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By Our Staff Reporter

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நாள்: 20.12.2020 (Sunday) ருத்ர ஏகாதசி / வேத சதஸ / வேத பாராயணம்
நாள்: 21.12.2020 (Monday) சுப முசுவர்த்தம்
இடம்: மிதிவாழி கல்யாண மண்டபம், மேற்கு மாம்பலம்

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உங்கள் இல்ல அனைத்து சுப நிகழ்ச்சிகளுக்கும் தேவையான அனைத்து சாமான்களும் நியாயமான மற்றும் குறைந்த விலையில் தி.நகரில் கிடைக்கும் ஒரே கடை!

ஸ்தாபகர் ஆன்மீகசெம்மல் பிரம்மஸ்ரீ முக்கனூர் பி. சுப்பிரமணியசுவாமி

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என்னை ஒரு நடமாடும் கூகுள், யாஹூவாக நினைத்துப் பெவிகால்போல் பிடித்துக் கொண்டு விடுபவர் என்னுடைய ஜூனியர் மாமனார் சின்னுண்டி. அவரை சின்ன மாமனார் என்று குறிப்பிட்டால் முகம் வாடிவிடும். தவிர்த்து மைனர் மாமனார் என்றால் குஷியாகிவிடுவார்.

என்னுடன் பேசும்போது ஒரு மடாதிபதியின் ஸ்ரீகார்யம் போல் கைகளைக் கட்டிக் கொண்டுதான் இருப்பார். சில சமயங்களில் வலது கையை வாய்க்கு நேராக வைத்து, பூவாளியாக வீசிவிடக்கூடிய சாரைத் தடுத்து நிறுத்துவார். 'மாப்பிள்ளைனா சாமானியமா? மகாவிஷ்ணு ஆச்சே!' என்று பரவசத்துடன் என் காதில் பட்டும் படாமலும் சொல்வார்.

என்னது? மகாவிஷ்ணுவா? படு ரிலாக்ஸாக சயனித்துக் கொண்டு கால்களைப் பிடித்துவிடும் திருமதி லட்சுமியின் சேவையில் குளிர்ந்து இருப்பது மாதிரி மனப்பால் குடிப்பேன். ஆனால் படுக்கை டன்லப்பில்லோ அல்லாமல் 1000 தலைகள் கொண்ட ஆதிசேஷ நாகமாச்சே! உதறல் எடுக்க டாபிக்கை மாற்றுவேன்.

சின்னுண்டி காவிரி மண் சவடாலின் உருவகம். கட்டை விரல்களில் ரத்தச் சிவப்பு நிறப் பூச்சு, அதர், புனூ, பழநி விபூதி, அப்போதுதான் இஸ்திரி போட்ட வாசனை வரும் சொக்காய், வேட்டி. இவைகள் அவருடைய டிரேட் மார்க். இஸ்திரியில் ஸ்திரி ஒளிந்து இருப்பதால் அதன்மேல் அவருக்கு ஒரு காந்த ஈர்ப்பு.

அவருடன் டி.வியில் சினிமா பார்ப்பது படு சுகம். நெய்ப் பொங்கலுடன் காம்போவாக 'கரகர' வெங்காய வடை கிடைத்த மாதிரி. என் காதின் அருகில் உட்கார்ந்து திரையில் தோன்றும் நடிக்கைகளைப் பற்றிய ருசிகரமான லேட்டஸ்ட் வம்புகளை மூன்றாம் காதில் எட்டாத வகையில் ரகசியமாகச் சொல்லி மகிழ்ந்து, மகிழ்விப்பார். குருப் நடனக் காட்சியின்போது முதல், இரண்டு, மூன்றாவது வரிசையில் நடனமாடும் சுந்தரிகளைப் பற்றி ஏதோ அஷ்டோத்திரம் சொல்லும் பாவத்துடன், 'அதோ முதல் வரிசையிலே புஷ்பா, கனகா, மாடி ருக்மிணி, யசோதா, நீலவேணி, சந்திரகலா, கடைசியில் மைமூன்பி. இரண்டாவது ரோலே எஸ்தர், பல்லாவரம் பிரமீளா, இருதயமேரி, சிவப்பிரியா, கோகுலவாணி என்று கொஞ்சம்கூட சொதப்பல் இல்லாமல் பத்தாவது வாய்ப்பாட்டைத் தடம் புரளாமல் சொல்லும் அரை நிஜார் சிறுவனின் லகுவுடன் சொல்வார். அபூர்வமாகத் தவறு ஏற்பட்டு சறுக்கினால் நான் சுதாரித்துக் கொள்ளும் முன் மழுப் பல் சிரிப்புடன் திருத்திக் கொண்டு 'வயசாகிவிட்டதே அதான்!' என்று சமாளிப்பார். 'யாருக்கு வயசாகிவிட்டது? உங்களுக்கா?' என்று சின்னுண்டி 'சீச்சி, நமக்கு இல்லே. அங்கே ஆடற கோகுலவாணிக்கு!' என்று சொல்லி கண்களைச் சிமிட்டுவார்.



