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ANNOUNCEMENT

Because of the holiday to the press on Jan. 16 on account of Pongal, there will be no issue of *Mambalam Times* dated Jan. 17 - 23. Our next issue will be distributed on Jan. 24.

The T. Nagar - Mambalam edition of *Mambalam Times* can be accessed in www.mambalamtimes.in

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Biker killed on T. Nagar flyover

By Our Staff Reporter

Venkatesh (32) of Chithalapakkam, whose bike was hit from behind by a car on G. N. Chetty Road flyover (T. Nagar) on Jan. 1, died later in Royappeth General Hospital. He was working in a share market firm and was on his way to office.

According to the police, he fell off his bike in the impact and was caught under the wheels of the car.

Pondy Bazaar traffic police registered a case and arrested the car driver Gopi of Ekkatuthangal.

Entry barred to beaches for Kaanum Pongal

The state government has extended the restrictions across the state due to COVID-19 till Jan. 31.

Under the latest guidelines, the state government has prohibited congregation of members of the public in the beaches across Tamilnadu on Jan. 16 on the occasion of Kaanum Pongal. Based on the latest regulations, places of worship will now function with relaxed timings by following the standard operating procedures already provided for religious institutions. The state has also increased the upper limit of visitors to 200 persons or 50% capacity of the indoor arenas where religious, social, political, sports, entertainment and cultural meetings are held.

The government has also permitted indoor and outdoor shooting for films and TV serials to be conducted without a limit on the number of participants.

Gang held for extorting money with death threat

A seven-member gang was arrested on charges of extorting Rs. 25,000 from 35-year-old R. M. Suresh (a resident of Dr. Natesan Salai, Ashok Nagar) and demanding another Rs. 5 lakhs by issuing death threats over phone. Suresh owns a logistics firm in Parry's Corner.

On Dec. 11 he was assaulted by a gang of 7. Two weeks later, he started getting threats over phone that the assault was only a warning and the next time he would be murdered if he did not pay up Rs. 5 lakhs. Out of fear he negotiated and paid Rs. 25,000 and left with his family to Bangalore.

But a week later, he again started getting threats to pay up Rs. 5 lakhs, following which he returned to Chennai and lodged a police complaint on Dec. 30.

Police first arrested one of the gang members B. Manikandan (30) of Kodungaiyur by tracing him through the phone location from the mobile used in making the threats. Based on the information provided by Manikandan, the other 6 members involved in the assault and the extortion were also arrested.

Eight phones, two bikes, a machete and six grams of gold jewellery were seized from them.

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சொஜ்ஜி, பஜ்ஜி, புஜ்ஜி!

மேற்கு மாம்பலம் ஸ்ரீ நளாயினி கேட்டரிங் சர்வீஸுக்கு டயல் செய்தால் ஃபோன் 'கண கண' என்று அடிக்காது. 'கமகம்' என்று தான் அடிக்கும். தொடர்ந்து கூர்மையான நாசி உள்ளவர்களுக்குக் கல்யாண சத்திரத்தின் டைனிங் ஹாலில் நுழையும்போது வெளிவரும் அறுசுவை பின்னிப் பிணைந்த விருந்து வாசனை கும்மென்று வந்து பசியைக் கிளறிவிடும்.

இப்போது எல்லாம் முக்காலே மூணு வீசம் வீடுகளில் சமையல் கட்டில் காபி போடுவதற்கு அடுப்பை மூட்டுகிறார்களே தவிர சமைப்பதற்கு இல்லை. 'வேற வேலை இல்லை, ஃபோன் செய்தாலோ 'வாட்ஸ்'ல சொல்லிவிட்டாலோ டயத்துக்கு டிப்னோ, லஞ்ச்சோ, டின்னரோ அருமையாகப் பொட்டலம் கட்டி டெலிவரி பண்ணிடறாங்க. அதுக்குக் காசு? கூடும் பே, ஃபோன் பே, பே-டிஎம் என்று ஆயிரத்தெட்டு வழிகள் இருக்கு. மணிப் பர்ஸைத் திறக்கவே வேண்டாம். ஆண்டிராய்டு ஃபோன் கையில் இருந்தால் உலகமே நம்ம கையில்! பாரதி சொன்ன மாதிரி எத்தனை கோடி இன்பம் வைத்தாய் இறைவா!

பிச்சு விளாவிய மழையில் நனைந்து கொண்டு வந்த ஸ்ரீ நளாயினி கேட்டரிங் சர்வீஸின் எஜமான் ரகுநாதன் சேவல்போல சிலிர்த்துக் கொண்டு காலை சிற்றுண்டிப் பையைக் கொடுத்தார். நான் கேட்காமலேயே, 'ஸாரி, பத்து நிமிஷம் லேட்டாயிடுத்து' என்று ஒரு தன்னிலை விளக்கத்தைக் கொடுத்தார். இரண்டு கல் தோசைகள், ஒரு கிச்சுபையைக் கொடுக்க இவ்வளவு முஸ்தீபுகளா? வாசனை ஆளைத் தூக்கியது.

'நன்னா நனைஞ்சு போயிட்டேனே, கொஞ்சம் உட்காருங்கோ' என்று உபசரித்து ஒரு டம்பளர் வீட்டுக் காபியைக் கொடுத்தேன். 'திய்யமா இருக்கு. கும்மோணத்திலே என்னுடைய தாயார் போட்டு இங்கே அனுப்பின மாதிரி இருக்கு' என்றார் உணர்ச்சிப் பெருக்குடன்.

'காலையில் மாத்திரம் காபி போட்டுடறது. மத்தியான வேளையிலே காபி, டீக்கு காபி, டீ சென்டர்கள் இருக்கே!'

