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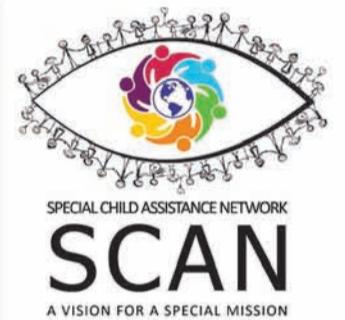
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Vol. 27, No. 31

1476th Issue: December 19 - 25, 2021

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Giri Road in bad condition



Sir, Giri Road (off G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) is in battered condition.

The road was severely damaged following the rains last month. I have seen a number of 2-wheeler riders tripping and falling while riding on the battered surface.

The photo of the road taken in front of my house is self explanatory.

I appeal to Chennai Corporation to relay the road at the earliest. **K. V. Ramani, 54, Giri Road. T. Nagar**

Temple entry denied

Sir, I write this letter with a heavy heart. I had visited Satyanarayana Temple on Ekadashi day (Dec. 14). Many other senior citizens had also come there but entry was refused though, as usual, there was no crowd. The authorities can easily admit five devotees at a time. But, the gentleman at the entrance was very rude and shouted "go and complain to commissioner or CM about allowing senior citizens above 65 years".

Margazhi month is auspicious for prayers and many senior citizens visit temples.

When so many temples allow entry for all why this discrimination here? We visited Thingalur and other places where we were allowed entry.

I hope officials concerned will look into the matter and take remedial action. **Shantha Mahadevan, West Mambalam**

Water contamination, stagnation in Subba Reddy Street

Sir, It has been almost three weeks since the rains abated, but water is still stagnating in Subba Reddy Street (West Mambalam) which falls under Division 135 of Zone 10 of Chennai Corporation.

Another reason for water stagnation is the fact that water was diverted via West Mambalam to Mambalam Canal from K. K. Nagar and Nesapakkam areas instead of the waterways near Nesapakkam.

In spite of several reminders, the officers are not taking any action to pump out the stagnant water.

Most of the sewage manholes are in dilapidated condition, and sewage water is overflowing on the roads leading to drinking water contamination in several houses on Subba Reddy Street, Kasi Viswanathar Street, Ellaiamman Koil Street and Gandhi Street.

The residents are exposed to viral diseases due to proliferation of mosquitoes.

The residents are being put to hardship. I appeal to the officials concerned to take immediate action. **K. Kannan, 28/19, Subba Reddy Street, West Mambalam. Ph: 97890 23817**

Problems with online payment on TNEB portal

Sir, Tamilnadu Electricity Board (TNEB) must take steps to improve the digital payment mode offered via its portal.

On Nov. 19, I paid my bi-monthly due online, the amount bounced to my account on Nov. 21.

As I did not receive any proper response from the helpline, I was forced to remit the amount at a direct collection centre by paying a fine of Rs. 50 as the due date is the 20th.

I have often encountered problems on the portal while making payment.

I appeal to the officials to streamline the online payment and to introduce UPI payment modes. **S. Srinivasan, Burkit Road, T. Nagar**

Leakage in sewage line leads to road cave-in

A portion of Brindhavan Street (West Mambalam) caved in on Dec. 12 due to a leakage in a sewage pipeline below. This is the second cave-in in the last six months.

Metrowater has barricaded the site.

According to Metrowater officials, TNEB had laid underground power cables on the spot 6 months back without checking with them.

The drilling undertaken to lay the cables had damaged the sewage pipes leading to the leakage, the official said.



Meanwhile, the road has been made one-way allowing traffic from T. Nagar and Pondy Bazaar. Motorists from Ashok Pillar, K. K. Nagar have to take a diversion at the Rangarajapuram flyover and other areas.

Udavum Karangal develops infrastructure in two rural schools

By Our Staff Reporter

NGO Udavum Karangal (Kannadasan Street, West Mambalam), apart from taking care of mentally-ill persons and orphans, is now engaging in activities related to community development.

It has embarked on a project to improve the infrastructure in around 20 schools in rural areas around Chennai.

Recently, government schools in Tiruvallur and Villupuram districts were provided with basic amenities. It constructed two class-rooms and five washrooms at a cost of Rs. 19.75 lakhs in the Government Primary School (Molasur Village, Tindivanam Taluk) which has a strength of around 250 students. In another project, Rs. 12 lakhs was spent on improving the infrastructure in Panchayat Union Primary School in Thiruninravur. The NGO gifted benches, desks, plastic chairs, mats, racks and ceiling fans to the school. All the classrooms were repainted and the walls beautified.

S. Vidyakar (Founder, Udavum Karangal) has appealed to the readers of *Mambalam Times* to support the NGO with donations to pursue its social endeavours. Udavum Karangal runs a home for the destitute in Thiruverkadu, Shanthini-ketan Higher Secondary School which provides quality education for the children of underprivileged families and Gayathri Hospital which offers health care at affordable rates.

Free computer courses

SSS Computer Education (2, Muthurangan Salai, near Shasun Jain college, T. Nagar) conducts free computer courses for school/college students, housewives and senior citizens. Topics from school/college curriculum and job-oriented applications like MS office, tally are taught.

The registration fee per course is Rs.300.

K. Anand (Proprietor) told *Mambalam Times* that scholarship is arranged from NGOs and corporate companies for deserving students to pursue higher studies.

