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Chain snatcher caught by public

By Our Staff Reporter

Members of the public caught a man who snatched a gold chain from a bank staff in Triplicane in the morning on Aug. 10, and handed him over to the police after thrashing him. The victim, A. Monisha (20) (resident of Ashok Nagar), works in State Band of India (University of Madras branch).

On Aug. 10, when she was walking along Swami Sivananda Road towards her office, a man snatched her 3-sovereign chain and tried to escape.

On hearing her screams, members of the public chased the man and caught him.

He was thrashed and handed him over to the police.

The accused was identified as P. Ramamurthy (40) of Triplicane.

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களஞ்சியம்

திண்ணைப் பள்ளிக்கூடம்

(தமிழ்த் தாத்தா உ.வே.சாமிநாதையரின் 'என் சரித்திரம்' நூலிலிருந்து ஒரு பகுதி)

கிராமத்துப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களைத் திண்ணைப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் என்றும் சொல்லுவார்கள். அந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் மாணாக்கர்கள் பயிலும் முறையே வேறு. இப்போது அதனை எங்கும் பார்க்க முடியாது.

பிள்ளைகள் யாவரும் விடியற்காலையில் ஐந்து மணிக்கே எழுந்து சுவடித் தூக்கோடு பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்கு வந்துவிட வேண்டும். சுவடிகளையெல்லாம் வைத்துத் தூக்கிச் செல்லும் கயிறுகள் சேர்ந்த பலகைக்குச் சுவடித்தூக்கு என்று பெயர். அந்தத் தூக்கு ஒருவகை உறியைப் போல இருக்கும்.

தூக்கைப் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் ஓரிடத்தில் மாட்டிவிட்டுப் பிள்ளைகள் முறைப்படி இருந்து முதல் நாள் நடந்த பாடங்களைப் பாராமல் ஒப்பிக்க வேண்டும். அதற்கு முறை சொல்லுதல் என்று பெயர். அப்போது உபாத்தியாயர் வீட்டிற்குள் படுத்துக் கொண்டிருப்பார்; அவரை எதிர்பாராமல் பிள்ளைகள் பாடங்களை முறை சொல்ல வேண்டும். அதை அவர் உள்ளே இருந்தபடியே கவனிப்பார். பெரும்பாலும் திண்ணைப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் உபாத்தியாயரது வீட்டுத் திண்ணையிலேயே இருக்கும்.

ஆறு மணிக்கு மேல் பிள்ளைகள் எல்லாம் வாய்க்கால் அல்லது குளம் முதலிய இடங்களுக்குப் போய்த் தந்த சுத்தி செய்து தங்கள் தங்கள் குலத்திற்கேற்ற சின்னங்களைத் தரித்துக்கொண்டு ஸந்தியாவந்தனமோ வேறு அனுஷ்டானமோ செய்வார்கள். பிறகு தங்கள் வஸ்திரங்களில் மணலை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு மூஷிகவாகனம், சரஸ்வதி ஸ்தோத்திரம் முதலியவற்றை சொல்லிக் கொண்டே பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்கு வருவார்கள். முன்பிருந்த பழைய மணலை அகற்றிவிட்டுப் புதிய மணலைப் பரப்புவார்கள். எழுதுவதற்குரியவர்கள் அதில் எழுதுவார்கள். மற்றவர்கள் தங்கள் பாடங்களைப் படிப்பார்கள்.

ஒன்பது மணிக்குப் பிள்ளைகளைப் பழையது (பழைய அமுது) சாப்பிட விடுவது வழக்கம். அப்பொழுது உபாத்தியாயர் ஒரு பக்கத்தில் வீற்றிருந்து ஒவ்வொரு பிள்ளையின் கையிலும் பிரம்பால் அடித்து அனுப்புவார். பழைய சோற்று ருசியில் பள்ளிக்கூட ஞாபகம் மறக்கக்கூடாது என்பதற்காக அங்ஙனம் செய்வார் போலும்!

பிள்ளைகளுக்குள்ளே கெட்டிக்காரனாகவும், பலசாலியாகவும் இருப்பவனை உபாத்தியாயர் சட்டாம் பிள்ளையாக நியமிப்பார். அவன் புத்திசாலியாக இராவிட்டாலும் பலசாலியாக இருக்க வேண்டியது அவசியம். உபாத்தியாயருக்குப் பிரதிநிதியாகப் பிள்ளைகளை அடக்கி ஆள்வதும், பாடம் ஒப்பிக்கக் கேட்பதும் அவன் வேலைகள். அவனிடம் எல்லோரும் அடங்கி நடக்க வேண்டும். சில பிள்ளைகள் அவனுக்கு வேண்டிய தின்பண்டங்களைக் கொடுத்துத் தம் வசப்படுத்தி உபாத்தியாயருடைய பிரியத்தையும் அவன் மூலமாக சம்பாதிப் பார்கள். சில சமயங்களில் உபாத்தியாயரது கடுமையைக் காட்டிலும் சட்டாம் பிள்ளையின் கடுமை அதிகமாக இருக்கும்.

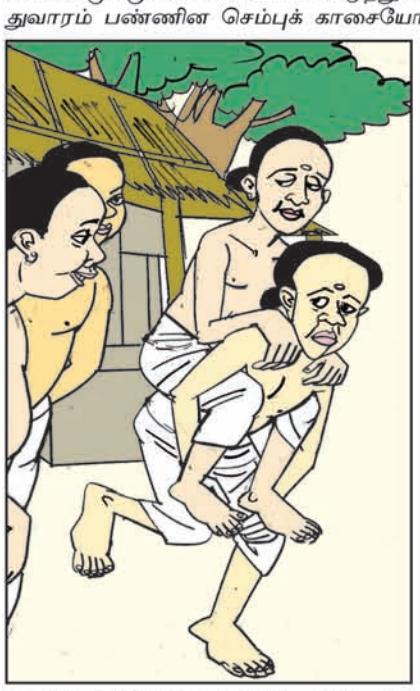
மாணாக்கர்களுக்குள் பழையவர்கள் புதியவர்களுக்குக் கற்பிப்பதும் பள்ளிக்கூட வழக்கங்களில் ஒன்று.

பன்னிரெண்டு மணிக்குமேல் மத்தியான சாப்பாட்டுக்குப் பிள்ளைகள் வீட்டுக்கு செல்வார்கள். பிறகு மூன்று மணிக்கு மீண்டும் பாடம் தொடங்கப்படும். இரவு ஏழு மணி வரையில்கூடப் பள்ளிக்கூடம் நடைபெறுவதுண்டு.

பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்குக் காலையில் ஐந்து மணிக்கே வந்துவிட வேண்டும். ஆகையால் துணைக்கு யாரையேனும் பிள்ளைகள் அழைத்து வருவார்கள். பெரும்பாலும் முதிய ஸ்திரீகளை அழைத்து வருவதே வழக்கம். நேரம் கழித்து வந்தால் பிரம்படி பலமாகக் கிடைக்குமே என்ற பயத்தால் ஒவ்வொருவனும் எல்லோருக்கும் முன்பே வந்துவிட முயல்வான். இவ்வாறு வருவதன் பிரயோஜனம் பழையதுக்கு உபாத்தியாயர் வீட்டுக்கு விடும்போது தெரியும். வழக்கப்படி பிள்ளைகளைப் பிரம்பினால் அடித்து அனுப்பும்போது முதலில் வந்தவன் கையில் பிரம்பினால் தடவி விடுவார்; இரண்டாம் பையனை மெல்ல அடிப்பார். வரவர அடி அதிகமாகும். பலமாகவும் விழும். இதனால் முதல் நாள் பலமான அடி வாங்கினவன் அதற்கு பயந்து மறுநாள் எல்லோருக்கும் முன்பே வந்துவிடுவான். முத லில் வருபவனை வேத்தான் என்று சொல்வார்கள். வேற்றான் என்னும் சொல்லே அவ்வாறு வந்தது. மற்றவர்களை விட வேறான தனிப்பெருமை உடையவன் என்பது அதன் பொருள். உபாத்தியாயரது கைக்கோலின் அடியைப் பெறாமல் தடவுதலை மாத்திரம் பெறுவது ஒரு தனிப்பெருமை அல்லவா?

பிள்ளைகளுக்கு மணல்தான் சிலேட்டின் ஸ்தானத்தில் இருந்தது. பனையேடுதான் புத்தகம். எழுத்தாணியே பேனா. உபாத்தியாயர் எழுதித் தரும் ஏட்டுச் சுவடியிலிருந்து முதலில் நெடுங்கணக்கை (அரிச்சுவடியை)க் கற்றுக் கொள்வான் மாணாக்கன். அப்பால் எண்சுவடி முதலிய சுவடிகள் பெற்றுப் படிப்பான். ஓலை வாரவும், சுவடி சேர்க்கவும், நன்றாக எழுதவும் தெரிந்து கொள்வதற்குப் பல நாளாகும். சுவடியைப் பிரித்து ஒழுங்காகக் கட்டுவதற்குக்கூடப் பழக்கம் வேண்டும். பிள்ளைகளுக்கு எழுத்துப் பழக்கம் உண்டாக உபாத்தியாயர் ஓர் ஓலையில் எழுதித் தருவார். பிள்ளைகள் அதே மாதிரி எழுதிப் பழகு வார்கள். அந்த மூல ஓலைக்குச் சட்டம் என்று பெயர்.

ஏட்டுச் சுவடிகளில் மஞ்சள், ஊமத்தையிலைச்சாறு, வசம்புக்கரி முதலியவற்றைத் தடவிப் படிப்பது வழக்கம். எழுத்துக்கள் தெளிவாகத் தெரிவதற்கும், பூச்சிகள் வராமல் இருப்பதற்கும் அவ்வாறு செய்வார்கள். சுவடிகளில் ஒற்றைத் துவாரம் இருக்கும். ஒரு நூற் கயிற்றைக் கிளிமூக்கு என்ற ஒன்றில் முடிந்து சுவடியின் துவாரத்தின் வழியே செலுத்தி அதைக் கட்டுவார்கள். பனையோலையை நரம்போடு சேர்த்துச் சிறுசிறு துண்டுகளாக நறுக் கிக் கிளிமூக்குகளாக உபயோகப்படுத்துவார்கள். கிளிமூக்கிற்கு பதிலாகப் பொத்தானையோ, துவாரம் பண்ணின செம்புக் காசையோ, சோழியையோ முடிவதும் உண்டு.



ஒரு பையன் புதியதாக ஒரு நூலைப் படிக்கத் தொடங்குவதைச் சுவடி துவக்கல் என்பார்கள். பனையோலையில் அந்த நூலை எழுதி மஞ்சள் தடவி விநாயக பூஜை முதலியவற்றைச் செய்து பையனிடம் கொடுத்து உபாத்தியாயர் படிப்பிப் பார். அவன் வீட்டிலிருந்து வந்த காப்பரிசி நிவேத னம் செய்யப்படும். அது தேங்காய்த் துண்டு, எள்ளு, வெல்லம் இவைகள் சேர்க்கப் பெற்று மிகச்சுவையாக இருக்கும். அதைப் பிள்ளைகளுக் கும், பிறருக்கும் விநியோகம் செய்வார்கள். அன்றைத் தினம் பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்கு விடுமுறை நாளாகும்.

சுவடி துவக்கலென்றால் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு அளவற்ற சந்தோஷம் உண்டாகும். புதிய நூலைக் கற்பதனால் உண்டாவதன்று அது; 'காப்பரிசி கிடைக்கும், பள்ளிக்கூடம் இராது' என்ற ஞாபகமே அதற்குக் காரணம்.

பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் உபாத்தியாயர் செய்விக்கும் தண்டனைகள் மிகவும் கடுமையானவை. அவரது பிரம்படி ஒன்றினாலேயே மாணாக்கர்கள் கதி கலங்குவார்கள். விட்டத்தில் கயிற்றைக் கட்டி அதைப் பிடித்துத் தொங்கிக் கொண்டு சில நேரம் இருக்கும்படி செய்வது ஒரு தண்டனை. அதைக் கோதண்டம் என்று கூறுவர். அப்படிப் பையன் தொங்கும்போது கீழிருந்து உபாத்தியாயர் அவனது காலில் அடிப்பதும் உண்டு. நான் ஒரு முறை இந்த தண்டனையை அடைந்திருக்கிறேன். பாடம் நன்றாகச் சொன்னவனைச் சொல்லாதவன் முதுகில் ஏறச்செய்து பிற்பகலில் பிள்ளைகளைச் சுற்றி வரச்செய்வது வழக்கம். அதற்குக் குதிரையேற்றம் என்று பெயர். அவ்விதம் நான் ஒரு முறை சவாரி செய்திருக்கிறேன்!

T. NAGAR & MAMBALAM BAZAAR

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Panchapakesan gifts Thamboolam bags to suvasinis

N. Panchapakesan (Founder, Sri Sai Shankara Matrimonials, Ashok Nagar) gifted Thamboolam bags to 150 women who performed suvasini poojai on Aug. 8 in Ayodhya Manda-pam (West Mambalam) on the occasion of Aadi in a program organised by Kamala (Secretary) and Sivaraman (President) of Mambalam Brahmin Sangam.

