

affairs of city

### Techie kills self over dowry

**Chennai:** A 24-year-old BE graduate committed suicide on Saturday in Tiruvottiyur due to alleged dowry harassment by her husband and in laws within six months of her marriage. The deceased, D. Poornima is the daughter of Durai Raj.

According to the police, Poornima was in love with Sathesh Prabu (27) of Mylapore and married him on April 29. Sathesh Prabu is an M.Sc. graduate and works with a private company. Sathesh and his mother Indirani (50) allegedly demanded Rs 50,000 as dowry after two months of the wedding and two days ago Poornima was sent to her father's home by her husband to get the money.

"The victim told her father about the incident and isolated herself from her family. On Saturday night when no one was at home, she used a saree to hang herself. We have arrested Sathesh Prabu", the police said.

### Pimp held with fake documents

**Chennai:** The city police on Sunday arrested a 30-year-old pimp from Jafferkhanpet for producing fake identity documents and attempting to get a prostitute released from a rehabilitation home here on Sunday.

According to the police, the accused Aleem Shanu approached the warden of the home in T. Nagar and told her that she was Priya, a close relative of Saraswathi (name changed) who was recently picked up for indulging in the flesh trade. The pimp was exposed by a few other inmates who identified her and alerted the authorities. Investigations are on.

## OVER RS 7 CR FROM US BASED NGO ROBBED CSI kin swindles tsunami aid funds

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

**Oct. 11:** The city police on Sunday arrested the daughter of the former general secretary of Church of South India and her relative for allegedly swindling over Rs 7 crore from the fund allotted by a US NGO for rehabilitation of tsunami victims.

The arrested were identified as Ms Benedicta and Robert Sunil. According to a press release from the central crime branch of Chennai police, the arrest was made on a complaint from Rev Moses Jayakumar, currently the general secretary of CSI. In his complaint



Benedicta

it was alleged that former CSI general secretary had swindled nearly Rs 7.5 crore by spending on cars and bungalows.

"The American NGO named Episcopal Relief and Development had given Rs 1,763 crore to CSI for rehabilitation works like construction of houses for victims, medical assistance etc.

To implement the project, Ms Pauline Sathyamurthy and the former general secretary of CSI allegedly appointed her relatives with fancy salaries. Sathyamurthy was an employee in a bank. Her daughter, Mrs Benedicta is a doctor who resides in Royapettah. Her cousin Robert Sunil is from Sullurpet, Andhra Pradesh," the police said.

After arresting the two, sleuths from CCB seized two sport utility vehicles from the accused. "We are trying to find out the details of the assets of the accused to ascertain the exact amount of money they had swindled," the police said.

### New visa fraud busted, 8 held

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

**Oct. 11:** Immigration officials at the Chennai have unearthed a new kind of visa fraud in which passengers travel with original tourist visas to Colombo from where they would fly to Malaysia with fake work visas.

Airport officials stumbled upon eight men from Trichy and Perambalur districts who were to fly from Chennai to Colombo on Saturday night.

All in their 20s, the men had having tourist visas to travel to Colombo.

"But the officials became suspicious about the tourist status of the men and started questioning them. When interrogated, the passengers were found to be carrying fake work visas of Malaysia. They were told by their travel agent to go to Colombo as tourists. As soon as they reached the Sri Lankan capital they will discard the visa and use the fake Malaysian work visa to travel to Kuala Lumpur," an airport official said.

Immigration officials detained the eight passengers on Saturday night.

On Sunday, the passengers preferred to lodge a complaint against the travel agent who had reportedly given them the fake documents to travel after collecting Rs 50,000 from them promising to send them to Malaysia so that they could work there.

"We have registered a case against the agent based on the complaint from Shahul Rahman and seven others," the police said.

### Police nab 400 offenders

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

**Oct. 11:** Over 4,000 police personnel from the Chennai suburban police conducted a search operation right through Saturday night under the direct supervision of the Chennai suburban police commissioner S.R Jangid. The police arrested over 400 history sheeters and law offenders in the operation in suburban areas.

According to the police, several teams were formed on Saturday morning specially for the operation and they were given hour-based assignments, which they had to follow at night. An inspector was put in charge of a team and he was to report to an assistant commissioner. Even the control room and supporting staff were working throughout the night in support of the teams that were on the field.