அன்று அவர் வந்தபோது டி.வியில் ஒரு பேய்ப் படம் ஓடிக் கொண்டிருந்தது. 'பெண் என்றால் பேயும் இரங்கும் என்பதில் எனக்கு உடன்பாடுதான். ஆனால் ஏன் பேயை ஒரு பெண்ணாகவே காட்டுகிறார்கள்? என்று கேட்டுவிட்டு ஆவி பறக்கும் காபியை மேலும் கீழுமாக ஆற்றி டம்பளரிலிருந்து துளி சிதறாமல் இட்லிக்கு அரைக்கும் செளபாக்யா வெட்கிரைண்டர் குழவி மாதிரி சுற்றிச் சுற்றி அணு அணுவாக ரசித்துக் குடித்துக் கொண்டிருந்தார்.

'நீங்கதான் சொல்லணும். பெண்களைப் பற்றி உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாததா? என் வயசிலே நீங்க இருந்தாச்சு. ஆனால் உங்க வயசை நான் இன்னும் தொடவில்லையே?'

ஜூனியர் லாரின் முகம் டைட் க்ளோஸ்புக்காக பேபி லைட் போட்டது போலப் பிரகாசித்தது.

'நான் இதுக்கு தக்க பதில் சொல்வேன். ஆனால் இதை வெளியிலே யார் கிட்டேயும் சொல்லக்கூடாது. பிராமீஸ்' என்றார். நீட்டிய கைகளைத் தட்டி 'பிராமீஸ்' என்றேன்.

'பொதுவாகவே பெண்களுக்கு என்ன குறை தெரியுமா? தான் பேசுவதைக் கணவர் காது கொடுத்துக் கேட்பதில்லை என்பது தான். கணவராக சர்வீஸ் போட்ட முக்காலே மூணு வீச ஆண்கள் மனைவி பேசும்போது ஆழ்ந்து கவனிப்பது மாதிரிக் கச்சிதமாக வேஷம் போட்டாலும் மனைவியின் சொற்கள் ஒரு காது வழியாக நுழைந்து, இடையிலே ஒரு அட்சரம் தங்காமல் மறுகாது வழியாக வெளியே வந்திடும் இல்லையா?'

என் மனைவி அருகில் இல்லை என்கிற தைரியத்தில் 'ஆமாம், ஆமாம்' என்று தலையை பலமாக ஆட்டினேன்.

'ஆனால் ஒரு சில தைரியமான ஆண்கள், 'ஏன் தொண்டை தொண்டை பேசினீர் இருக்கே? மணிரத்தினம் பட டயலாக் மாதிரிப் பேச்சை ஓரொரு வார்த்தைகளில் முடிக்காமல் மைக்கிடைச்ச நேரத்திர மோடிபோல் நீளமா பேசினீர் இருக்கி யே'னு அடக்கி வெச்சிருப்பாங்க. அந்த மாதிரி அடக்கப்பட்ட சில பெண்கள்தான் ஆவியாக வந்து சொல்ல முடியாமல் விட்டதை சொல்றதுக்காக வராங்கனோ என்னவோ?'

திகைத்துப் போனேன். இப்படி ஒரு வித்தியாசமான ஆங்கிளா? 'இந்த ஆங்கிள் மாமிக்குத் தெரியுமா?' என்று வியப்புடன் கேட்டேன்.

'தெரியாமலா? அவ கொஞ்சம் ஜாலியான டைட். இருந்தாலும் பேசிக்கா ஒரு பெண்ணாச்சே! ஆகையினாலே அவகிட்டே சொல்லி மூணு தடவை ஓ.கே வாங்கினப்பறம்தான் இதைப் பத்தி வாயைத் திறக்கிறேன்' என்று சொல்லி சேவலால் துரத்தப் பட்ட கோழிபோல் கெக்கெக்கே என்று சிரித்தார்.

jsraghavan@gmail.com

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Domestic LPG price hiked again by Rs. 50

After a second hike of Rs. 50 this month on Dec. 14, the price of a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder has gone up to Rs. 710.

The price had been increased by Rs. 50 on Dec. 1, the first hike since July.

Consumers have taken to the social media to protest against the hikes.

On Dec. 17, members of Women's Welfare Association (86, Kumaran Nagar 3rd Street, East Anna Nagar) protested in front of its office demanding an immediate roll-back of the hikes. S. Kumari (President) told *Mambalam Times* that the revision will severely impact the lower and middle class families who have already been affected by job loss, lockdowns and Covid-19 restrictions.

Traffic signal post topples over on Habibullah Road



By Our Staff Reporter

A traffic signal post and another post on Habibullah Road (T. Nagar, opposite Post Office), which toppled over during the rains, have been dumped on the pavement, hindering the way for pedestrians.

Velammal students excel in oratorical contests

By Our Staff Reporter

Students of Velammal Vidyalaya (Mel Aynambakkam) secured the top three places in the online oratorical contests conducted in three languages for different age groups by Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation last week.

The 1st places were secured by A. Ashika, A. Lakkshanya, G. Sonakshi, S. Kaarunya, M. Ayushi Praveen and Shrinivas Soudatti.

M.S. Jayavimalakshi came 2nd in one of the contests.

