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The Neighbourhood Newspaper for T. Nagar & Mambalam

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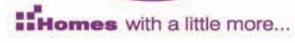
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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Sewage leaking from commercial complex



Sir, Sewage water has been leaking from the commercial complex on Pinjala Subramaniam Street (T. Nagar) and collecting on the street for the past 15 days.

In spite of several complaints to Metrowater and the owner of the complex, no action has been taken to resolve the issue.

The stench is unbearable and a health hazard to persons living in the vicinity.

Pedestrians crossing the stretch are also put to hardship.

I appeal to the officers of Metrowater to take immediate action to stop the leakage from the complex. **Ramesh Babu, Pinjala Subramaniam Street, T. Nagar**

## Unused EB junction box removed after report in *Mambalam Times*



Following the report 'Unused EB junction box blocks street margin' published in *Mambalam Times* (December 5-11 issue), the dismantled EB junction box in rusted condition on Rama Street (T. Nagar, near Police Assistance Booth) was removed on Dec. 6.

## Sewage issues on Guild Street and Madley Road

Guild Street and Madley Road (T. Nagar) were a picture of squalor recently, with overflowing sewage.

Residents say this problem is not caused by the rains but is a recurrent problem that gains proportion during monsoon.

S. Sekar (President, Stenographers' Guild) said that even during light rains, the sewage overflows, inconveniencing pedestrians and motorists. As the stretches are used by a number of motorists going to Mambalam railway station, Station Road and Arya Gowda Road, the issue needs a long-term solution, Sekar said. "For the past five years, I have been making complaints in this regard to the CM Cell, Deputy Engineer, Assistant Engineer and Assistant Deputy Engineer of Metrowater, but no long-term solution has been found for this issue," Sekar added. He said that during heavy rains, the problem gets aggravated as the manhole chambers are not de-silted before the rains.

## Open drains hazardous to pedestrians



To drain water stagnating on roads during the rains last month, the covers of several storm water drains were either removed or broken as their inlets were blocked. Similarly, the covers of underground sewage chambers were also removed to drain the water.

The open drains and the sewage chamber manholes on several streets in the neighbourhood have still not been closed, and pose a danger to motorists and pedestrians.

Photo shows an open storm water drain at the junction of Madley Road and Muthuranga Salai (T. Nagar) covered with a metal structure to caution road users.

## Corporation patches 16000 potholes as rain reduces

Chennai Corporation has patched up more than 16,700 potholes, 50% of them last week after rain reduced.

It has allocated Rs. 26 crores from the state disaster relief fund to restore flood-damaged roads.

It has identified 63 major stretches with potholes 50m-100m wide and plans to

spend Rs. 8 crores on them. A patchwork is carried out. total of 63 roads with 49,343 According to Deputy Commissioner (Works) S. Prasanth, roads being dug up by service agencies and water retention were among the

At a review meeting on Dec. 6, officials were asked to inspect roads daily and ensure



For instance, Brindhavan Street (T. Nagar), which was re-laid less than a year back, has developed big potholes mainly due to rain water stagnation and digging work by TNEB, Prasanth said.

## Metal stand blocks way for motorists



By Our Staff Reporter

A 6-foot-tall metal stand used to cover the opening of a sewer manhole is blocking the way for motorists on Mambalam High Road (near Rangarajapuram Subway, T. Nagar).

Due to poor visibility at night, it poses a grave danger to motorists and pedestrians.

## Velammal student comes first in track race

By Our Staff Reporter

R. Loshini (Std. 8 student in Velammal Main School, Moga-



ppair Campus) came first in the 600 meters track race clocking 1.42 minutes in the U-14 age group category in the 51st Chennai District Junior Athletic Championship in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium recently. There were participants from several districts across Tamilnadu. The event organised by Chennai District Athletic Association. For details, contact 80560 63519.

## Contactless self blood testing kit launched

Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan inaugurated 'Optimists', a first-of-its-kind contactless self blood testing kit, on Dec. 8.

The health technology start-up will offer blood tests at home.

Saraswathi Mopuru (Founder, Optimists) said that the mobile application offers packages of blood tests that include all the biomarkers in several categories.

One can choose what he/she wants to test on the Optimists's portal and free doctor consultation will be done. The kit, after a prescription from a doctor, will be delivered to the individual within 60 minutes and the sample collection is done.

The results can be viewed on the portal.

For more details, visit the website <https://optimists.in/> or call 1800 111 999.

## Offers to perform Narayaneeyam in devotee's homes

By Our Staff Reporter

Bhamakrishnan (a resident of Anna Nagar) offers to perform Naarayaneeyam paaraayanam at the residences of devotees from 7 a.m to 2 p.m on a mutually agreed date.