Valarpirai Panchami poojai in temple tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

Valarpirai Panchami poojai will be performed to the presiding deity at 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug.17 in Sri Swarna Varuna Varahi Amman Temple (Lake View Road, West Mambalam).

Devotees can donate honey, flowers and other items for the poojai.

Those facing hurdles in marriage can benefit from the poojai. For more details, call G. Kothandaraman in 94437 10006

80-year-old woman murdered in her house for jewellery

31-year-old Ammu, a domestic help, and two of her accomplices were arrested on Aug. 13 on charge of robbing 12 sovereigns of jewellery from 80-year-old Radha Krishna-murthy and murdering her in her apartment on Kuppusamy Street (T. Nagar) on Aug. 13. Pondy Bazaar police recovered the jewellery from them.

Radha was a social worker and President of Apoorva Women's Association. She had been living alone the apartment on the second floor of the building.

Around 10 a.m, Ammu, who worked as Radha's domestic help, alerted a neighbour stating that there was no response to her repeated knocks on the door.

After the neighbour contacted her son living in Besant Nagar, the latter arrived within 30 minutes and opened the main door with a duplicate key to find his mother lying dead on the sofa with injuries on her face and neck. A pillow was found near the body. Based on his complaint, police sent the body to the ESIC Hospital (K.K. Nagar) for postmortem. The postmortem revealed that Radha had died between 4 p.m and 6 p.m due to asphyxiation.

The footage of the CCTV cameras installed outside the building showed two unidentified men entering the building and leaving within the suspected period.

Police questioned Ammu and found that she had conspired with the two men to murder Radha and steal her jewellery.

Radha was into social service for over 4 decades and through the Association, she had provided scholarships to scores of poor students and had conducted free job-oriented courses for women from underprivileged families. Her services had been highlighted several times in *Mambalam Times*.

Spiderman movie screened for 100 Thalassemia patients

Apollo Speciality Hospitals (Teynampet) organised a special screening of the movie 'Spiderman: Brand New Day' at Kamala Cinemas for 100 children suffering from Thalassemia, and their families and caregivers.

Revathi Raj (Senior Paediatrician, Apollo Hospital) said that the movie was chosen as its story reflects courage, hope and the strength to overcome challenges.

She said that the children had a good time, forgetting their pain and gaining some confidence in facing the physical and mental challenges of the ailment.

Maha Kumbhabhishekam in Siva Vishnu temple next Sunday

By Our Staff Reporter

Maha Kumbhabhishekam will be performed in Siva Vishnu Temple (172/90, Usman Road, T. Nagar) on Sunday, Aug. 23.

The poojas and kumbhabhishekam will be held separately for Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu

In connection with the kumbhabhishekam, special poojas will be held from Friday, Aug. 21

Following are the program details:

Friday, Aug. 21:

8 a.m onwards: Punyahavachanam, panjakaavya sthapanam, Gho poojai, Vigneshwara poojai, special homams, deepaaradhanai and prasadam distribution

5 p.m onwards: Punyahavachanam, vaasthu shanthi, special homams, anguraarpanam, kumbha alangaaram, yaagasalai pravesam and special poojas to both deities

7 p.m to 9 p.m: 1st kala yagasalai poojai, poornahuti, deepaaradhanai and prasadam distribution

Saturday, Aug. 22:

8.30 a.m to 12 noon: Vesesha shanthi poojai, 2nd kala yagasalai poojai, homam

12 noon: Deepaaradhanai and annadhaanam

5 p.m onwards: 3rd kala yagasalai poojai, 96 drivya homam and other poojas

9 p.m: Deepaaradhanai and annadhaanam

Sunday, Aug. 23:

6 a.m: 4th yagasalai poojai, homam and special poojas

8.30 a.m: Maha Poornahuthi and kalasa puratpaadu

9 a.m to 9.30 a.m: Maha Kumbhabhishekam to Raja Gopuram and Moolavar, maha deepaaradhanai, yajamana utsavam and annadhaanam.

7 p.m: Procession of deity

For more details, call 94428 26482.

Yajur Upakarma on Aug. 27

By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Brahmin Association has organised 'Yajur Upakarma' in four batches at 6.30 a.m, 7.25 a.m, 8.30 a.m and 10 a.m on Thursday, Aug.27 in PSBB School (K.K. Nagar).

For more details call, S. Sathish in 91766 51942.

Concert of MSV songs today afternoon

Mellisai Mannar MSV Fan Club has organised a concert of the songs composed by legendry Music Director M.S. Viswanathan from 3.30 p.m to 9 p.m on Sunday, Aug. 16 in Sir Pitty Thyagaraya Hall (68, G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar).

The concert titled 'Mellisai Aaradhanai' is being held for the 12th consecutive year. It will feature 20 singers performing 35 of his melodious compositions.

The fan club was founded by N Y Murali, the driving force behind this event.

He has an extensive knowledge of MSV's composition, and will be providing insights and trivia on some of the songs played at the concert..

Nadaswaram concert today forenoon

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Srimathi Rajalakshmi Academy of Music (West Mambalam), G.K. Kalidas will present a Nadaswaram concert from 9.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m on Sunday, Aug. 16 in Trinity Nursery School (9, K.R. Koil Street, West Mambalam).

He will be accompanied by R. Raghul on the violin, K. Thyagarajan on the mridangam and Nerkundran S. Sankar on the kanjira.

V. Vishnuramprasad (Founder, Srimathi Rajalakshmi Academy of Music) said that the concert is held to celebrate the 3rd Founder's Day of the Academy.

His contact number is 98404 23700.

Volunteers sought to teach English and Tamil to poor students

By Our Staff Reporter

Sarva Vidya, an NGO, has selected 50 students of Std. 6 and Std. 7 from RKM Sarada Vidyalaya Model School (Burkit Road, T. Nagar) to provide them special classes for free after school hours.

In this connection, it appeals for volunteers, preferably retired teachers, to conduct Tamil and English language classes for the students.

Interested volunteers can contact the NGO in 97890 14268 or send an email to sarvavidya@hotmail.com.

Unlock your dormant equity shares and mutual funds

By Our Staff Reporter

Do you still have equity company shares in physical form and do not know how to dematerialise them so that you can sell them and realise their value?

Has your grandfather/father/mother, who had invested in equity shares or mutual funds or fixed deposits passed away leaving these documents behind, and you are having problems in redeeming them because of legal problems such as lack of nomination, succession certificate, KYC insufficiency etc?

www.puplepond.in, investment advisors, offer their special expertise to help you to surmount these obstacles and encash these dormant investments.