The 3rd places were secured by N.L. Brahadeeswaran, N. Tejas, Arundhati Sahani, K. Daksh, S.S. Bhalaa and Nilesh.

Battered roads affect residents of Rangarajapuram

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the rains, Kannadasan Street, Karnan Street and Vadyar Thottam Street in Rangarajapuram (Kodambakkam) are in a battered condition.

"The roads were in a better shape two months back when the workers came to mill the roads. After that the rains began and the milled roads are yet to be relaid," said a resident of Kannadasan Street.

Several potholes have developed in these roads.

Frequent accidents have been reported from these streets which have turned slippery due to the loose gravel.

The air has also turned dusty and the residents are made to suffer.

"There is a popular spiritual discourse auditorium on Karnan Street, which is frequented by senior citizens. It is risky for them to walk on the slippery pothole-ridden roads", said a resident.

He also complained that the Corporation bins are placed in the middle of these damaged roads and construction and plant debris are seldom cleared.

He added that Corporation officials are turning a blind eye to their complaints.

Multi-level parking nearing completion

By Our Staff Reporter

The multi level parking space under construction in Thanikachalam Road (T. Nagar) is slated to be inaugurated in January.

It will have a capacity to accommodate 222 cars and 500 2-wheelers.

Meghanath Reddy (Deputy Commissioner) said that the 6-floor facility is part of a larger plan to make Pandy Bazaar vehicle free.

"It is a robotic multi level parking space and was the natural step to take after the pedestrian plaza was completed. It will definitely reduce congestion near Pandy Bazaar," he said.

The Corporation plans to issue a tender for manning and maintaining the parking space. The parking fee is likely to be Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 per hour for cars.

"While the intention is welcome, the execution is what matters," said Jayaraman (President of T. Nagar Residents' Welfare Association).

"What is the guarantee that shoppers will park on Thanikachalam Street and walk till Usman Road," he asked.

He said that a similar structure closer to the prime shopping area could address both congestion and pollution.

12-year-old twins excel in bike racing tourney



Rakshitha Dave



Rakshith Dave

By Our Staff Reporter

12-year-old twins S. Rakshith Dave and S. Rakshitha Dave (residents of T. Nagar) were runner-up in the boys' and girls' categories in the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2020 held from Dec. 10 to 13 in Sriperumbudur. While Rakshitha featured in the Girls National Championship - Stock up to 165cc category, Rakshith featured in the 'Honda Idemitsu - CBR150cc' category.

They were also the youngest participants. Both are Std. 7 students in Chettinad Harishree Vidyalayam.

Damaged car abandoned outside Panagal Park



By Our Staff Reporter

A car damaged in an accident is has been lying outside Panagal Park (Prakasam Road, T. Nagar) for several days. It is blocking a part of the carriageway.

Resident designs crib with recyclable materials

By Our Staff Reporter

Colourful masks and hand sanitisers find prominence on his Christmas tree decorated by 64-year-old C.A. John (a resident of Kodambakkam).

Signage bearing social awareness messages such as 'Stay at home', 'Practise social distancing' and 'Break the chain' are displayed all over the 4 1/2 feet tall crib he has set up in his home.

John has used only recycled and repurposed materials for his artworks and crafts like a discarded wooden box for the crib, fibre extracted from orange and corn to replicate a fungus-like outgrowth.

The masks' outline has been made out of an iron mesh and then covered with a cloth. Waste boxes have been wrapped in glittery paper as gifts. The corners of the crib have been filled with straw and stick bundles, stones, and cardboard boxes. Fur material has been used for the snow effect.

Unlike in previous years when all residents of his Kodambakkam neighbourhood used to drop in and revel in the seasonal splendour, John has taken the virtual route this time to display his work.

"Pictures of my cribs are already doing the rounds on social media. My wife Jessy Thomas and my daughters Rose and Clara helped me set up and decorate the Christmas tree and the crib, which took a week," he said.

City on high alert after IIT COVID-19 cluster

By Our Staff Reporter

Even as a major COVID-19 cluster broke out in IIT-Madras, Health department officials are maintaining a close watch on the city.

The tally of COVID-19 cases in the city was at 3153 on Dec. 17 of which 352 were in Kodambakkam Zone.

Till date, 500 persons have died of the infection in Teynampet Zone and 436 in Kodambakkam Zone.

Concerts by renowned musicians in Hindu Vidyalaya from Dec. 25

By Our Staff Reporter

Rasika Fine Arts Trust has organised its 17th Annual Music Festival from Friday, Dec. 25 to Friday, Jan.1 in Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya (Postal Colony 4th Street, Ram Colony, West Mambalam).

K. Pandiarajan (Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture) will inaugurate the program. Mohan Parasaran (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court), Cleveland V. V. Sundaram, S. Vedantamji (President, Vishva Hindu Vidya Kendra) and Dr Girija Sesahadri (Secretary) will be present.

Rasika Kala Bharathi award will be conferred on S. R. Janakiraman (Vocalist) and 'Udumalaipettai' M. Angusamy (Thavil Vidwan). There will be daily concerts.