Interested devotees may contact her in 97909 44800.

## Dharma Sastha's Laksharchanai next Sunday

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sri Sabari Sathsangam (7/3, Giri Street, West Mambalam), Sri Dharma Sastha's Laksharchanai will be conducted at 9 a.m on Sunday, Dec. 19 in Shobana Kalyana Mandapam, Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam.

Abhishekam and Mangala Aarathi will be performed at noon followed by 'Sama Bandhi Bhojanam' at 12.30 p.m. All are welcome.

## Garbage collection schedule published online

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has taken further steps for better solid waste management and to empower the residents. It has made the route map of the compactor vehicles, the schedule and the exact time the vehicles reach a particular spot online.

If there is any delay, the residents can complain to 1913 and action will be initiated against the contractor or the corporation official in charge.

Presently, details of the zones handled by Corporation namely Ambattur, Anna Nagar, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, Tondiarpet and Royapuram have been uploaded.

The details of contractor handling the zones will be uploaded by the end of the month.

The details of the maps and timings can be checked at [https://chennaicorporation.gov.in/gcc/swm\\_bin](https://chennaicorporation.gov.in/gcc/swm_bin)

Urbaser-Sumeet handles Adyar, Sholinganallur, Perungudi, Kodambakkam, Teynampet, Valasaravakkam and Alandur zones while Ramky Enviro Engineers handles Thiruvotriyur, Manali and Madhavaram zones.

According to an official, the contractors will face a penalty if the bins are overflowing as their payment is based on the various performance indicators.

The Corporation has increased the night conservancy staff by 30% and has started awareness campaigns to improve door-to-door collection of waste and segregation of waste at the source.

There are 14,216 garbage bins and 261 compactor vehicles in the city.

## Colour powders sold on Arya Gowda Road



In view of approaching Marghazhi month, Saraswati (a resident of Saidapet) is selling colour powders for the kolam on the pavement of Arya Gowda Road (West Mam-

balam). She told *Mambalam Times* that she and her husband Anandan have been selling colour powders for the past five years during Marghazhi, ahead of Pongal.

“My husband is a painter and I sell flowers outside a temple in Saidapet,” she said.

The colours are available in 15 shades, and are priced at Rs. 30 for 250 gm.

## Metal sheet fence leaning precariously



By Our Staff Reporter

A metal sheet fence around a vacant plot on Arya Gowda Road (West Mamabalam, near Ramakrishnapuram 2<sup>nd</sup> Street) is leaning towards the road and may fall on the road any moment. It poses a danger to unwary passers-by.

## Mambalam High Road riddled with potholes



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the heavy rains last month, the surface of Mambalam High Road (near Duraisamy Road, T. Nagar) was washed away on several stretches leaving behind a number of potholes. Motorists are facing hardship due to the slippery and uneven surface of the road.

A resident of the street told this reporter that the loose gravel is causing dust pollution every time a vehicle passes. He has appealed to Chennai Corporation to relay the road.

## CM holds high-level meet to address flooding issues

By Our Staff Reporter

Chief Minister M. K. Stalin recently conducted a high-level meeting with senior officials of Chennai Corporation to ensure that the flood situation in various parts of Chennai and its surrounding districts does not recur.

Stalin directed officials to come up with right and permanent solutions and plans to implement them at the earliest area-wise and department-wise.

## Appeal for donations to construct temple for Maha Periyavaa

Anusham Trust (New No. 63, Old No. 29/3, Solaiyappan Street, Mylapore) is constructing a temple for Jagadguru Shri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Mahaswamigal (Maha Periyavaa) in Mylapore.

The Trust has appealed to the readers of *Mambalam Times* for donations in helping the Trust to construct the temple at the earliest.

Donors may contact Ganesa Sharma (Trustee) in 9940344719.

## Gita to be presented in dance form

Under the auspices of Bharat Kalachar, dancer Pavithra will present her new endeavour to bring out the essence of the Bhagavad Gita in dance form for the benefit of educational and cultural institutions at 7.15 p.m on Monday, Dec. 13 in YGP Auditorium, T. Nagar. More details can be had from S.Shivpprasadh in 2834 4876/73586 96613.

## Copious rain boosts water table

The average groundwater level in the city increased by more than 3 meters in November after the recent rains, when compared to the groundwater level in October. As per Metro-water data, the groundwater table was at 5.42 meters below the ground level which has risen to 2.30 meters in November.

None of the city zones has a groundwater table below 3 meters except Royapuram (4.81 meters) and Teynampet (3.23 meters). Adyar (0.54 meters) and Valasaravakkam (0.60 meters) have the best groundwater table.

Hydrogeologists said salinity has reduced up to 70%.