'ஆமாம், ஆமாம். எனக்குத் தெரிஞ்சு பசங்கதான் நடத்தறாங்க. அவங்க காபிக்கும், டீக்கும் உபயோகிக்கிற பேக்கிங்கே சூப்பரா இருக்கும்.'

'உங்களுக்குத் தெரியுமா? இப்போது எல்லாம் பல வீடுகளிலே காப்பிக் கடை ஆனவுடன் அடுப்பிலே பூனைகள் தான் தூங்கறது. அங்கே நிலுவையில் இருக்கிற உஷ்ணம் 'மியா'க்களுக்கு இதமாக இருக்கும் போலே இருக்குன்னு நினைக்கிறேன்.'

'சும்மா தமாஷ் பண்ணறேன். அட! மழை நிக்காது போல இருக்கு. நல்ல வேளை உங்க வீடுதான் என்னுடைய லைனிலே கடைசி. இன்னிக்கு அவசரமாக ஓட வேண்டாம்.'

'டிபன் சாப்பிடறே ளான்னு கேட்க வேண்டாம்.'

ரகுநாதன் பலமாகச் சிரித்தார். 'வெல்லப் பின்னையாரி லிருந்து கொஞ்சம் பிச்சு அதையே அவருக்கு நைவேத்யம் பண்ண மாதிரியா?'

மழை இன்னும் தீவிரமாயிற்று. மொட்டை மாடியில் தேங்கிய நீர் ட்ரெயின் பைப் மூலமாக ஆக்ரோஷத்துடன் பாய்ந்தது.

'ஸார் இன்னிக்கு எனக்கு வெட்டிங் அனிவர்சரி. புவனேஸ் வரியைக் கைபிடிச்சு நாற்பது வருஷம் ஓடிப் போச்சு. அவளை அவங்க குடும்பத்திலே புஜ்ஜினு கூப்பிடற வழக்கமா. அதென்ன புஜ்ஜி? பஜ்ஜினு? கேலி செய்வேன். என்னைக்கூட ஜில்லுன்னுதான் கூப்பிடறது. விட்டு வைப்பாளா? அவள் என்னையும் அதென்ன ஜில்லு, ஜொள்ளன்னு இருந்தால் பாந்தமா இருக்கும்னு பதில் மரியாதையா கேலி பண்ணுவா.'

'சரி, மழை நிக்கறதுக்கு முன்னாலே விஷயத்துக்கு வரேன். புஜ்ஜி குடும்பத்துக்குக் கும்மோணம் பக்கத்திலே. ராகு ஸ்தலமான திருநாகேஸ்வரம் சொந்த ஊர். அவளுடைய அப்பா குப்புசாமி, கேட்டரிங்கலே பேமன். குக்குசாமின்னு ஒரு கேலிப் பெயர் உண்டாம். அவர் ரசம் வைச்சா ரசம் வைச்ச பாத்திரம் 'நான் யாருக்கும் இதைக் கொடுக்க மாட்டேன்னு வீம்பு பண்ணி தன்னோடையே தக்க வைச்சிக்குமா' என்ற கற்பனை கேலி எல்லாம் உண்டு. காலையிலே இட்லி, பொங்கல், வடை, தேங்காய் சட்னி, கொத்குனு ஐட்டங்களைத் தயாரித்து கஸ்டமர்களுக்கு ச்ப்னை பண்ணுவாராம். டெலிவரி கைங்கரியம் புஜ்ஜியோடது.'

'ஒரு நாளைக்கு எங்க வீட்டுக்குக் கொண்டு வந்த பார்சலைப் பிரிச்சுப் பார்த்தபோது எங்க அம்மாவுக்கு வாயெல்லாம் பல். ஏன்னா அதில் இட்லி, வடைக்கு பதில் சொஜ்ஜி, பஜ்ஜி இருந்ததாம்.'

'இதென்ன கூத்து? அந்தப் பொண்ணு ஏதோ பெண் பார்க்கும்போது கொடுக்கிற சம்பிரதாய ஐட்டங்களைக் கொடுத்திருக்கு. எப்படி இது? என்று இட்லி வடை சாப்பிட உட்கார்ந்த எங்கப்பாவைக் கேட்டாள்.'

எங்கப்பா வடை போச்சேன்னு ஏமாந்து போனாலும் சொஜ்ஜி, பஜ்ஜியைப் பார்த்து அக மகிழ்ந்து போனார். 'இது தெய்வ சங்கல்பமடி. அந்தப் பொண்ணு புஜ்ஜியை நம்ம ஜில்லுக்குப் பார்க்கலாமேன்னு நீ ஒரு தடவை சொன்னியே, குலதெய்வம் கும்பேஸ்வரரே ததாஸ்துன்னு சொல்லிட்டார் போல இருக்கு.'

அப்புறம் நடந்தவைகளை சொல்றதோ, எழுதறதோ அனாவசியம். அடுத்த தையிலே புஜ்ஜியின் கையைப் பிடிச்சேன். கல்யாணம் சுவாமிமலையிலே. அப்பலேயிருந்து கேட்டரிங் வண்டி ஓடிண்டு இருக்கு. அட! என்னுடைய சரித்திரம் முடியட்டும்கிற மாதிரி மழை நின்னுடுத்து. வரட்டுமா? இன்னிக்கு பில் 70 ரூபாய். கூடும் பே வழியா அனுப்பிச்சுடுங்கோ? jsraghavan@gmail.com



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By Our Staff Reporter

Rain water is stagnating in Corporation Playground, Somasundaram Street, T. Nagar.