For more details, Anand can be contacted in 98413 94512.

Open manhole chamber hazardous to motorists



By Our Staff Reporter

The cover of the sewage manhole chamber in the middle of Mambalam High Road (T. Nagar) is damaged.

To caution motorists, a metal structure and a tree branch have been placed in the opening.

A reflective tape has been fixed around the enclosure to caution motorists at night.

Students from Kerala visit Karuna Sagar



35 students from the Master of Social Work department of St. Joseph College (Kannur, Kerala) visited the palliative care home Karuna Sagar (Madurovoyal) run by RMB Clinic (T. Nagar) last week. They engaged the inmates with role plays and group activities. Dr. Republica Sridhar (Founder) counselled the students and presented a lecture on palliative care for terminally ill patients. Her contact number is 93810 16588.

Velammal team clinches gold in throwball tourney



The girls' throwball team of Velammal Main School (Mogappair Campus), which represented Thiruvallur District in the 19th Senior State Throwball Championship for girls, clinched the gold medal in the open category in the tournament conducted in Syed Ammal Engineering College in Ramanathapuram District on Dec. 12, 13 and 14. The team defeated Chennai district 15-6, 15-8 in the final. 28 teams from various districts participated in the event organised under the auspices of Ramanathapuram Throwball Association.

For details, contact 80560 63519

Corporation asks zones for list of flood-prone areas

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has asked officials in each of its 15 Zones to come up with a list of 'critical' areas that are prone to flooding.

Based on the list, officials will finalise locations that are in need of redesigned or reconstructed stormwater drains.

According to Corporation officials, these areas will be prioritised and storm water drains may be constructed based on availability of funds.

During rains in November, Bazullah Road (West Mambalam), K. K. Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Seethammal Colony, Jawahar Nagar, Pulianthope, Chettinad Enclave in Perungudi and Raja Mannar Salai in Kodambakkam Zone are among the areas identified as being very critical.

These locations were among those where a high number of pumps were deployed to drain out water.

A corporation official at the zonal level said, "We will give a list of proposed works including any possible missing links in storm water drains which, upon fixing, might help drain water in specific areas. Following this, officials from the storm water drain department will inspect the area and decide what to do."

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FREE

Woman held for grabbing Rs. 5-crore property

The Central Crime Branch police arrested M. Lakshmi (51) (resident of Kodambakkam) on the charge of grabbing a shopping complex worth Rs. 5 crores in T. Nagar belonging to Dr. R.Ramesh (59) (resident of Venkatanarayana Street, T. Nagar) with forged documents and trying to sell it to another person. According to police, the accused forged a will as if the property was bequeathed to her, and then transferred it to her husband Manoharan in 2005. Based on Ramesh's complaint, police registered a case and arrested Lakshmi. Police are searching for Manoharan and two others involved in the crime.

Chennai Metro gives priority to Light House-Poonamallee corridor

By Our Staff Reporter

The 26-km Chennai Metro corridor from Light House to Poonamallee may be ready much before the rest of Phase 2 corridors, as preliminary work is in full swing.

The stretch will link some of the city's core localities such as Mylapore, T. Nagar and Vadapalani with popular but poorly-connected western suburbs such as Porur and Poonamallee.

Recently, IRCON International, which is under the Indian Railways, was identified as the lowest bidder for a tender to lay tracks along the corridor.

The corridor is part of the 118.9-km three-corridor Phase 2 project, which has a 2025 deadline.

According to officials, priority has been given to get the stretch between Porur and Poonamallee on the Light House-Poonamallee corridor ready first, with work on an elevated line and a viaduct already having taken off.

Tunnelling for Phase 2 is likely to begin by October 2022.

The Light House-Poonamallee corridor will have 18 elevated stations and 12 underground stations.

Beaches to remain closed on Dec. 31, Jan. 1

By Our Staff Reporter

To prevent crowding that could lead to spread of Covid, the Tamilnadu Government has announced that Marina and Adyar beaches will remain closed to the public on New Year's Eve and on Jan. 1.

The government will only allow events that have received necessary permission, but organisers and participants will have to adhere to Covid restrictions.

Food delivery agent held for chain snatching

By Our Staff Reporter

Yogesh (29), a food delivery agent and resident of Lake View Road (West Mambalam), was arrested on Dec. 13 on the charge of snatching a gold chain from Bhuvaneshwari (26) (a resident of A Block, Anna Nagar) on Dec. 11.

He was arrested during a vehicle check on New Avadi Road. According to police, Bhuvaneshwari works in a store near her home.

When she was returning home after work, the accused followed her on his bike, snatched her chain and escaped before she could raise an alarm.

Bhuvaneshwari lodged a complaint in Anna Nagar police station.

A team led by Jayachandran (Inspector, Crime) checked footage of the CCTV camera near the location and identified the culprit.

Chain snatched from woman

By Our Staff Reporter

A 2-sovereign chain was snatched from Gowri (65) (a resident of West Mambalam) when she was returning home from a temple in Kodambakkam.

According to the police, 2 bike-borne men followed her after she left the temple and snatched her chain on Azeed Nagar 1st Street. They sped away before she could raise an alarm.

She filed a complaint in Kodambakkam police station.