Sekar Raghavan (Director, Rain Centre) said that consistent and above normal rain since October last year, comfortable storage in reservoirs, copious drinking water supply through pipelines this year and better rainwater harnessing methods led to the improvement in the water table.

Residents in many core areas did not draw groundwater for their needs and the reserves were available in plenty.

## Special poojas during Margazhi

By Our Staff Reporter

On account of Margazhi month, special poojas and archanas will be conducted from Dec. 16 to Jan. 16 in Sri Vadamathura Kannan Temple (Postal Colony 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, West Mambalam, opp. Post office).

Prasadam will be distributed in the morning and evening. All are welcome.

## New office-bearers for Thamizhnadu Brahmin Association

By Our Staff Reporter

Lakshmi Raghukumar was elected as President of Thamizhnadu Brahmin Association (Tambras, T.Nagar) for the period 2022-25.

The other members elected are Lalitha Chandrasekar (Vice President), Sumathi Rangarajan (Secretary), Padmini Sundararajan (Treasurer), Pavithra Ram (Women's Wing Secretary), GovindaRajan (Youth Wing Secretary), Sundaravalli and Swarna (Joint Secretaries).

For membership, call 98400 71627.

## Video of students doing stunts on MTC bus goes viral

A video of a group of school students hanging precariously on the footboard of an MTC bus on Anna Main Road (K. K. Nagar) and 'performing' stunts went viral on social media on Dec. 5, sparking outrage.

Soon, police began a probe to identify the students.

The video, believed to have been captured by a person travelling in a car behind the bus, shows several students hanging from the window rails of the bus on route 64K (Broadway to K. K. Nagar).

One of them is seen climbing to the roof, while a few others stand on the footboard, leaning out and screaming.

“We also received complaints from the bus crew about the footboard travelling and a special squad has been formed to nab commuters who continue to travel on footboard despite being warned,” said the officer.

## Thiruppavai upanyasam from Thursday

Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha, Vani Mahal, has organized Thiruppavai upanyasam by Dr. Sudha Seshayyan daily from 7 a.m to 8.30 a.m from Thursday, Dec. 16 to Jan. 13.

All are welcome. Entry as per SOP guidelines.

## EB junction box topples



By Our Staff Reporter

An EB junction box next to the transformer outside Mahalakshmi Flats (Lakshmi Street, West Mambalam) toppled during the rains last month and is resting on the compound wall of the building adjacent to it. It is a safety hazard.

Nearby residents have appealed to TNEB to put it back in position.

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### சர்தார்தரிகள் மேலிருந்த மயக்கம்!

தலையில் பனிச் சலர் டர்பன், முறுக்கிய மீசை, தாடி, கரத்தில் இரும்பு வளையம், மிடுக்கான ராணுவ உருவம், உயரம், உச்ச ஸ்தாயியில் சப்திக்கும் பேச்சு. இந்தக் கலவையுடன் ஒரு சர்தார்தரிகை நான் சிறுவயதில் பார்க்கும்போதெல்லாம் எனக்கு மெய் சிலிர்க்கும்.

அன்று எங்கள் வகுப்பு சோஷியல் ஸ்டடீஸ் ஆசிரியர் சிவ சிதம்பர முதலியாரின் மேற்பார்வையில் சேலம் சென்றிருந்தோம். முதலியார் விசுவாசம் விட்டுவிட்டால் அந்த வீர சைவ முதலியாருக்கு கோபம் பொத்துக்கொண்டு வந்துவிடும். அமாவாசை அன்று வெங்காயம் என்கிற வார்த்தையை வாய் தவறி உச்சரிக்கக் கூட மாட்டார். பூண்டா? அப்படினா? என்ன என்று கேட்பார். அடிக்கடி நமசிவாய, சச்சிதானந்தம் என்று விளிப்பார். அது அந்தக் காலம்.

ஒரு முறை சென்ட்ரல் ஸ்டேஷனுக்குப் போனபோது ஒரு மிலிட்டரி டிரக்கிலிருந்து சர்தார்தரிகள் கொத்துக் கொத்தாக தொப்தொப் என்று குதிப்பதைக் கண் கொட்டாமல் பார்க்கும் கொண்டிருந்தேன். 'அது ஏன் லார் ஆர்மியிலே நிறைய சர்தார்தரிகள் இருக்காங்க? என்று சிவசி லாரைக் கேட்டேன். எதையுமே அதாவது என்று தொடங்கித்தான் அவர் பேச ஆரம்பிப்பார்.