Rain water stagnating in playground



Water enters residential complexes



By Our Staff Reporter

As the ground floors of some of the residential complexes on BRP 1st Street, West Mambalam adjoining Mambalam Railway Station are below street level, rain water stagnating in the street is entering the complexes.

Residents said that complaints to the officials concerned have evoked no response.

3000 cusecs surplus water released from reservoirs

The Water Resources Department released more than 3000 cusecs of surplus water from Red Hills, Poondi and Chembarabakkam reservoirs on Jan. 5 and 6 as the continuous inflow due to the heavy rains breached the maximum water levels in these reservoirs.

The release was gradually reduced as rains start to abate on Jan. 7. At Chembarabakkam, the water was released into Adyar river after the water level reached 23 feet as against its capacity of 24 ft which led to minor flooding in colonies adjoining the lake in Jaffer Khanpet.

The low-lying areas along the Adyar river were issued flood alert

Public holiday for Thaipusam on Jan. 28

On Jan. 5, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced a public holiday on Jan. 28 for Thaipusam, a festival to celebrate Lord Muruga's birthday. The Chief Minister also said that he will include Thaipusam in the public holiday calendar for the coming years.

The state already has 23 public holidays in a year.

MHA asks govt. not to allow 100% seating in theaters

Two days after the state government issued an order permitting theaters across the state to allow 100% occupancy, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Jan. 6 told the state government to withdraw its order, stating that it is a dilution of the MHA order around theater and multiplex capacities. According to the letter from Union Home Secretary, the capacity allowed in theaters and multiplexes outside containment zones is set at 50%.

The state government has, however, permitted theaters to operate at full seating capacity by following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

K. K. Nagar in coastal zone, says Corporation official

By Our Staff Reporter

Call it official apathy or usual 'sign without reading by officials', a bizarre 'explanation' by a corporation official citing a coastal zone management authority order to stop drain construction work in K. K. Nagar, which is nowhere near the coast, stumped the complainant. It turned out later that an older message was 'pasted' as a reply to the complaint in an attempt to close the case but it still remains complicated and more confusing.

The Corporation has been laying a storm water drain along Anna Main Road in MGR Nagar in K. K. Nagar. But the construction in division 137 is being done on the road and not where the older drain is located. Since the road was being encroached upon by the drain, N. B. Babu, an activist, raised a complaint. He wanted the corporation to stop the work and ensure that encroachments were removed before the new drain was built.

"But I got a reply from the grievance officer that the coastal zone management authority had issued an order to stop the work. And the officer had instructed the assistant engineer to stop the work immediately. But, this order has been flouted and the work is continuing," said Babu.

The Rs. 5-crore project involves laying a 1-km long drain that will connect with MGR canal to stop water stagnation.

Founder of Narmadha Pathipagam passes away

By Our Staff Reporter

T. S. Ramalingam (Founder of Narmadha Pathipagam, 10, Nana Street, Pandy Bazaar, T. Nagar) passed away on Jan. 4. He was a resident of 57B, Bazullah Road, T. Nagar.

He was 70, and had been a resident of T. Nagar for a long time. Born in Thirukuvalai (Thiruvarur District) he graduated in science from Presidency College.

He then joined Kalaignaan Pathipagam owned by his brother-in-law G. Masilamani.

In 1976, he started Narmadha Pathipagam.

Over the years, the Pathipagam has brought out more than 4000 titles including the works of Ka. Naa. Subramanian, Nakulan, Vallikannan, Ashokamithran, T. G. Sivasankaran, Neela Padmanaban and Sa. Kandasamy. He was also running the book store New Book Lands in T. Nagar.

As per his wish, his body was handed over to Sri Ramachandra Medical college and Research Institute for research.

He is survived by his wife, son and daughter.



Mobile phones gifted to two underprivileged students

By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. Anitha Ramesh (Founder, Freedom from Cancer Relief and Research Foundation and Medical Director, Thamarai Clinic, Saidapet) presented two android phones to students from poor families last week to enable them to attend online classes.

The students are residents of West Mambalam and study in a local Corporation school.



Medical camp today for ambulance drivers

By Our Staff Reporter

RMD Nursing Home (13, Raghaviah Road, T. Nagar) has organized a free general medical check-up camp for ambulance drivers and their family members at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 10 in the hospital's premises.

More details can be had in 93810 16588.

Blood donation camp on Tuesday

By Our Staff Reporter

Youth Hostel Association of India, Tamilnadu Branch and Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya (Postal Colony, 4th Street, West Mambalam) have jointly organised a blood donation camp at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 12 in the school's premises.

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

Rains batter Usman Road



By Our Staff Reporter

The heavy rains have washed away the surface of Usman Road in several short stretches leaving behind potholes and loose gravel.

It has made driving hazardous for motorists, especially 2-wheeler riders.

The deeper potholes which are full of water are not visible, posing a danger to motorists.

There were traffic jams throughout the day on Jan. 5 and 6 as rains did not let up. Several minor accidents were reported as drivers struggled to tackle the battered road.

The photo shows a battered stretch outside Sri RKM Sarada Vidyalaya School.

Sewage water overflowing at road junction



By Our Staff Reporter overflowing for several days junction of Habibullah Road and Thirumalai Road in T. Nagar. Sewage water has been from the chamber at the

TNCSC chief engineer held for rape of minor

A senior Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation official was arrested under PoCSO Act for raping a 13-year-old girl when the latter was in the custody of flesh trade brokers.

He is the 22nd person to be arrested in the case.