Open drains pose risk in Ranganathan Street

By Our Staff Reporter

Damaged covers of storm water drains and percolation pits are endangering motorists on Ranganathan Street (T. Nagar). Pedestrians have to exercise caution while using this street which is a shopping hub.

The busy street connects Mambalam railway station and a vegetable market.

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Calendar, diary with info on Parkinson's Disease

Parivarthan for Parkinson's, an Anna Nagar based not-for-profit peer support group for patients suffering from Parkinson's and other mobility disorders, has brought out the following products to support its activities.

2022 Diary (priced Rs. 600): It is a fabric-covered hard bound diary with special design representing the support group. It has 12 drawings by its members who are suffering from Parkinson's disorder, along with information about the disease.

Desktop Calendar (priced Rs. 600): It has 12 drawings (one for each month) by creative artist and caregiver Gayathri. Each drawing highlights a significant day or theme from that month.

Tote Bag (priced Rs. 300): It is a multipurpose bag, aesthetically made with cloth. Sudha Meiyappan (Founder) has appealed to the readers of *Mambalam Times* to buy these products to support the activities of Parivarthan.

"These products can serve as beautiful gifts for friends and families and will help raise awareness on Parkinson's disorder". Sudha said. For more details, contact Sudha in 93810 35979.

Quick action reduced waterlogging

It rained heavily for 22 days in November, which was among the highest recorded of all time. There were three major spells of rain, during Nov. 6-7, 17-18 and 26-27.

According to senior Corporation officials, during all the three periods, water was drained out from most streets and subways within hours. While in 2015, it took almost a month to clear water from Madley subway in Mambalam, it was cleared in less than three days this time. Corporation officials studied areas where water stagnation is common, including West Mambalam and Pulianthope, and made alternative arrangements to drain water. The draining time in T. Nagar was reduced from over 12 hours to 5-6 hours after alternative arrangements were made.

More than 900 pumps were arranged to drain water.

The Corporation attended to 41,000 rain-related complaints, the official said.

Rotary Club's public toilet project with amenities

Rotary Club of Madras seeks to alter the perception about public toilets as unhygienic and ill-maintained, through its model project near Pedestrian Plaza (T. Nagar). The facility comes with added amenities which include a feeding room for young mothers and a space for conducting medical check-ups.

Launched in 2020, the facility that is being operated in association with CANSTOP (wing of Sundaram Medical Foundation Hospital, Anna Nagar) and Chennai Corporation.

It was closed during the lockdown and was reopened recently. According to Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan (Founder, CANSTOP and past President of Rotary Club of Madras) many women avoided public washrooms due to unhygienic conditions and they wanted to address the issue by building toilets. "We approached Chennai Corporation with a proposal and they asked us to renovate the existing toilets that were bad," Dr. Vijaya said.

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday, a free medical camp is conducted.

"We have skin specialists, general physicians and doctors from other specialised areas visiting the place," Dr. Vijaya said. On an average, 300 to 350 persons use the facility every day. The Club has outsourced the operation and maintenance of the toilet, and Rs. 5 is collected from the users.

On request from Corporation officials, the Club will extend the project to more areas in the commercial hub of T. Nagar.

"Refurbishing an existing toilet is not so cost-effective, so our upcoming projects will be about building toilets from scratch," Dr. Vijaya said.

The Club has identified a location outside Panagal Park, and opposite Sarada Vidyalaya for building two more toilets.

They also plan to add more amenities like offer the space to a small-scale business that would also be able to maintain the facility. A café attached to the washroom is also being planned.

IIT collects details of waterlogged areas

By Our Staff Reporter

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has asked residents of Chennai to provide details of roads in their neighbourhood inundated after the city was lashed by heavy rains over the weekend.

The Civil Engineering Department will get support from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) to advise Chennai Corporation on future construction plans.

Balaji Narasimhan (Professor of Civil Engineering) said that the data provided by residents on flooding will help Chennai Corporation improve the design of roads, stormwater drains, and improve their maintenance.

"We are working in association with the Corporation to put together a real-time system," he added.

Residents can visit <https://in.riskmap.org> and click on it to submit reports and upload photographs of the flooded site.

Trench dug to replace pipe, blocks road junction

By Our Staff Reporter

A trench has been dug at the junction of Moosa Street and Mooparappan Street in T. Nagar to replace a damaged metrowater pipeline.

Half of Mooparan Street has been blocked to facilitate the work.

As silt and dirt removed from the ditch have been dumped at the junction on Moosa Street, the road is fully blocked and motorists are not able to enter or leave the road at the junction. A worker at the spot told this reporter that the work will be completed within a week.



Old man carries tank on head

By Our Staff Reporter

An elderly man was seen carrying a large empty tank on his head on 12th Avenue, Ashok Nagar on Dec. 17.

He told this reporter that it is a new tank and he was to deliver it at a house nearby.



Open drain, leaning tree dangerous for road users



As all the inlets of the storm water drain were blocked, Corporation workers had to break the slabs of the storm water drain outside Rama Sudharshan Flats (Postal Colony 2nd Street, West Mambalam) to prevent waterlogging during the rains last month. While breaking the drain, the roots of a 2-decade-old avenue tree got damaged. The tree has started to lean towards the road, and is likely to fall at any time if corrective measures are not taken immediately.

Nearby residents have appealed to Chennai Corporation to provide support for the tree and close the drain to prevent any untoward incident.