### balancing act



A mother transports a brand new bicycle on her two-wheeler, along with her children, in Ambattur on Sunday. PHOTO: DC

### RTI camp organised by cops

**Chennai:** Dispelling the general notion that government organizations, especially the police, were against transparency in their work, the Tiruvallur district police conducted a seminar on "Right to Information Act" at Tiruvallur on Saturday.

Several college students, government staff and citizens from the area participated in the discussion that was presided by IG North Zone Mr Ashish Bhengera.

Speaking about the seminar, Tiruvallur SP M.C. Sarangan said, "We want to lead the public towards transparency in governance. Usually, public are of the opinion that police is not inclined to exposing its records. We want to prove that wrong."

### Forex trading co clerk robs cash

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

**Oct. 11:** The Chennai city police are on the lookout for a clerk of a foreign exchange trading company in T. Nagar for allegedly absconding with Rs 7 lakh on Saturday.

According to the police, M. Darani Babu (25) of Kottur had been working with a private foreign exchange trading company on Thiyagaraya road in T. Nagar.

He was assigned the job of depositing and encashing the traveler cheques, which were received by the company from its clients. The company holds an account with a private bank, which has its branch at Bazullah road in T. Nagar.

The accused used to go to the bank on working days and return with the money after encashing the travelers cheques at the bank.

"On Saturday morning he was sent to deposit travelers cheques worth Rs 7 lakh at the bank. The accused encashed the cheques and vanished with his

**"On Saturday morning he was sent to deposit travelers cheques worth Rs 7 lakh at the bank. The accused encashed the cheques and vanished with his employer's motorcycle. We suspect he is absconding with the money."**

police official

employer's motorcycle. We suspect that he is absconding with the money. The manager of the company waited for Darani till evening before lodging a complaint with us on Saturday night", a police official said.

On receiving the complaint from the manager of the foreign exchange trading company, the Mambalam police registered a case and is on the lookout for the accused.



The Chennai suburban police commissioner S.R Jangid, deputy commissioner R.Samuthirapandi and assistant commissioner S.Jeyakumar examines the pirated DVDs that were seized Sunday. PHOTO: DC

### Over 17,000 DVDs seized during raid

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

**Oct. 11:** The Chennai suburban police busted a DVD piracy racket and confiscated 57 DVD writers and over 17,000 DVDs of latest Tamil and English movies in Ambattur and Avadi areas on Saturday night.

Two persons - R.Venkatesan (42) and S.Sankar (35), both from Ambattur - were arrested by the police for running the DVD piracy production unit.

According to the police, a special police team was formed, which raided a house at Rajendra Prasad Street in Vinayagapuram in Ambattur on Saturday.

The accused were producing DVDs of recently released Tamil

**The accused were producing DVDs of recently released Tamil movies like Unnaippol Oruvan and Arumugam in the house. Over 17,000 pirated DVDs were confiscated.**

movies like *Unnaippol Oruvan* and *Arumugam* in the house.

Over 17,000 pirated DVDs and the equipment used for copying the movies were confiscated from the spot.

The accused were remanded to judicial custody and the central crime branch wing of the Chennai suburban police is investigating the case.

### INDIA SUDAR

## Youth come together to help underprivileged kids

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

**Oct. 11:** A group of young professionals not content with just seeing their careers and bank balances grow, have taken up an ambitious programme to uplift the orphans of Chennai.

A beginning was made on Sunday with them bringing several of these orphans to an extensive session in arts, science and culture, holding competitions for them and applauding the happy smiles on those hitherto neglected faces.

The young pros call their group India Sudar (flame). Its convener Udhaya Kumar, an engineer with a Bengaluru IT major, says, "This pet project was

**India Sudar has already deployed teachers to help village schools, opened up 'student-to-student' tuition centres where senior students help the juniors.**

planned for giving opportunities to these unprivileged children to show their skills. We were surprised finding several state-run orphanage teachers bringing in more participants than required. It showed their enthusiasm and we are determined to

take this initiative to higher levels."

India Sudar has already deployed teachers to help village schools, opened up 'student-to-student' tuition centres where senior students help the juniors with their lessons, besides providing free computer classes across Tamil Nadu.

It was like a little carnival at Sunday's show. "I am happy, I have Indians taking care of my green cover," read a bubble calling itself Globe-2009. Next to it was Globe-2009 and it had a sad note: 'Indians are polluting my green cover. I feel very sad.' But it's 13-year-old artist, K. Koteswaran, class eight, was beaming because there were so many pausing to admire his work.

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