S. B. R. Kannan (a resident of T. Nagar) is the Chief Construction Engineer working in the head-office in Kilpauk, and is responsible for the construction of buildings for the Corporation. According to officials, when one Karthik approached him seeking job as a temporary driver, the official asked him to arrange a minor girl in return.

Karthik organised for a 13-year-old through one Maheshwari and the girl was sent to Kannan's house.

Officials picked up Karthik from Sriperumpudur for interrogation, and arrested Kannan based on his inputs.

The girl was pushed into flesh trade when she came to her relative's house in Vyasarjadi, and was sexually exploited by many persons for about two months before her mother rescued her.

Appeal for financial help for two accident victims

Udavam Karangal (NGO with branch office in 41, Kanadasan Street, T. Nagar.) has been providing free treatment for a fisherman and a temple priest who were severely injured in two recent road accidents.

S. Vidyaaakar (Founder) has appealed to the



L. N. Ganesan

Vijayababu

readers of Mambalam Times to help the NGO through donations for the additional surgeries to be performed to completely cure them so that they can restart earning. Vijayababu (29), the fisherman, is the only breadwinner in a family of 6 including an aged mother and two children aged 2 and 4. Udavam Karangal has already spent Rs.3.47 lakhs towards his surgery and treatment, and an additional Rs.70,000 is needed for another surgery later this month for his complete recovery.

L. N. Ganesan (49), the temple priest, met with an accident in which his left knee joint got totally crushed. Udavam Karangal has spent Rs. 90,000 on his surgery, and seeks funds for post surgery care and possible additional surgery estimated at around Rs. 50,000. Donors can contact Vidyaaakar in 99401 88011 or 2621 6321.

Donations can also be done through the digital medium by visiting the webpage <https://www.myhelpinghands.org/donate/>

Is anything interesting happening in your street or locality? Please inform Mambalam Times!

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Woes of living close to Tasmac shops

Sir, Residents living in the vicinity of Tasmac shops had a peaceful existence during the lockdown period as these shops remained closed.

Ever since the shops and the attached bars have been allowed to open, the residents are once again forced to live amidst hardships caused by the patrons of these shops.

Several streets in residential areas like Parthasarathipuram in the neighbourhood have Tasmac shops.

The shops see a regular influx of customers at all hours. The opening of these shops has disturbed the peace of residents, made the neighbourhood unsafe and has set a bad example for the youngsters and children in the area.

The issues include haphazard parking of 2-wheelers, drunken brawls by the shop patrons that often spill over into the streets, drinking and smoking in public spaces and not the designated bars attached to the shops

There is high noise pollution, especially late at night, as loud music is played by the patrons who stay within the premises

Increased theft of two-wheelers and petrol from vehicles parked in homes near Tasmac shops and chain snatching incidents have been reported regularly.

Women are forced to avoid the stretch owing to eve teasing and other issues.

Though complaints are regularly made by the residents, no action is taken by the police or the Corporation officials.

I understand that Tasmac shops bring lots of revenue to the government's coffers, but it should not be at the expense of the peace, safety and comfort of the residents.

I appeal to Tamilnadu govt. to relocate all Tasmac shops from neighbourhood streets in the city to non-residential areas. **R. Sadasivam, West Mambalam, Ph: 32291 15621**

Local nursery launches plantable 'Seed Calendar'

By Our Staff Reporter

To commemorate its 10th anniversary, the gardening store Harith Tharang (42, Bazullah Road, Parthasarathi Puram, T. Nagar) has launched an exclusive 'Seed Paper Calendar' for 2021. The calendar that is made of seed paper encourages everyone to plant the paper and take part in the green movement. "I identify myself as a plant lover and through this revolutionary seed paper calendar, I aspire to fulfil my quest for a greener world," Rashmi Sunil (Founder) said.

Based on the theme of 'Veterans', this special calendar features digital arts of twelve age-old trees belonging to various districts of Tamilnadu.

The name 'Veteran' is accorded to someone who has a long history of serving for the society. Braving adverse weather conditions and calamities, all these trees are the real veterans of our nation as they stand tall for more than a hundred plus years, now, she said.

The calendar contains illustrations of the renowned Adyar Banyan tree, 500-year-old African native Baobab tree located in Virudhunagar, 200-year-old enormous neem tree in Erode, 400-year-old majestic tamarind tree in Trichy and many more such trees that narrate a gripping tale of endurance.

For buying the calendar, visit the store or order online at <https://hariththarang.com/> or <https://www.birthdaymarque.com/>

Achieves fame in 'toy photography'

By Our Staff Reporter

Local youth Hariharan Vijayasathy (1st year ME student in Anna University) took to 'toy photography' to engage himself during



the lockdown period. After sharing the photos on social media he started getting recognition in the international community.

Last month one of his toy photos got featured in a London-based toy magazine.

He was also part of the team which was runner-up in the online Olympics 2020 International Toy Photography Competition conducted by Toy Pic Community recently.

"I have a good collection of Hasbro action figures. This brand is really good because their superhero action figures have bendable arms and legs that can be bent and hold in place for the picture-perfect pose.

I also use different props like thermocol, smoke, powder, and other things lying around my house to get a good effect," Hariharan said.

Has been selling Pongal pots for 3 decades



By Our Staff Reporter

K. Vasu (resident of 64/84, Canal Bank Road, CIT Nagar) has been selling Pongal pots from his residence for more than three decades. "Apart from regular customers, I get orders for Pongal decorative pots from companies," he said. Vasu said that the prices of the pots range from Rs. 50 to Rs. 70 depending on the size and design.

He also sells flower pots, earthen lamps and pots used during marriage ceremonies. He gets stocks from Chengalpattu, Periyapalayam and other areas. His contact number is 97103 88220.

