



GANESH CHATHURTHI PANDALS ACROSS CITY ARE A CURIOUS MIX OF DEVOTION, CREATIVITY | 4

GOVT'S SMALL SAVINGS SCHEMES LOSE THEIR LURE IN TAMIL NADU, ANDHRA PRADESH | 9

FRUITS OF THE SEA

SL Shanth Kumar



FIRST COME, FIRST CAUGHT: Fishermen return to shore with the day's catch at Kasimedu fishing harbour on Friday morning

Court grants anticipatory bail to DMDK legislator

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The Madras high court on Tuesday granted anticipatory bail to DMDK MLA D Anagai Murugesan, who had been accused by a party office-bearer of stealing a gold chain after a quarrel.

Justice R Mala, granting the relief to Murugesan and his associate R Valarpirai Chozhan, asked him to execute a personal bond for ₹10,000 and furnish two sureties for a like sum each.

G Santhosh Kumar, counsel for Murugesan said a man named Ashok Kumar who had lodged the complaint on September 2 had informed police the same day that the gold chain was found lying on a hotel floor and that the MLA had nothing to do with it. Despite Ashok Kumar's offer to withdraw the complaint, the Anagaputhur police did not allow him to withdraw it due to political reasons, he said.

"The complaint is false and it was filed to harass the MLA and damage his reputation," Santhosh Kumar said. According to the complaint, Ashok Kumar and the accused duo got into an altercation at a hotel near Chromepet bus stand. The complaint was later received and an FIR registered on Ashok Kumar's allegations.

Murugesan said though he and Ashok Kumar went to the police station after being called for inquiry and told them that it was over and the gold chain did not go missing, the police went ahead only to harass him.

Collagen Film Developed From Puffer Fish Heals Burns Faster

Wasted fish skin now treats your wounds

Saradha Mohan Kumar | TNN

TS Uma, a scientist at the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) was more than just amused when she watched a television show last year on how puffer fish become a big ball by drinking water to avoid being eaten by a predator. It showed the elasticity of its skin due to the presence of collagen. That kept her thinking on why they can't be used for medical purposes that need collagen support. The result today is a wound dressing material. Uma kept travelling to Nagapattinam to procure puffer fish, which is considered inedible. Found in the deep sea, puffer fish get into fishing nets, and are thrown away.

CLRI IS WORKING WITH SANKARA NETHRALAYA TO USE ANIMAL WASTE TO MAKE CORNEAL IMPLANTS APART FROM OTHER HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS

"From the skin of puffer fish, I could develop a collagen film and sponge for dressing wounds. The film has the quality to absorb medicine and it can be used on burn wounds to clean and heal them," she said.

With the collagen film, the wound has to be dressed only once in three days, unlike the conventional method that involves daily dressing. "The amount of collagen present in the film can assist the skin to grow faster," said Uma, who has also developed keratin sponges and films, used

HIDE TO HEAL

Leather research is contributing to medical care by helping develop new products

1 BONE GRAFT

Made from | Bone waste in slaughter house

How | Bone is demineralised leaving behind collagen powder, which is mixed with polymers to improve strength and made into grafts

Uses | Dental implant; repair bone loss caused by fractures; rebuild bones in hips, spine, joints

2 COLLAGEN SPONGE

Made from | Chrome shavings waste

How | Leather from animal skin is tanned with chemicals. The waste obtained during the process - chrome shavings - is de-chromed to remove toxins. Collagen is extracted and moulded into sponges

Uses | Wound-dressing material

3 COLLAGEN FILM

Made from | Skin of puffer fish

How | Skin of puffer fish (rich in

collagen) used to make films or sponges

Uses | Wound-dressing, skin regeneration

4 KERATIN FILM

Made from | Hair and horn waste in slaughterhouses

How | Keratin extracted from hair and horn is made into films or sponges.

Uses | Wound-dressing. Keratin has skin-regenerative properties

5 CORNEAL IMPLANT

Made from | Fish scales

How | Collagen extracted from fish scales.

Density reduced to make thin films

Uses | Corneal repair and regeneration



They live to tell the tale of life after depression

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Sangeetha's* pretty face is full of life but there is a deep scar curving down her neck - a grim reminder that she attempted suicide two years ago.

