library, and well qualified and experienced teachers.

He said that for the academic year 2026-27, it is introducing Robotics to prepare students for future technological advancements.

In addition to academics, the school also excels in sports and co-curricular activities.

Application forms can be purchased from the school office from 9.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m from Monday to Friday.

For more details, call 044-24344576, email: mbjainschool@gmail.com

Handicrafts mela in Rajeswari Hall till April 30



Rajasthan Craft Mela, an exhibition-cum-sale of handicrafts and other items, has been going on since April 10 in Rajeswari Hall (New No. 64, Old No.168, Lake View Road, West Mambalam).

It will conclude on April 30.

On exhibit are Orissa sarees, Rajasthan ghagra choli, dress materials, Rajasthan painting, Jaipur churidar, tops, kurtas and kurtis, pajamas, Prohampali and Rajasthan bedsheets, Jaipur stone jewellery, five-stone jewellery, Jaipur Lak jewellery, terracotta items, curtains, Chennai wooden toys and more.

For more details, call 99404 22426.

Demand high for Aavin buttermilk

With summer beginning to peak, Aavin's buttermilk is in high demand.

Pradesh, who manages a local Aavin outlet, told this reporter that since the last week, sale of buttermilk has doubled.

Its ingredients include milk solids, salt, ginger, curry leaves, coriander, pudina and green chillies.

It is available in 200ml bottles priced at Rs. 12. Aavin sells buttermilk along with four other milk products, namely choco lassi, mango lassi, processed milk and Tea Mate milk.



ஸ்ரீரங்கத்தில் சுஜாதா

ஸ்ரீரங்கத்தில் இரண்டு நாட்கள் 'பெருமாள் சேவிக்கப்' போயிருந்தேன். பழைய நண்பர்களுடனும் என் சகோதரன் ராஜகோபாலனுடனும் கம்பராமாயணத்தை அரங்கேற்றிய மண்டபத்தின் அருகில் எல்லாரும் உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டு பல விஷயங்களை அவ்வளவாகக் கொண்டு ஒரு nostalgia பயணம்.

இந்த முறை குறிப்பாக இரண்டு விஷயங்கள் கவனித்தேன். திருக்கொட்டாரத்தில் கோசாலையின் ஒரு வாசற்படியில் அழிந்தும் அழியாததுமாக இருக்கும் மிகப் பழமையான கல்வெட்டு முதலாம் பராந்தகனின் காலத்தது (கி.பி 907). அந்த அரசன் திருவரங்கர் கோயிலுக்கு ஒரு வெள்ளிக் குத்துவிளக்கும் அதற்குக் கற்பூரம், பருத்தித் திரிநூல் வாங்குவது உட்பட அதைப் போற்றிப் பாதுகாப்பதற்கு 51 பொற்காசுகள் வழங்கியதை அறிவிக்கும் கல்வெட்டு. மாட்டுக் கொட்டகையில் சரித்திரம்!

சேஷராயர் மண்டபத்தில் இதுநாள் வரை நான் கவனிக்காமல் விட்ட தசாவதாரச் சிற்பங்கள் சிற்பக் கலையின் அற்புத உதாரணங்கள்.

பழைய ரங்கம் என்கிற பெயர் மாற்றத்திலிருந்து நல்லவேளை தப்பிவிட்ட திருவரங்கத்தில் மாறாத பகுதிகளும் மாறிவிட்ட பகுதிகளும் உடன் வாழ்கின்றன. ஏ.டி.எம்., இன்டர்நெட், டி.வி.டி (DVD) மினரல் வாட்டர் போன்றவற்றின் நவீனத்தைக் கடந்து ஐம்பதடி உள்ளே போனால் ஹெய்சாலர் காலத்து சிற்பங்கள் (கி.பி. 1234-1262) அமைந்த கிருஷ்ணன் சந்நிதி. வெள்ளைக் கோபுரத்தை நிஜமாகவே வெள்ளையடித்து ஒரு albino போல் பண்ணிவிட்டார்கள். மற்றக் கோபுரங்களுக்குப் பல வண்ணங்கள் கொடுத்து சிற்பக்குமரிகள் சர்க்கஸ் குமரிகளபோல ஜொலிக் கிறார்கள். பொதுவாகவே சம்ரோக்ஷணத்துக்குப் பிறகு கோயில் சற்று சுத்தமாகி யிருக்கிறது என்னவோ நிஜம்.

