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Vol. 32, No. 3

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அனுபவச் சுவடுகள் கே.எஸ். சுப்பிரமணியன்

(கே.எஸ்.சுப்பிரமணியன் Indian Railway Accounts Serviceல் உயர்பதவிகள் வகித்து, பிறகு Asian Development Bankலும் சிறந்த சேவை ஆற்றியவர். தமிழிலும், ஆங்கிலத்திலும் புலமை பெற்றவர். ஜெயகாந்தனின் நாவல்களை ஆங்கிலத்தில் மொழிபெயர்த்துள்ளார். 'அனுபவச் சுவடுகள்' என்ற அவரது புத்தகத்திலிருந்து ஒரு பகுதி.)

தென் ரயில்வே பணியில் இருந்தபோது என்னுடைய சக அலுவலர். என்னைவிட 20 வயது மூத்தவர். ஒரே கட்டிடத்தில் அவரும் நானும் அடுத்தடுத்த அபார்ட்மெண்டுகளில் குடியிருந்தோம். அவருடைய இரண்டாவது மகன் நல்ல பண்புள்ள, அறிவு தீட்சண்யம் உள்ள யுவதி. அழகானவள் என்ற வர்ணனை அவளுக்குப் பொருத்தமில்லைதான். இளநிலைப் பட்டம் பெற்ற பிறகு சில ஆண்டுகள் வீட்டிலேயே இருந்தாள். IAS தேர்வு எழுத வேண்டும் என்று தீவிரமாகப் படித்துக் கொண்டிருந்தாள். சில அம்சங்களில் நான் அவளுக்கு உதவி செய்து உண்டு. அவள் மீது எனக்கு ஒரு சகோதர வாஞ்சை இருந்தது. அவளுடைய தந்தையின் உடல்நிலை வெகு நாட்களாகவே கேள்விக்குரியதாக இருந்தது. புற அழகால் ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்படாத தன் மகளுக்கு எவ்வாறு திருமணம் முடிப்பது? 'உன்னை எவ்வளவு கல்யாணம் பண்ணிப்பான்? உன்னை எப்படி கடத்தேத்தப் போறேனோ?' என்ற தன் தாயின் சொல் அம்புகளுக்கு எப்போதும் இலக்காகிக் கொண்டிருந்தாள் அந்தப் பெண். ஒரு நாள் அவளுடைய மன உறுதி உடைந்து நொறுங்கியிருக்க வேண்டும். குரூரமாகத் தன் உடலை எரித்துக் கொண்டு தற்கொலை செய்து கொண்டாள்.

அப்போது அவளுடைய தந்தை புற்றுநோயின் இறுதிக்கட்டத்தில் ஆபத்தான நிலையில் பெரம்பூர் ரயில்வே ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் தீவிர சிகிச்சை பெற்று வந்தார். நானும் என் சக அலுவலர் ஒருவரும் ஆக வேண்டிய வேலைக்கான பொறுப்பை ஏற்றுக் கொண்டோம். தந்தையின் உடல் நிலையைக் கணக்கில் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு இந்தத் துயரச் செய்தியை அவருக்குத் தெரிவிக்க வேண்டாம் என்று முடிவு செய்தோம். தெற்கு ரயில்வேயின் தலைமைப் பாதுகாப்பு அதிகாரியாகப் பணியிலிருந்த IPS நண்பரின் உதவியுடன் பிரேதப் பரிசோதனை, மரணச் சான்றிதழ் பெறுதல் போன்ற சம்பிரதாயத் தேவைகளைப் பூர்த்தி செய்தோம். சடலத்துடன் ஊர்தியில் இருகாட்டுக்குச் சென்றேன். அந்தப் பெண்ணின் அண்ணன் முறையிலான கலிணும் கூட வந்தார்.

புரோகிதர் சகிதம் ஈம்ச் சடங்குகளுக்கான ஆயத்தம். யார் கிரியைகளை செய்வது என்ற கேள்வி. நாங்கள் இயல்பாகவே அந்த கலிணைப் பார்த்தோம். 'ஸார், இது ஒரு கன்னிப் பெண்ணோட தூர் மரணம். இந்தக் கிரியைகளை செய்வது பெரிய பாவமாக்கும். எனக்கும் ஒரு குடும்பம் இருக்கு. என்னால் பண்ண முடியாது' என்று உறுதியாக மறுத்துவிட்டார். எனக்கோ அந்த சடங்குகளில் நம்பிக்கை இல்லை. ஆனால் கிரியைகளைத் தவிர்க்க முடியாத நிலை. புரோகிதரின் நெருக்குதல் வேறு. 'நான் செய்கிறேன், அவளுடைய அண்ணன் என்ற முறையில்' என்றேன். அந்த கலிணை கூறினார்: 'ஸார், உங்களுக்கு ஏன் இந்தப் பாவச் சமை?' எனக்கு எரிச்சல். 'ஷட் அப். என்னுடைய பாவச் சமையைப் பற்றி உங்களுக்குப் பெரிய கவலை வேண்டாம்' என்று அவர் வாயை அடக்கினேன். ஈம்ச் கிரியைகள் நடந்தேறின.