Its promoters have helped dozens of persons realize crores of rupees that would otherwise have been lying unclaimed because of complex procedural problems.

No advance fee is payable to them until the amounts are actually realised by you.

For further particulars, contact 98403 42736 or 98848 75519.

வசுமதி ராமஸ்வாமி

ஆடை அலங்காரம்

அன்புமிக்க சுஜாதா,

உன் கடிதத்தில் துணிகள் வாங்குவதைப் பற்றி எழுதிக் கேட்டிருக்கிறாய்.

ஆடைகள் தேசத்துக்குத் தகுந்தபடி மாறுபடுகின்றன. அடுத்தபடி அவரவர்கள் நிலைக்குத் தகுந்தபடி ஆடைகள் வாங்குவது என்று ஏற்படுகிறது. மூன்றாவதாக வயதுக்கு ஏற்ற துணிகள், நிறம் என்று ஓரளவு பார்க்கத்தான் வேண்டி வருகிறது. கடைசியாக போலி கௌரவத்துக்காகவும் வாங்குகிறோம். உணவு எப்படி இன்றியமையாததோ அப்படியேதான் ஆடைகள். எனவே அந்த விஷயத்தில் விசேஷ கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டியதுதான்.

மேல்நாட்டில் உடைகளுக்கு அதிக கௌரவம் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் கல்யாணப் பெண்ணுக்குத் தைக்கும் 'கௌன்' பிரமாதமாக இருக்கும். அதற்காகப் பிரசித்தி பெற்ற தையல்காரர்களைத் தேர்ந்தெடுப்பார்கள்.

நாம் விலை அதிகம் கொடுத்துத்தான் உடைகளை வாங்குகிறோம். அதை சரியானபடி உபயோகிக்கும் முறை போதாது. விலை மதிப்புள்ள உடைகள் விசேஷ தினங்களுக்கு இயன்ற அளவு வாங்கிக் கொள்ளலாம். கல்யாணம், பண்டிகை போன்ற வைபவங்களில் நம்முடைய சந்தோஷத்தைக் காட்ட விருந்து சாப்பிடுகிறோம். அப்படியே நல்ல ஆடைகளை உடுத்துவதும் நம் மகிழ்ச்சியை அறிவிக்கும் நோக்கம்தான். விலை மதிப்புள்ள துணிகளை வாங்கி, அவற்றை நன்றாகத் தைக்காமல், அதற்குரிய மரியாதை கொடுக்காமல் சுருட்டிப் போடுவது வருந்தத்தக்கது. சிலருக்கு எதிலுமே வாங்கும் வரையில் ஆசை இருக்கும். பிறகு அதில் அக்கறை குறைந்து விடுகிறது. 'தேவையான துணிகள் போதுமா? அபரிமிதமாக (வசதி இருந்தாலும்) வாங்கிக் கொள்வதா?' என்பது தற்காலப் பெண்களின் பிரச்னையாக இருக்கிறது.

ஒரு பெண் பீரோ நிறையப் புடவைகள் இருப்பதால் எதைக் கட்டிக் கொள்வதென்று தெரியாமல் வருந்துவதாக அந்தப் பெண்ணின் அன்னை சொன்னாள். 'இதில் அவளுக்கு ஏன் இத்தகைய வருத்தம் ஏற்பட வேண்டும்?' என்பது வியப்பாயிருக்கிறது. ஆடைகள் மிதமாக இருந்தால் போதுமானது.

தினசரி உபயோகிக்கும் உடைகள் எளியவையாகவும், சுத்தமாகவும் இருக்க வேண்டும். எனக்குத் தெரிந்த மிகவும் கண்ணியம் வாய்ந்த ஒரு குடும்பத்தினரை விடுமுறை நாள்களில் பார்த்திருக்கிறேன். குடும்பத் தலைவர் அந்த வாரத்துக்குத் தேவையான துணிகளை சோப்பு போட்டுத் துவைப்பார். அந்த அம்மாள் உலர்த்துவார். உத்தியோகம் பார்க்கும் பெண் 'இஸ்திரி' போடுவாள். சின்னப் பிள்ளைகள் மடித்து எடுத்து அடுக்கி விடுவார்கள். அவர்கள் எப்பொழுதும் சுத்தமாகவும், நன்றாகவும் உடுத்தியிருப்பதைக் கண்டு நான் ஆச்சரியப்படுவேன். சுத்தம் முக்கியம். 'கந்தையானாலும் கசக்கிக் கட்டு' என்பது முதுமொழியல்லவா? நம் ஆடைகளை நாமே தோய்த்துக் கட்டவேண்டும். அதில் தனி ஆனந்தம் இருக்கத்தான் செய்கிறது. அதோடு நம் வேலையை நாம் செய்து கொள்ளும்போது பெருமிதம் உண்டாகிறது.

வடநாட்டு சகோதரிகள் எவ்வளவு பணக்காரர்களாக இருந்தாலும் குறைவான விலையுள்ள புடவைகளைத்தான் தினசரி உடுத்துகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் ஆடைகளுக்காக செல வழிப்பது மிகக் குறைவு. தினசரித் துணிகளையும் நாம் நன்றாக உபயோகிக்கப் பழகிக் கொள்ள வேண்டியது அவசியமல்லவா?

ஒருவரை முதன் முதலாகப் பார்க்கும்போது அவர்களுடைய உடைகளிலிருந்து அவர்களுடைய கண்ணியத்தை நிர்ணயிக்கிறோம். கதர் உடைகளைப் போட்டுக் கொண்டு உலகத்தின் எந்த பாகத்துக்குப் போனாலும், 'காந்தி ஊரிலிருந்து வந்தவர்களா? இந்தியாவிலிருந்து வருபவர்களா?' என்று கௌரவமாக விசாரிக்கிறார்கள். 'ஆள் பாதி, ஆடை பாதி' என்று பழமொழி ஒன்று வழங்கி வருவதை நினைவில் இருத்திக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். சந்தர்ப்பத்துக்குத் தகுந்தபடி உடை அணிவதும் ஒரு கலை.

நாம் அணியும் முறை பிறர் நம்மைக் கண்டு மரியாதை செய்யும் வகையில் அமைய வேண்டும். பிறர் நம் ஆடைகளை விசேஷமாக நோக்கும்படி கவர்ச்சிகரமான வகையில் அணிய வேண்டாம் என்பது என்னுடைய தாழ்மையான அபிப்பிராயம்.

'Kindness' awards presented to animal activists

In connection with the birth anniversary of industrialist A. Vijayakumar Reddy, the 4th edition of Kindness Awards to honour animal activists was held at Hotel Savera on Aug.11.