Two held for robbing trader of Rs. 2,000

Police on Dec. 15 arrested two men on the charge of robbing Rs. 2,000 from a trader selling clothes from a van in Saligramam on Dec. 12.

The arrested were identified as Chinnaraj (24) and Manikandan (25) of K. K. Nagar. Police have launched a hunt for the 3rd person Siddique Batcha of Virugambakkam.

According to police, Ganesh Kumar (50) of Thiruvottiyur was selling clothes and home appliances from his van when the three men came in an auto.

They robbed him at knifepoint and fled from the spot.

Virugambakkam police identified the culprits from CCTV footage.

Broken slabs along cable in subway repaired after report in Mambalam Times



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Concrete slabs supporting fence damaged' published in *Mambalam Times* (Dec. 5-11 issue), the broken and partly dislodged 2-foot-high concrete slabs supporting the grill fence of the storage area in Madley Subway were re-fixed and on Dec. 14.

The thick PVC conduit carrying an EB cable, which was resting exposed on the slabs, was also covered.

Stagnation in trench for foundation



By Our Staff Reporter

Rain water is stagnating in the trench dug to lay the foundation for new quarters in Vazhathoppu, West Mambalam. Residents nearby said that water is seeping into the trench even as it is being pumped out by workers using motor pumps.

Radha Kalyana Mahotsavam on Dec. 25, 26

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sri Narayana Kaingaraya Sabha Trust (12, Kasi Viswanathar Koil Street, West Mambalam), Radha Kalyana Mahotsavam will be performed on Dec. 25 and 26 in Go Samrakshana Sala (Kasi Viswanathar Koil Street, West Mambalam).

The program has been organised by Vasu Mama and the thirukalyanam will be performed by Kumbakonam Brahmasri Anantharama Bhagavata.

The following is the program:
Dec. 25: 2 p.m.: Ashtapati; 6.30 p.m.: Divayanaama Sank-eerthanam

Dec. 26: 7 a.m.:Thampathi pooja; 8 a.m.: Unjavrithi followed by thirukalyanam of Radha with Lord Krishna; 1 p.m.: Anjaneya Utsavam; 1.30 p.m.: Annadaanam

All are welcome.
More details can be had in 90251 11829 or 99629 98351.

Free eye check-up on Friday

By Our Staff Reporter

Jaimaa Trust (Vadapalani) has organised free eye check-up from 10 a.m to 1 p.m on Friday, Dec. 24 in Shri Shirdi Sai Seva Samaj (21, Jaishankar Street, West Mambalam).

A team of doctors and paramedical staff from Sankara Nethralaya (Nungambakkam) will examine the patients.

The exercise will include visual assessment, eye pressure check-up, retinal imaging and counselling on eye-related problems.

Participants have to bring a photocopy of their Aadhar card to avail of the free check-up. For more details, call 93456 65918 or 93428 50974.

Pregnant college student attempts to end life

By Our Staff Reporter

A pregnant 2nd-year ITI student attempted to kill herself by jumping off the terrace of her house in Palayakaran Street (Kodambakkam) on Dec. 13.

The woman survived with multiple fractures, but delivered a still-born baby in Government General Hospital.

She told police that she decided to end her life as her boyfriend refused to marry her.

The Kodambakkam police registered a case.

Assistance for those battling suicidal thoughts or depression is available on the state's health helpline 104 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 2464 0050.

GROW MORE TREES

Jothi Madhar Sangam celebrates 43rd anniversary



By Our Staff Reporter

The service-oriented organisation Jothi Madhar Sangam (Sukalayam, 70/44, Burkit Road, T.Nagar) celebrated its 43rd anniversary on Dec. 15.

Jayashree (Organic Gardening Expert) and Dr.

Shyamala (Vice President, Women's Indian Association) were the Chief Guests.

Lakshmi Ragukumar (President of the Sangam) told *Mambalam Times* that its members are in the 20-80+ years age group.

Several talent contests like singing, dancing and fun-filled games were conducted for the members.

Its motto this year is 'Mission Clean, Vision Green' under which members will take special initiatives to keep their surroundings clean and green.

The Sangam recently planted more than 300 palmyra tree saplings on the banks of Adyar River in Ekkatuthangam.

"Our aim is to plant 10,000 trees in the next two years," Lakshmi said.

The Sangam offers counselling, educational and marriage assistance for the needy.

Its contact number is 98405 40850.

Dried fronds, branches dumped on street margin



By Our Staff Reporter

Dried fronds and branches have remained dumped for several days under a tree on the margin Saravanan Street, T. Nagar outside no.11/3.

The residents of the apartment complex have requested officers of Chennai Corporation to remove the waste.

Barricades fall into open drain



By Our Staff Reporter

Covers of storm water drains which were broken by Corporation workers to prevent rain water inundation or remove rain water stagnating on streets, have still not been replaced.

Brackish water is still stagnating in these drains, which is a safety issue for pedestrians and motorists, especially at night due to poor visibility.

To caution road users, barricades have been placed around these open drains in some places.

On busy Madley Road, near T. Nagar bus terminus, some barricades kept to caution motorists have fallen into the drain, thereby serving no purpose.

A number of persons who cross this path to reach the bus terminus are in danger of getting injured.

Humour Club meets tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

Humour Club of T. Nagar (1, Guild Street, T. Nagar, behind Siva Vishnu Temple) will hold its monthly meeting at 4 p.m on Sunday, Dec. 19 in its premises.