Decades old Metrowater pipes being replaced in Cart Track Road



By Our Staff Reporter

The decades old underground Metrowater pipes in Cart Track Road (T. Nagar) are being replaced with new pipes.

This follows repeated complaints of poor piped water supply by the residents of the street

Suction machine used to desilt storm water drain



Corporation workers removing silt from the storm water drain using a 'Suction cum jetting machine' to prevent water stagnation in Bharathi Street, T. Nagar on Jan. 8.

No return tickets on suburban trains during non-peak hours

An order by the railways not to permit the sale of return tickets during non-peak hours has irked commuters who use suburban and MRTS services. The directive was issued on Dec. 22 and said only those with identity cards or bonafide certificates from workplaces can get return or season tickets. Woman passengers, however, can buy return tickets.

"I am a salesman and I have to reach work at 10.30 a.m. I keep going to the counter at every station to get a single ticket. It's a hassle," said R. Ramakrishnan, who was boarding a train to Fort at Mambalam station.

T. Sadagopan, president of Tamil Nadu Progressive Consumer Centre, said that the purpose of issuing return tickets is to reduce crowding at counters. "If the authorities are concerned about safety, they must open more counters and ensure social distancing," he added.

Nalaiya Sigaranga music fest, contests

Nalaiya Sigaranga (2/41, 11th Cross Street, Mahalakshmi Nagar, Adambakkam) will conduct its 8th Carnatic Margazhi Isai Vizha and 20th music competition for various age groups in cine/carnatic music (vocal and instrumental) on Feb. 7 in Ramakrishna Mission Hr. Sec. School, Dhandapani Street, T. Nagar.

The last date for registration is Jan. 31. Those interested in participating may contact A. S. Raman (94444 21264/73974 76349) for registration and application. Email: nalaiyasigaranga@gmail.com

Seats vacant in Thakar Bapa Vidyalaya trade courses

Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya (58, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar) has announced that there are a few seats available in the Government of India sponsored free courses in various trades conducted by it. They include wireman, electrician, fitter and welder courses. The last date for admission is Jan. 16.

More details can be had in 9940 508114 / 94451 25048.

To apply online, contact 98846 77638.

Ayyappa pooja today morning

Sri Dharma Sastha Ayyappa Seva Sangam (36, Sampangi Street, West Mambalam) has organized its 23rd annual Swami Ayyappa Pooja at 7 a.m on Sunday, Jan. 10 in Moogambigai Mini Hall, 15, Easwaran Koil Street, West Mambalam.

There will be special abhishegam, alangaaram, and annadhanam. All are welcome.

More details can be had in 98412 29835 and 95432 32371.

Online solo, group dance contests

In connection with Pongal festival, Sportena (6/128, P.M.R. School Road, East Mogappair) and Sathvin Dance Academy (Egmore) have jointly organised dance competitions in solo and group categories. Dances can be based on classical, western, folk, film or any other style.

Solo competition is open to school students in the 3 to 15 years age group categorized as Under-8, 8 to 11 and 12 to 15.

All are welcome to participate in the group dance competition (4 to 6-member groups only).

Interested participants and dance groups should submit a 3-minute video of the dance by WhatsApp to 87783 94729 on or before Sunday, Jan. 17.

There is no participation fee. Attractive cash awards will be given to the top three winners in each category.

The results will be announced on the Facebook and Instagram pages of Sportena on Sunday, Jan. 24 For more details, call 87783 94729/93808 69045.

Damaged auto removed after report in *Mambalam Times*



Before



Now

Following the report 'Damaged auto blocks road margin' published in *Mambalam Times* (Dec. 27, 2020 - Jan. 2, 2021 issue), the autorickshaw (TN02 / D 0018) lying outside 8/35, Ramasamy Street, T. Nagar for several weeks was removed by the traffic police.

Bollard topples over in CIT Nagar 1st Main Road

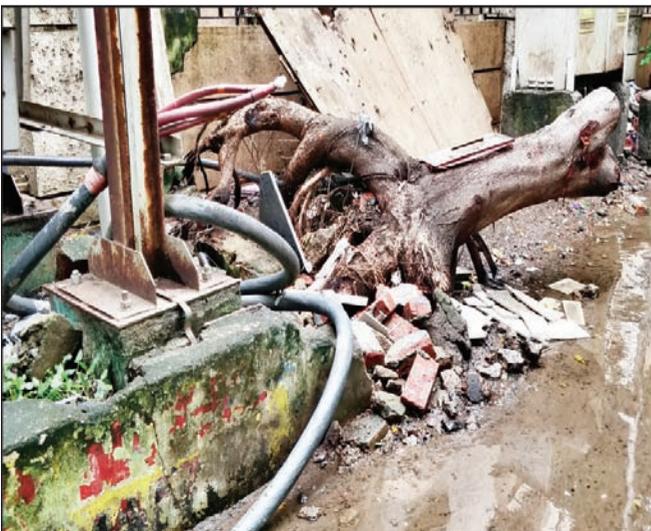


By Our Staff Reporter

One of the 4-foot tall concrete bollards installed on the pavement of CIT Nagar 1st Main Road (T. Nagar) to prevent parking of cars on the pavement has toppled over.

The bollard has been lying in front of Spine and Brain Hospital (42/56, CIT Nagar 1st Main Road) for several days.

Tree uprooted on Bagirathiammal Street



By Our Staff Reporter

An uprooted tree has been slanting near the EB transformer on Bagirathiammal Street for several days.