It was organised jointly by Nina Reddy (Managing Director, Savera) and Change A Life Charitable Trust (CAL).

15 individuals who dedicated their lives to animal welfare were honoured, while six others were felicitated for strengthening the cause through their support.

One of the awardees was 59-year-old D. Lalitha (resident of West Mambalam).

She has been taking care of stray dogs and cats for more than 15 years in her neighbourhood by providing them food and need-based health care. She is also actively involved in the sterilization program of dogs in coordination with Chennai Corporation. She feeds around 60 dogs and 40 cats in her neighbour-hood daily.

Her email id is lalitha devarajan8@gmail.com

Murals adorn pillars of Usman Road flyover

By Our Staff Reporter

Colourful murals have been drawn on the pillars of Usman Road flyover to beautify them.

Photo taken on Aug. 12 shows picture of Thiruvalluvar painted on one of the pillars.

51-year-old man cracks NEET, secures MBBS seat

51-year-old A. Sureshkumar (resident of Ashok Nagar) had one dream to become a doctor, but his family circumstances in his youth forced him to pursue a course in pharmaceutical science.

Now, a double Ph.D in Pharmaceutical Science and Diagnostics, he is working as Vice President in a diagnostic centre. When in 2022, the age criterion for NEET was relaxed allowing candidates of any age to take the exam, Sureshkumar's dream of pursuing MBBS was rekindled.

"I tried for the first time in 2022, but could not get the requisite marks. But this year, I finally cracked NEET and got a MBBS seat at Nagapattinam Medical College," he said.

Talk on poet Kavi Kunjara Bharati today evening

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha, Vasundhra Raja gopal will give a talk on 'Life and Music of Kavi Kunjara Bharathi' at 6.30 p.n on Sunday, Aug. 16 in Vani Mahal (G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar). Entrance is free.

All are welcome.

For more details, contact R. Srinivasan (Honorary Secretary) in 93810 01357.

LPG cylinders kept on road margin

11 LPG cylinders are seen kept on the road margin on Rajamannar Street (near Gopalakrishnan Street junction, T. Nagar).

To prevent theft, the cylinders were locked with a chain.

Nearby residents said that a nearby distributor is misusing the place as a stockyard for storing LPG cylinders.

This photo was taken on Aug. 13.

Corporation begins vaccination of stray dogs

Chennai Corporation launched a mega campaign to vaccinate nearly 2 lakhs stray dogs in the city from Aug. 11. Thirty teams have been deployed for the campaign, with each team tasked with vaccinating around 100 stray dogs a day.

An official said that during a similar campaign last year, more than 1.47 lakhs stray dogs were vaccinated. Corporation invites dog owners to avail this opportunity and vaccinate their pet dogs by visiting their nearest government veterinary clinic.

Bhajans and discourses in Ayodhya Mandapam today

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Srivanchiam Charitable Education and Naama sankeerthanam Trust (West Mambalam), naamasan keerthanam and other poojas have been going on since Aug. 14 in Ayodhya Mandapam (Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam).

It will conclude on Sunday, Aug. 16

The following are the program details:

Sunday, Aug 16:

8 a.m: Bhajan by Anjali and Mayavathi

10 a.m: Sri Radha Kalyanam by Perungudi Sivapriya and Group

12 noon: Thiruppugazh by Mambalam Murugasramam Jeyasri Uma shankar and Group

1:30 p.m: Abhanga Sankeerthanam by Brinda

3 p.m: Krishna Premi and Muralidhara Swamigal Keerthanaigal by Srimati Anuradha Balaji and Group

6 p.m: Nrutya sankeerthanam by Srivanchiyar Ananya Sriram, accompanied by S. Srinithya Ganesan;

8 p.m: Sri Aanjaneya utsavam by Lalitha Sriram and Group

10 p.m: Mangala aarathi

All are welcome.

Class for senior citizens on safe use of smart phones

By Our Staff Reporter

Kalpavriksha Centre (3, S V. Nagarathinammal Street, West Mambalam) has organised an advanced-level class for senior citizens on the safe use of smart phones at 11 a.m on Tuesday, Aug. 18 in its premises.

A team of experts from Zoho Corporation will conduct the class.

Topics covered will include safe use of smartphone; how to avoid getting trapped in cyber-crimes via phone calls, WhatsApp, SMS, emails and fake websites; safe handling of bank transactions; avoiding digital arrest scams, job frauds and more.

For registration, call 63829 56455.

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, Aug. 16 in the Ashram's premises.

All are welcome.

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

A Tryst With Destiny

(On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, it is worth recalling the moving address by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly on the midnight of August 14/15, 1947.)

Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially.

At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of anation, long suppressed, find sutterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment, we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity.

At the dawn of history, India started on her unending quest, and trackless centuries are filled with her striving and grandeur of her success and failures. Through good and ill fortune alike, she has never lost sight of that quest, forgotten the ideals which gave her strength.

We end today a period of misfortunes and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?

Freedom and power bring responsibility. The responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom, we have endured all the pains of labour and our hearts are heavy with the memory of this sorrrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless, the past is over and it is the future that beckons us now.

That future is not one of ease or resting but of incessant striving so that we may fulfill the pledges we have so often taken and the one we shall take today. The service of India means, the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and poverty and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest men of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us, but as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over.

And so we have to labour and to work, and to work hard, to give reality to our dreams. Those dreams are for India, but they are also for the world, for all the nations and peoples are too closely knit together today for any one of them to imagine that it can live apart. Peace is said to be indivisible, so is freedom, so is prosperity now, and also is disaster in this one world that can no longer be split into isolated fragments.

To the people of India, whose representatives we are, we make an appeal to join us with faith and confidence in this great adventure. This is notime for petty and destructive criticism, notime forill-willor blaming others. We have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell.

The appointed day has come -the day appointed by destiny- and India stands forth again, after long slumber and struggle, awake, vital, free and independent. The past clings on to us still in some measure and we have to do much before we redeem the pledges we have so often taken.

Yet the turning-point is past, and history begins anew for us, the history which we shall live and act and others will write about.

It is a fateful moment for us in India, for all Asia and for the world. A new star rises, the star of freedom in the East, a new hope comes into being, a vision long cherished materializes. May the star never set and that hope never be betrayed!

We rejoice in that freedom, even though clouds surround us, and many of our people are sorrow-stricken and difficult problems encompass us. But freedom brings responsibilities and burdens and we have to face them in the spirit of a free and disciplined people.