'அதாவது இந்தியா ஒரு தீபகற்பம். வடக்கு தவிர மற்ற மூன்று திசைகளிலும் சமுத்திரங்கள் காவலாக இருக்கும். வடக்கிலே இருக்கிற இமயமலையில் கைபர், போலன் கணவாய் வழியாக ஊடுருவி மொகலாயர்கள் படையெடுத்து வட இந்தியாவை நாஸ்தி பண்ணினாங்க. வடக்கே இருக்கிற சர்தார்தரிகளும், ராஜஸ்தானிலும் தான் கடுமையாக சண்டை போட்டு ஓரளவு தடுத்தாங்க. இயற்கையிலேயே கட்டுமஸ்தான சர்தார்தரிகள் நாட்டைக் காக்க ராணுவத்தில் சேர்ந்தாங்க. அதாவது அந்தப் பாரம்பரியம் இன்னும் தொடர்கிறது. தென் இந்தியா பாதுகாப்புடன் இருந்ததாலே மக்கள் போரை சந்திக்க வேண்டியத் தேவையில்லாமல் பெரிய கோவில்களைக் கட்டினார்கள். ஆடல், பாடல்களை வளர்த்தார்கள். உனக்குத் தெரியுமா? சர்தார்தரிக் பிச்சைக் காரணம் பார்க்க முடியாது. கைகளை உழைப்புக்கு உபயோகிப்பார்களே தவிர யாசகம் கேட்டு நீட்ட மாட்டார்கள்.'

தாரத்திலிருந்து சர்தார்தரிகளைப் பார்த்து மகிழ்ந்தது போதாமல் அவர்களில் ஒருவரை நேருக்கு நேர் பார்த்து 'டர்பனை எப்படிக்க கட்ட நீங்க' என்று கேட்க வேண்டும் என்று இருந்தது. ஒருமுறை நான் சென்ட்ரலுக்குப் போகும்போது மெளன்ட் ரோடு, வெலிங்டன் தியேட்டர் அருகில் கார் சிக்



னலுக்காக நின்றது. நூற்றாண்டுகள் கடந்த ஹிக்கின்பாதம்ஸ் புத்தகக் கடலுக்குள் ஒரு சர்தார்தரிக் ஜிக் ஜிக் என்று நுழைந்து கொண்டிருந்தார். அட! குஷ்வந்த் சிங், 'இல்லஸ்டிரேட்டட் வீக்லி' ஆசிரியர். எனக்கு டிரெயினிங் பிடிக்கும் நேரமாகிவிட்டால் இறங்கி அவரை சந்திக்க முடியவில்லை. குஷ்வந்த் சிங் இலக்கியச் சிந்தனை அமைப்பின் ஆண்டு விழாவுக்குத் தலைமை தாங்கி சிறப்புரை ஆற்ற வந்திருந்தார் என்று பின்னர் தெரிந்து கொண்டேன்.

சர்தார்தரிக் ஜோக்குகளைப் பற்றி குஷ்வந்த் சிங் பெருமையுடன் சொன்னது: 'ஜனாதிபதி சர்தார் ஜெயில் சிங்கிடம் நம்மையிட அதிகம் சர்தார்தரிக் ஜோக்குகள் ஸ்டாக் இருக்கு. அவரோடு போட்டி போட முடியாது.'

ஒருமுறை பெங்களூரில் உறவினர் ஒருவரின் வீட்டிற்குப் போயிருந்தேன். அங்கே ஒரு சர்தார்தரிகைப் பார்ப்பேன் என்று கனவில்கூட நினைக்கவில்லை. முப்பது வயதைத் தாண்டிய அந்த இளைஞர். பிரசன்ன வதனத்துடன் ஜொலித்தார். ஆனால் ஆர்மி உடை அணிந்திருக்கவில்லை. சிவிலியன் டிரஸ்ஸில் தான் இருந்தார். ஊதா நிற டர்பன். பெயர் சத்வந்த் சிங்.

'நீங்க ஏன் ராணுவத்தில் சேரலே?' அமைதியாக சிரித்தார். 'நீங்க எழுத்தாளர் இல்லையா, ஆழமாகப் புரிந்து கொள்வீர்கள். என் குடும்பத்தில் என்னுடைய தாத்தா, பெரியப்பா, அப்பா, சித்தப்பா எல்லோரையும் சைனா, பாகிஸ்தான் போர்களில் இழந்திருக்கிறோம். சிங்கமாக இருந்த என் மாமனார் கண்ணி வெடியால் தாக்கப்பட்டு கால்களை இழந்து வீல்சேரில் ஊர்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்.'