மாலை சமயபுரத்துக்கு சென்றிருந்தேன். சின்ன வயசில் சைக்கிளில் போனது. ஐம்பத்தைந்து வருஷங்களுக்குப் பின் இந்தக் கோயிலின் அளவும் கேள்வி கேட்காத பத்தியும் திகைக்க வைக்கின்றன. சமயபுரம் raw faithன் வடிவம். ஒருபுறம் 'உண்வாட உண்ணாது உயிர்க் காவலிட்டு உடலில் பிரியாப் புலனைந்தும் தாம்வாட வாடத் தவம் செய்ய வேண்டாம்' என்னும் ஆழ்வார்களின் பத்திநிலை திருவரங்கத்தில். மறுபுறம் இதற்கு நேர் எதிரான அங்கப்பிரதட்சண உருளர்களும்; முழுங்கால், கண் போன்றவற்றின் வெள்ளி வடிவக் காணிக்கைகளும்; தீச்சட்டிகளும், வேப்பிலையடிபும் சமயபுரத்தில். இந்து மதத்தின் இரண்டு விளிம்புகளும் இருபது கிலோமீட்டர் இடைவெளியில்!

(மின்னம்பலம் இணைய இதழிலிருந்து)

கவிஞர் கண்ட செல்வம்

ஸ்ரீமதி செல்லம்மா பாரதி

பாரதியாரை ஆதரித்து வந்த எட்டயபுரம் மஹாராஜா ஒரு சமயம் சென்னைக்குப் போயிருந்தார். அவர்கூட பாரதியாரும் அவருடைய நண்பர்களும் போயிருந்தார்கள். போகும் சமயத்தில், 'செல்லம்மா! வரும்போது உனக்குத் தேவையான சாமான்கள் வாங்கிக் கொண்டு வருகிறேன்' என்று சொல்லிவிட்டுப் போனார். நானும் ஆவலாக அவர்கள் திரும்புவதை எதிர்பார்த்திருந்தேன்.

பதினைந்து தினங்கள் கழித்து எட்டயபுரம் திரும்பினார். குதிரை வண்டிகள் இரண்டு வாசலில் வந்து நின்றன. ஒன்றிலிருந்து தாம் மட்டும் இறங்கினார். மற்றொரு வண்டியிலிருந்து மூட்டைகளை வண்டிக்காரன் உள்ளே கொண்டு வந்து வைத்தான். மூட்டைகள் கூடத்தை நிரப்பின. அத்தனையும் புடவைகள், வெள்ளிப் பாத்திரங்கள் முதலியவைகளாக இருக்கலாமென்று நான் மனம் பூரித்தேன். அவருடைய நண்பர்கள் முதலியோர் வந்து விசாரித்துவிட்டுச் சென்றார்கள்.

கடைசியாக நான் மூட்டைகளை அவிழ்த்துப் பார்த்ததும் எனக்குக் கோபம்தான் வந்தது. அத்தனையும் புத்தகங்கள்! புறநானூறு, அகநானூறு, பதிற்றுப்பத்து, சிலப்பதிகாரம், திருக்குறள், திருவருட்பா, கம்பராமாயணம், ஆங்கிலப் புத்தகங்கள்! ஒரே ஒரு புடவை மட்டும் வாங்கி வந்தார்.

'இதென்ன இது, மஹாராஜா எவ்வளவு பணம் கொடுத்தார்?' என்று கேட்டேன். 'ஐநூறு ரூபாய் கொடுத்தார்', என்று சொல்லிப் பணப் பையை என்னிடம் நீட்டினார்.

அந்தப் பையைத் திறந்து பார்த்தால் பதினைந்து ரூபாய்தான் இருந்தது. இவருடன் சென்ற இவருடைய நண்பரோ வீட்டுக்கு வேண்டிய சாமான்களையும் வாங்கிக்கொண்டு, கையிலும் ரூபாய் முந்நூறு கொண்டு வந்திருந்தார்!