On this day our first thoughts go to the architect of this freedom, the Father of our Nation, who, embodying the old spirit of India, held aloft the torch of freedom and lighted up the darkness that surrounded us. We have often been unworthy followers of his and have strayed from his message, but not only we but succeeding generations will remember this message and bear the imprint in their hearts of this great son of India, magnificent in his faith and strength and courage and humility. We shall never allow that torch of freedom to be blown out, however high the wind or stormy the tempest.

Our next thoughts must be of the unknown volunteers and soldiers of freedom who, without praise or reward, have served India even unto death.

We think also of our brothers and sisters who have been cut off from us by political boundaries and who unhappily cannot share at present in the freedom that has come. They are of us and will remain of us whatever may happen, and we shall be sharers in their good [or] ill fortune alike.

The future beckons to us. Whither do we go and what shall be our endeavour? To bring freedom and opportunity to the common man, to the peasants and workers of India; to fight and end poverty and ignorance and disease; to build up a prosperous, democratic and progressive nation, and to create social, economic and political institutions which will ensure justice and fullness of life to every man and woman.

We have hard work ahead. There is no resting for any one of us till we redeem our pledge in full, till we make all the people of India what destiny intended them to be. We are citizens of a great country on the verge of bold advance, and we have to live up to that high standard. All of us, to whatever religion we may belong, are equally the children of India with equal rights, privileges and obligations. We cannot encourage communalism or narrow-mindedness, for no nation can be great whose people are narrow in thought or in action.

To the nations and peoples of the world we send greetings and pledge ourselves to cooperate with them in furthering peace, freedom and democracy.

And to India, our much-loved motherland, the ancient, the eternal and the ever-new, we pay our reverent homage and we bind ourselves afresh to her service.

Woman talking on phone falls off terrace, dies

By Our Staff Reporter

A 25-year-old woman died after accidentally falling from the terrace of her house while speaking on her mobile phone in Kodambakkam on Aug. 9.

The deceased was identified as D. Nivedha (resident of Trustpuram).

According to police, when Nivedha was walking on the terrace of the 2-storey building, she lost her balance and fell from the terrace.

She sustained severe injuries in the fall and was admitted to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead.

Kodambakkam police reached the spot and registered a case.

Police are investigating the circumstances leading to the fall.

Mega job fair in Government School (Ashok Nagar) on Saturday

By Our Staff Reporter

The Department of Employment and Training (Ministry of Labour Welfare and Skill Development) and District Employment and Career Guidance Centre (Chennai) are jointly organising a Job Fair on a large scale from 8 a.m to 3 p.m on Saturday, Aug.22 in Government Girls Higher Secondary School (Ashok Nagar).

N. Anand (Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources and MLA, T. Nagar) will inaugurate the job fair.

According to the organisers, more than 300 leading private companies will set-up stalls to recruit candidates during the fair for around 30,000+ vacancies.

Special counters will be set-up for persons with disabilities (PwDs).

Apart from on-the-spot recruitment, job seekers can avail advice on free career guidance, self-employment opportunities, overseas employment registration and more.

Minimum 8th passed persons, graduates and post graduates can benefit from the job fair.

Interested persons can register for free on the website https://www.tnprivatejobs.tn.gov.in or via google form at https://forms.gle/W4Kvwo9LeMZg4aKS7.

Livelihood brings forth the strength in adverse conditions

Albeit the struggle involved, a woman was seen pushing her overloaded cart up the slope on Madley Road towards Easwaran Koil Street (West Mambalam) at around 1.30 p.m on Aug. 8.

Despite her struggle, none of the passers-by stopped to lend her a helping hand.

After capturing her struggle on his phone, this reporter helped her push the cart till it exited the subway.

Similar is the travails for many vendors, especially women, who have to struggle under adverse circumstances to eke out a living.

Sudden showers catch shoppers unaware

Cloudy condition has been prevailing for the past few days in the city, and it has been raining in the evenings and night time. At around 5 p.m on Aug. 12, sudden showers for around 30 minutes caught shoppers unaware in T. Nagar as they rushed for cover into nearby shops while some enjoyed the rain getting wet.

OBITUARY

K. Radha

13.03.1946 - 13.08.2026

With profound grief, we announce the sad demise of our mother on 13th August 2026.

Deeply mourned by her children.

Sujatha, Balaji and Ramji

Contact: **75986 47561**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Carriageway blocked on Rajamannar Street

Sir, Rajamannar Street is a circular road that cuts across G.N. Chetty Road in T. Nagar. While it abounds Jeeva Park on one side, it abounds Ramakrishna School playground on the other side. As there is a 3-foot-wide pavement on Jeeva Park side, the usable road width is reduced. Further, due to unauthorised parking of vehicles, primarily by the customers of a big restaurant on G.N. Chetty Road near the junction, the usable road width of the 40-foot-road is reduced in half, thereby causing hardship to nearby residents and other motorists.

As there is no pavement, such a problem is not there on the road abounding the Ramakrishna School playground on the other side of G.N. Chetty Road.

I appeal to traffic police to either prevent parking of vehicles on Rajamannar Street on Jeeva Park side or demolish and remove the pavement to widen the road. **S. Balachander, Rajamannar Street, T. Nagar.**

Abandoned SUV removed after report

Following the report 'Abandoned SUV blocks carriageway' published in *Mambalam Times (July 12 – 18 issue),* a car in dusty condition and with deflated tyres, parked for over 3 months on the road margin on 7th Avenue (near Manoj Bhawan Hotel, Ashok Nagar), was removed by traffic police last week.

It was hindering the free movement of vehicles.

This photo was taken on Aug. 13.

Tree falls in Raju Street

Following the heavy rains at night on Aug. 11, a decades-old avenue tree got uprooted and fell across the road at the junction of Varadappan Street and Raju Street (West Mambalam) at around 9 p.m on Aug. 10.

No one was injured in the incident.

Corporation workers cut and removed the tree and its remains within two hours.

Siddha doctors provide scholarship to nursing students

By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. P.R. Saroja and Dr. S.K. Sashi (retired Siddha doctors from Arignar Anna Hospital of Indian Medicine, Anna Nagar) presented Rs. 10,000 to Sarva Vidya, an NGO that has been conducting free 'Patient Care Assistance Course' (PCA) to underprivileged girl students above 18 years in T. Nagar. It will be distributed to meritorious students.

After interacting with the staff and students, the doctors have pledged to provide Rs. 5000 as scholarship every month to support the cause of the NGO.

A senior member of Sarva Vidya told *Mambalam Times* that PCA course has been going on since 2008, and till date, it has benefitted 850 girls from rural areas of Tamilnadu. Around 60 students are accommodated in each batch and are given boarding and lodging during the course period along with a stipend of Rs. 3,500 per month.

Apart from classroom sessions, the students also get hands-on training at nursing homes and hospitals, he said.