எனக்கு பகீரென்றது. 'இருந்தாலும் நானும் ராணுவத்தில் சேர்ந்து நாட்டைப் பாதுகாக்கிற பணியில் ஈடுபடணும் கிற வெறியோடு இருந்தேன். ஆனால் என்னுடைய மாதாஜி, 'நம்ம குடும்பம் பாரத தேசத்துக்காகப் போதிய உயிர்களை தானம் பண்ணியிருக்கு. நீயும் அந்த வரிசையில் சேர்ந்து ஸ்போட்டோவாக சுவத்துலே தொங்க வேண்டாம். ராணுவத்தில் சேரமாட்டேன்னு' சத்தியம் பண்ணிக் கொடு என்று கையை நீட்டினார். தயங்கினேன். 'ம்' என்று கண்ணீர் மல்க வேண்டினான். கேட்பது என்னைப் பெற்று வளர்த்த தாய் ஆச்சே. சத்தியம் செய்தேன்.

ஓரிரு நிமிடங்கள் அமைதி காத்த அவர் மூடு பெண்டலம் போல் ஆடி மாறியது. சிரித்தார். 'ஆனால் இப்போ பாருங்க நானும் நம்முடைய தேசிய எல்லைகள் சம்பந்தமான வேலையில் தான் இருக்கேன். சர்வே ஆஃப் இண்டியாவிலே வரைபடம் வரையும் ஹெட் டிராப்ட்ஸ் மேன். தெருவிளக்கு கிடைக்கலைன்னாலும் அகல்விளக்கு கிடைச்சதே' என்று சொல்லிச் சிரித்தார்.

அவரோடு சேர்ந்து ஆஹூ ஆஹூ என்று குஷியாக எகிறிக் குதித்து ஒரு பாங்கரா நடனம் ஆட வேண்டும் போலத் தோன்றியது. நடக்கிற காரியமா அது? பொதகடர்னு குப்புற விழுவேன். மீசைகூடக் கிடையாது. 'மண் ஓட்டிக்கலே' என்று பீத்திக்க. jsraghavan@gmail.com

## T. NAGAR & MAMBALAM BAZAAR

This column is intended to help small businesses to have a cost-effective advertisement medium. Advertisement in this section will be in standard panel sizes of 4 cm. x 1 column (costing only Rs. 600) and 4 cm. x 2 column (costing Rs. 1200)

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### Metrowater to map groundwater, streamline supply

In a move to effectively streamline drinking water supply in the city, Metrowater has decided to create a groundwater map of the metropolis. "The proposed map will have details of depths of the groundwater table of all the areas in the Corporation limits. The map will also show the quality of groundwater," a senior Metrowater official said.

The official said that a private consultant will be appointed to study the groundwater availability and prepare a map.

World Bank has sanctioned USD 150 million to implement the project.

"Presently, we are supplying almost equal quantities of drinking water to all parts of the city. When we have the map, the water supply will be regulated in a way so that localities with lower groundwater tables will get more supply and others with higher groundwater tables will get the required amount of supply only," the official added.

### Metro work leads to traffic problems

By Our Staff Reporter

Construction on Chennai Metro Phase 2 has begun and roads in at least 14 localities have been barricaded, but traffic police are yet to come up with a proper plan to ease traffic flow.

While things could worsen when construction begins in places like T. Nagar and Nandanam, motorists are already facing problems.

On Arcot Road, with barricades placed in the centre at Kodambakkam and in one corner road at Vadapalani, motorists drive around in a narrow maze. The recent rain has left potholes on the rest of the road. "At junctions like Panagal Park, we may have steel decking when we construct underground to allow vehicles to move above," an official said.

A senior traffic official said that they are yet to receive the complete proposal from Chennai Metro and will begin a joint inspection before making changes. He said that the location of bus-stops, government offices, schools, colleges and hospitals, volume of traffic and road stability will be considered.

A trial run will be held and experts roped in to study stability of roads where tunnelling may begin in the second half of 2022 to ensure there are no cave-ins.

### Water pumped out of playgrounds flood nearby areas

By Our Staff Reporter

While several streets in the neighbourhood were flooded during the rains last month, even large open spaces like playgrounds of educational institutions and parks remained undated for days together.

The neighbourhoods adjacent to these places bore the brunt when the stagnant water was pumped out.

The playground in Government Arts College for Men (Nandanam), Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya and S.R.S. Sarvodaya Girls Hostel in T. Nagar were inundated.

The residents living near these areas suffered when water was pumped out from the playgrounds.

Chennai Corporation officials said that as part of a drive, the residential areas flooded by water pumped from large campuses would be identified. A proposal to solve the problem of flooding in residential areas in the vicinity of large educational institutions will be readied shortly, said the official.

## Sewage water stagnates in vacant building compound



By Our Staff Reporter  
Knee-deep rain water mixed with sewage has been stagnating in the basement and compound of the unoccupied Aswani Swathi Apartments

(Thirumalai Road, T. Nagar, near Habibullah Road) following heavy rains.

## Concrete blocks supporting cable damaged

By Our Staff Reporter  
Concrete blocks supporting a thick EB cable on the margin of the road under Duraisamy Subway (T. Nagar) are damaged.