அடுத்த நாள் என் தம்பியின் வீட்டில் இருந்த அம்மாவை சந்தித்தேன். 'அம்மா, நம்ப பக்கத்து வீட்டுப் பெண்... உனக்குத் தெரியுமே, அவ நேத்திக்கு தீக்குளிச்சு செத்துப் போயிட்டா. அவளோட கிரியைகளைப் பண்ண யாரும் இல்லை. அப்புறம் நானே பண்ணினேன். இது ஒரு தூர் மரணம். கிரியை பண்ணது மகாபாவம்னு அவளுடைய கலிணை சொல்றார்' என்றேன். அந்தப் பெண்ணின் மரணத்தைக் கேள்விப்பட்ட அம்மா துடிதுடித்துப் போய்விட்டாள். பிறகு உறுதியாகச் சொன்னார்கள். 'கலிணோ, கலிணோ! அண்ணா ஸ்தானத்திலே அவன்தான் காரியங்களைப் பண்ணியிருக்கணும். அதுக்கு மேல பேச்சு வேற என்ன வேண்டிக் கேட்கு. அவன் கெடக்கான் மடையன். நீ பண்ணினதைப் போலப் புண்ணிய காரியம் வேறொன்றும் இல்லைடா, ராஜ்' என்று என் கன்னத்தைப் பிடித்துக் கொண்டு சொன்னார்கள் அம்மா.

மணிலா நகரில் ஒரு விசித்திரமான இடம் Chinese Cemetery என்று அழைக்கப்படும் சீனர்களின் இடுகாடு. இதை ஒரு ஆவிகளின் சிறு நகரம் என்று அழைக்கலாம். இங்கு 15-20 தெருக்கள். ஒவ்வொரு தெருவிலும் சிறிதும், பெரிதுமாக வீடுகள். ஒரு வீட்டிலும் மனித வாடையே இருக்காது. ஒவ்வொரு வீட்டிலும் ஒரு உடல் புதைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும். நினைவு நாளன்று அந்த வீட்டுக்கு குடும்பத்தார் வந்து ஆவித் தொழுகை நடத்துவார்கள். தெருக்களும், வீடுகளும் நன்றாகப் பராமரிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும். சில வீடுகள் பளிங்குக் கற்களால் கட்டப்பட்டு மின்னும். சில வீடுகளில் ஜெனரேட்டர் ஒலி உறுமும். எதற்கு? 24 மணி நேரமும் இடைவெளி இல்லாமல் ஏ.ஸி வேலை செய்துகொண்டு இருக்கும். ஆவி வெய்யிலில் புழுங்காமல் சுகமாக இருப்பதற்காக! Chinese Cemeteryக்கு செல்லாதவர்களால் இதை எல்லாம் நம்பக்கூட முடியாது.

ஒரு காலை நேரம் என் வீட்டு முதல் மாடி டெரேஸில் நின்றுகொண்டு பெருங்குடி ஏரிக் காட்சியை ரசித்துக் கொண்டு சிகரெட் புகைத்துக் கொண்டிருந்தேன். அங்கு ஏழெட்டு மண் தொட்டிகளில் பல வண்ணங்களில் குரோட்டன்ஸ் செடிகள். ஒரே ஒரு தொட்டியில் இருந்த செடிகருகி செத்துக் கிடந்தது. அந்தத் தொட்டியை அடைத்துக் கொண்டு பச்சைப் பசேலென்று புல்பூண்டுகள் முளைத்திருந்தன.

என் வீட்டில் 'மேல் வேலை' செய்யும் விஜயாவின் மகள் பவானி டெரேஸைப் பெருக்கிவிட்டு, செடிகளுக்குத் தண்ணீர் விட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தாள். செடிகள் உள்ள தொட்டிகளில் தண்ணீர்விட்ட பிறகு களை மண்டிக் கிடந்த தொட்டியிலும் தண்ணீர்விடத் தொடங்கினாள். 'பவானி, அது எல்லாம் ஒரே களையாத தானே இருக்குது. அதுக்கு ஏன் தண்ணீர்?' இது என் கேள்வி. சிறிதும் தயக்கம் இல்லாமல், 'அதுங்களுக்கும் உயிர் இல்லீங்களா ஐயா, செத்துப் போயிருங்க' என்று சொன்னாள். என் பதிலுக்குக் காத்துக் கொண்டு இருக்காமல் அந்தத் தொட்டியிலும் தண்ணீரை விட்டுக் கொண்டே இருந்தாள். அவளிடம் வள்ளலாரை தரிசித்தேன்.



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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 EB pillar box



By Our Staff Reporter

The EB pillar box installed on Ramakrishnapuram 3rd Street (West Mambalam) is in bad condition with its door missing.

The live connections are lying exposed, posing danger to passersby, especially children. Nearby residents request TNEB to replace the missing door early.