Under its 'No Child Left Behind' project, also started in 2008, scholarships are provided to students of RKM Group of Schools and after-school special classes are held.

It has benefitted more than 1500 students till date, he said.

The NGO's contact number is 97890 14268.

Leaning iron post removed after report

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Leaning iron post likely to fall' published in *Mambalam Times (Aug. 9 – 15 issue)*, the 20-foot-tall iron post leaning precariously on the pavement of Gopalakrishnan Road (near Dr. Nair Road junction, T. Nagar) was removed by Chennai Corporation on Aug. 11.

To prevent the post from falling, it was temporarily tethered to the branch of a tree adjacent to it.

This photo was taken on Aug. 13.

Leaning fence poses danger to pedestrians

By Our Staff Reporter

A portion of the metal grille fence erected adjoining the pavement of Rajamannar Street (outside Jeeva Park, T. Nagar) is leaning precariously towards the pavement.

Its sharp ends pose grave danger of injury to unwary pedestrians, especially at night due to poor visibility.

A number for children and seniors visits the park daily in the mornings and evenings.

Chennai Corporation must take immediate steps to refix the fence to prevent any untoward incident.

Discourses on Sivapuranam in Vani Mahal from Aug. 19

Under the auspices of Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha, Sudha Seshayyan will give discourses on Sivapuranam from Wednesday, Aug. 19 to Friday, Aug. 21 in Vani Mahal (G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar).

On Saturday, Aug. 23, the drama troupe Mother Creations will present the Tamil play Jagadguru at 6.45 p.m. The play has been written and directed by C.V Chandramohan. Entry if free.

All are welcome.

For more details, contact R. Srinivasan (Honorary Secretary in 9381001357.

Concert of old Hindi songs today evening

The music troupe Satrangi will present a concert of popular Kishore Kumar songs and duets from old Hindi movies released between 1950 and 1980 at 5.45 p.m on Sunday, Aug. 9 in TEACH Auditorium (Taramani).

The program will be presented by Promod and Smriti supported by a live orchestra.

Tickets priced at Rs. 300 and Rs.500 will be home delivered on calling 98847 78073.

3-day discourse on Mahabharatha from tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sringeri Bharathi Vidyashram, Karunakara-chariar will present discourses on Mahabharatha (Virata Paruvam) from 6 p.m to 8 p.m daily, from Monday, Aug. 17 to Wednesday, Aug. 19 in Sringeri Bharathi Vidyashram (21, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar).

The discourses are being held in connection with the birth anniversary of Jagatguru Vidusekara Bharathi Swamigal of Sringeri Madam.

All are welcome.

For more details, call 044024348964.

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)

URAPAKKAM, Mahalakshmi Nagar, 5kms from New Kilambakkam Bus Stand, Adhanur Village, plot for sale, approved by L.P/ DTCP, 1200 sq.ft, clear title, price Rs. 45 lakhs (negotiable), no brokers. Ph: 86680 90654.

ASHOK NAGAR, prime residential flat, with all amenities, for Sale, prominent location, agents excuse. Contact: SSS Prime Properties Ph: 81221 12853.

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90922 78146

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WEST MAMABLAM, near Station Road/Thambiah Road, approximately 1600 sq.ft, new flat, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, lift, covered car park, for sale, contact consultant Ph: 97101 04967, 86101 46943.

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RENTAL

WEST MAMBALAM, near 5 Lights, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, lift, covered car park, for rent. Ph: 99627 01967.

T.NAGAR, Mangesh Street, Lalith Apartment, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, ground floor, semi furnished, 2-wheeler parking, 24 hours water, rent Rs. 25000, advance 6 months. Ph: 97310 71650, 97310 70814.

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T.NAGAR, prime location, single bedroom, semi furnished, 3rd floor, lift, suitable for small family/office. Ph: 80560 00433.

KODAMBAKKAM, Rangarajapuram Main Road, proximity to Kodambakkam Railway Station, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 650 sq.ft, 1st floor, semi-furnished flat, 24 hours water, rent Rs. 21000. Ph: 94459 29799.

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WEST MAMBALAM, Lakshmi Street, Mahalakshmi Flats, Stage 2, single bedroom flat, 3rd floor, lift, 2-wheeler parking only, rent Rs. 12000, Brahmins/vegetarians. Ph: 98403 51880.

WEST MAMABALAM, Vasudevapuram Street, near 5 lights, south facing, duplex house, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1060 sq.ft, covered car park, ground floor, big hall, modular kitchen, and bathroom, mezzanine: huge bedroom with attached bath, plus another bedroom with attached bath, vegetarians only, rent Rs. 30000. Ph: 99404 31144, 90031 01554.

T. NAGAR
Giri Road,
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WEST MAMBALAM, Sai Castle, Govindan Road, near Annamalai Hospital, 1200 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, lift, open car park, rent Rs. 40000. Ph: 80561 71858, 96770 40061.

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WEST MAMABALAM, Subramanian Street, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, 1st floor flat, lift, balcony, semi-furnished, rent Rs. 18000, including maintenance, Brahmins only, no brokers. Ph: 94444 95366.

WEST MAMABALAM, BRP 1st Street, Abirami Flats, 700 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, lift, rent Rs. 17000, balcony. Ph: 98414 15481.

WEST MAMBALAM, near Duraiswamy Subway, Vasudevapuram Street, individual duplex house, 2600 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2 car parks, two 3 Phase EB, south facing, immediate occupation, residential/commercial Brahmins/ vegetarians. Ph: 98418 10235.

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WEST K.K.NAGAR, opp. Double Petrol Bunk, near Manoj Bhavan/ shops/schools, 3 bedrooms apartment, spacious hall, kitchen, 2 baths, 2 balconies, sunlight, north facing entrance, semi furnished. Ph: 88257 26303.

ASHOK NAGAR, 33rd Street, near Aavin Point, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1192 sq.ft, 1st floor, north facing, covered car parking. Ph: 90032 14244.

T.NAGAR, Hindi Prachar Sabha Road, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2150 sq.ft, ground floor, open car park, south facing. Ph: 90032 14244.

WEST MAMBALAM, near 7th Avenue, (Ashok Nagar) prime residential flat, with all amenities, for rent, agents excuse. Contact: SSS Prime Properties Ph: 81221 12853.

ASHOK NAGAR, Raghava Reddy Colony, opp. R6 Kumaran Nagar Police Station, 1200 sq.ft, independent house, ground floor, 1 drawing cum bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious hall, kitchen, rent Rs. 27000 (nego.), Brahmins/pure vegetarian. Contact: Owner Ph: 99405 27099.