Nithya Ravindran (Drama-tist and cine artiste) will be the Chief Guest.

All are welcome to attend and share their jokes.

Entry is free. For membership, contact S. Sekar (Founder) in 97907 75571.

Chennai Corporation stalls Mambalam canal project

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation, in a review of its drain projects, has found deviations, design faults and lack of drain maps in the Rs. 3,000-crore Kosathalaiyar project and the Mambalam canal project.

It has penalised six contractors who were handling the Mambalam canal project and has temporarily stopped the work.

The project covers West Mambalam, Ashok Pillar, T.

Nagar, Nandanam and Adyar areas.

"The project will be reviewed and work will restart only after the designs are revised," an official said.

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பூஜ்யஸ்ரீ பூபதி

சூழி, சூன்யம், பூஜ்யம், சைபர், ஸீரோ, முட்டை, டக் எல்லாம் ஒன்றுதான். எல்லாமே சில பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு ஆசிரியர் களும், ஆசிரியைகளும் விடைத்தாளின் மார்க்கினல் சிகப்பு இங்க்கால் வெறியுடன் போடும் மார்க்கினல். சைபரைக் கண்டு பிடித்ததே பாரத தேசம் என்று தெரியாத ஞானசூன்யங்களுக்கு நான் சைபர் மார்க்கினல் போடுவேன்.

அன்று பூபதியைப் பார்த்தேன். ஆ! அவனா பூபதி? அறிமுகமான பிறகுதான் அடையாளமே தெரிந்தது. கடைசியாக பூந்மல்லியில் 60களில் பார்த்த பிறகு 90ல்தான் சென்னை விமான நிலைய உணவகத்தில் பார்த்தேன். பருப்பு உசிலிக்குத் தோதான், இளசான கொத்தவரங்காய் மாதிரி இருந்தவன் இப்போது திருஷ்டி சுற்றிப் போடப் போகும் கல்யாணப் பூசனியாக ஊதி இருந்தான். நான் காபிக்கு ஆர்டர் கொடுத்தேன். அவனுக்கு வேகவைத்த இரண்டு முட்டைகள் வந்தன. என்னை அர்த்தபுஷ்டியுடன் பார்த்து சிரித்தான்.

'இவன் இன்னும் முட்டை வாங்கிண்டு இருக்கானேன்னு பார்க்கிறீர்களா?' என்று கேட்டு என்னைக் கால இயந்திரத்தில் ரிவர்ஸ் கியர் போட்டுப் பல வருஷங்களுக்குப் பின்னோக்கிக் கொண்டு சென்றான்.

'சிவன் கோவில் தெரு வீட்டு ராமுடு எப்போதும் விசிறி சாமியார் கணக்காகக் கையில் ஒரு பனை ஓலை விசிறியை வைத்துக் கொண்டு தயார் நிலையில் இருப்பார். மகன் பூபதி பள்ளியிலிருந்து சைபர் மார்க்கினல் வந்தால் விசிறிக் கொம்பால் செமத்தியாக விளாசத்தான்.

'அதென்னடா உனக்கு சைபர் மேல அவ்வளவு மோகம்? எப்பவாவது ஒத்தைப் படை எண் ஒண்ணு, ரெண்டுன்னுகூட வாங்க மாட்டியா? கண்ணைப் பாரு அதுவும் முட்டை முட்டையாக இருக்கு' என்று வசை பாடுவார்.

'கண்ணுக்கு அவன் என்ன பண்ணுவான்? அப்பனுக்கு அப்படி கண்ணு. அதே பின்னையாண்டானுக்கும் வந்திருக்கு. விதை ஒண்ணு போட சொரை ஒண்ணா வரும்?' என்று மனைவி கற்பகம் சமையல் அறையில் முணுமுணுப்பாள் என்று கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன்.

அவன் வாங்கும் சைபர் களை வைத்துக் கொண்டு பள்ளி ஆசிரியர்களுக்கு அவனை கோட்டா பண்ணு வது என்றால் காசி அல்வா சாப்பிடுவது மாதிரி. ஒருமுறை ஹிந்தி வாத்தியார் வேதராஜ் லார், 'டேய் பூபதி, ஸீலஸ்ரீன் னா என்னடா அர்த்தம்?' என்று கேட்டார். சாதாரண ஸீக்கே அர்த்தம் தெரியாத பூபதிக்கு ஸீலஸ்ரீயின் அர்த்தம் மா தெரியப் போகிறது? முட்டை விழிகள் அகல விழித்தான்.

'அடேய் கேட்டுக்கோ, மகா சுவாமிகள், சந்தியாசிகளுக்கு எல்லாம் பேருக்கு முன்னாலே ஒரே ஒரு ஸீ மாத்திரம் போடுவது போறாது. தப்பு தப்பு அபசாரம். கன்னத்திலே போட்டுக்கணும். லட்சம் ஸீ போடணும். ஸீஸ்ரீஸ்ரீஸ்ரீ...னு லட்சம் தடவை போட்டா அச்சடிக்க முடியுமா? ஆகையினாலே ஸீலஸ்ரீன்னு போட்டுடறது. நடுவில் உட்கார்ந்து இருக்கிற அந்த 'ல' லட்சத்தைக் குறிக்கும். அது சரி, இதை ஏண்டா உங்கிட்டே சொல் றேன்னு கேட்கிறியா, மாட்டியே? உனக்குக் கேள்வியைக் கேட்க வும் தெரியாது. கேட்ட கேள்விக்கு பதிலும் தெரியாது' என்று வகுப்பைப் பார்த்து சிரித்தார். பூபதியைத் தவிர எல்லோரும் சிரித்தனர்.