Discourse on Bhagavad Gita today

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar), Swami Guruvarananda will deliver a discourse in Tamil on Bhagavad Gita at 5.30 p.m on Sunday, May 31 in the Ashram's premises.

All are welcome.

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

Three held for cheating gold loan agent

Three men were arrested on charge of cheating a gold loan agent of Rs. 16 lakhs by cheating him in a gold loan redemption deal.

According to police, Vijaykumar (43) works as an agent for a private gold pawn brokerage firm.

He got introduced to the main accused, identified as Radhakrishnan, by the Manager of the firm's Medavakkam branch.

Radhakrishnan convinced the victim to redeem his jewellery worth Rs. 40.06 lakhs in a private bank in T. Nagar with the assurance to pledge it again with the pawn brokerage firm. On May 18, Vijaykumar paid Rs. 40.96 lakhs into Radhakrishnan's bank account to redeem the pledged jewellery.

After receiving the money in his account, Radhakrishnan absconded and switched off his mobile.

After Vijaykumar alerted the bank officials, Radhakrishnan's account was frozen, but in the meantime, he had transferred Rs. 20 lakhs to another bank account in Valliyur (Tirunelveli District). The victim filed a complaint in Mambalam police station.

Following investigation police arrested Radhakrishnan and two of his accomplices identified as Deepak (35) and Hasan Ali (57).

They have been remanded in judicial custody.

Madras Blend opens outlet on Arya Gowda Road

By Our Staff Reporter

Madras Blend, a popular milk shakes and juices shop, opened its outlet recently at 65/26, Arya Gowda Road, opposite McRenet Bakery and Arun Computer Systems, West Mambalam.

Its manager said that the shop brings a unique range of creamy signature shakes and fruit-based cocktails inspired by popular Kerala-style favourites with a special Madras-style touch.

Its highlights are the 'Madras Blend Cocktail' - a rich and fruit-loaded drink prepared with fresh fruits, nuts, ice cream, and special ingredients that create a thick and creamy taste; and 'Kadi Shake' - milkshake blended with roasted nuts for a rich and tasty flavour.

Other refreshing drinks include Gulkand Rose Milk, Roasted Cashew Dates Shake, Nutella Almond Shake, Iced Milo, and more.

It also offers all seasonal fruit juices prepared with fresh ingredients.

For more details, visit its Instagram page @MadrasBlend.

Mahotsavam to Maha Periyava today forenoon

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Anusham Trust (G1, Kala Flats, 63rd Street, AshokNagar) has organised the 133rd annual mahotsavam to Maha Periyava on Sunday, May 31 in Gowri Kalyana Mandapam (Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam).

The mahotsavam has been organised by Valsai K. Jayaraman (President), V. Krishnan (Secretary) and Shymala Subramanian (Treasurer).

Following are the details: 6 a.m: Ghopoojai; 6.30 a.m: Ganapathi homam and Avahanthi homam; 7.15 a.m: Maha sankalpam, Rudhra homam, special abhishekam and special

poojai for Maha Periyava, dhaanam. The poojas will be performed by S. Venkatrama Sastrigal and V. Balaji Sastrigal. Devotees wanting to participate in the sankalpam

are requested to register in advance by calling 94442 79696 or 98842 90540 or 99406 71693. All are welcome.

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Road surface damaged at busy junction



The road surface is badly damaged at the junction of Moosa Street and Mooparappan Street (T. Nagar). A nearby resident said that the road is in damaged condition for over 3 months, posing danger to motorists.

Nearby residents request the Chennai Corporation to repair the road early. This photo was taken on May 28.

ஸ்ரீ ஸ்ரீ ஸ்ரீ மகா பெரியவா 133வது ஜெயந்தி 31-5-2026

ஜெய வருடம் வைகாசி மாதம் 8ந் தேதி ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமை
20.05.1894 மதியம் **1:16** மணிக்கு கும்பகோணம்
சுப்ரமணிய ஸாஸ்திரிகளுக்கு புண்ய குமாரர் ஸ்ரீ ஸந்திர
ஸேக ரேந்திர ஸரஸ்வதி ஸ்வாமிகள் சுப ஜெனனம்.

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சுஜ	இராசி 20.05.1894 ஞாயிறு	சுக்கிரன்	நவாம்ஸம்	லக்னம்
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வீட்டைக் காக்கும் கலை

அன்புமிக்க சஜாதா,
ஆண்கள் வீட்டை அலங்கோலமாக வைத்தால் அதிகக் கஷ்டமா? அல்லது பெண்கள் வைத்தால் அதிகக் கஷ்டமா? என்று கேட்டிருக்கிறாய். இரண்டுமே கஷ்டம்தான்.