பாரதியார் எனது முகக் குறிப்பை உணர்ந்து, 'செல்லம்மா, நீ பணத்துக்கு ஆசைப் படாதே. அழியும் பொருளைக் கொடுத்து அழியாத கல்விச் செல்வத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்தேன். என் மனத்திற்குப் புத்தகங்களே ஆனந்தம் கொடுக்கின்றன. என்னுடைய சந்தோஷம் உனக்குத் திருப்தி அளிக்கவில்லையா?' என்றார்.

நான் 'ரொம்பத் திருப்தி!' என்றேன். ('சக்தி' காரியாலயம் வெளியிட்டிருக்கும் 'பாரதியார் சரித்திரம்' என்ற நூலிலிருந்து)

Eligible senior citizens vote at home

By Our Staff Reporter

Voters above 85 and disabled persons, who had opted for postal ballot by filling Form 12D, voted at their homes in a special campaign conducted by Election Commission on April 16, 17 and 18.

Polling teams (each comprising of 4 officials, a videographer and policeman), visited the residences of eligible voters to collect their votes as per schedule prepared by the Returning Officers.

An official said that 1005 residents had opted for postal ballot in Thiyyagarayanagar constituency.

Free online classes on Saiva Sidhantham

By Our Staff Reporter

Gurukul Sloka Classes will conduct free online classes on Saiva Sidhantham on Sundays from 12 noon to 12.45 p.m.

Those interested can register by calling Sriram in 93825 13825.

Parimatramm Academy offers coaching to Std. 10 and 12 students

By Our Staff Reporter

Parimatramm Academy (10, Hanumantha Street, near Somasundaram Play-ground, behind Prashanth Towers, North Usman Road, T. Nagar) offers coaching for Std. 10 and Std. 12 students (both CBSE and State Board) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Accountancy, Business Studies and Economics.

The Academy was founded by Hari Prasad in 2018.

He told *Mambalam Times* that its experienced faculty headed by Rohini Prasad provide quality education, individual attention, concept-based, and exam-oriented approach to teaching to improve the understanding of the topics to score high marks in the exams.

Students are taken on annual tours to places like Pulicat Lake, Western Ghats, Mangrove forests, Arikamedu to provide practical exposure beyond textbooks, enhancing their understanding, curiosity, and real-world awareness.

The fee starts from Rs. 2,000 per subject per month. Admissions are open.

For more details, call 85084 48833.

Patriotic play Kallabiramam to be staged on April 27

As part of the 35th Kodai Nataka Vizha organised by Kartik Fine Arts, the drama troupe PMG Mayurapriya will present its new Tamil play Kallabiramam at 6.45 p.m on Monday, April 27 in Narada Gana Sabha (TTK Road, Teynampet).

The play, produced by Vaishali Prashanth and directed by P. Muthukumaran, is a tribute to army personnel. Entry is free.

All are welcome.

Brahmotsavam in Kothandaramar temple from April 22

By Our Staff Reporter

Brahmotsavam will be celebrated from Wednesday, April 22 to Saturday, May 2 in Kothandaramar Temple (K. R. Koil Street, West Mambalam).

There will be special vahanam and pallakku procession at 6.30 a.m and 6.30 p.m daily.

There will be thirukalyanam at 3 p.m on April 28.

The temple chariot will be taken on a procession at 5 a.m on Wednesday, April 29.

Following are the details:

Wednesday, April 22: 6.30 p.m: Ankurarpanam to Senai Mudalvar

Thursday, April 23: 5.30 a.m: Dwajaroohanam; 6.30 p.m: Hamsa vahanam

Friday, April 24: 6.30 a.m: Surya Prabhai vahanam; 6.30 p.m: Chandra Prabhai vahanam

Saturday, April 25: 6.30 a.m: Shiva Dhanurbangam pallakku; 6.30 p.m: Garuda vahanam