The following is the

Thiruvillaku

pooja for Margazhi in Aachi Amman temple

By Our Staff Reporter

'Thiru Villaku pooja' is being conducted at 6 a. m daily in Devi Sri Aachi Amman (Siddhi Vinayagar Temple Street, T. Nagar) as part of Margazhi vizha. It will continue till Jan.13.

Thirupallandu, suprabatham and Thiruvempavai are recited at 5 a.m daily, followed by special pujas and abhishekham.

Devotees are welcome to participate in the recitation. All are welcome.

For more details, call 99400 70888.

Blood donation camp today afternoon

By Our Staff Reporter

Tirumala Tirupathi Padayathra Trust (West Mambalam) has organised a blood donation drive at 2.30 p.m on Sunday, Dec. 20 in V.M.A. Hall, 2, Srinivasa Iyer Street, West Mambalam.

Healthy individuals in the age group of 18 to 60 years are welcome to donate blood.

The blood units will be collected by Lions Blood Bank.

For more details, call 94441 45574 or 98412 41811.

Free health check-up from 9 a.m today

By Our Staff Reporter

RMD Nursing Home (13, Raghaviah Road, T. Nagar) has organised free health check-up from 9 a.m to 1 p.m on Sunday, Dec. 20 in its premises.

Specialists in gynaecology, ENT, orthopaedics, urology, cardiology, neurology, psychiatry and general medicine will be available for consultation. All are welcome.

More details can be had in 93810 16588 and 90942 35513.

program:

Dec. 25: 7 p.m: Vocal concert by Gayathri Venkataraman.

Dec. 26: 3 p.m: Video presentation of Bharatanatyam by Kumari Aditi Aparna and Nitya Lakshmi from USA; 4 p.m: Guitar concert by Vignesh Shankar; 6 p.m: Instrumental Rhapsody by Ganesh Kumar and his band.

Dec. 27: 4 p.m: Vocal concert by Subhashree; 6 p.m: Flute concert by Vijayagopal.

Dec. 28: 4 p.m: Concert by students of Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya; 6 p.m: Mandolin concert by U. Rajesh.

Dec. 29: 4 p.m: Vocal concert by Mambalam Sisters; 6 p.m: Vocal concert by M. J. Sriram.

Dec. 30: 4 p.m: Vocal concert by Samanvitha; 6 p.m: Vocal concert by Nityashree Mahadevan.

Dec.31: 4 p.m: Keyboard concert by V. G. Vigneshwar; 6

p.m: Vocal concert by Abhishek Raghuram.

Jan. 1: 6 p.m: Video presentation of Bharathanatyam by Veena Seshadri from USA.

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Leaning tree removed after report in *Mambalam Times*



Before



After

Following the report 'Leaning tree resting on compound wall' published in *Mambalam Times* (December 13-19 issue), the big tree leaning inside the Corporation Park (Bharathidasan Colony, K. K. Nagar) was axed and removed by Corporation workers on Dec. 15.

Damaged police booth lying on Raja Bather Street



By Our Staff Reporter

A damaged police booth is lying on the margin of Raja Bather Street (T. Nagar). It is locked.

Post heavy rains, Corporation revamps parks

A number of parks including those in the neighbourhood were ravaged by the recent spell of heavy rains.

The Corporation has taken special initiatives to revamp all the major parks in the city and ensure their upkeep.

It has taken steps to repair the damaged play equipment and the other facilities in the parks.

The contractors in charge of parks have been told to properly maintain the parks including play equipment.

Fallen trees and tree branches in many parks including Panagal Park (T. Nagar), which were axed and the cut branches placed on the sides of the walkways, have not been removed causing hindrance to the visitors. An official said that efforts are underway to ensure the upkeep of the parks through regular inspection and meetings with the contractors.

Deadline for registration of name in birth certificate extended

By Our Staff Reporter

The Directorate of Public Health has issued an order extending the deadline for adding names in birth certificates to Dec. 31, 2024. There is no age criteria for the process.

As names are finalized later, many used to get birth certificates without the name, but with the names of the parents, date and place of birth and gender. With NPR and NRC linked to the sensitive issue of proving one's citizenship, there is a rush now to add the name to the certificates.

COVID-19 kits given to conservancy workers

By Our Staff Reporter

Tech Mahindra and RMD Pain Palliative Care Trust jointly distributed 1500 COVID-19 protection kits among members of the public and conservancy workers in and around T. Nagar on Dec. 16

Jegan Dharmaraj (Senior Manager, Tech Mahindra Foundation), Dr. Republica Sridhar (Managing Trustee, RMD Pain and Palliative Care Trust), Immanuel (Vice President, RMD Pain Palliative Care Trust), G. Kannan (Assistant Executive Engineer, Corporation Division 136), M. Jayakumar (Assistant Engineer) and S. Monica (Sanitary Inspector) were present.



Amma Mini-clinic Scheme launched

In a move aimed at benefiting the poor, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurated the Amma Mini-clinics Scheme in a clinic in Royapuram on Dec. 14. Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam was present.

These clinics will offer free treatment to the poor, just like government hospitals.

Palaniswami told reporters that the mini-clinics will bring quality healthcare to the locality of the poor people. "Every clinic will have a doctor, a nurse and an assistant. The facility will treat people for fever, cold, cough and minor ailments," he said.