Radhatri Nethralaya receives 'Healthcare Leadership' award

By Our Staff Reporter
Radhatri Nethralaya (12, Hindi Prachara Sabha Street, T. Nagar, Ph: 94454 38681, 2433 2229, 2431 1550) received the 'Tamilnadu Healthcare Leadership' award for the second consecutive year last week.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham (Medical Director, Radhatri Nethralaya) said that the award was conferred for the excellence in eye care across all strata of society, irrespective of socioeconomic class.

The award was instituted by World Health & Wellness Congress.



Unauthorised huts on Thangavel Street demolished

By Our Staff Reporter
The Corporation evicted 77 families living in unauthorised huts on Thangavel Street, T. Nagar last week.

Most of them have been relocated to Slum Board tenements constructed in Perumbakkam.

Four JCP machines were deployed to demolish the huts. The debris was taken away in trucks to a landfill.

A police team provided security during the eviction drive.

Photo shows a family of three awaiting allotment, sitting in front of their demolished house. They told this reporter that they were awaiting communication from Corporation officials.



Flat residents remove rain water using vessels



By Our Staff Reporter

Residents of a flat complex on Coats Road, T. Nagar were forced to remove rain water which had entered their complex using vessels. Water is stagnating on many other roads too in the neighbourhood.

Trees topple over during heavy rains

By Our Staff Reporter
More than 10 trees toppled over and several branches fell on the roads and in parks following the heavy rains on Jan. 5 and 6 in T. Nagar and West Mambalam.

Corporation workers axed the trees to clear the roads following complaints by the residents. The photo shows an avenue tree that toppled on Habibullah Road, near Aumbal Street junction, T. Nagar at around 6 p.m on Jan. 5.

No one was injured in any of the incidents.



Heavy rains put homeless, slum dwellers to suffering

By Our Staff Reporter

Amidst heavy downpour, the homeless and the slum dwellers struggled without a roof over their heads

It was a night of difficulties for around 100-odd families who stay in makeshift tents made from political banners and advertisement canvas in Jaffer Khanpet adjoining Adyar river. As it poured incessantly, the children watched as their tent collapsed again and again, leaving them running for cover with their families.

While some took shelter in a community hall, others moved in with friends and relatives.

They told this reporter that they still await allotment of tenements in Perumbakkam after their houses were demolished by the Corporation six months back.

Over the past two years, more than 2000 families living along the river banks have been relocated under the river eco restoration project.

Incessant rain hampers normal life

By Our Staff Reporter

With two days of incessant rain flooding the city's major roads affecting traffic movement, water stagnation was reported in many streets in the neighbourhood.

The downpour flooded roads and subways in T. Nagar and West Mambalam.

Waterlogging was reported in several stretches of Usman Road, Burkit Road, and at major junctions.

Motorists and office-goers faced a tough time reaching their destination. Water entered houses in a few low lying areas in West Mambalam, Saidapet and K. K. Nagar.

Arokiswamy (a shopkeeper on Burkit Road, T. Nagar) said that the residents have been facing water stagnation every year with no solution provided by the Corporation. "Several shops along the road were closed after water entered them. Residents are finding it difficult to wade through the knee-deep water," he said.

The Corporation deployed personnel to clear flooded subways and key junctions.

Amid the intense showers, vehicles moved at a snail's pace, while two-wheeler riders and auto-rickshaw and car drivers found it very difficult to negotiate roads.

More than 7 trees that fell and blocked roads in T. Nagar and West Mambalam were axed and removed.

Many residents also reported water contamination as sewage water from overflowing drains entered metro water sumps. As per statistics released by the weather bureau, the city had received 1,038.10 mm rainfall from Oct. 28.

Cables on pavement removed after report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Internet cables dumped on pavement' published in *Mambalam Times* (January 3-9 issue), Corporation workers removed the discarded bunch of cables and a tree stump which were blocking the pavement opposite Vani Mahal (Dr. Nair Road, T. Nagar) on Jan. 7.

Seeping water stagnates in Madley subway



By Our Staff Reporter

Water seeping from cracks in the wall of Madley Subway, T. Nagar stagnates in the subway hindering motorists.

Rajan Eye Hospital helps the needy affected by pandemic

By Our Staff Reporter

Even as the number of new COVID-19 positive cases in the State continues to drop, some organisations that started outreach services during the pandemic have not yet let down their guard.

Among them are Rajan Eye Care Hospital and Chennai Vision Charitable Trust which continue to reach out to poor and less privileged families across the State, in a bid to enable them to tide over the pandemic-induced crises.

In November and December, the Hospital Trust supported 25,000 families in 95 slums in city areas including Mambalam, Kodambakkam, Taramani, Besant Nagar, Avadi, Thiruporur, K. K. Nagar, Thoraipakkam, Kotturpuram, Iyyapanthangal, Alandur, Guindy, Velachery and Teynampet.

It distributed goggles, sanitisers, N-95 masks and face shields among over 2,000 police personnel and 4,000 nitrile gloves among government hospitals in Namakkal and other places.

Apart from this, daily rations such as rice, wheat and bread were distributed among sanitary workers.

"The ongoing project is supported by donors and well-wishers. We are planning to cover 300 slums in the next couple of months, covering 75,000 families," said Dr. Mohan Rajan (Chairman).

The T. Nagar - Mambalam edition of *Mambalam Times* can be accessed in www.mambalamtimes.in

Rasika Fine Arts honours 4 veteran artistes

By Our Staff Reporter

Four veteran artistes were honoured during the valedictory function of the 17th Annual Hybrid Music Festival organised by Rasika Fine Arts in Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya, West Mambalam on Dec. 31.