Monday, April 26: 6.30 a.m: Sesha vahanam; 6.30 p.m: Simha vahanam

Tuesday, April 27: 6.30 a.m: Nachiyaar thirukolam; 6.30 p.m: Hanumantha vahanam

Wednesday, April 28: 6.30 a.m: Punnai Mara vahanam; 3 p.m: Thirukalyanam; 6.30 p.m: Yaanai vahanam

Thursday, April 29: 5 a.m to 6 a.m: Temple chariot procession; 6.30 p.m: Special procession

Friday, April 30: Vennai Thazhi pallakku; 6.30 p.m: Kuthirai vahanam

Saturday, May 1: 6.30 a.m: Theerthavari pallakku; 6.30 p.m: Pushpa pallakku

Sunday, May 2: 6.30 a.m: Dwadasa aradhanai by devotees; 6.30 p.m: Pattaabhisekham. All are welcome.

Thyagaraja aradhanai on Friday

By Our Staff Reporter

The 259th birth anniversary of Thyagaraja Swamigal will be celebrated on Friday, April 24 in Sri Sadguru Sangeetha Vidyalayam (16/64, Thambiah Road, West Mambalam)

Following are the details:

5 p.m to 6 p.m: Sri Rama bhajan by Srivanchiam Muralidharan Bhagavathar

6.30 p.m to 9.30 p.m: Group singing of Thyagaraja's Pancharathna kritis by eminent musicians.

All are welcome.

For more details call, 94446 22111.

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Corporation to renovate night shelters



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has been taking initiatives to improve the multiple night shelters across the city, with the focus on upgrading infrastructure, improving hygiene, and expanding capacity at several key locations after the 2026 assembly election.

A month back, Corporation had issued tenders for the repair and improvement of 10 of the 49 night shelters across various zones in the city.

The improvement works will be carried out in the 9 shelters including the two located in Teynampet Zone and the one located in Thiru Vi Ka Nagar.

An official said that structural repairs, replacement of the electrical cables and fittings, construction of new toilets and overhead water tanks will be undertaken.

Laksharchanai held in Sai Seva Samaj



A number of devotees participated in the laksharchanai conducted on April 12 in Shirdi Sai Seva Samaj (21, Jaishankar Street, West Mambalam). The Samaj is constructing a 3-storey building for annadhaanam and other functions opposite the temple. It has appealed for donations to complete the construction early.

Donors can call 84282 42842 or 93428 50974 or 72004 33455.

Painting depicts 'Save water, provide for birds'



To create awareness about saving water and providing water to birds, a large painting drawn on the compound wall of Government Girls Higher Secondary School (54th Street, Ashok Nagar) depicts water dripping from a tap and a sparrow drinking water from a bowl placed under the tap.

Held for murdering pavement dweller

The Saidapet police arrested Narayanan (45) (resident of T. Nagar) on charge of murdering a disabled pavement dweller near Saidapet railway station on April 15. According to police, the victim identified as Murugan, a disabled person, was dwelling on the pavement outside the station for more than a decade. At around 8 a.m on April 15, when nearby residents found Murugan lying dead on the pavement with severe head injuries, they informed the police.

Following investigation, police identified the accused as Narayanan (45), a daily wage worker, and arrested him.

BVSN Center for Special Children celebrates Annual Day



By Our Staff Reporter

BVSN Murthy Center for Special Children (12, Thambiah Road, West Mambalam), a wing of Public Health Centre (Lake View Road, West Mambalam), has been offering free special education and other services to differently abled children for more than four decades.

Started in 1982, it celebrated its 44th Annual Day last week. Janani Thiagarajan (Director, SPINCO and Tech) was the Chief Guest.

Cultural programs were presented by the special stu-

dents.

A senior Special Educator told *Mambalam Times* that BVSN Murthy Centre has played a vital role in supporting children with intellectual disabilities, autism, down syndrome and other such learning difficulties through a structured special education system designed to enhance the overall development of each child.

He said that the key benefits include Individualised Education Plans (IEP)

customised to a child's abilities and needs, enhanced

communication, social, and behavioural skills, support in developing daily living skills such as toileting, self-care, and routine management.

The academic training includes preparation for the NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) examinations.

Regular parent counselling sessions are conducted to offer guidance on behaviour, learning, and emotional development.

For more details, contact 044-24850211.