இரண்டு மூன்று மாதங்களுக்கு முன் ஒரு மாதம் நான் பிறந்தகம் போயிருந்தது உனக்குத் தெரியுமே. ஊரிலிருந்து திரும்பி வரும் தினத்தன்று என்னையும், குழந்தைகளையும் வரவேற்க என் கணவர் ரயிலடிக்கே வந்திருந்தார். நான் வருகிறேன் என்பதற்காக வீட்டை சுத்தம் செய்து வைத்திருப்பதாக வீட்டுக்கு வந்ததும் என் கணவர் சொன்னார். எனக்கும் அது பெருமையாகத்தான் இருந்தது. திடீரென்று குழந்தை ராஜா மாடியிலிருந்து பெரியதாக அழுதான். ஓடிப்போய்ப் பார்த்தேன். கையை பிளேடினால் அறுத்துக் கொண்டு வீறிட்டு அழுது கொண்டிருந்தான். அவன் கையில் ரத்தம் கசிந்த வண்ணமாக இருந்தது.

நான் ஊருக்குப் போகும்முன் இருந்த உடுப்புகளோடு பீரோவில் இருந்த துணிமணிகளையும் கோட் ஸ்டாண்டு சுமந்து கொண்டு பரிதாபமாக நின்றது. அவற்றை எடுத்து அழுக்குக் கூடையில் போட்டுவிட்டு வந்தேன். மேஜை மீது கும்பல் கும்பலாகக் கடிதங்கள் கிடந்தன. அவற்றில் சில நான் எழுதியவை. என் அருமையான கடிதங்களைக் காப்பீரேஷன் எலெக்ட்ரிக் நோட்டீஸ்களுடனும், வீட்டு வாரி நோட்டீஸ்களுடனும் போட்டிருந்தால் எனக்கு அழகை வராதா?

மேஜையின் மேலுள்ள விளக்கில் விளக்குப் பூச்சிகள் நிறைய விழுந்து மடிந்து நிழலைக் கொடுக்கக்கூடிய அளவில் இருந்தன. இரண்டு காலி மைப் புட்டிகள் உடைந்து கிடந்தன. தானாக ஸ்டவ்வில் காப்பி போட்டு சாப்பிட்ட லக்ஷணம் நாடா கருகி அடைத்திருந்தது. அதை சுத்தமாக்கலாமென்று சுத்தியை எடுத்தால் இரண்டு நாளைக்கு முன் மாம்பழம் நறுக்கின சுத்தி! பிலுபிலுவென்று ஏறும்பு பிடுங்கியது. பஞ்சாங்கம், ரயில்வே அட்டவணை, டார்ச் லைட். ஸ்கூர் ட்ரைவர், பென்ஸில், பேனா எல்லாமே அஞ்சாத வாசம் செய்தன. இவற்றைப் பார்த்த பொழுது ஊருக்குப் போகாமலே இருந்திருக்கலாமோ என்று கூடத் தோன்றியது.

பெண்கள் வீட்டை அலங்கோலமாக வைத்துக் கொண்டால் இன்னும் ஆபத்து. என் தோழியையே சொல்கிறேன். அவள் படித்த பெண்தான். தில்லியில் லேடி இர்வின் கல்லூரியில் குடும்ப நிர்வாகக் கலையை சிறப்புப் பாடமாகப் படித்துத் தேர்ச்சி பெற்றவள்தான். ஆனால் வீட்டில் எதை முன்னால் செய்வது, எதைப் பின்னால் செய்வது என்ற தவிப்பு.



கறி நறுக்கக் கத்தியை எடுத்து வைத்துக் கொள்வாள். கறிகாய் நறுக்குவதற்குள் கணவனுக்கு வெந்நீர் விளாவ ஓடுவாள். அதற்குள் குழந்தை கையை வெட்டிக் கொண்டு 'சூய்யோ, முறையோ' என்று பலமாகக் கத்திக் கொண்டிருப்பான். அவனுக்கு ஆறதல் சொல்லி சமாதானம் செய்தவர்களுள் பால் பொங்கி மேலே வழிந்துவிடும். வேலைக்காரி சுத்தம் செய்ய வேண்டிய பாத்திரங்களைக் கேட்பாள். பெரிய பெண் பள்ளிக்கூடத்துக்கு நாழியாகிறதென்று தொந்தரவு செய்வாள். இப்படிக்கூடையும், மாலையும் அமர்க்களப்படும் போது என் தோழிக்கு அழகையே வந்துவிடும்; சாவியைத் தேடிக்கொண்டு அலைவது, ஸ்பூனுக்காக வீட்டைப் பிரதட்சணம் செய்வது இப்படியெல்லாம் அவகாசத்தை வீணாக்கிக் கொண்டு அவள் தவிப்பதைப் பார்த்திருக்கிறேன்.

அற்ப விஷயமானாலும் நம்மால் கூடுமான அளவு ஒழுங்காகவும், நிதானமாகவும் செய்யும் ஆற்றலை வளர்த்துக் கொள்ளலாம் அல்லவா? எதற்கெடுத்தாலும் தவிப்பு, வேண்டாததற்கு எல்லாம் வீண் படடப்பு ஆகியவை பொள்ளான நாட்களை சாரமின்றி இரும்பாக்கி விடுகின்றன.