A total of 2,000 mini-clinics will be set up under the scheme with 630 to begin functioning in the first phase. At present, clinics have been set up in Tondiarpet, Vyasarpadi, Teynampet and Mylapore. A total of 47 clinics are expected to operate in Chennai across all the 15 zones.

Palaniswami said that for treating even minor ailments, a private healthcare facility charges Rs. 100 or Rs. 200. "We do not want our people to face that difficulty. That is why we have come up with this scheme," he added.

630 such clinics will be opened in Phase II and 740 in Phase III. Officials said that a clinic will be set up for a locality having a population of 50,000.

Vishnu Sahasranaamam on Dec. 24

By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Brahmin Association (Burkit Road, T. Nagar) and RMD Pain and Palliative Care Trust (T. Nagar) have jointly organised 'Vishnu Sahasranaama' Paaraayanam' from 10 a.m to 12 noon on Dec. 24 in RMD Karuna Sagar (Home for terminally ill patients) on the occasion of Vaikunta Ekadesi.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in 4958 7688 and 93810 16588.

Concrete slab blocks pavement on Ramakrishna Street



By Our Staff Reporter

A damaged concrete slab used to cover a storm water drain, is lying on the pavement blocking the way for pedestrians on Ramakrishna Street at its junction with North Usman Road (T. Nagar).

Police meet residents of SBI Colony



By Our Staff Reporter

Mambalam R3 Police Station organised a meeting with the residents of SBI Colony (Station Road, West Mambalam) on Dec. 1.

M. Kalai Arasan (Inspector) addressed the residents on general safety, cyber crime and the police initiatives in fighting crime.

Cover of sewage chamber collapses

By Our Staff Reporter

Half of the cover of the underground sewage chamber in the middle of the road on Thyagaraya Road (T. Nagar, near Daniel Street) has collapsed.

The open chamber poses a hazard to motorists.

A metal rod with a pink bag tied to the top has been placed in the opening to caution road users.



A guide to virtual carolling this Christmas

With carol performances going virtual this Christmas owing to the pandemic, the city's choristers are preparing to bring to your home the maximum bandwidth of cheer

For the last 25 years, Kingslin Pon Bhabha, coordinator of Octet Cantabile, and his team members have been participating in carol performances across the country. Every time, just before they get on stage, they have a ritual of praying together. This time, however, the prayer will happen virtually.

"During Christmas season we perform live in at least 10 programs across Chennai, Bengaluru, Coimbatore and cities in Kerala. This time it is just three programs for which we sent our videos to London, Mumbai and Bengaluru. The recordings were done in our respective homes. This was a new area of exposure for us," said Kingslin.

Some of the carol groups admit that they were in limbo as they waited for months trying to gauge the situation post lockdown in March. Redeemer Church Choir, Anna Nagar, which normally starts its practice in August, got around to it only last month.

A guide to virtual carolling this Christmas

It is the first time in 35 years, since the church began holding this annual event that its pews will be empty and the orchestra's tunes replaced by silence, said Emmanuel Ponraj of Redeemer Church.

"The choir, which usually features 50 singers, will have only 35 singers; the piano will be the only accompanying instrument. The choristers recorded their audio bits in their homes and got together at the church to shoot the video during which they lip-synced. The 75-minute concert will be launched on our YouTube channel on December 20 at 8 p.m", he said.

Perhaps the most tech savvy of the lot is 24-year-old Atul Jacob Isaac, who revived the Madras Philharmonic and Choral Society (MPCS) last year with Christmas Pudding — a concert blending traditional carols and modern musicals.

This year's Christmas Pudding will be a 30-minute program with five pieces done by five ensembles. All the compositions are original. Like a few other groups, MPCS too has participants from countries like Switzerland, England and Australia. "A song is delegated to each individual. We have to string the songs together," explained Atul. The deadline to complete it is December 20, with the actual show going live on December 23 on MPCS's Instagram and YouTube pages, he said.

The annual feature "Carols by Candlelight" by Madras Musical Association (MMA) will this Christmas have each chorister holding a candle as they sing their lines individually from the safety of their homes.

It will not feature its regular choir conductor Augustine Paul.

It will be livestreamed on December 19 at 6.30 pm on MMA's YouTube Page.

Rs. 400 crore storm water drain project for city

To provide a solution to flooding in Chennai's low-lying areas, the government has approved a storm water drain project, to be executed by the Chennai Corporation and Public Welfare Department (PWD), at an estimated cost of Rs. 400 crores.

The project was sanctioned after Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami visited localities hit by heavy rainfall during cyclones Nivar and Burevi recently.

Addressing reporters on Dec. 11, Corporation Commissioner G. Prakash said that the city received 60 percent more than average rainfall this year. "Due to cyclones Nivar and Burevi, which brought heavy rainfall, some pockets saw water stagnation. We have identified the locations that posed the greatest challenge for a permanent remedy."

Of the five drains, Chennai Corporation will build three and the PWD two. The drains to be built by the Corporation will be in the stretch between Pallikaranai Marshland and the radial road connecting the Buckingham canal, a channel to link Perumbakkam with Buckingham Canal and another to link Nookampalayam with Semmencheri slum tenements. The PWD will build the channels in Tharambur and Navalur.