Special bus to create awareness of election



By Our Staff Reporter

A vintage bus of the Metropolitan Transport Corporation, redesigned to educate voters, is stationed at various public venues across the city since April 15.

A mock VVPAT machine and 13 LED monitors displaying election awareness videos are fixed within the bus to educate voters. A ramp facility has been provided for persons with disabilities to board the bus.

The bus will be parked at public venues till April 22.

Well-laid trees provide shade on Arya Gowda Road



The abundance of tall and well-laid avenue trees on either side of Arya Gowda Road (West Mambalam), provide good shade from the sun for the road users.

The 4-decade old trees, meticulously planted at gaps of 10-meter each, are periodically pruned and well-maintained.

Motorists and pedestrians get relief from the sun while moving along the road

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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CATERING orders undertaken for marriage (A to Z), small functions, nitchayatharham, seemantham, ayushahomam, upanayanam, shashtiapthapurthi, sathabishekam, grahpravasam and birthday functions. Contact: Mahalakshmi Catering Services (West Mambalam), Ph: 95516 15465.

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SHRISH CONSTRUCTIONS (Ex-Alacrity executive engineer - 36 years of expertise), service offered: construction & renovation, new building construction, alterations, old building repairs & strengthening, water proofing & leak repairs, terrace works, painting (internal-external), aluminum windows, modular kitchen, interior cupboard works, quality works, reasonable rate, dependable service. Ph: 98405 89353.

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REAL ESTATE (SELLING)
WEST MAMBALAM, near Lakshmi Street, 1500 sq.ft, land with old house, price Rs. 1.80 crores, for sale. Ph: 90429 10505.
T.NAGAR, Rameswaram Road, well maintained, semi furnished, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, ground floor, built-up area 610 sq.ft, UDS 425 sq.ft, for sale. Ph: 95973 31457, 77089 16926.

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T.NAGAR, close to Habibullah/ GN Chetty/Mount Road, premium 1130 sq.ft, UDS 506 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 3rd floor, lift, 3 balconies, covered car park, gated, 40 feet road, posh area, 10 years old, good interior/ exterior, rate Rs. 15500 per sq.ft, no brokers. Ph: 98841 11494.

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RENTAL
WEST MAMBALAM, 13/40, Subbha Street, near Sankara Mutt, ground floor, 600 sq.ft, 1 bedroom, 1 store room, 2-wheeler parking, 3 phase, 24 hours water, individual EB card, rent Rs. 15000, Brahmins/vegetarians only, with or without 2-wheelers. Ph: 94455 31070.

WEST MAMBALAM, 3/2, Lake View Road Extension, near Sri Muthallamman Koil, 1200 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, interior works, inverter, 1st floor house, covered 2-wheeler parking, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 30000, no brokers. Ph: 89395 96334.

ASHOK NAGAR, 56th Street, 7th Avenue, 2 bedrooms apartment, near Anjaneyar Temple, hall, kitchen, bath attached, 3rd floor, lift, cupboards, car park, rent Rs. 21000, 5 months advance. Ph: 90425 52842, 98411 93685.

K. K. NAGAR, Straight Opp. PSBB School, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, dining room, 2nd floor flat, covered car park, no lift, vegetarians only. Ph: 98412 35582.

T.NAGAR, near Muppathamman Koil, 3 bedrooms apartment, ground floor, 975 sq.ft, south Indian, vegetarians preferred, expected rent Rs. 36000 (negotiable), brokers excuse. Ph: 98843 40871, 98848 50811.

WEST MAMBALAM, near Kali Bari Temple, independent house, 1st floor, 960 sq.ft, spacious open area, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2 baths, 3 phase, covered car park, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 25000, no brokers. Contact: Sethuraman, Ph: 90941 93412.

WEST MAMBALAM, Ramakrishnapuram 2nd Street, 1st floor, no lift, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 760 sq.ft, 2-wheeler parking only, Brahmins only, no brokers. Visit from Monday, 20th April, afternoon. rent Rs. 25000 (negotiable). Ph: 98408 93084.

