

Madurai runs for Green Marathon



Participants at the Green Marathon organised by the Vickram College of Engineering in Madurai on Sunday

Express News Service
Madurai, August 29

AS many as 1,900 persons participated in the Green Marathon organised by Vickram College of Engineering to promote a greener environment. The mini marathon was flagged off by S N Sivakumar, Dean, Government Rajaji Hospital at the Race Course Grounds today.

S Kumaravel, Assistant

Commissioner of Police distributed prizes to the winners along with M K S Sreenivasan, Chairman of

Vickram College of Engineering, S R Vijayasreenivas, Director of the college, S R Rajasanthosh, Secretary and M S Vickram, Joint Secretary and event coordinator.

First prize winners got ₹ 1,000, second prize winners ₹ 750 and ₹ 500 was given to those who came third.

In the men below 30 category, R Jayakarthish won the first place, M Kasimayan and R Dinesh Kumar bagged the 2nd and 3rd places. In men above 30, R Kannan, B Murthy and P S Sundarapandian won the first, second and

third places respectively.

In the women's category, N Manjula won the first place with R Annalakshmi and R Ananthi coming second and third. In the differently abled category, S Gurumurthy came first, Syed Abutahir and Ramesh Kumar were the second and third places. In skating, T Manoj won first prize, R Dakshin came second, while Mohammed Yasik came third.

In skating girls, Deepthy K Babu won the first place and N Reenu Kruthika won second place.

₹ 1.3-cr facelift for Thirumalai Naicker Mahal

Express News Service
Madurai, August 29

THE Union Government has sanctioned ₹ 1.3 crore for renovation of Thirumalai Naicker Mahal in Madurai and released the funds to the Department of Tourism.

A resolution seeking funds for renovation work was passed at a Corporation Council meeting recently.

According to corporation officials, the renovation work would begin within two months.

The major works in this phase are setting up of a new park on the Mahal premises at a cost of ₹ 20.5 lakh, introducing an ultra-modern solar lighting facility, laying of paver blocks and renovation of the entrances to the Mahal on the east, west and south.

These works would facilitate the tourists to use these entrances and also enhance the architectural beauty of the place.

Special arrangements have been made to allow entry of tourists to the terrace

of the palace. Some spots inside the palace have been selected for laying special grass meadows. In addition, the Thulasiram Park in front of the Mahal would be given a complete facelift at a cost of ₹ 12.90 lakh.

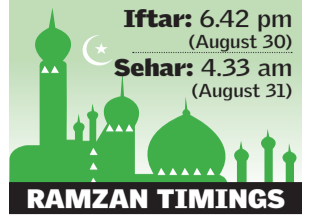
The drive to renovate this historical structure was initiated due to a series of complaints from the public and the feedback obtained from tourists regarding the ill-maintained structure.

CPM MLA N Nanmaran had allocated ₹ 10 lakh to-

wards construction of toilets.

As the fund was inadequate to carry out the renovation work, the Directorate of Tourism sought funds from the Centre. This request was granted. It may be recalled that the interiors of the Mahal were recently renovated at ₹ 3 crore and the sound and light show relaunched.

With the availability of more funds, the tourism officials feel that more tourists would land in the place.



Fake currency seized

Virudhunagar: Two persons have been arrested and fake currency with a face value of ₹ 3 lakh seized from them near Krishnankovil. Police said a close watch was kept in the area following reports of circulation of fake currency.

Gandhi Memorial Museum gets ready for ₹ 2.5 crore renovation

Prince Jebakumar | ENS
Madurai, August 29

THE Central Government has granted ₹ 2.5 crore towards renovation of the Gandhi Memorial Museum and the works are set to begin soon.

The museum has been trying for this grant for a long time and when P Chidambaram was the Union Finance Minister, the proposal was forwarded through him. Even after becoming Union Home Minister Chidambaram continued to extend his support, as the museum was the first one to be established in memory of Mahatma Gandhiji.

With his help, the Union Government's Department of Culture has released 50 per cent of the grant which

is ₹ 1.3 crore with the condition that the museum should contribute twenty per cent of the total cost of the renovation project. The grant was released a few months back and the museum has collected so far ₹ 30 lakh.

The major work is erecting a roof at the Open Air Theatre which would protect the audience from the elements.

Other works include, renovation of the Gandhi Kudil, a replica of the hut where Mahatma Gandhi once lived in Sabarmati Ashram. Souvenir and a curio shop will be set up in the museum which would sell photographs, portraits, miniature models, t-shirts and pamphlets on Gandhiji.