'அடேய் பூபதி, சாமியார்களை ஸீலஸ்ரீ போட்டு பேரைச் சொல்ல மாதிர் உன்னை இனிமே பூஜ்யஸ்ரீ பூபதின்னுதான் கூப்பிடணும். ஏன்னா அவ்வளவு பூஜ்யம் வாங்கி இருக்கே.' சிரிப்பால் வகுப்பின் கூரை அதிர்ந்தது.

இதை என்னிடம் சொல்லி பூபதி அழுதான். 'போடா அசடு! இதுக்கெல்லாமா அழறது? நல்லா படிடா. படிச்சதை மண்டையிலே ஏத்திக்கோடா, தானே மார்க் ஏறும்' என்று உபதேசித்தேன்.

அடுத்த வருஷம் ராமுடு டிரான்ஸ்லப் ஆகி வேறு ஊருக்குப் போய்விட்டார். கும்பகோணமா, குல்பர்காவா, கல்கத்தாவா, கூப்பாவா என்று தகவல் இல்லை. பூபதியை இன்றுதான் பார்க்கிறேன்.

'லார், அன்னிக்கு நீங்க கொடுத்த உபதேசத்தை மண்டையிலே ஏத்திண்டேன். வநுக்குப் புறப்படற அன்னிக்குக்கூடக் கணக்குப் பரீட்சையில் வந்த மார்க்கைப் பார்த்து அப்பா விசிறிக் கட்டையைக் கையிலே எடுத்தார். அன்னிக்கு ஏதோ சொல்ல முடியாத வெறி எனக்கு வந்துடுத்து. வெடுக்குன்னு விசிறியைப் பிடுங்கி சமையல்கட்டுக்குப் போய் அடுப்பிலே நீட்டி எரித்தேன்.

சவுக்குக் கட்டையை எடுத்து எங்கும் பதற்காணியாக எங்கப்பாவைப் பார்த்த பார்வை அவரைப் பின்வாங்க வைச்சது. ஆதரவுடன் அம்மா என் தலையைத் தடவிக் கொடுத்தா.'

ஒரே சினிமாப் பாட்டில் கதையை நகர்த்திக் கொண்டு போகிற மாதிரி பூபதி சில வார்த்தைகளில் மிச்சத்தை சொன்னான். 'கும்பகோணத்துக்குப் போனோம். அங்குதான் ஒரு திருப்பமுனை கிடைச்சது. அருமையான பள்ளிக்கூடம்.

அயனான டியூஷன் வாத்தியார்கள். மூளையில் மடமடன்னு சரக்கு ஏற ஏற என்னுடைய மார்க்கும் ஏற ஆரம்பித்தது. கும்ப கோணம் சாதாரண ஊரா? ஜீனியஸ் ராமானுஜத்தின் ஊராச்சே.'

'அப்பறம் மெட்ராஸ் வந்து மேல் படிப்பை முடிச்ச கோயம்பத்தூர், அமெரிக்கான்னு போய் இந்த சைபர் வாங்கினவன் பட்டங்களை வாங்கிண்டு வந்தான். அதில் ஒரு ஐரனி, அதாவது வேடிக்கை இருக்கு. இப்போ நான் எந்த வேலையிலே இருக்கேன் தெரியுமா?' என்று கேட்டான். முட்டையை சாப்பிட்ட கையை டிஷ்யூவால் துடைத்துக் கொண்டு.

'நீ சொன்னதான் தெரியும்? என்னுடைய பிளைட் கிளம்பத் தயாராம். அவன் அனென்ஸ் பண்ணிட்டா.'

எழுந்து நின்று என் கால்களைத் தொட்டுக் கண்களில் ஒற்றிக் கொண்டான். 'போலீஸ் இலாகாவில், அதுவும் சைபர் கரைக் டிபார்ட்மென்ட்டிலே! வரேன் அங்கிள்' என்றான் பூஜ்யஸ்ரீ பூபதி.

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Velammal student tops FIDE ranking in India



By Our Staff Reporter

Daakshin Arun (Std. 7 student in Velammal Main School, Moga-ppair) topped the all-India ranking and was ranked three in Asia in the Under-12 category in chess by FIDE (International Chess Federation) last week. He secured the rank by winning the title in the recently conducted Candidate Masters Tournament. He started playing chess at the age of 6 and started participating in competitions at the age of 8.

Managing pets during monsoon

Not just humans, rains are giving a hard time to pets as their routine gets changed. Nandita Reddy (Founder, Animal Five Freedoms Action India) gives the following suggestions to relieve them:

Provide home-cooked food

Fresh, hot food is preferred during the rainy season.

It is also advisable to stock up dry food.

Don't alter routine

Dogs are routine-oriented animals and they get stressed out if their routine is altered. Try and stick to their routine if possible. Keep them next to you in the same room when it rains heavily.

Keep pets inside the house

Pets are prone to several infections during monsoon. Avoid getting your pets wet in the rain – or wash their legs and paws with fresh water after a walk outside.