பெண்களாகிய நாம் வீட்டை நன்றாக வைத்துக் கொள்ள முற்பட்டால் குழந்தைகளுக்குத் தனியாகக் கற்றுக் கொடுக்க வேண்டிய அவசியமில்லை. அவர்களுக்குப் பழக்கத்தில் தானே வந்துவிடும்.

All Std. 12 students pass in Udavum Karangal's school

By Our Staff Reporter

Ramakrishna Vidhya Niketan Higher Secondary School (Thiruverkadu) which is run by Udavum Karangal ((Kanna dasan Road, T. Nagar)) has produced cent percent pass result in the Std. 12 Board exam.

The toppers in Std. 12 exams are S. Lathika (584 marks out of 600), R. Dharshine (581) and R. Elakiya (572), and the toppers in Std. 10 exams are S. Harini (490 out of 500 marks), B. Kavyaa (488) and H. Sadhana (486).

S. Vidyaakar (Founder, Udavum Karangal) said that this is the 8th consecutive year that the school has produced 100% pass result in the Std. 12 exam.

He said that many of these students had been orphaned at birth and are inmates of Udavum Karangal.

While education is entirely free for the inmates of the NGO, a nominal fee is charged from day scholars.

He has appealed to the readers of *Mambalam Times* to support the education of these underprivileged students. Interested donors can contact Lara Anitha Mary (Principal) in 88258 39759.



Lathika



Dharshine



Elakiya



Harini



Kavyaa



Sadhana

Cable roller blocks carriageway

By Our Staff Reporter

An empty cable roller is seen lying on its side on the road margin on Railway Border Road (near Janakiram Street junction, West Mambalam).

As the roller extends into the carriageway, it poses grave danger to motorists at night due to poor visibility.

Garbage and broken tree branches are dumped into the wheel well of the cable roller.

A nearby resident said that it has been lying at the spot for over 3 months.

He requests Chennai Corporation to remove the roller from the spot.



Leaning corrugated sheets removed after report

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Corrugated sheets pose danger' published in *Mambalam Times* (May 10 - 16 issue), the protruding and loosely hanging corrugated sheets erected to build a fence at a construction site on Easwaran Koil Street (West Mambalam) were removed.

The 20-foot-tall sheets were posing grave danger to unwary passersby, and one of the sheets was resting on an overhead cable.



Initiative on to tag flora in parks with QR code

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the successful installation of QR code-embedded display boards next to plants and trees in the Chennai Corporation Park (Indira Nagar, Adyar) by Rotary Club of Madras Temple City, the initiative is likely to get extended to other parks in the city, starting from T. Nagar.

Scanning the QR code on the boards will direct the user to a website providing a 200-word summary on the plant species.

V. S. Ganesan (Rotarian) said that the project could be implemented thanks to volunteering by local residents.

He said that since several youngsters who visit parks are often curious to know about the plant or tree species, they chose to implement this digital method as many now have smart phones.

While the board contains basic information on the plant and family name, scanning the QR provides additional data, he said.

"This project that will soon be executed in other major parks in the city, starting from T. Nagar", he said.

Free acupuncture treatment on Fridays

J. Anuradha Devi (Acupuncturist and resident of Periyar Ramasamy Street, West Mambalam) offers free acupuncture and acupressure treatment from 10.30 a.m to 2 p.m on Fridays at TTD Temple (Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar).

She told *Mambalam Times* that those suffering from migraine, back, knee and joint pains, frozen shoulder, varicose vein, rheumatoid arthritis, renal problems, wheezing and other chronic ailments can benefit from the treatment. For more details call, 90430 11501.

Jothi Madhar Sangam donates Rs. 50,000 towards school fees

By Our Staff Reporter

Jothi Madhar Sangam (70/44, Burkit Road, T. Nagar), a social welfare organisation for women, is entering its 50th year.

To mark this milestone, the Sangam donated Rs. 50,000 towards school fees for 12 meritorious students, including 7 girl students, from poor families. The Sangam, which has more than 100 active members, engages in various social activities, conducts free job-oriented workshops for women and provides educational assistance to meritorious students from underprivileged families.



Mobile vans used for recruitment



By Our Staff Reporter

As part of its recruitment drive, Zomato (food delivery app) has used mobile vans painted with attractive messages to woo job seekers to join its work force.

One such van was seen parked outside the multilevel parking lot near Thyagaraya Road (Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar) on May 27.

Free online question bank for NEET exam

By Our Staff Reporter

With NEET re-examination to be held on June 21, Purushothaman (Software Consultant) and D. Devendran (District Governor, Rotary International Dist. 3233) have jointly prepared a question bank of 20,000 questions with answers and daily practise tests.

It is available in both English and Tamil, and can be accessed online by registering in the website QB365.in.

Only students appearing for the NEET exam on June 21 are eligible as a copy of the hall ticket must be uploaded at the time of registration.