The artistes were honoured by S. Vedatam Ji (President, Rasika Fine Arts). Dr. Girija Seshadri (Secretary), Cleveland Sundaram, Kasim (Son of Shekh Inamaulana) and Deepak Swaminathan (CEO, Media Point).

The following were the artistes honoured with cash award of Rs.10,000: Pudukkottai Rajendran and Nanganallur T. R. Subra-manian (Thavil Vidwans), and Swaminathan and Sivaramakrishnan (Ghatam Vidwans).



Long queue outside ration shop



By Our Staff Reporter

Residents were seen standing in a long queue outside the TUCS shop on Kuppaiyah Street, West Mambalam to collect Pongal gifts announced by the state government which include Rs. 2500 cash, sugarcane and other items.

Differently abled welfare office back in DMS Complex

By Our Staff Reporter

The District Differently Aabled Welfare Office has been shifted back to the DMS Complex in Teynampet from K. K. Nagar.

Since Dec. 28, the office has been functioning on the ground floor of forest department's building in Teynampet.

All schemes related to the department of welfare of disabled people in Chennai district will be executed from the office.

In May 2019, the district administration moved the office from DMS Complex to the State Resource Training Centre (SRTC) in K. K. Nagar.

COVID-19 testing ramped up in city hotels

By Our Staff Reporter

After more than 100 employees of two star hotels tested positive for COVID-19, the government has instructed all hotels in the city to test all their workers.

As on Jan. 6, the Public Health Department had tested 5,791 hotel workers of which 176 tested positive.

The hotels have also been advised to strictly follow standard operating procedures.

Record rainfall fills reservoirs near capacity

By Our Staff Reporter

Even as the continuous downpour brought usual problems like water stagnation and traffic snarls across the city, the two days of heavy rains on Jan. 5 and 6 led to an inflow of more than 200 mc ft of water to the city lakes overnight.

According to Metrowater data, the combined water level in the five lakes (Poondi, Cholavaram, Red Hills, Theruvoy Kandigai and Chembarambakkam) increased from 10,980 mc ft to 11,097 mc ft on the morning of Jan. 7, nearing their full capacity of 11,750 mc ft.

On the same day last year, the lakes had only 5,767 mc ft of water. Due to the continuous overflow, Public Works Department (PWD) had to release more than 4,000 cusecs to maintain water levels at Poondi, Red Hills and Chembarambakkam lakes to prevent damage.

After the rains started to abate, the release of water from Red Hills and Chembarambakkam lakes was gradually decreased.

This is the first time most of the lakes have been filled up after five years.

According to weather bureau, mild to heavy rainfall may continue for a few more days in the city and its surroundings as the Northeast monsoon draws to an end.

According to weather blogger Pradeep John, who runs the page Tamil Nadu Weatherman, the rains marked the fourth-highest quantity of rainfall in 24 hours in January in 150 years, with Nungambakkam receiving 84.8 mm of rainfall as on Jan. 6. The highest, recorded on Jan. 15, 1915 at Nungambakkam, was 212.9 mm. Meenambakkam recorded 126.2 mm of rainfall and Kelambakkam recorded 210 mm.

As on Jan. 7, Poondi had a storage of 3135 mcft as against its full capacity of 3231 mcft (1481 mcft on the same day last year); Cholavaram has 881 mcft as against its full capacity of 1081 mcft (77 mcft last year); Red Hills had 3251 mcft as against its full capacity of 3300 mcft (2578 mcft last year) and Chembarambakkam had 3437 mcft against its full capacity of 3645 mcft (1677 mcft last year).

The two desalination plants also contribute around 200 million liters daily to the city.

According to Metrowater officials, the city will enjoy a comfortable water supply position during the next 12 months.

2 held for supplying SIM cards without verification

By Our Staff Reporter

S. Manoj Kumar (resident of West Mambalam) and A. Sigasudhin (resident of Ashok Nagar) were arrested by central crime branch of police for colluding and supplying 1,100 SIM cards without verifying documents to a local firm.

These SIM cards were later used in the call centres run by two Chinese nationals to make calls and harass those who had borrowed money from mobile loan firms.

Sigasudhin was a territory sales manager of Vodafone and Jagadeesh was an agent.

They supplied the cards to a digital marketing firm in Teynampet run by Manoj Kumar and Muthukumar.

The company purchased the SIM cards using fake documents which were not verified by Manoj Kumar.

Parents allege police assault cause of son's death

On December 30, the deceased A day after he was discharged from police custody, A. Surya (resident of Am-bedkar Colony, Jafferkanpet) was admitted with stomach pain in ESIC Hospital (K. K. Nagar).

As he developed further complications, he was shifted to Government Royapettah Hospital where he died on Jan. 5. His body was sent to the mortuary in Kilpauk Medical College Hospital.

On information, MGR Nagar police received a complaint from Surya's parents and registered a case under Section 174 of CrPC.

Surya's parents and his friends gathered near MGR Nagar police station alleging that Surya died due to the assault by police while in their custody. According to the police, Surya along with three friends, were detained in MGR Nagar police station on the charge of hurling stones at a car under the influence of alcohol on Dec. 31. However, since the complainant withdrew his complaint, Surya was reportedly let off with a warning.

Police said that they will decide on the course of action once they receive the post-mortem report.

Pongal freebies, cash distributed among ration card holders

The government started distributing gift hampers and cash of Rs. 2,500 among ration cardholders for Pongal on Jan. 4.

The gift hamper consists of one sugarcane along with 1kg rice, 1kg sugar and cashewnut and cardamom.