Keep pets warm

Diseases are prevalent now, so take them for routine check-ups. Make sure your pets are given the annual vaccination. Get the pets de-wormed by your vet. Stock up on basic medications that your pets regularly take.

Plan ahead

Find a boarding facility well in advance. In case you are vacating your house in a hurry, the best option is to keep your pets in a boarding facility rather than leave them at home to fend for themselves. If a friend or relative offers to provide a safe shelter, keep the pet at their place for a few days

Woman loses Rs. 44,000 in online fraud

A 23-year-old woman lost Rs. 44,000 from her credit card in a bid to retrieve Rs. 240 which she had paid to order food online in Vadapalani since she dialed a fake customer care number found on Google search.

The victim Kruthika of Vadapalani works in a salon-cum-parlour. She recently bought a credit card from the State Bank of Mauritius, said police. On Dec. 5, she made the first purchase using the credit card and paid Rs. 240 to order food online. Since the payment got stuck, she dialed the legitimate customer care number, but there was reportedly no response. So, she checked for alternative contact numbers on Google and came across a phone number.

When she dialed, the person who spoke at the other end asked her to spell out the OTPs she received to process her request. However, after sharing the OTPs a number of times, Kruthika realized that she had lost about Rs. 44,000.

Based on her complaint, Vadapalani police registered a case and are investigating.

Idly batter too from Vijayalakshmi

S. Vijayalakshmi (resident of LIG flats, 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar), who has been selling millet health mix for 5 years, has introduced idly/dosa batter.

"Our customers who buy millet health mix want idly/dosa batter also," she told Mambalam Times.

"The batter is prepared with good quality rice and urad dhal," she explained.

It is available in 1 kg packs.

She can be contacted in 97907 72370.

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CATERING orders undertaken for marriage (A to Z), small functions, nitchayathartham, seemantham, ayushahomam, upanayanam, shashtipathapurthi, sathabishekam, grahapravesam and birthday functions. Contact: Mahalakshmi Catering Services (West Mambalam), Ph: 95516 15465.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 16&17, Babu Rajendra Prasad 2nd Street, opp. Railway Station, 3 bedrooms, 1st floor, balcony, fully furnished, 24 hours water and security, total 6 flats, car park, Brahmins only. Ph: 98840 50270.

T. NAGAR, Nithya Apartment, No. 42, Dr. Thomas Road 2nd Street, near Sivaji Ganesan's House, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, vegetarians only, rent Rs. 14000. Ph: 86681 13273, 9600165517.

T. NAGAR, Balamuthukrishnan Street, near Habibullah Road, independent house, 1st floor, 1000 sq.ft 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, car parking, vegetarians only, no brokers. Ph: 9445201590.

WEST MAMBALAM, Swathi Flat, 10/10, Narasimhan Street, near Anjaneyar Temple, 1st floor, 400 sq.ft, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, Rs. 10500 + maintenance, no brokers. 9841037337.

T. NAGAR, Apartment No. 5, Akshaya Apartment, 7, Pinjala Subramanian Street, 2nd Floor, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, dining, balcony, car park, 24 x 7 water, immediate occupation. Ph: 73585 71927, 8056290044.

T. NAGAR, Sarathy Street, off. Habibullah Road, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor, around 700 sq.ft, excellent community, good ventilation, rent Rs. 16000, no brokers, Brahmins only, ample parking. Ph: 9940018780.

WEST MAMBALAM, 23, Moorthy Street, near Ayodhya Mandapam, Arya Gowda Road, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, balcony, 1st floor apartment, bath attached, car park, rent Rs. 15000, advance Rs. 50000. Ph: 9952006859, 9840360785.

WEST MAMBALAM, Arya Gowda Road, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 900 sq.ft, new wood work, good ventilation, open car park, rent Rs. 21000. Ph: 73583 57499.

T. NAGAR, 7, Bagavantham Street, 880 sq.ft, wood work, car park, 2 bedrooms, 2 attached bathrooms, rent Rs. 19000. Ph: 9600847116.

T. NAGAR, Somasundaram Street, opp. Soma Sundaram Ground, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1050 sq.ft, pooja, balcony, geysers, fans, open car park, 2nd floor, lift, vegetarians, rent Rs. 23000 (negotiable). Visit: Sunday, 19th December, from 1 p.m to 5 p.m. Ph: 7358333744.

ASHOK NAGAR, 4, Bank of India Colony, Raj Garden, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 3 attached, bathrooms, 2nd floor, lift, 5 balconies, rent Rs. 35000 with maintenance, car park, advance Rs. 2 lakhs, Brahmins/vegetarians only. Ph: 23700070, 9789047529.

WEST MAMBALAM, 11, Gokulam Colony, near Ayodhya Mandapam, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, ground floor, family/office. Ph: 9566191768.

T. NAGAR, 26, Mangesh Street, 2nd floor, 300 sq.ft, 1 room bath/toilet attached, balcony, vegetation bachelor preferred. Ph: 9840316842.

WEST MAMBALAM, 19/3, Baroda Street, behind Jain School, ground floor flat, 2 bedrooms with attached bath, hall, kitchen, good water supply, small Brahmin family, rent Rs. 15000, no brokers. Ph: 94449 09556, for inspection on Sunday between 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. only.