For more details, call 94430 49678.

68% work completed on elevated corridor

By Our Staff Reporter

Despite delays, nearly 68% of the work on the 3.2-km-long elevated corridor from Saidapet to Teynampet on Anna Salai has been completed.

An official of the State Highways Department said that slabs have been placed on the girders for a length of 1.1 km and 98% of the foundation work for the pillars is ready.

He said that 32 of the 131 decks are in place and eight more will be completed by end of June.

"The project has had its share of delays due to the Middle East war, elections and shortage of labour", he said.

Extra precautions in construction are being taken on the stretch above the Chennai Metro rail network to ensure the twin tunnels below are safe.

As piling is not allowed, isolated footing (a type of



foundation) for piers is done in the stretch, and steel structures are used for building the flyover to keep the load over the underground tunnels on the stretch to a minimum.

Chennai Metro has fixed equipment (with automatic data collection) in the twin tunnels as well as stations Teynampet, Nandanam and

Saidapet to monitor any deflection and movement during the construction of the corridor. The 3.2 km 4-lane elevated corridor is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 621 crores to reduce traffic congestion on Anna Salai.

It will span seven key intersections, including Eldams Road, SIET College Road, and Cenotaph Road.

Unused transformer blocks pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

An unused overhead transformer belonging to Tamilnadu Electricity Board is seen dumped on the pavement outside MCN School (130, Habibullah Road, T. Nagar) for the past several months.

It blocks the way for pedestrians. This photo was taken on May 27.

Free 4-week yoga course from today

Sannyasi Krishnayogam (Founder of Satyananda Yoga Centre) will conduct a 4-week free yoga course as per the tradition of Bihar School of Yoga for men and women in Sri Ayyappan and Sri Goshala Krishnan Temple (Sri Sastha Sangam, 89, Ponnambalam Salai, K.K. Nagar). The classes will begin on Sunday, May 31 and will be conducted daily on weekdays (Monday to Saturday) from 5.30 a.m to 7 a.m.

The classes, aimed at physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing, will include asanas, pranayama, pratyahara (senses withdrawal techniques), concentration, meditation, mantra, value education, food habits, shat kriyas and cleansing of internal pathways for managing diseases.

On successful completion, students can join Advanced Pranayama course leading to Kundalini Yoga, Prana Vidya and Kriya Yoga Course.

To register, call 63830 08358 or 94450 51015 or send email to syc@satyamogatrust.net.

Road dug to repair damaged sewer line



By Our Staff Reporter

Metrowater workers were seen digging the road to undertake repair to the damaged underground sewer line on Natesan Street (Postal Colony, T. Nagar).

Photo taken on May 29 shows a JCP machine used to dig the road.

An official said that the work will be completed within a week.

Fallen tree blocks pavement



A dead avenue tree toppled across the pavement outside Thandu Thulukkanathamman Temple (Lake View Road, West Mambalam) two weeks back.

As it blocks the way for pedestrians, nearby residents request Chennai Corporation to cut the tree and remove it from the spot.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appeal for additional street lights on Raju Street



Sir, Due to lack of enough street lights, Raju Street is poorly illuminated at night. It is unsafe for the residents, especially women and the elderly.

I appeal to Tamilnadu Electricity Board to installed additional street lights on the road for the safety of the residents.

This photo taken at 1 a.m on May 27 shows the street in relative darkness. **R. Shankarvasan, Raju Street, West Mambalam.**

Urgent need to reorganise parking system in T. Nagar.



Parking space, especially for 4-wheelers in the T. Nagar shopping hub has become a nightmare, especially on weekends. I own a shop in Pondy Bazaar (T. Nagar), and almost daily, I end up circling the same streets multiple times to get a spot to park my car.

Many customers also complain similarly, and it is impacting the business.

Better parking facilities can directly improve footfall and sales, especially as many now prefer to shop online due to the hassle of traffic jams and parking problems.

Due to unregulated parking and lack of space, vehicles can be seen parked on pavements and no parking zones. Another big problem is that most of the old and even the newer and upcoming commercial complexes in T. Nagar do not have adequate parking infrastructure.

Due to poor maintenance, the multilevel parking lot near Pondy Bazaar is not serving its purpose and shoppers continue to prefer on street parking. Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) had conducted a detailed study two years back to implement a parking system across the city, but there has been no progress.

I appeal to Tamilnadu Government to revisit the proposal and implement a parking management system across the city, including T. Nagar. **R. Rameshkumar, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar**

Wrong-side driving on GST Road

Sir, Wrong-side driving has become rampant along the stretch of GST Road between Saidapet and Guindy, raising safety concerns for motorists and pedestrians.

Motorists travelling from Saidapet towards Guindy often ride against traffic to bypass congestion near Raj Bhavan. Instead of waiting at the Taluk Office Road junction, two-wheelers and autorickshaws frequently enter the wrong lane along the Chennai Metro corridor to access Velachery Main Road and continue towards Guindy.