They may fall on the road along with the cable any time.

## Educational tools worth Rs. 4.7 lakhs gifted to Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya



By Our Staff Reporter  
Canara Bank, under its CSR activity, donated tools and equipment worth Rs. 4.67 lakhs to Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya (Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar) last week. The Vidyalaya conducts free

Electrical, Airconditioning and other ITI courses for students from underprivileged families. Readers of *Mambalam Times* wishing to donate funds to Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya can contact P.Maruthi, (Secretary) in 9176624283 or send e-mail to tbvs1933@gmail.com.

## Pillars of flyovers beautified



Exnora International and Indian Oil Corporation have jointly embarked on an initiative to beautify the pillars of flyovers in the neighbour-

hood. As part of this initiative, the supports of the pillars of G.N. Chetty Road flyover were beautified recently with artwork depicting greenery and blue skies to create awareness about environment. 'Save Trees' and 'Save Earth' messages have also been painted on the supports.

## Cable drums block carriageway



Two empty cable drums belonging to Tamilnadu Electricity Board have been lying on the margin of Swaminathan Street (West Mambalam) for more than a month. They are obstructing movement of pedestrians and motorists.

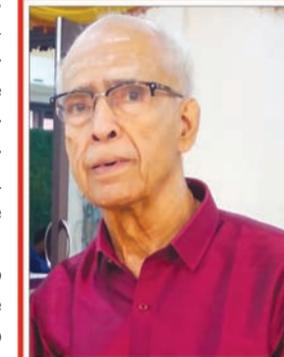
Three months back, nearby residents took steps to prevent garbage being dumped on the spot by painting figures of Gods on the wall adjacent to the spot.

The residents had vacated the flats more than a year back as the structure of the building is weak and they feared that it would collapse any time.

Residents of neighbouring buildings said that a foul smell is emanating from the stagnant water throughout the day. It is a severe health hazard and is leading to proliferation of mosquitoes with the threat of infections like malaria and dengue.

They have appealed to Chennai Corporation to take immediate steps to pump out the water from the compound.

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# VELAMMAL

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NEET RESULTS 2021	NEET RESULTS 2020
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# V-STAR 2022-23

## VELAMMAL'S SCHOLARSHIP TEST

AVAIL UPTO <b>100%</b> SCHOLARSHIP	TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP <b>3.5</b> CRORES WORTH	EXAM DATE <b>19<sup>th</sup></b> 10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON DECEMBER 2021
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## Wins 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in Chess tourney

By Our Staff Reporter

V. Vilva Reshma (Std. 7 student in Velammal Main School, Mogappair) won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Under-12 category in the State-level Junior Chess Tournament conducted by Kanchi Chess Academy in Annie Matriculation School (Kanchipuram) on Dec. 5.



## Tree branch removed from street after report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Broken tree branch blocks carriageway' published in *Mambalam Times* (December 5-11 issue), the 15-foot-long tree branch lying for more than two weeks in the middle of Bhagirathiammal Street (near its junction with Thirumalai Road, T. Nagar) was removed on Dec. 7.

## Skywalk pillar over drain caused flooding in Ranganathan Street



The improper implementation of the Skywalk project in T. Nagar under the Smart City Mission appears to have directly been responsible for flooding in Ranganathan Street and surrounding areas during the recent rains as a concrete pillar supporting the skywalk has been built over a storm water drain right near the office of the T. Nagar MLA.

A concrete pillar of the Skywalk was seen obstructing the flow of water in the storm water drain at Usman Road-Madley Road junction.

Due to the pillar, rainwater flowing from Usman Road, Ranganathan Street and other nearby streets is blocked.

Unlike previous years, rainwater mixed with sewage was seen flowing on the pedestrian pavement due to the obstruction caused by the pillar.

A Corporation official said that they will construct a new drain at the spot by bypassing the pillar to prevent flooding.

Under the Smart City Mission, the Corporation has taken up the skywalk project at a cost of Rs. 30.35 crore connecting Railway Border Road and Madley Road covering 600 meters.

## Velammal students excel in athletics meet

By Our Staff Reporter

Students of Velammal Schools excelled in the 51st Chennai District Junior Athletic Meet held in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (Periamet) last week

R. Loshini (Std. 8 student in Velammal Main School, Mogappair) won the 600 meters running race in the Under-14 category. She completed the race in 1 minute and 42 seconds.

Five students of Velammal Vidyalaya (Mel Ayanambakkam) also won prizes in the meet. In the senior category, B. Ragul and S. Sabareesh (Std. 12 students) won in 400-meter hurdles and 3000-meter running race events respectively.

