

RELIGIOUS FERVOUR MARKS VAIKASI VISAKAM

Express News Service

Tiruchy: The astral sign, 'Visakam' in the Tamil month of Vaikasi, considered to be the birth star of Lord Muruga, was observed with piety on Sunday at various Murugan temples in the district, particularly, at the Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Kumaravayalur.

According to Karunakaran, Executive Officer, Subramaniya Swami Temple, the procession of Lord Nataraja took place at 10.30 am and the Theerthavaari, a ritual during which Lord Subramaniya and His consorts Valli and Deivanai give darshan to devotees, at 11.30 am.

Devotees thronged the temple for the 'paalkudam', 'kavadi' and 'alagu' events.

The 'theppam' festival is scheduled for 7 pm on Monday.

CLASS X RESULTS TODAY

Express News Service

Tiruchy: The results of the tenth standard public examination will be published today.

The tenth standard public examination began April 4, 2012 and the results of the same will be released around 1.30 pm on June 4.

A total of 35,952 students, including 17,124 boys and 18,128 girls, took up the examination in 124 centres, in the three education districts, which includes, Tiruchy, Lalgudi and Musiri.

Students can check their results in the following websites: <http://dge1.tn.nic.in/>, <http://dge2.tn.nic.in/> and <http://dge3.tn.nic.in/>.

FEMALE FOETICIDE

Software to Integrate Scan Centres in District

by Sukanya Chellappa

Tiruchy: In a major drive against female foeticide, the Tiruchy District Medical and Rural Health Services Department has initiated steps to integrate and network all the ultra-sound scan centres in Tiruchy district.

District Collector Jayashree Muralidharan, on Monday, would unveil a web-based software that would integrate and network all the ultra-sound scan centres in the district which is the first of its kind initiative in the State.

The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 which was later amended in 2000, prohibits sex selection before or after conception. The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act aims to regulate detecting genetic abnormalities or metabolic disorder or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorder and for the prevention of the misuse of sex determination leading to female foeticide.

Speaking to 'Express', Dr T Mohanasundram, Joint Director of Medical Services, Tiruchy, said the government realised that there was a constant reduction of female sex ratio across the country and hence, it stepped up its efforts



Dr T Mohanasundram, Joint Director of Medical Services, Tiruchy | Express

to curb female foeticide. "The government sought to prevent sex determination in ultra-sound scan centres to curb female foeticide," said Dr Mohanasundram.

There are 158 ultra-sound scan centres within the Tiruchy Corporation limits more than 250 across the district. "The ultra-sound scan centres has increased exponentially. So, I felt an urgent need to computerise the entire data of the ultra-sound scan centres. Subsequently, the department worked on this and evaluated a registration process of computing all the ultra-sound scan centres", said Dr Mohanasundram.

Consequently, Tag Technologies, Chennai, was approached to model a software to entail all the requirements of integrating and networking the ultra-sound scan centres in Tiruchy district.

At the District level, the applications for the registration, renewal, change of ownership and change of place of the ultra-sound scan equipment could be obtained from the office of the Joint Director of Medical Services. After the inspection of the site and fulfillment of the requirements of the ultra-sound scan centre, the respective ultra-sound scan centre would be screened by the District Ultra-sound

Screening Committee. The District Ultra-sound Screening Committee would be headed by the District Collector, Joint Director of Medical Services, Deputy Director of Medical Services and Family Welfare, a Public Prosecutor, a Pediatrician, a Gynaecologist and preferably a female member who works for a Non-Governmental Organisation.

The ultra-sound scan centres should send a report on the number of cases and details of the cases they had screened and investigated for the month to the Joint Director of Medical Services before the seventh of every month.

The government terms it mandatory for all the ultra-sound centres in the District and the State to register with the government. "This web-based software would help us to closely monitor the ultra-sound scan centres as they are to be registered with the Joint Director of Health Services in the District level or with the Director of Medical and Rural Health Services in the State level", said Dr Mohanasundram.

The details and the contents of the web-based software would be explained at length at the launch at the Collectrate on June 4.

Home Science Has Few Takers

By Janani Nadaraja

Tiruchy: Though B.Sc Home Science is a conventional course, it has only a few takers, said Kanaga Bashyam, Principal, Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College.

Speaking to 'Express', Kanaga Bashyam said, there were two major reasons for the dwindling number of students who opted for conventional courses, any course for thematter.

"Students lack awareness about off-beat courses and are attracted to the courses listed as top preference in the admission process," she said.

Explaining the course detail, A Shakila, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Home Science, said, subjects like Micro-Biology, Physiology, Food Science and Nutrition, Housing and Interior Decoration, Diet Therapy, Nutrition Through Life Cycle, Human Development, Human Relationship, Apparel Design and Textile Science were dealt during the three-year course.

Besides, the undergraduate course also included, internship in Textile Science and Apparel Design and field visits to hotels, to study the interiors.

Detailing the job opportunities, Shakila said, once students completed their graduation, they have wide

avenues to choose from. As students study subjects like Micro-Biology, Food Science and Nutrition, Housing and Interior Decoration, she said, they had the opportunity of being recruited as lab technicians, dieticians and interior decorators.