Tokens to collect the gift hampers were distributed among cardholders at the doorstep in advance to avoid overcrowding in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the tokens mentioned the specific dates to collect the hampers.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 22/10, Raghavan Colony, near Govindan Road, single bedroom, ground floor, independent house, good water facility, 2-wheeler parking, Brahmins only, no brokers, rent Rs. 6500. Ph: 98405 13200, 96771 85056.

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ASHOK NAGAR, 61, 10th Avenue, 1st floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1000 sq.ft, attached bathroom, 24 hours lift, water, security, CCTV, car park, semi-furnished, only vegetarians. Contact direct, Ph: 98410 98481.

WEST MAMBALAM, Rams Flat, Burma Kanakambal Street, near Bharathiram Kalyana Mandapam, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, single bathroom, 1st floor, North facing, rent Rs. 12000, 6 months advance, ready occupation. Ph: 95979 69020, 97105 06995.

ASHOK NAGAR, 51, 10th Avenue, near Jeevan Supermarket, 5th floor, 2 bedrooms. Semi-furnished, lift, open car park, vegetarians, available by end of February, 2021, no brokers. Ph: 98841 59688.

WEST MAMBALAM, 1, Brindavan Street Extension, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, 730 sq.ft, recently renovated house, vegetarians only, no brokers, no car park, rent Rs. 17000. Ph: 94438 85151.

WEST MAMBALAM, 48B, Mahadevan Street, 550 sq.ft, 2nd floor, single bedroom. Ph: 2489 5239, 99403 87770.

WEST MAMBALAM, 5/2, Umapathy Street (Mahalakshmi Builders), single bedroom, hall, kitchen, pooja, newly renovated, ground floor flat, immediate occupation, rent Rs. 16000, 2-wheeler parking, Brahmins, inspection on Sunday. Ph: 91762 90001, 98849 31837.

WEST MAMBALAM, F1, 4, KV Colony 1st Street, 3 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 1400 sq.ft, rent Rs. 30000 + maintenance, preferably Brahmins. Ph: 98409 23684, 98405 60380.

WEST MAMBALAM, Srinath Flat, K.V. Colony 1st Street, 480 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 2-wheeler parking, ground floor, ready for occupation, small Brahmin family, inspection on Sunday, 10 to 11 a.m. Ph: 94455 66188.

WEST MAMBALAM, Flat No. A-3, Adhithya Apartment, 5, Kavara Street, ground floor, 350 sq.ft, one room, kitchen, Bachelors only, rent Rs. 7500, 5 months advance. Ph: 97106 48858.

WEST MAMBALAM, Flat F1, 50, Balakrishna Naicken Street Extension, 2 bedrooms apartment, hall, kitchen, 920 sq.ft, only vegetarians, interested contact Subhashini, Ph: 90030 22868 or Sudarsan, Ph: 90030 78348.

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KODAMBAKKAM, 18A, Aziz Nagar Main Road, near Rangarajapuram Main Road, ground floor, individual house, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, small family, 2-wheeler parking only, rent Rs. 14000, no brokers. Ph: 91767 73001.

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T. NAGAR, 49, Mambalam High Road, 2nd floor, semi-furnished, 2 bedrooms, attached bathrooms, 24 hours water, bike & car parking, vegetarian family only, Rent Rs. 17000, maintenance Rs. 1500, EB card rate, no pets, no brokers. Ph: 94449 43188.

WEST MAMBALAM, 1, 4th Street, K.V. Colony, small independent out house, hall (A/c), kitchen, bath, (no separate room), small Brahmin family, occupation on 1st February, rent Rs. 7800, advance Rs. 30000, no brokers. Ph: 98400 44614.

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Velammal student sets Guinness record

By Our Staff Reporter
S. D. Divakar (Std. 8 student in Velammal Main School, Mogappair) set a new Guinness world record in Hula Hoop by completing 167 rotations non-stop in 1 minute on a balanced board.



The event was held in August by Gokulnath Unique Talent Academy in which 15 students participated in an attempt to break the existing record.

Guinness World Records issued the certificate to Divakar and published the result in its website last week.

Govt. mulls reopening schools after Pongal

By Our Staff Reporter
The government is exploring the option of reopening schools for students of Stds. 10 and 12 after Pongal.

A decision is expected to be taken after getting suggestions and comments from parents at school-level.

The State School Education Department has instructed all the district education department officers to ensure that schools conduct meetings with parents to get inputs.

The department also attached a draft SOP document with the circular that will have to be followed in case the state government decides to reopen schools.

Damaged barricades heaped on G. N. Chetty Road pavement



More than 100 damaged iron barricades in rusted condition have remained heaped one over another on the pavement of G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar behind R4 Soundarapandiayan Anganwadi police station for several days. They are blocking the way for pedestrians.

Platform screen doors in all metro stations in phase-2

Automated platform screen doors will be installed in all the stations in the 118.9- km phase-2 of Chennai Metro to prevent commuters from crossing or jumping the tracks. Such doors were installed only in underground stations in phase-1.

Chennai Metro will construct 80 elevated stations to link a nearly 76-km stretch in three corridors in the phase. While underground stations will have full platform screen doors from the platform to the ceiling, elevated stations will have half-high doors.

All suburban train services being operated

Southern Railway has started operating all its services on the suburban and MRTS sections from Jan. 4. The total number of local train services daily from the city is now 660.

Southern Railway had been increasing the number of services on the local train network in a graded manner. Initially allowing only essential workers and staff members, the trains were opened for the general public during non-peak hours from Dec. 23. The peak hours are now slotted from 7 a.m to 9.30 a.m and from 4.30 p.m to 7 p.m on weekdays. It will continue to operate reduced services on Sundays.

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