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First Floor, Postal Colony
2nd Street, 900 sq.ft.
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Brokers excuse,
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Rent Rs.25,000,
Advance 5 months.
Contact: 99401 67334
Inspection on 19th April
(Sunday)
between 10 a.m to 4 p.m
small family preferred

WEST MAMBALAM, Brindavan Street Extension (opp. Axis Bank), 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, ground floor, 885 sq.ft, rent Rs. 22000, 5 months advance, available for rent from 1st week of May, Brahmins only, no brokers. Ph: 98419 09553.

WEST MAMBALAM, 35/19, Raju Street, out house, single bedroom, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 8000, no brokers. Ph: 81240 78910, 97908 78910.

WEST MAMBALAM, Chakrapani Street Extension, SCP Flats, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 2 wheeler parking, vegetarians only, rent Rs. 17000, plus maintenance, 5 months advance. Ph: 86676 72137.

WEST MAMBALAM, 5/3, Baroda Street Extension, independent house, ground floor, 800 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, vegetarians only. Ph: 90030 49334, 99404 43534.

ASHOK NAGAR, 1st Avenue, 1413 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, lift, covered car park, wood work, marble floor, prime area, vegetarians or non vegetarians, rent Rs. 38000 (negotiable). Ph: 94442 15263.

ASHOK NAGAR, 12th Avenue, ground floor, 2 bedrooms flat for rent, 840 sq.ft, site visit on Sunday morning, 10.30 to 1.30 p.m. Ph: 8939 864722.

T.NAGAR, close to Viveks, duplex house, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, semi furnished, car park, vegetarians only. Ph: 98400 55767, 2474 4098.

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WEST MAMBALAM, Chakrapani Street, near Railway Station, 2 bedrooms, 800 sq.ft., ground floor flat, wardrobes, fittings, only 2-wheeler parking, vegetarians, Immediate occupation, rent Rs. 22500. Ph: 89396 35971, 89396 35973.

T. NAGAR, Gopalakrishna Street, fully furnished flat, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen. Ph: 99404 75756.

T. NAGAR, near Bus Stand, 900 sq.ft, well maintained flat, 1st floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, dining, 2 toilets, balcony, semi-furnished, 24 hours water. Ph: 96771 73262.

T.NAGAR, Dhandapani Street, 1st floor, furnished independent room, with bath, washing machine, fridge, internet, for bachelors, 2 wheeler parking, vegetarians only. Ph: 97104 23091, 98410 23091.

WEST MAMBALAM, New No 49, Old No 17/1, K R Kovil Street, 1st floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 25000, 10 months advance, 2-wheeler parking only. Ph: 98840 23055.

T.NAGAR, Melony Road, near Hindi Prachar Sabha, fully furnished, ready to move, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 2 cots, 3 seater sofa, 1 new AC, inverter, rent Rs. 35000, plus maintenance, 2 wheeler parking. Contact: Vignesh Ph: 70105 50610.

T.NAGAR, Thirumurthy Street, 3 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, south facing, 1400 sq.ft, 3rd floor, lift, car park, rent Rs. 40000, maintenance Rs. 2000, vegetarians only. Contact: Agent Ph: 99621 07304.

ASHOK NAGAR, 12th Avenue, independent house, 1st floor, 2500 sq.ft, 5 bedrooms, modular kitchen, 5 bathrooms, 4 balconies, full wood work, covered car park, east facing, rent Rs. 50000. Ph: 95147 85571, 93805 66667.

WEST MAMBALAM, Sampangi Street, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, ground floor, rent Rs. 13000, vegetarians only. Ph: 90801 51509.

ASOK NAGAR, 50th street, 7th Avenue, 2 bedrooms, hall, modular kitchen, 1200 sq.ft, semi furnished, covered car park, 1st floor, rent Rs. 35000, vegetarians only. Ph: 93823 00916.

T.NAGAR, off. Thirumalai Pillai Road, 1700 sq.ft, spacious 3 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, with attached 3 restrooms, lift, open car park, security. Ph: 94447 13117.

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Special abhishekam in Srimath Ramanujas on Wednesday

By Our Staff Reporter

In connection with Sri Ramanuja Jayanthi, special poojas and abhishekam will be performed from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 on Wednesday, April 22 in Sri Garudapuram Srimath Ramanujas (21/10, Giri Street, West Mambalam).