It is more rampant during peak hours, when traffic is at its heaviest.

Motorists coming along Anna Salai are often caught off guard by motorists emerging from the opposite direction, increasing the risk of serious accidents.

To stop this violation, traffic police must post its personnel on the stretch, at least during peak hours. **R. Kandan, Lake View Road, West Mambalam.**

Mason held for murdering woman over payment dispute

A 40-year-old woman was stabbed to death by a mason following a dispute over pending payments on May 27.

Police identified the deceased as R. Kalai Bhavani and the accused as Murugan (36).

Kalai lived with her husband Rajani and their two children in Tiruverkadu, and Rajani runs a flower shop in Pondy Bazaar (T. Nagar). Police said that Rajani constructed a house recently in Sameera Nagar (Tiruverkadu), and the work was overseen by Murugan.

Upon completion of the project, Murugan claimed an amount of Rs 1.5 lakhs was due to him, and the same was refuted by Rajani and Kalai. Around 9.30 a.m. on May 27 when Rajani was alone at home Murugan came and demanded the money. An argument ensued following which Murugan stabbed Kalai Bhavani repeatedly with a knife and fled the spot.

She was taken to Kilpauk General Hospital where the doctors declared her as brought dead.

The accused was arrested the next day and remanded in judicial custody.

Stone piles used to prevent parking of cars

To prevent outsiders from parking 4-wheelers, the residents of an apartment complex on Habibullah Road (opposite Nadigar Sangam Building, Habibullah Road, T. Nagar) have arranged piles of big stones on the road margin outside the building.

This photo was taken on May 28.



Appeal to expedite storm water drain work



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation started widening the storm water drain on Lake View Road (West Mambalam) in mid-February. Since last three weeks, there has been no progress in the work. The trench dug to widen the drain is filled with water.

The open drain and the damaged road poses danger and hardship to motorists.

Nearby residents appeal to Chennai Corporation to expedite the work early.

Photo taken on May 29 shows a trench filled with water opposite Public Health Centre on Lake View Road.

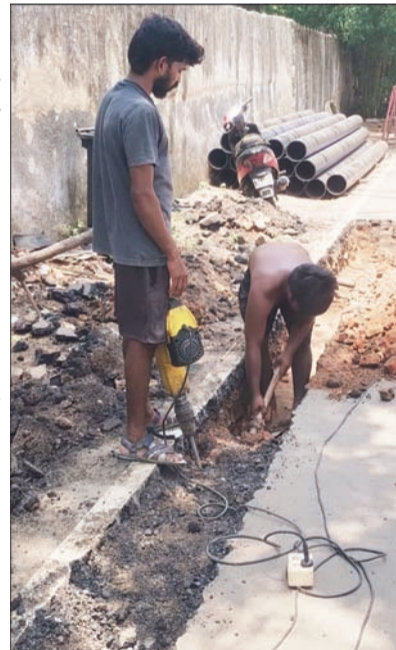
Pipeline to carry rain water under construction

By Our Staff Reporter

To prevent water stagnation during heavy rains, a pipeline below the road level is being laid adjoining the pavement on Babu Rajendra Prasad 2nd Street (West Mambalam).

The road has a deadend on one side, and connects to Station Road on the other side.

The pipeline will be connected to the storm water drain on Station Road.



Couple held for abducting baby from hospital

By Our Staff Reporter

A couple was arrested in connection with the abduction of a nine-day-old baby girl from RSRM Government Maternity Hospital in Royapuram. They were identified as Amuluk Pava Rose Mary (29) and her husband S. Thomas (30), who runs a puncture shop on Usman Road (T. Nagar).

Police said that the couple stayed at the hospital premises posing as attendants of a woman who had delivered recently.

After gaining the confidence of Geetha (29), the infant's mother, Rose Mary abducted the baby from the hospital and fled at around 2.30 pm on May 26.

Police tracked Rose from her mobile phone location and rescued the infant, and arrested her.

Within an hour, Thomas was arrested from Nan danam.

OBITUARY

K. LAKSHMANAN IYER

K. Lakshmanan Iyer (43/2A, Thambiah Road, West Mambalam) passed away last week.

He was 92, and had been resident of West Mambalam for 70 years.

He had been running a newspaper agency named Sri Sarathy Stores for more than 50 years on Station Road (West Mambalam).

He was an active member of Tamilnadu Brahmin Association, and was engaged in social service activities. He is survived by his son L. Suresh (94440 28245), a daughter, and a granddaughter.



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T. NAGAR, Rajammal Street, near TTD, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1200 sq.ft, UDS 360 sq.ft (approximately), 2nd floor apartment, south facing, covered car parking, lift, no brokers. Contact: Jai Shree Krishna Properties Pvt Ltd. Ph: 98949 99412 (Whatsapp message only).

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T. NAGAR, near TTD, prime location, 1075 sq.ft, UDS 490 sq.ft, 1st floor, lift open car park, 29 years old, well maintained flat, Rs. 1.32 crores (negotiable). Swami Iyer Reality, Ph: 98840 84762.