Subjects like Human Relationship and Human Development would mould them to run their own creche and field visits to schools

STUDENTS LACK AWARENESS ABOUT OFF-BEAT COURSES AND ARE ATTRACTED TO THE COURSES LISTED AS TOP PREFERENCE IN THE ADMISSION PROCESS

for ten days, during each semester would add to their experience.

"Besides, they can perform as counsellors, social workers and even start their own boutique".

On the opportunities for higher education, Shakila said, students who pursued Home Science during their under-graduation, have six different options to select from for their post-graduation. They are General Home Science, Family Resource Management, Nutrition and Dietetics, Food Science Management, Human Development and Textile Science, she added.

ENGAGEMENTS

Rotary Club of Tiruchirappalli: Dr V Veerapandian, Deputy Director of Public Health, speaks on Dengue, Hotel Femina, 6.30 pm

Women Entrepreneurs Association of Tamil Nadu: One-day seminar on Opportunities in the manufacture of food products, TDSSIA auditorium, Bharathiyar Salai, 5 pm

TN Govt College Teachers Association: Training for TNPS group 4 examination, Periyar EVR College, 9.30 am

Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation: Brass products exhibition-cum-sale, Poompuhar showroom, 10 am

Sri Subramaniaswamy Temple: Vaikasi festival, Sanagbisekham, 4.30, Theppam, Kumaravayalur, 7 pm

HMK'S NOVEL STIR AGAINST ADHEENAM

Express News Service

Karur: Hindu Makkal Katchi (HMK) staged a novel agitation here on Sunday by breaking coconuts in front of a temple against the two pontiffs of Madurai Adheenam.

The party urged the pontiffs to vacate the Madurai Adheenam mutt premises.

Sources said the party's spokesperson Senthilkumar broke 240 coconuts in front of the Pasupatheeswarar temple here. He also observed a 'silent fast' near the temple till the evening.

NFPE Meet Focuses on Better Public Service

Express News Service

Tiruchy: The 29th circle conference of the National Federation of Postal Employees (NFPE) and the entities affiliated to NFPE, RMS and Motor Mail Service (MMS), was held here on Saturday and Sunday.

Gunasekaran, treasurer, RMS-Tiruchy division, said, the conference was usually

held once in two years and the 28th conference was held in April 2010. The conference, Gunasekaran said, discussed ways to improve public service and solve the problems of employees.

"Until February 14, 2012, all the first class mail received by the centres in the districts of Tiruchy, Karur, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Tiruvallur, Na-

gapattinam, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Chengalpattu and Thiruvannamalai, were despatched from the respective centres. But from February 15 onwards, all the first class mails received by the 15 centres were accumulated in Tiruchy and Villupuram centre," he said and indicated that the work load was heavy, as all first class mail from other dis-

tricts was brought to Tiruchy division, which has fewer employees and less space.

Gunasekaran further said, the employees who were working from 6 pm to 6 am on alternate days were forced to work on shifts. The new shift timing of 6 am-2 pm, 2-10 pm, 10-5 pm was tiring and the work load was also heavy, he complained.

"The resolutions passed

during the conference will be taken to the notice of the Postal Directorate," said Gunasekaran and added that new office-bearers were also elected for the division.

RMS circle secretary M Kannaian, divisional secretary Gavanahan, assistant general secretaries S Ragupathi and KR Ganesan and 150 representative from 15 centres took part.

Body Found in Terrace of Councillor's House

Express News Service

Tiruchy: The decomposed body of a man aged around 50 was found on the terrace of the house of a Councillor near Navalpattu on Sunday.

According to sources, Jayalalitha (DMK), wife of Santhakumar, is a member

of the Tiruverambur Panchayat Council.

The unidentified body was found on the terrace of her house at Ordnance Factory Main Road.

Navalpattu police retrieved the body and sent it to the Tiruchy GH for post-mortem. Further investigations are on.

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THANJAI CIVIC BODY SCOUTS FOR CAUVERY WATER PROJECT

Thanjavur: The Thanjavur Municipality has requested the Tamil Nadu government to assist in finding an appropriate water facility in the Cauvery riverbed.

The temple town being a tourist spot and a education hub has witnessed abnormal growth in resident and floating population in recent years. Water becoming more scare in the rest of the state, the local body has come forward to think for its future water needs.

Thanjavur's primary water supply project was executed by the British in the pre independence era through the Vennar river basin project. Later in 1975 the Thirumanur pumping station was set up in the banks of Kollidam to cater to the rising water demands. The pumping station at Thirumanur on the Vennar river bed is already reaching its capacity, said Municipality officials.

Other than the pumping station on Cauvery river bed, there are numerous borewells within town limits to supplement the shortfall. Rising water demand and depleting ground water level have forced the local body to look for alternatives.

During the recent councilors meeting, Municipality Chairperson Savitri Gopal passed a resolution appealing the government to execute a new water scheme from Grand Anicut. In her resolution, she said, the future demand for water is set to rise. Thus it will be logical to find water on the Cauvery riverbed away from the Grand Anicut. She asked the officials to conduct a study and submit a feasibility report to the government. ENS