Devotees can contribute milk, curd and honey for the abhishekam. All are welcome.

For more details, call Muralidara Swamiji in 98415 02313.

Ramakrishna Mission to distribute free buttermilk

By Our Staff Reporter

The Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar) will start distributing free buttermilk among thirsty passersby outside its premises from May 1 to May 31.

A member of the Ashrama said that around 150 litres of buttermilk will be distributed daily to benefit around 250 to 300 persons.

Those who wish to support the initiative, can donate curd for preparing the buttermilk. The Ashrama's contact numbers are 044-28143896 and 044-28143514.

Resident provides water to birds

A resident has placed a large concrete bowl filled with water on the pavement outside her house on 10th Street, Nandanam Extension to quench the thirst of birds and stray animals.



This photo was taken on April 17.

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Special buses from Chennai for election travel rush

Ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled on April 23, special buses will be operated from Chennai on April 21 and 22 to various districts to facilitate voters travelling to their native places to cast their ballot. To manage the expected surge in passenger movement, additional buses will be deployed.

Officials said the move is aimed at easing congestion and ensuring convenient travel for voters.

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LPG shortage affects livelihood of autorickshaw drivers

By Our Staff Reporter

The Gulf War has not given any reprieve for autorickshaw drivers who are scrambling for LPG to run their vehicles—and their lives. On April 13, almost every dispensing station in the city had run out of stock, with long queues forming at the only outlet that was still operating.

Around 7 p.m., a queue stretching nearly one km was seen in front of an Indian Oil outlet from the Ormes Road-Flowers Road, with drivers pushing their vehicles forward slowly.

"We have been waiting here for two hours now," said an auto driver. Around 60 to



80 autorickshaws were lined up, some waiting for over three hours, turning the stretch into a traffic bottleneck.

Drivers said the shortage

has been building up over the past week. "Earlier, we had to wait for an hour. Now, it's completely out of stock. No other fuel station has it, and we don't know what we will do tomorrow," one of them said. The situation has been worsened by a sharp price increase, with LPG rates rising to Rs. 85 per kg from Rs 59.41 per kg.

ISKCON's 'Bhakta Prahlad' course from May 4

By Our Staff Reporter

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) will conduct a 'Bhakta Prahlad' course on the topic 'Divine Questions, Divine Answers' for children in the age group of 6 to 12 years from Monday, May 4 to Friday, May 15.

The classes, in Tamil and English, will be held from 10 a.m to 1 p.m at Ragaas, 4D, S.V. Lingam Salai, K.K. Nagar, and from 10 a.m to 12.30 p.m at Flat No.1 Raghavedra Apartments, 1, Lakshmi Street, West Mambalam.

The fee is Rs. 1,200. It will cover slokas, arts and crafts, fireless cooking, and games.

For registration, contact Vijaya Vaijayanthi in 97911 61439 or Shyamavallabhi in 90808 46623.

Employee held for stealing 172 gms of jewellery

By Our Staff Reporter

A 32-year-old employee of a jewellery shop in T. Nagar was arrested on charge of stealing 172 gms. of gold ornaments worth Rs. 28 lakhs from the shop.

D'Souza Sagayaraj (Assistant General Manager) said that the theft came to light during a stock verification conducted at the shop in Feb 2026.

Following an internal inquiry, suspicion fell on an employee, Sivadev, who was in charge of maintaining the jewellery.

During questioning, Sivadev confessed to stealing the gold items over a period of time.

Sivadev was arrested based on a complaint filed against him in T. Nagar police station.

Rs. 4 lakhs cash and 41 gms. of the stolen gold ornaments were recovered from him.

OBITUARY



S. RAGHAVAN

His family's contact number is 94449 44145

S. Raghavan, 87 years, (Retd. Asst. Chief Cashier, Southern Railways & resident of B-5, Ishwarya Soundar Apts. Veerasamy Street, West Mambalam) attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on Sunday, April 12. He had been a resident of West Mambalam for 70 years. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son-in-law, grand children & great grand-daughter.

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