WEST MAMBALAM, BRP Street, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, 1153 sq.ft, UDS 625 sq.ft, vegetarians, road facing, south facing, wood work, lift, covered car park. 8 years old. Ph: 97909 26853.

TIRUNELVELI District, Kalakadu, 75 acres of land for sale (rate Rs. 15 lakhs per acre), Ph: 94459 32534.

WEST MAMBALAM, near Ayodhya Mandapam, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, with or without car parking, for sale, for details please contact consultant. Ph: 86101 46943.

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ASHOK NAGAR, 12th Avenue, near KFC, 1000 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, study room, semi furnished, lift, covered car park, security, rent Rs. 24000, plus maintenance, vegetarians only, family/office/bachelors. Ph: 73053 44555.

KODAMBAKKAM, near 5 Lights/ Main Road/ Railway Station, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 820 sq.ft, ground floor, open car park, rent Rs. 17000. Ph: 98407 12950.

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WEST MAMBALAM, Moorthy Street, near Ayodhya Mandapam, new building, 3 bedrooms apartments, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, balcony, bath attached, rent Rs. 50000, 5 months advance, with lift, covered car park, cupboards. Ph: 98411 93685.

WEST MAMBALAM, Lake View Road, near Duraiswamy Subway, near Jain Mootha School, 2 bedrooms apartment, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, balcony, bath attached, rent Rs. 26000, 5 months advance. Ph: 90425 52842, 98411 93685.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 35, Janakiraman Street, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, independent, Brahmins only, no lift, EB as per card, rent Rs. 15000, plus maintenance, immediate occupation. Ph: 75502 88280.

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WEST MAMBALAM, near Postal Colony 4th Street, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, lift, car park, Brahmins/vegetarians only, for details please call consultant. Ph: 97101 04967.

KODAMBAKKAM, close to Raghavendra Kalyana Mandabam, individual house, 1200 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, open car park, for vegetarians only. Ph: 94447 13117.

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MTC to add 120 more CNG buses to its fleet

Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) will soon add 120 more CNG buses to its existing fleet of 85 CNG buses.

To create the required infrastructure, it has signed a MoU with Think Gas for the development of captive compressed natural gas (CNG) filling facilities at its depots.

The filling stations will be established at the upcoming Varadharajapuram depot near Tambaram.

Transport officials said the shift from diesel to CNG has helped MTC save around Rs 3-4/km amid rising diesel prices.

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'Mahaperiyava Sathanai' award presented to K. Jayaraman

By Our Staff Reporter

For his spiritual services, 72-year-old Valasai K. Jayaraman (resident of T. Nagar and Founder of All India Kanchi Kamakoti Bhakathargal Peravai) was presented the 'Mahaperiyava Sathanai' award by Anushanthini Anugraham (Madurai) in a program held at Hotel Palmgrove (Nungambakkam) on May 28.

The award was presented by Dr. H.V. Hande (Founder, Hande Hospital, Shenoy Nagar) in the presence of Ravi Tamilvanan (Managing Director, Manimeghalai Publication), Thiruvavur Bhaktha vachalam (Mridangam vidwan) and Nellai Balu (Founder of Anushanthini Anugraham).

Jayaraman frequently organises discourses by eminent scholars in temples and sabhas on auspicious occasions, and organises Vinayagar chaturthi celebrations on a large scale every year. For more details, call 94442 79696.



Damaged pushcart blocks pavement



A pushcart in damaged condition is seen dumped on the pavement of Bhakthavachalam Street (near Corporation Playground, West Mambalam).

Nearby residents request Chennai Corporation to remove it from the spot.

AC mechanic injured in cylinder explosion

A 26-year-old man was seriously injured after a cylinder exploded in an air-conditioner repair shop in Kodambakkam on May 20. Police said that L. Dilipan, a resident of Dass Puram in Kodambakkam, works as an AC mechanic at a repair shop on Puliur Main Road (Kodambakkam).

While transferring nitrogen gas for AC servicing from a larger to a portable cylinder, the smaller cylinder exploded under pressure.

The explosion caused severe injuries on both his hands and face. He is undergoing treatment in Kilpauk Government Hospital. K.K. Nagar police have registered a case and are investigating.

Constable arrested for abusing minor boy

Ashok Nagar police arrested 35-year-old Velappan (Police Constable, Vadapalani police station) under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act on May 27 on charge of sexually abusing a 16-year-old boy at his relative's house in Kodambakkam. Police said that the victim is a Std. 11 student, and had come to his uncle's house in Kodambakkam for summer vacation. Velappan, a friend of the boy's uncle, came home at night on May 26.

After consuming alcohol together, the boy's uncle fell asleep.

Velappan took advantage of the situation and abused the boy sexually.

After the boy raised an alarm, Velappan assaulted him and fled the house.

Based on a complaint filed by the boy's uncle, Ashok Nagar police conducted investigation and arrested Velappan under the Pocso Act.



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