Maintenance of the lawn would require enormous

amount of water and therefore, provision for water supply is also included in this project.

Speaking to Express, Vice-Chairman of the Museum, M Mariappan, said that the works taken up now will be completed before March 31, 2011 and the rest of the grant will be released only on completion of the works.

Further, he said that the renovation works will be inaugurated in September during which the General Body meeting will be convened and Chairman of the museum, N Mahalingam will take part.

The renovation will be carried out without sacrificing the aesthetics and heritage look of the main building, he added.

A ward off the corporation radar

V K Anusree | ENS
Madurai, August 29

THOUGH officials at the Madurai Corporation say that the drinking water and under ground drainage works have been completed, more than 200 families residing in ward 4, coming under North zone of the Corporation have a different story to tell.

Kavitha Nagar located opposite to the Mattuthavani Integrated bus terminal is encompassed by the RTO office, Reporters Colony, Karpaga Nagar and CSI Arts and Science College for Women.

When Express visited the place, the residents had a litany of woes. "We are fully dependent on the residents of the nearby Karpaga Nagar for drinking water", Veerakumar, a resident of Kavitha Nagar said. Pipelines were laid during the first Vaigai project itself but no connections were given to the households.

When asked about the status of the underground drainage works, the residents pointed out that they don't even have open drainage. UGD works are over in all the surrounding areas, they said citing Karpaga Nagar, streets 5 to 8 of Kavitha Nagar and Reporters Colony as examples.

Residents of streets 1 to 4 of Kavitha Nagar have to wade through knee deep water if it rains for more than an hour, said Alagarsamy, a merchant, who resides in the area.

There are no proper roads in this area. Though there was a proposal for a 60 feet road from Pudur Aiyappan temple to the EB Colony main

There are street lights in all the four streets but none of them are in working condition

road, it remained a non-starter as the CSI College was not ready to donate 30 feet of land from their property even though the residents were willing to provide their share.

There are street lights in all the four streets but none of them are in working condition.

According to Marimuthu, who works in the Corporation's water pumping station in Santhapettai, complaints lodged with the ward councillor Rengammal and zonal chairman Isakkimuthu have been futile. "We have even represented our problems to the Mayor in person during grievance redressal meetings but no action has been taken", he said.

When asked, Corporation Chief Engineer K Sakthivel said that the area was still under the unapproved layout of the Madurai Corporation since Kavitha Nagar is part of the Karpaga Nagar extension area. "Development activities can be carried out only if the residents have paid more than 50 percent of the development charges", he added.

Regarding why basic facilities have been provided to streets 5 to 8 of the area leaving the first four streets, he said that action will be taken after studying the matter in detail.

INDIA SUDAR

IT professionals log on to education for all

J Arockiaraj | ENS
Madurai, August 29

MOST software professionals would prefer to spend weekends, possibly at home or chilling out with friends. But there is a select group of tech savvy nerds who are found in rural government schools or orphanages educating and motivating young children during weekends. Welcome to the world of India Sudar, a non governmental, non religious and non profitable social welfare organization founded by a few committed software professionals who felt that they have to give something back to the society.

India Sudar team was here in the city on Saturday visiting Samayanal Government Higher Secondary

School and Ponmudiyar Corporation Higher Secondary School interacting with the students and organising a session on career guidance.

The team headed by Udhayakumar interacted with 700 students in Samayanallur and 170 students in Ponmudiyar school. Udhayakumar was accompanied by Karthikeyan, Krishnan, Arun, Suresh and Shiva. Of them Krishnan is the only non IT professional. He is a retired teacher from TVS School and he joined India Sudar after his daughter-in-law in US referred him to the project.

Talking to 'Express', V Udhayakumar, Founder and Managing Trustee of India Sudar said that along with his friends, T Sargunan, Karuppasamy, Suresh R, Parthiban and Seetharaman, he founded the organ-

isation. "In 2004, we came together with a serious mission of empowering the rural children with education and we started India Sudar", he recalls. Today, the organisation has 1,043 members with 85 Learning Centres in remote villages spread across the country and 9 computer centres in rural areas.

"Basically we are all from rural areas and after establishing a career in the IT field, we wanted to do something for the society and we started concentrating on education which empowered us to get a career", Udhayakumar says.

The organisation website, www.indiasudar.org reveals most of the members are from top IT companies and these dedicated members contribute from their salaries to run the

various activities.

The three major activities they are involved in are teacher deployment in the learning centres, distributing education related materials like note books and stationery to rural government schools and conducting training programmes like career guidance, spoken English etc to rural students.