Prakash said that the SWD project will get top priority and a tender will be finalised soon.

He added that apart from the above project, other areas that are prone to water stagnation and requiring technical intervention have been identified. They include Baba Nagar in Villivakkam, RK Shanmugam Salai and K. K. Nagar. They were getting inputs from IIT-Madras engineers on designs to avoid flooding in these areas.

Shops gear up for Christmas sale



Christmas novelties, gifts and decorative items have started arriving. They include models of Santa Claus, Christmas trees, bells, caps and other decorative items.

Shops have been set up in Pandy Bazaar, Raghavaiah Road, G. N. Chetty Road and Lakshminathan Salai (T. Nagar).

Civic and security woes on street behind Kasi Theater

3rd Street, near the back gate of Kasi Theater, has become a hub for selling and consuming liquor, drugs and for prostitution, according to residents.

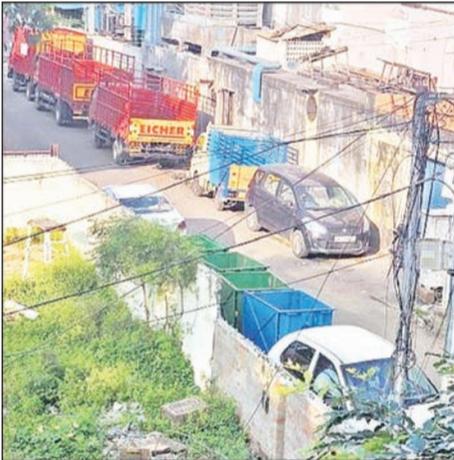
They also alleged that miscreants often break streetlights to hide their nefarious

activities, and also harass residents who question or complain.

"Despite introducing door-to-door garbage collection a while ago, the Corporation authorities are not enforcing it. They placed six bins near an empty plot on 3rd Street and asked residents to dump waste there. The bins are hardly cleared and garbage often overflows, filling almost half the road", complained a resident.

Adding to the problems, six compactor lorries are parked opposite the bins, occupying the other half of the road.

A resident said, "In between two trucks, a car is parked daily, which is used for flesh trade. It is scary because the miscreants do not allow anyone to walk there during night. Also, tipplers leave empty liquor bottles on the road. Post midnight, a man comes with a huge container and sells something secretly, which we



suspect to be narcotic drugs." He said that the residents have lodged several complaints with the police and Corporation, but no action has been taken to solve problems.

Mosquitoes breed in damaged rain water harvesting pit



Mosquitoes have been breeding for several days in a damaged rain water harvesting pit in BRP 2nd Street, West Mambalam adjoining Mambalam Railway Station.

Residents said that the rain water harvesting pit was damaged when a car was being reversed.

Marina opens to public after 9 months

By Our Staff Reporter

Shut for nine months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Marina was finally declared open to the public on Dec. 14.

Walkers, cyclists, fitness enthusiasts, nature lovers and casual visitors flocked the beach in droves. However, absence of standard operating procedures was a concern, and a littered beach and damaged equipment marred the experience of an outing long awaited.

Corporation and the police did not regulate visitors or check them for COVID-19 symptoms. While all push carts, recreational and park equipment were not functional, most of the visitors did not wear masks.

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107-year-old train service ends



The heritage Billimora-Waghai narrow gauge railway route in Gujarat that ran for over a hundred years completed its final journey recently.

This service was started by the British in 1913 and was mostly used by the tribals staying in interior villages. Following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, this train service was halted. The service, which covered a distance of 63 km., was a vestige of Gaekwad dynasty which had earlier ruled the princely state of Baroda.

Leaning tree damages compound wall of Panagal Park



By Our Staff Reporter

The trunk of a leaning tree has damaged the compound wall of Panagal Park (Prakasam Road, T. Nagar).

Following heavy rains, ground water level rises

By Our Staff Reporter

With cyclones Nivar and Burevi bringing heavy rains to the city, the average ground-water level in Chennai in November improved by nearly a meter compared to October, according to official data from the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Thiru-vi-ka Nagar zone saw the highest increase in ground-water table (2.66m). While ground-water was available at a depth of 5.22m in October, it can now be found at a depth of 2.56m.

Further, Valasaravakkam, Alandur and Ambattur zones also saw ground-water levels rising by over two meters.

"One of the main reasons for this is the rainfall recorded due to the cyclones. This led to an almost 100 percent increase in reservoir levels compared to last year. We are expecting the water in reservoirs at the current level to serve the city for 10 months," said a Metrowater board official.

He added that compared to last year, the ground-water levels this year have been better due to the decrease in commercial and industrial demand.

Most of the water was diverted for domestic purposes for many months during the lockdown.

Also, after last year's drought, a lot of people installed rain water harvesting systems in homes and apartment complexes to recharge the ground-water table.

EB rollers block road margin



By Our Staff Reporter

Loaded EB cable drums have been blocking the margin on Lodi Khan Street, T Nagar for several days. A dustbin kept in front of the EB rollers is blocking 1/4th of carriageway causing obstruction to motorists.