She is among a group of 15 suicide survivors who volunteered to narrate their experiences at Madras Christian College on Tuesday.

All of them tried to end their lives by consuming acid and are undergoing treatment at the department of surgical gastroenterology at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital.

Savitha*, a volunteer from Kancheepuram who works as

a technician at a private laboratory, said, "Family problems drove me to attempt suicide. It was a split-second decision but I have realised that it is better to face the challenges of life than succumb to it."

BREAKING BARRIERS

The group of volunteers from different parts of Tamil Nadu comprised students, private sector employees and housewives. From a petty fight with a sibling to admonishment by a family member, from marital problems to academic pressure, the reasons why they attempted to end their lives varied.

Dr S M Chandramohan, head of the department, said consuming acid caused extensive damage to the food pipe and large intestines. "They couldn't swallow and required treatment for several months. As reconstructive surgery is risky, their example instills hope in other patients undergoing treatment. They reach out to the public which helps prevent suicides," he said.

The department has been conducting the awareness programme every year since 2003. This year's event was in consonance with the theme of Suicide Prevention Day 2013, stigma is the major barrier to suicide prevention. (*Names changed)

CBSE advances aptitude test to Nov 2013

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The Central Board of Secondary Education has advanced the date for the Students' Global Aptitude Index test from January 2014 to November 2013. This is the fourth edition of the test.

The effort has been made to give students ample time to decide on the subjects they want to choose in Class 11, based on the results of the test. Despite requests to make the test mandatory for all students, the board has decided to keep it optional. The test

helps Class 10 students pick the right subjects in senior secondary classes based on their aptitude without succumbing to peer pressure or parental expectations.

Usually schools start the admission process even before the boards begin in March. Students have said that by the time the aptitude test is conducted in January and the results reach them, it is too late to change the choice of subject because seats in all streams get occupied.

A release from the CBSE said that around 4 lakh stu-

dents have taken the test in the last three years, and a survey by the board has shown that 88% of those who took the test relied on it to choose their majors in Class 11.

In Chennai, however, school heads said that a minority choose to take the test, and an even smaller number go by it. V Gowrilakshmi, principal of Chinmaya Vidyalaya in Anna Nagar, said that of 160 students in high school, around 30 take it. "Most do not want to take it, because they have already made their choice, and don't

want anything to confuse them," she said.

Suma Padmanaban, principal of Asan Memorial Senior Secondary School on Greames Road, seconded the opinion. "The test doesn't always change the students' mind. They don't accept that they could be suited for something other than engineering or medicine," she said.

Schools can register online for the SGAI test by paying ₹100 per student till October 15. Students can log on to www.cbse.nic.in for more details on the test.

New trains introduced for Onam, Puja

Chennai: Southern Railway has introduced weekly superfast special trains to clear the extra rush of passengers during the Onam and Puja holidays.

Kamakhya - Chennai Central - Kamakhya Weekly Superfast Special will leave Kamakhya at 2pm on Mondays on September 9, 16, 23 and 30; October 7, 14, 21, 28 and November 4, 11, 18, 25 and reach Chennai Central at 2.55pm on Wednesdays.

The return train will leave Central at 11am on Thursdays on September 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and November 7, 14, 21, 28 and reach Kamakhya at 12.30pm on Saturdays. Reservation will start on September 11. TNN

Now, rate performance of conservancy workers online

Christin Mathew Philip | TNN

Chennai: Residents can now rate the performance of conservancy operations in their area through an online system introduced across the city by the corporation to improve garbage clearance.

The residents can visit www.chennai.corporation.gov.in and, after considering factors like sweeping, collection by tricycle, bin clearance and bin overflow, say what they think about the performance. Their opinions, ranging from 'very good' to 'poor', will help keep tabs on workers. "Residents can also upload pictures of the condition of their streets on the website," said an official.

The corporation's complaint cell 1913 continues to be flooded with complaints about piling garbage from various areas. Officials say absenteeism of conservancy workers is among the reasons for the increase in such complaints. "If the rating of workers in a particular area

is poor, we will seek an explanation from the officials and workers. Necessary action will be taken based on residents' feedback

Corporation official

is poor, we will seek an explanation from the officials and workers. Necessary action will be taken based on residents' feedback," he added.