"We have 184 teachers deployed in the learning centres and we target 8th and 9th students, so that they get good marks in SSLC", he said. These professionals also design the curriculum for their computer centres and provide educational CDs. "Interested aspirants who want to join India Sudar can surf our website, www.indiasudar.org to know more about us", he added.

Goods worth ₹ 27 lakh gutted

Virudhunagar, August 29

FIRE erupted in a private aluminium powder factory destroyed ₹ 27 lakh worth of goods near here at the late hours on Saturday.

The factory at Villipathri near Virudhunagar was processing aluminium powder from aluminium biscuits. Later, the powder was stored in barrels at a godown.

Under these circumstances, a sudden fire in the godown spread quickly damaging all the 379 barrels stored there. It was said that each barrel was worth of ₹ 6,700. On information, fire brigade from Virudhunagar rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

ACTION PLEASE



G R RADHAKRISHNAN

Garbage seen littered on the bund at Vandiyur tank

Garbage makes a comeback

No development work can succeed without proper follow up measures being initiated by the concerned authority. This dictate holds true for the massive drive being undertaken to keep Madurai clean (Thoonga Maduraiyai Thooimaiyaakkuvom). Under the programme, the district ad-

ministration with the help of NGOs, students and locals have been cleaning water bodies, government offices and other public utility areas.

The cleaning drive was conducted recently at the Melamada - Vadiyur area too and Vandiyur tank was also cleaned under the project. Voluntary workers, who took part in the programme conducted awareness procession

on keeping the surroundings clean and distributed plastic bags to the households in the area to dispose solid domestic wastes.

Unfortunately, within a month of the cleaning programme, the bund of the tank can now be seen littered with garbage. The garbage dumping bin provided by the Corporation is full and garbage can be seen scattered even on the road.

Though follow up measures were assured during the cleaning drive, no action has been taken to ensure the cleanliness of the areas covered under the clean Madurai programme. It is important that the district administration ensures a proper follow up measure with the help of Exnora, the NGO in charge of the programme.

'Action Please'

Please send your letter by post, or by hand delivery, to
The New Indian Express
1/2A Samiar Toppu,
Ramnad High Road, Viraganur,
Madurai-625 009
or by Fax to 0452 - 2311200
or e-mail to:
expressmdu@expressbuzz.com

MKU set to establish 11 community colleges

Madurai, August 29

The Madurai Kamaraj University has proposed to establish 11 community colleges in the Arts and Science colleges affiliated to the university in the four districts coming under its jurisdiction.

According to a press release, this has been done as per the advise of the Department of Higher Education. The university held two rounds of discussion with technical institutions which were ready to implement the scheme as a social responsibility for the region in which the colleges are located. Eleven affiliated colleges - Sourashtra College, Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, Thiagarajar College, Fatima College, M K University College, Sri Meenakshi Government College for Women, Government Arts College, VVV College for Women, ANJA College, Rajapalayam Rajus' College and Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College - and 9 technical institutions - KLN Polytechnic College, Thanapan-dianna Polytechnic College, Thiagarajar Engineering College, MAVMM Polytechnic College, Latha Mathavan Group of Institution, SVN Polytechnic College, ANJA Polytechnic College, Manjammal Polytechnic College and Thenni Kammar Sangam Polytechnic - have come forward to train the unskilled youth for a period of six months in ten identified trades. Thus six colleges in Madurai district,

four colleges in Virudhunagar district and one college in Theni district have come forward to give training in welding, automobile mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning, cell phone servicing and TV mechanism, plumbing and wiring, computer hardware and networking, DTP, tailoring and garment making, masonry and bar bending. These colleges will implement the scheme by training one batch of students in the specified trade without any external funding.

According to a press release there will be a tripartite arrangement among the Madurai Kamaraj University, affiliated college establishing community college and the polytechnic college providing technical training.

MKU will undertake coordination between the affiliated college and the technical institution. It would also in coordination with trade associations identify employable skills for the youth and train the trainers of the affiliated colleges in entrepreneurship components.

The affiliated college will establish the community college and after imparting training to the targeted youth would distribute the university certificates and organise campus placement. The polytechnic colleges would ensure suitable infrastructure and provide other facilities.

The release also added that the university would formally launch this scheme in September.