Branches axed to facilitate construction



By Our Staff Reporter

The branches of a healthy avenue tree on Arya Gowda Road (near Postal Colony, West Mambalam) were axed to facilitate civil work in the commercial complex adjoining the tree last week.

New solid waste management company faces problems

Urbaser SA-Sumeet, the new solid waste management company, which was a hit among Adyar residents, has faced opposition in other zones in the past few weeks. Residents of Kodambakkam and Teynampet that the company is yet to streamline door-to-door collection even a month after the company took over operations.

"It is true we are having some problems and that is why we are holding daily meetings with commercial establishments, restaurants and other bulk waste generators to help them dispose of their waste. We will collect their waste for six months, after which they will have to create a method to dispose of their waste as per solid waste management rules of the Centre," said a representative of the company.

Another major roadblock is dense population of these zones. Vasanthi Kannan, a resident activist, said that most bins continue to overflow. "The collection is not 100% and there is zero segregation so far," she said.

Pit dug to repair damaged pipeline in Vijayaraghava Road



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

A pit has been dug in the middle of the road at the junction of Vijayaraghava Road and Dr. Narasimhan Road (T. Nagar) to repair leaks in the underground metrowater pipeline.

The junction was in battered condition which was reported in *Mambalam Times* (December 13-19 issue).

Now a pit has been dug and barricaded to caution motorists.

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RENTAL
T. NAGAR, 9, Sivaji Street, near T. Nagar Bus Terminus/ off: South Usman Road, 800 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, semi furnished, 1st floor, road side balcony, 2 wheeler parking and open car park, 24 hours metro & bore water, rent Rs. 20000. Ph: 98412 29007, 2434 5468.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 3/5, Vivekanadapuram 1st Street, 1st floor 500 sq.ft, semi-furnished, 1 bedroom, spacious hall, kitchen, rent Rs. 12000, Brahmins only, no brokers. Ph: 94445 88940, 98405 55843.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 19/11, Vadivelupuram, near Srinivasa Theatre, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, semi-furnished flat, 1st floor with car parking, rent Rs. 25000 (negotiable), only Brahmins, no brokers. Ph: 94449 63017, 79042 67133.

ASHOK NAGAR, 30, 18th Avenue, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, lift, wood work, 24 hours water, open car park, semi-furnished, available from February. Ph: 98848 03757.

WEST MAMBALAM, 1, KV Colony 4th Street, independent, small outhouse, one hall with A/c, kitchen and bath, no separate room, available after Pongal or 1st February, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 7800, advance Rs. 30000. Ph: 98400 44614.

K.K. NAGAR, 48, Alagirisamy Salai, opp. PSBB School, 2nd floor, 1130 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen + dining, car park, no lift, rent Rs. 21000, vegetarians only. Ph: 98412 35582.

WEST MAMBALAM, 4, KV Colony 2nd Street, very close to Postal Colony Bus Stop, T. Nagar Bus Terminus, Mambalam Station, Ashok Nagar Metro Station, Major Banks/ATM/Restaurants, 1250 sq.ft, semi-furnished, office in 2nd floor, available immediately, LAN connection, 5KVA, telephone system, pantry available, rent Rs. 29000. Contact: Rajgopal, Ph: 77080 51854, 94442 61854.

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Udavum Karangal signs MoU with Alagappa University



By Our Staff Reporter

Udavum Karangal (NGO with its administrative office in 460, NSK Nagar, Anna Nagar) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Women's Studies (Alagappa University, Karaikudi) on Dec. 16, under which the two institutions will work together in areas of women empowerment, mental health programmes, prevention of trafficking of women and run internships for rural students in Udavum Karangal.

The picture shows S. Vidyaaakar (Founder, Udavum Karangal) receiving the MoU from N. Rajendran (Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University) in the presence of K. Manimekalai (HOD, Department of Women's Studies).

Advance booking for Pongal in State buses

By Our Staff Reporter

In view of Pongal on Jan. 14, State Transport Corporation has started advance booking for all its services including special buses to be operated on Jan. 12 and 13.

Passengers can do advance booking of tickets at the reservation counters or online in the websites www.tnsrc.in, www.redbus.in or www.busindia.com.

Tickets can also be booked on Android phones by downloading the app 'TNSTC Official App'.

The details of the special buses which will be operated from CMBT Bus Terminus (Koyambedu), KK Nagar MTC Bus Stand, Tambaram Arigner Anna Bus Stand, Tambaram Railway Station Bus Stand, and Poonamallee Bus Stand will be published on the website www.tnsrc.in.

Mental patient attacks traffic cop

By Our Staff Reporter

S. Augustine (26) (resident of Rani Anna Nagar, Arumbakkam) was admitted in Institute of Mental Health, Konnur High Road, Kilpauk after he hit K. Hari, Head Constable on traffic duty in K. K. Nagar on Dec. 13.

Hari had been regulating traffic on Nagathamman Temple Street, K. K. Nagar, when he found Augustine crossing the road repeatedly and intercepting speeding vehicles.

When Hari warned him to go away from the place, Augustine attacked him with a wooden pole that was lying on the road margin.