M. Loka Pavithra (Std. 11) won 800-meter running race and M. Mathesh Kannan (Std. 12) came 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1500-meter running race. In the Under-16 category, S. Nishanthini won the long jump event, Poojasree came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100-meter and 300-meter running races and M. Nethra came 3<sup>rd</sup> in 600-meter running race. 140 students from various schools participated in the meet.



## Damaged mobile traffic signals dumped under flyover



By Our Staff Reporter

A metal cart fitted with traffic signals powered by solar energy has been dumped under the flyover on G. N. Chetty Road (T. Nagar). The traffic signals fixed to the post are damaged and are hanging precariously. These traffic signals are used to temporarily replace signals at busy junctions which suddenly stop working.

## Hanging branches of avenue trees cut



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the heavy rains last month, branches of several avenue trees have broken and are hanging precariously.

Following complaints by residents, workers of Chennai Corporation have launched a special drive to cut and remove

the broken branches to prevent untoward incidents.

A team was seen cutting the branches of the roadside trees on Lakshminarayan Street (West Mambalam) on Dec. 6.

A senior official told *Mambalam Times* that cutting of brokentree branches is on

in all the divisions in T. Nagar and West Mambalam, and will be completed by the end of the month.

He said that residents can call 1913 to lodge complaints.

**Women Helpline 1091**

## 2-month art show by 50 international artists

The third edition of the Chennai Photo Biennale titled 'Maps of Disquiet' has opened and will conclude on Feb. 6.

The 60-day event aims at creating awareness about the social, environmental and technological exigencies of life.

Spread across six venues in the city, the third edition features the works of over 50 artists and contributors from different countries.

The galleries are located at the following places:

Max Mueller Bhawan, Rutland Gate, 4, 5th Street, Srirampuram, Nungambakkam

Forum Art Gallery, Padmanabha Nagar, Adyar

Ashvitha's Gallery, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore  
Roja Muthiah Research Library, CPT Campus, Tharamani

Madras Literary Society, College Road, Thousand Lights

Government Museum, Egmore

## 'Consumer awareness meet' today evening

By Our Staff Reporter

Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Parishad (ABGP) will conduct its 74<sup>th</sup> 'Consumer Meet' at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12 in Stenographers Guild (1, Guild Street, behind Siva Vishnu Temple, T. Nagar).

All are welcome.

For more details, call Ashok Kumar (Coordinator) in 99944 91173.

## Free mortuary van service stopped

Chennai Corporation has suspended its free mortuary van service again, and brokers are back to fleecing grieving families. Amid the Covid pandemic, the State Health Department brought back the free mortuary van service allowing the public to book a van by calling 155377 to take the deceased from hospital directly to the mortuary.

After cases fell, the service too has taken a back seat.

According to public, staff of crematoriums have colluded with brokers who charge Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 for the van service alone.

According to N. Anbarasan (resident of Lake View Road, T. Nagar), when his father passed away, he was asked to pay Rs. 18,000 for van service and rituals. After negotiations, the price was brought down to Rs. 13,000, he said.

He was told that the free mortuary van service was not available anymore.

According to a senior Corporation official, a decade back, every crematorium was allotted one van.

"Most vans got damaged and post Vardah cyclone, the service was scrapped completely," the official said.

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WEST CITNAGAR, West Road, B4, Anand Flat, flat for resale, single bedroom, hall, kitchen, ground floor, 370 sq.ft, UDS 154 sq.ft. Ph: 9940196670, 9940196631.

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T. NAGAR, Thyagaraya Gramani Street, North Usman Road, very close to Kodambakkam Railway Station & Joyalukkas, 2 bedrooms, 630 sq.ft, 1<sup>st</sup> floor apartment, balcony, 24 hours water, 2-wheeler parking, open car park, price Rs. 65 lakhs (negotiable). Ph: 9444454744.

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GUINDY, 5/2, Race View Colony 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 2 bedrooms flat, for resale, 792 sq.ft, UDS 576 sq.ft, vegetarians only, no water stagnate even during rain, price Rs. 65 lakhs, no brokers. Contact: Sampathkumar, Ph: 8825827209.

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TAMBARAM (WEST), Varadarajapuram Selva Nagar, CMDA approved land, 2252 sq.ft, west facing, clear title, no brokers, price Rs. 35 lakhs. Cash parties preferred. Fast appreciation expected as it is under proposed Corporation limit. Contact: Ravichandran, Ph: 9841025475.

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WEST MAMBALAM, near Kittu Park, 648 sq.ft, UDS 309 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, lift, balcony, covered car park, 24 hours water, price Rs. 50 lakhs negotiable. Ph: 9962642881.

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T. NAGAR, 39/16, Nathamuni Street, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 900 sq.ft, open car park, semi-furnished, North facing, residential/commercial. Ph: 9840778578, 9841661235.