Two killed in mishap

Madurai, August 29

TWO persons died on the spot when a government bus collided with their motorcycle near Madurai Kamaraj University on Sunday. Rajadurai and Lakshmanan from Kachirayiruppu near Vadiyur were going on a motorcycle on the Kodimangalam road towards Madurai Kamaraj University, when a town bus coming in the opposite direction hit the bike. Both of them died on the spot. Nagamalai Pudukottai police have registered a case.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, M. Arokia Selvi, wife of Thiru S. Manuvel, born on 30th May 1965 (native district : Virudhunagar), residing at Old No. 134, New No. 170, Santhai Pettai Street, Srivilliputtur, Virudhunagar - 626 125, shall henceforth be known as **M. AROKIA TAMIL SELVI**.
ம. ஆருக்கிய செல்வி.
Srivilliputtur, 6th August 2010.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, M. Arun Kumar, son of Thiru S. Manuvel, born on 28th January 1989 (native district : Virudhunagar), residing at Old No. 134, New No. 170, Santhai Pettai Street, Srivilliputtur, Virudhunagar - 626 125, shall henceforth be known as **M. THOMAS ARUN KUMAR**.
ஆருக்குமார், ம.
Srivilliputtur, 6th August 2010.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K. Vignesh, son of Thiru S. Kamatchiraju, born on 27th July 1989 (native district : Virudhunagar), residing at No. B-230, Thendral Nagar, Rajapalayam Post and Taluk, Virudhunagar - 626 117, shall henceforth be known as **K. GURUVIGNESH**.
க. விநேஷ்.
Rajapalayam, 28th May 2010.

Engagements

Tamilnadu Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Madurai & Chennai and Export Promotion Centre: Seminar on 'Export Opportunities in South Tamilnadu', Chennai Zonal Joint Director General of Foreign Trade M Saikumar, chief guest, Chamber of Commerce Mepco Mini Auditorium, Kamarajar Salai, 5.30 pm

Poompuhar: Inauguration of 'Sri Ganesh Dharsan Exhibition-Cum-Sales' by Chennai Porur Sri Raja Rajeswari Maha Sannithanam Poojiasi Santha Amma, Poompuhar Show Room, Opp. Railway Station, 12 noon

Sourashtra College: Inauguration of 17th batch MBA Programme, Madurai Kamaraj University Dept of Entrepreneurship Studies Prof R Jayaraman, chief guest, Silver Jubilee Hall, College premises, 9 am

Mandram: Kalaivanar N S Krishnan memorial day observations, R Chokkalingam speaks, 28, Townhall Road, 6.50 pm

Dejas Health Care Centre: Free 'Acu Pressure' therapy, 14-C, Avvaiyar Street, Narimedu, 9 am to 9 pm

CULTURE
Department of Tourism: Sound and Light show, Thirumalai Naicker Mahal, 6.45 pm (English), 8 pm (Tamil)

RELIGION
YMCA: Bible study and fellowship meeting, Tamilnadu Theological Seminary Rev John Samuel Services Centre for the Hearing Impaired, Visalakshipuram, 6.30 pm

Thiruvalluvar Mandram: Discourse on 'Thiruviladapuram' by S Sadacharam, mandram premises, SS Colony, 5 pm

Arulmigu Selva Vinayagar Temple: Maha sankatakara chathurthi poojas, temple premises, Railway Colony, 7.30 pm

Madurai Thiruvalluvar Kazhagam: Discourse on 'Thirumandiram' by S Thirumavalavan, North Aadi Veedhi, 7 pm

Our Lady of Velankanni Church: Annual festival, holy eucharist lead by Palanganatham parish priest Siluvai Michael, Usilampatti parish priest A Joseph delivers sermon, Anna Nagar, 6.30 pm

Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple: 4th anniversary celebrations, various rituals, temple premises, Andapuram, 6.30 pm onwards
Swamy Tatwananda Ashram: Swamy Samanandar conducts Gita classes, Aiyram Vaisyari Elementary School, South Avani Moola Veedhi, 6.45 pm

VEERMATA JIJABAI TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (VJTI) MATUNGA, MUMBAI-400 019
ADMISSION Round to fill-up vacancies of M. Tech. programmes will be held on 1st September, 2010 at 10.00 a.m. For details visit www.vjti.ac.in
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E-mail : dc@mepz.gov.in
No. 1/33/92-Admn-1 Dt. 12.8.2010
OFFICE MEMORANDUM
Sub : Filling up of one post of Deputy Development Commissioner in the office of the Development Commissioner, MEPZ Special Economic Zone, Chennai on deputation basis.
It is proposed to fill up one post of Deputy Development Commissioner (Group 'A' Gazetted) in the pay scale of Rs. 15600/- 39100 (G.P. Rs. 6600/-) on deputation basis in the Office of the Development Commissioner MEPZ Special Economic Zone. The last date for receipt of application is sixty days from the date of this letter. Please visit our website www.mepz.gov.in for application format and other details.
sd/-
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (i/c)