WEST MAMBALAM, 7, Hastagiri Street, near Shobhana Kalyana Mandapam, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, separate poojaroom, 2nd floor, 1400 sq.ft, lift, covered car park, vegetarians only, rent Rs. 33000, no brokers. Ready to occupy. Ph: 9381340961.

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Potholes hinder motorists on Duraisamy Subway



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the rains last month, a number of potholes have formed on Duraisamy Subway, T. Nagar, especially on half of the stretch below the bridge. As water continues to leak from the walls, the potholes are filled with water, causing hardship to motorists, especially 2-wheeler riders. The photo shows motorists forced to drive on the better portion of the road to avoid the potholes, thereby reducing the usable road width by half. This is also causing traffic congestion during peak hours.

Rasika Fine Arts music festival from Dec. 25

By Our Staff Reporter

Rasika Fine Arts (Postal Colony, 4th Street, West Mambalam) has organized its 18th annual music festival from Dec. 25 to 31 in Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya, Postal Colony, West Mambalam and inauguration. The festival will be inaugurated by Shanta Narayanan (President, Rotary Club of Madras Temple City) at 5 p.m on Dec. 25. S. Vedantham (President, Rasika Fine Arts), Dr. Girija Seshadri (Secretary) and Cleveland V.V. Sundaram will be present.

Rasika Kala Bharathi title, which carries a cash component of Rs. 75,000, will be conferred on Guruvayur Dorai (leading percussionist) and Rama Ravi (eminent vocalist) on the occasion.

The following is the schedule:
Dec. 25: 4 p.m: Mangala Isai; 4.30 p.m: Prayer; 6.30 p.m: Vocal concert by Dr. Pantula Rama, accompanied by M.S.N. Murthy (violin), Puttur T.N.S. Krishnan (mridangam) and B.S. Purushottam (ghanjira).
Dec. 26: 4 p.m: Program by JGHV students; 6 p.m: Vocal concert by Madurai T.N.S. Krishnan, accompanied by Shertalai R. Sivakumar (violin), B. Ganapathy Raman (mridangam) and H. Prasanna (ghatam).
Dec. 27: 4 p.m: Vocal concert by R. Lakshmi Priya, accompanied by Tirucherai Karthik (violin) and Sriram Srinivasan (mridangam); 6 p.m: Vocal concert by Prince Rama Varma, accompanied by S.R. Vinu (violin), B. Harikumar (mridangam).
Dec. 28: 4 p.m: Program by JGHV teachers; 6 p.m: Vocal concert by Bharat Sundar accompanied by L. Ramakrishnan (violin), Sumesh Narayanan (mridangam) and S. Krishna (ghatam).
Dec. 29: 4 p.m: Vocal concert by R. Sai Vignesh & party; 6 p.m: Vocal concert by Gayathri Venkatragavan, accompanied by Mysore Srikanth (violin), Manoj Siva (mridangam) and B. S. Purushotham (ghanjira).
Dec. 30: 4 p.m: Play on Iranyasamhaaram by Purisai Duraisami Kannappa Thambiran Parambarai Therukoothu Manram; 6 p.m: Vocal concert by S. Mahathi, accompanied by Mysore Srikanth (violin), N.C. Bharadwaj (mridangam) and Anirudh Athreya (ghanjira).
Dec. 31: 6 p.m: Vocal concert by Akkarai Sisters Subhualakshmi and Sornalatha, accompanied by Vittal Rangan (violin), Neyveli R. Narayanan (mridangam) and S. Krishna (ghatam).
All are welcome.

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Christmas novelties start arriving



By Our Staff Reporter

Christmas novelties, gifts and decorative items have started arriving in the market. They include models of Santa Claus, Christmas trees, bells, caps and other decorative items. Shops have been set up in Pondy Bazaar, Raghavaiah Road, Prakasam Road, G. N. Chetty Road and Lakshminathan Salai (T. Nagar).

TAMBRASS annual meeting on Dec. 26

Thamizhnadu Brahmins Association (27, Krupa Sankari Street, West Mambalam. Ph: 99628 84355, 95662 60643) will conduct its annual meeting and New Year Calendar (2022) release function at 5.30 p.m on Sunday, Dec. 26, in Panigraha Kalyana Mandapam, Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam.

The following is the program:

- 5.30 p.m: Registration
 - 5.45 p.m: Prayer
 - 5.50 p.m: Annual report presentation by secretary
 - 6 p.m: Special Namasankeertham by Mohanam Academy of Music (Founded in memory of Maharajapuram Santhanam).
 - 7.30 p.m: Special address and release of calendar.
 - 7.50 p.m: Announcements and vote of thanks.
 - 8 p.m: Refreshments.
- All are welcome. Non-members can enroll in the venue. Life membership is Rs. 500.

Hanumath Jayanthi celebrations on Jan. 2

Special poojas will be conducted to celebrate Hanumath Jayanthi from 7.30 a.m on Sunday, Jan. 2 in Sri Rama Anjaneyar Temple (Hanumar Koil Street, West Mambalam).

The following is the program:

- 7.30 a.m: Pavamana homam;
 - 8.30 a.m: Abhisekha;
 - 9.30 a.m: Special alangaaram;
 - 10 a.m: Sahasranaamam
- For more details, call Sri Anjaneya Seva Sabha in 94445 47571 or 94442 05290.

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