T.NAGAR, Vysar Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 1200 sq.ft, ground floor, south facing, individual house, rent Rs. 35000, maintenance Rs. 1000. Contact: Agent Ph: 99621 07304.

ASHOK NAGAR, Raghava Reddy Colony, nr R6 Police Station, 1450 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms flat, 3 bathrooms, 1st floor, woodwork, car park. 93618 41024.

KK NAGAR, Nesapakkam Annai Sathya Nagar 1st Main Road, near PSBB School/Gerocery Shop, ground floor,1 bedroom, 600 sq.ft, semi furnished, complete wood work, tiles, western toilet, metro/bore water, bike park, EB separate, camera, rent Rs. 12000, lease Rs. 10 lakhs, office Rs. 20000. Ph: 98419 27338, 99419 99191.

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Preschool students interact with conservancy staff

Little Popsicles Preschool (3/5, Ayyappan Street, West Mambalam) recently organised a meet for their students with a conservancy staff of Chennai Corporation.

Its Founder said that the meet with the students was arranged to nurture in them civic sense and community responsibility at their nascent stage.

She said that the meet and interaction helped the children understand the importance of respecting community helpers, keeping their surroundings clean, avoiding littering, and expressing gratitude to conservancy workers who work tirelessly every day.

Other than the regular curriculum, we will continue such social lessons for the students to inculcate in them a sense of social responsibility and moral values, she said.

For admission and more details, contact Little Popsicles Preschool in 93452 13722.

Typewriting Institutes of bygone era

By M.R. Anand

Typing institutes proliferated in Madras in the 1960s. Students those days made a beeline to typing institutes after their SSLC Exam.

The day I joined the typing school, the instructor led me to an old bare chested Underwood Champion typewriter.

It looked like an old sick man sitting on a hospital bed counting his ribs and days. Typewriters set aside by typing institutes for beginners were just like driving school cars - old and run-down. Typebars are supposed to rise from the well one at a time. In the case of my vantage typewriter, it was two or even three at a time. This resulted in typebars getting entangled with one another often. I had to disengage them like a referee who separates wrestlers in a boxing ring.

Even as I started the first lesson asdfgf ;lkjhj my left middle finger got caught between keys of d and f. Hearing my 'ouch' the instructor came running to me. While extricating my finger he told me sarcastically, "You should type without not only looking at the keys but also at the girls" He was a biased bespectacled cobra. When it came to me "All your fingers are thumbs" he hissed but when it came to the girl sitting next to me "What nimble and long fingers you possess? Learn Veena you will be a great Veena Vidwan like Chittibabu" he drooled.

Whenever a comely girl joined our school a dozen boys crossed over to our school from rival ones. While there were many girls who made many heads of boys turn, there was a boy named Kannan who made the ears of many girls of our institute prick up when he walked in and started typing at hurricane speed.

"It is like standing under a rail bridge when an express train is hurtling overhead" A girl raved. 'He is typing like lightning' another extolled. He became a bigger hero when he won the Sarasvati Pooja annual typing race. It was as if he was a jockey and his typewriter was a horse. As expected, he finished typing his stuff in half the time allotted to contestants. As for me I was the last man typing. Kannan received a standing ovation from girls when he received the trophy. I learnt my first lesson in women psychology. Boys fall down for appearance and girls stand up for performance. As those days co-ed schools were rare, it was at typing institutes that boys got an opportunity to sit next to girls. Typewriting institutes were known those days as fertile breeding grounds for teenage romances most of which of course just withered off or got nipped in the bud.

The whole world might have forgotten typewriters but I have not. They helped me a lot when I was a budding writer.

I tilt my hat to Halda, Remington and Godrej. *M.R. Anand is a past resident of T. Nagar. His email id is mr.m.r.anand@gmail.com.*

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Local girl sings with special children to set a world record

By Our Staff Reporter

V. G. Yuvalakshmi (resident of Ashok Nagar) was among the singers who participated in a day-long concert along with the differently abled students of Surya School of Music (Mylapore) to set a new Nova World Record in singing by special children at a program held in Sir Pitty Thyagaraya Hall (T. Nagar) on Aug. 2.

It was the 300th record-breaking concert by the special children.

The awards accompanying the title were presented by N. Panchapakesan (Founder of Sai Sankara Group of Matrimonials, Ashok Nagar).

Yuvalakshmi's father K. Gopinath (Founder, Tamilnadu Udavikkaram Association for the Welfare of Differently Abled), Dr. H. V. Hande (Founder, Hande Group of Hospitals, Shenoy Nagar) and Prabha Gurumurthy (Founder, Surya School of Music) were present. Yuvalakshmi is proficient in both Carnatic and Hindustani classical vocals and is also learning bharatanatyam. She is a budding creative artist in drawing and painting. She has lent her voice to a number of Tamil and English commercial jingles and advertisements.

Prabha Gurumurthy (granddaughter of legendry actor and singer T.R. Mahalingam) founded Surya School of Music (Mylapore) exclusively for teaching music to differently abled children.

In connection with its 5th anniversary, its students suffering from autism and other learning difficulties presented a day-long concert with full orchestra.

Her contact number is 89391 17387.

Workshop held on 'Renal Pathology and Transplant Immunology'

By Our Staff Reporter

The Madras Medical Mission (Mogappair) and Tamilnadu Kidney Research Foundation (TANKER Foundation) (G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) jointly organised 'Renal Pathology and Transplant Immunology' workshop in the premises of MMM on Aug. 8.

The workshop, headed by Dr. Georgi Abraham (Founder Trustee, TANKER Foundation) brought together nephrologists, trainees, pathologists, nephropathologists, transplant physicians and surgeons, immunologists, and other medical professionals for an intensive academic update on contemporary renal pathology and transplantation.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Mumtaz Patel (President, Royal College of Physicians, London).

Dr. S. Pushkala (Vice-Chancellor, Tamilnadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University) A. Latha Kumaraswami (Managing Trustee, TANKER Foundation) and other senior doctors attached to the Foundation were present.

Corporation puts property tax revision on hold

By Our Staff Reporter

Following stiff and widespread public opposition to the unannounced revision of property tax assessments, Chennai Corporation has put the reassessment process on hold with immediate effect.

The steep surge in tax, and the manner in which it was imposed, drew widespread criticism on social media, with several residents posting details of the demand notice that were sent to them in the recent days.

A Corporation official said that using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, satellite data, official records, and the self-declaration drive, it had identified more than 3.5 lakh property owners who were paying under-assessed or incorrect amounts, including 1.5 lakh residential property owners who had self-declared discrepancies in property values.

After it triggered a strong owners, Corporation put the opposition from property reassessment on hold.

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