P Srinivasulu, general secretary of CITU-affiliated union of corporation workers, blamed the civic body for poor garbage clearance. "Many areas, especially the newly-inducted localities, have been facing a severe shortage of workers and tricycles and this is affecting the quality of work."

Some residents say the

new system will only help residents of posh localities. "Areas in North Chennai where internet penetration is low will not benefit. Officials should conduct surprise inspections in various localities," said Ravi Kumar of Madhavaram.

The civic body along with Ramky Enviro Limited recently created www.cmsw.co.in to check the status of garbage bins in Kodambakkam, Teyanpet and Adyar zones. Any resident in these zones seeing an uncleared garbage bin on his/her street can lodge a complaint in "bins on map" in this website.

Officials say they plan to expand the online tracking of garbage bins to all zones.

"We are now geo-tagging garbage bins in Royapuram. After it is completed, we will distribute smartphones to conservancy workers to take pictures of cleared bins. People will be able to track the bins and file complaints," an official said.

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Man held for killing partner

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A 22-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday for killing his live-in partner at Vepery.

Police secured Karthik, 22, for allegedly beating up S Velankanni, 34. Police said that both Karthik and Velankanni were married to other people but had been living with each other for the last two months.

On Sunday, Karthik fought with Velankanni as he suspected her of having another affair. In the argument that ensued, he beat her up with a log. Velankanni sustained injuries on her head. Her mother took her to Rajiv Gandhi government general hospital where she died on Tuesday afternoon.

The Vepery police who initially registered an attempt to murder case altered it to murder and arrested Karthik.

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Showers increase water supply to reservoirs

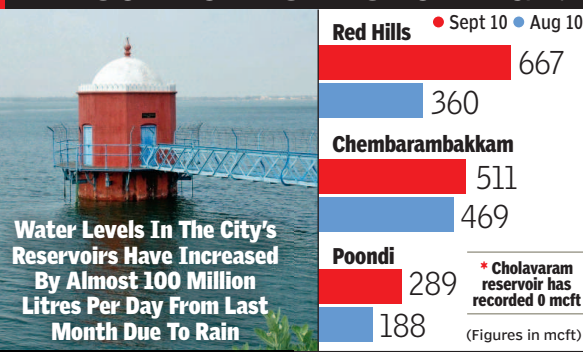
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Umbrellas remained folded on Tuesday as a light drizzle teased the city all day. The showers not only spelt pleasant weather but also sent water trickling into the city's four key reservoirs.

"The worst is over. During the summer we were excessively dependant on groundwater as our surface water options had run dry. Now we are able to draw more from the reservoirs," said a Metrowater official.

The low pressure area that had formed off the Andhra Pradesh coast has extended to around 6km above sea level, and will keep northern parts of Tamil Na-

DID SOMEONE SAY SHORTAGE?



du wet for the next three days, said Met officials.

"We are to get near or above normal rainfall for the next three days, but the low pressure will drift away after causing some rainfall. It is

not a major phenomenon," said Y E A Raj, deputy director general, India Meteorological department (Chennai).

The entire state has received a good amount of rainfall over the past 10 days.

On Monday, Tambaram alone registered 3cm of rain.

Although intermittent rain during the summer blunted the searing heat, the reservoirs remained dry as the amount of rain was insufficient. "The rain this month has reversed the trend with increased inflows into the reservoirs in Chembarambakkam, Red Hills and Poondi," said the Metrowater official. The civic body has increased water supply by almost 100 million litres per day over the last month.

On September 1, the total level in the four reservoirs stood at 1,327 million cubic feet (mcf). The levels inched up marginally to 1,477 mcf on Tuesday against the total capacity of 11,057mcf.

The rains have added 300 to 400 cusecs of water and the overcast sky reduced the loss due to evaporation. About four mcf of water is lost in each reservoir daily due to evaporation. One cubic foot of water is equivalent to 28 litres.

The rain brought the maximum temperature on Tuesday four degrees below normal. While Nungambakkam recorded a maximum temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius, Meenambakkam recorded 30.7 degrees Celsius. The humidity remained high at 85%. "The rain is a blessing, but the weather turns sultry the moment it stops raining," said Arun K, a commuter.

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