Hari suffered severe head injuries and passers-by rushed him to a nearby hospital.

Police apprehended Augustine and, discovering that he was an outpatient being treated for mental depression in Institute of Mental Health, Kilpauk, admitted him there.

Rs. 150 crores allotted for road repairs

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has received Rs. 150 crores from Tamilnadu Government to repair the roads damaged during the two consecutive cyclones last month.

A Corporation official said that about 1,170 interior roads and 161 bus route roads will be relaid using this money.

Art integration through Origami

By Our Staff Reporter

Velammal Vidyalaya (Mel Ayanambakkam) organised an Origami (paper-folding art) online program for its students on Dec. 16.

An Origami expert taught the students how to make shapes of birds, animals and other decorative artwork using paper.

Child Helpline 1098

Geriatric Foundation offers doorstep service to elders

By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. V. S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation (No. 29, Duraisamy Road, T. Nagar) has launched a unique 'Elder Care Service' in association with Kalpataru Health Initiatives to support elders and their caretakers.

Most of the services will be offered at reasonable rates in the elder's house and will be customized and curated to suit an individual's need.

To facilitate the services, the Foundation has created a localized network of verified and validated service providers including doctors and paramedics.

For details, call Rajasekaran in 99949 02173 or send an email to info@drvsngeriatricfoundation.com

Dharmasastha Thirukalyanam to be telecast live next Sunday

By Our Staff Reporter

Kannan Gurusamy (a resident of West Mambalam) has organised 'Sri Dharmasastha Thirukalyanam' at 10 a.m on Sunday, Dec. 27.

The poojas will start at 6 a.m and conclude at 2 p.m.

On account of COVID-19, the entire event will be telecast live on 'Sastha Kalyanam channel in YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXDSyVbHzTYGhYmhRiwOHUw> and

<https://WWW.youtube.com/channel/UCXDSyVbHzTYGhYmhRiwOHUw>.

The poojas will be performed by V .S. Sivasubramanian Bhagavathar.

Kannan Gurusamy has been organising the event for several years.

For clarification, call 98403 05141.

25 lakh persons tested for COVID-19 in city

By Our Staff Reporter

Nearly 25 lakh persons constituting a third of the city's population, have been tested for COVID-19, said G. Prakash (Corporation Commissioner).

He said that increase in testing and isolation measures have helped Chennai bring down its case fatality rate from 2.8% to 1.7% since mid-May.

Till June, the Corporation is testing around 5,000 samples a day, which has been ramped up to 10,000 samples a day.

Test positivity rate has also come down from around 10% in October to 3% now.

The fatality rate has also dropped from a high of 2.33% to 1.7%.

At present, Teynampet Zone has the highest case fatality rate of 2.37% with 500 deaths, which is also the highest.

Flyover used for morning exercises

By Our Staff Reporter

A number of nearby residents are using the G.N. Chetty Road the flyover for their morning exercises.

Photo shows public walking/jogging on the flyover while barricades are used to prevent vehicles from entering the flyover.

A traffic constable told this reporter that when parks were closed during the lockdown, the flyover was used by the public for exercising and the practise continues.



Students taken on morning walks to temples

By Our Staff Reporter

R. Raghunathan (Founder, Kalpavriksha Trust, West Mambalam) has been organising morning walks for his students from 5.30 a.m to 7 a.m since Dec.16 to celebrate Marghazhi.

During the walks, the students are taken to neighbourhood temples and educated about the significance of Marghazhi.

He told *Mambalam Times* that the program was organised to inculcate good habits in his students for whom he offers free tuition. He said that all students are welcome to join. His contact number is 97908 56066.



Roadside vendors sell kolam powder



By Our Staff Reporter

In view of Marghazhi month which started on Dec. 16, a number of roadside vendors are selling kolam powder on the pavement of Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam.

The colourful powders displayed on the pavement give a festive look.

'Invisible Man' promotes COVID-19 awareness

By Our Staff Reporter

Madhan Kumar (a medical professional) dresses up as the 'Invisible Man' character in the famous English movie 'Hollow Man' to thank frontline workers and create awareness about COVID-19.

Dressed as the 'Invisible Man', Kumar first rode his 2-wheeler around the streets of Mudichoor and

gained the attention of passersby. He stopped to thank the police and conservancy workers for their role in the fight against COVID-19 by giving them flowers.

After gaining popularity in the social media, he drove in others parts of the city including T. Nagar. Photo shows Madhan handing a rose to a traffic constable on Usman Road.



Garbage dumped in bylane off Ranganathan Street

Sandwiched between Ranganathan Street and Natesan Street, a 12-foot-wide bylane has been lying in a state of neglect for several years.

The street was initially intended for hawkers and vendors by the Corporation, but the plan failed to elicit any response. "If at least the street was made accessible to public, it would have taken some load off the busy parallel streets," said V. S. Jayaraman (President of the T. Nagar Residents' Welfare Association).

The garbage that has piled up over the years has made it impossible for pedestrians to reach the suburban railway station from Usman Road, or vice-versa.

According to a Corporation official, garbage is being cleared on a regular basis, but the local shops keep dumping their waste on the street.

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