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**'Complaints reopen' option removed from Namma Chennai app**

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has removed the 'complaints reopen' option on its Namma Chennai application.

The option was usually used when a complainant was not satisfied with the action taken or reply given by ward level officials.

Once reopened, it would get escalated to senior officials such as executive engineer, superintendent engineer, or even regional deputy commissioners.

Now, with the option removed, fresh complaints have to be filed, activists say.

Every day, on an average, the Corporation gets about 200 complaints on Namma Chennai app.

N. Vishwanathan, an activist from K. K. Nagar, said that removing the facility defeated the very purpose of the grievance redressal system.

"I have filed several complaints about encroachments on footpaths, potholes, water stagnation and improper garbage disposal in the area, and the 'reopen' feature was effective in ensuring quick action by the local officials as they did not want it escalated to higher officials," he said.

A senior corporation official told *Mambalam Times* that after a complaint is closed by an official, it can still be reopened within 24 hours.

The problem is that some complaints on encroachments, laying of roads and drains take a few months to be resolved as tenders have to be called and that takes time.

Until then, the complaints continue to be pending.

"We have given specific time like 24 hours for garbage, two days for potholes and so on to be reopened after which they have to be filed again," the official said.

**Schools urge government to cancel Std. 11 board exam**

By Our Staff Reporter

To ease the pressure on students and teachers, State Board schools have urged the government to cancel Std. 11 board exams this year.

The physical classes are being conducted daily for Std. 10 and 12 students since Sept. 1, but those in Std. 11 have been attending classes on alternate days in most schools to maintain social distancing.

V. Shanthi (Headmistress, Vidyodaya Girls School, T. Nagar) said that it is difficult to complete even a reduced syllabus in the available time.

"At least for Std. 11 students, the government should consider cancelling board exams," Shanthi said.

**Iron boxes gifted to needy**



By Our Staff Reporter Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha's To commemorate former 5<sup>th</sup> death anniversary, Dr.

**Veteran film actor Shivaram passes away**



Shivaram felicitating Shivprasad on the occasion of M. N. Nambiar's birth centenary year.

By S. Shivprasad

I was associated with veteran Kannada film actor Shivaram, who passed away on Dec. 9, from 1981.

Shivaram was born and brought up in Madras. He produced the Tamil film titled 'Dharma Dorai' with Rajinikanth in the lead, with his brother Ramanathan (who introduced Amithab Bachchan in his film 'Bombay to Goa') and also acted in the film. He had been working with his brother from their residence on Giri Road, T. Nagar for over four decades.

We both had been travelling together to Sabari Hills since 1981 on the annual 10-day pilgrimage under Maha Guruswamy M. N. Nambiar.

Till his demise Shivaram was considered the senior-most Swamy of our group. He had felicitated this writer and his daughter Sruuthi who had staged a number of stage plays in memory of M. N. Nambiar. Sruuthi had also compered year-long programs celebrating his birth centenary year.

Shivaram had worked in different fields of production.

He was also a hero, comedian, character artiste, producer and director.

While Shivaram introduced artiste Aarathi in Kannada films, it was my father R. S. Srinivasan who introduced her in Malayalam films.

He was a simple and humble person. I have always seen him as a level-headed and cool personality.

Sruuthi tribute to former Governor

Meanwhile, Sruuthi paid a tribute to former Tamil Nadu Governor K. Rosaiah who was the chief guest for the 91<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of her grandfather R. S. Manohar in Infosys Hall on June 28, 2015 during which she performed the role of Thirunavukkarasar, sang a few Carnatic songs and played some of them on the keyboard.

Rosaiah passed away recently.

She recalled that he had praised her performance and presented her a memento.

Shivprasad had worked in different fields of production.

Suneel (Founder, Ungalakkaga Charitable Trust, T. Nagar) provided food and gifted 100 iron boxes on Dec. 5 to the families affected by the rains last month.

Dr. Sunnel has been providing assistance for needy persons affected by natural calamities.

**Man held for land sale fraud**

B. Karthikeyan (51) (resident of K. K. Nagar) was arrested for grabbing land worth Rs. 2 crores in Kolathur using forged documents. While the land belongs to Anitha Mathews (61) of Anna Nagar, Karthikeyan created a general power of attorney using fake documents and received Rs. 43 lakhs as advance to sell it to another person for Rs. 60 lakhs.

**Two held in land grab case**

The Central Crime Branch police arrested two men in connection with land-grabbing.

E. Ayyanar (58) of Zamin Pallavaram and N. Venkatchalam of West Mambalam created fake documents for a 73-cent plot worth Rs. 12 crores belonging to M. Sathyaseelan (68) and sold it to two others.

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