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Vol. 27, No.32

1477th Issue: December 26, 2021 - January 1, 2022

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Over 16,700 buses to be operated for Pongal

Special buses to be operated from Jan. 11 to 13 and from Jan. 16 to 18. The Transport Department has proposed to operate 10,300 buses from Chennai, including 4,000 special buses, to various destinations in the State to clear the rush between Jan. 11 and 13 for Pongal festival.

In all, 16,768 buses comprising regular and special buses to various parts of the city and the State will be operated.

The buses will be operated from the five bus termini, Madhavaram (buses to Andhra Pradesh), K.K. Nagar (ECR route to Puduchery, Cuddalore and Chidambaram), Tambaram MEPZ (Thindivanam, Vikravandi, Kumbakonam and Thanjavur), Poonamallee (Vellore, Arani, Arcot and Hosur) and Koyambedu (Mayiladhuthurai, Nagapattinam, Velankanni, Tiruchi, Madurai, Thirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari).

In the return direction, the department will run 16,709 special buses between Jan. 16 and 18.

The Editor & staff of Mambalam Times wish you a Happy New Year!

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Repair work paralyses vehicular traffic in Duraisamy subway
 By Our Staff Reporter
 It is a bumper-to-bumper crawl of vehicles in Duraisamy subway as Chennai Corporation has taken up road repair in the area.
 The subway was damaged in recent rains.
 A portion of Brindavan Road near Duraisamy subway has caved in because of damage caused to the sewer network by recent rains.
 Vehicles have been diverted to narrow streets on either side of Duraisamy subway leading to traffic congestion in the morning and evening.

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140 attend free eye camp



By Our Staff Reporter

About 140 persons attended the free eye screening camp jointly organized by Sri Shirdi Sai Seva Samaj (Jaisankar Street, West Mambalam) and Jaimaa Charitable Trust in the temple's premises on Dec.24.

A team of doctors from SankaraNethralaya (Nungambakkam) examined the patients and advised cataract surgery for 27 persons.

47 persons with vision problems were provided spectacles.

Car abandoned on street



By Our Staff Reporter

A Tata Indica car (TN07/BP0709) in bad condition has remained parked on the margin of Saravanan Street (T. Nagar) for more than four months, according to nearby residents.

As it is blocking a third of the carriageway, they have appealed to traffic police to remove the vehicle from the spot.

Sewage water stagnates near hospital on Giri Street



By Our Staff Reporter

Sewage water has been overflowing from a manhole chamber and stagnating on Giri Street, T. Nagar, close to Bharathirajaa Hospital, for the past 3 weeks causing nuisance and posing a health hazard for nearby residents, passers-by and visitors to the hospital.

The brackish water is occupying half the road making it difficult for pedestrians.

According to a nearby resident, several complaints have been lodged with Metrowater officials, but no action has been taken to stop the leakage.

Toilet in bus terminus demolished

By Our Staff Reporter

The public convenience in T. Nagar bus terminus was demolished for constructing the Sky Walk steps ending in the bus terminus.

The sky walk project connecting Mambalam Railway station and T. Nagar bus terminus is under the construction.



Jeeva Park Walkers Association celebrates Christmas



By Our Staff Reporter

The members of Jeeva Park Walkers and Joggers Association (G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) celebrated Christmas in the park on Dec.23. Desikan, a senior member, dressed as Santa Claus, distributed sweets among park visitors including children.

Bharathanjali to take part in R-Day celebrations



By Our Staff Reporter

T. Nagar based Anitha Guha's Bharathanjali is among the dance groups which will participate in the Republic Day celebrations on Rajpath

in Delhi.

To commemorate 75 years of Independence and celebration of 'Azad ki-Amrit', the Union Ministry for Cultural Affairs initiated the 'Vande Bharatam'. The grand finale was conducted in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi, and Bharathanjali was among the 36 groups selected to perform on Rajpath, j.

Open sewer manhole unsafe for motorists

By Our Staff Reporter

There is an open sewer manhole chamber in the middle of Neelakanta Mehta Street (near Thanikachalam Road junction, T. Nagar).

A wooden pole, tree branch and dried coconut fronds have been placed in the opening to caution motorists.

The protruding branch and pole are not visible at night and pose a danger to unwary motorists, especially 2-wheeler riders.

Nearby residents have appealed to Chennai Corporation to close the opening.



Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha completes 75 years

Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha (G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) has organised its 42nd Isai Iyal Nataka Vizha in Sri Mahaswami Hall and its 32nd Bharatham festival in P. Obul Reddy Hall in its premises.

The foundation stone was laid in 1944 and the Vani Mahal auditorium was constructed and opened in 1945. Two more auditoriums, Mahaswami Hall and P. Obul Reddy, Hall were added in 2002.

Over the years, Vani Mahal has become a landmark for art and culture. Lakhs of dramas, music and devotional concerts and dance recitals have been performed by leading drama troupes and musicians.

It has won several awards for promoting Carnatic music, drama and other culture events. Vani Mahal has been chosen as the best auditorium in Tamilnadu on several occasions. Every year, during the Isai Vizha, leading Carnatic musicians and stage artistes are honoured with special awards and titles. It also runs a music school for both beginners and advanced learners. It also conducts Carnatic music competitions for upcoming artistes.

Free health check-up and blood donation camps are conducted twice a year. Its contact number is 2815 2166.

21-day music festival in Vani Mahal from Jan. 1

Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha (G. N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar) (popularly called Vani Mahal) has organised its 42nd annual music festival, Isai Iyal Nataka Vizha, from Jan. 1 to Jan. 21 at 6.30 p.m daily.

The following is the schedule:

Jan.1: Bharathanatyam dance recital by Sheela Unnikrishnan.

Jan.2: Vocal concert by Abishek Raghuram.

Jan.3: Vocal concert by Sandeep Narayan.

Jan.4: Veena and mandolin concert by Rajesh Vaidhya and U. Rajesh.

Jan.5: Vocal concert by S. Mahathi.

Jan.6: Vocal concert by N. Vijay Siva.

Jan.7: Bharathanatyam dance recital by Urmila Satyanarayanan.

Jan.8: Vocal concert by Ranjani and Gayathri.

Jan.9: Vocal concert by Sid Sriram.

Jan.10: Vocal concert by Ramakrishnan Murthy.

Jan.11: Vocal concert by Pantula Rama.

Jan.12: Vocal concert by Sudha Ragunathan.

Jan.13: Vocal concert by Srikrishna Mohan and Ramkumar.

Jan.14: Vocal concert by S. Saketharaman.

Jan.15: Lecture and concert by Vishaka Hari.

Jan.16: Vocal concert by Sanjay Subrahmanyam.

Jan.17: Vocal concert by Gayathri Venkataraghavan.

Jan.18: Vocal concert by Sikkil C. Gurucharan.

Jan.19: Dance performance by V. P. Dhanajayan.

Jan. 20: Vocal concert by Malladi Brothers.

Jan. 21: Tamil drama 'ATM' by Stage Creations (founded by Kathadi Ramamoorthy).

Local Associations pay tribute to General Bipin Rawat

By Our Staff Reporter

On Dec. 13, the members of Postal Colony and Kamatachipuram 1st Street Associations (West Mambalam) paid tribute to General Bipin Rawat (India's first Chief of Defence Staff) and others who lost their lives in the helicopter accident on Dec.8.

They garlanded their portraits and offered a silent prayer.



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Lalitha Sahasranaama paaraayanam on Jan. 1 in Ram Samaj

Agila Loga Sri Dasamaha Vidya (East Tambaram) will conduct Sahasrakodi Lalitha Sahasranaamapaaraayanam from 7.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m on Saturday, Jan.1 in Sri Ram Samaj (Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam). It will be followed by annadhaanam. All are welcome. More details can be had in 72990 51505 and 94446 75120.

Margazhi music, bhajans from Tuesday

By Our Staff Reporter
 Margazhimonth music and bhajans will be conducted on Dec.28,29 and30 in Sri VedanthaBhavanam, 12, Ramanujan Street, T.Nagar.

Dr.R.Ganesh & group.
 Dec.30: Bhajans by O.S.Sundar & group.
 All are welcome.
 More details can be had in 24345665.

The following is the program starting at 6.30 p.m:

Dec.28: Vocal concert by N.Vijay Siva, accompanied by B.U.Ganesh Prasath (violin) and 'Palakkadu' A.M.Harinarayanan (mridangam).

Dec.29: Bhajans by

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02.01.22	10.00 A.M	Sri. V.Sriram - Lec Dem (Free Entry)
	6.30 P.m	Sri. AbiShek Raghuram - Vocal
03.01.22	MON	Sri. Sandeep Narayan - Vocal
04.01.22	TUE	Sri .Rajesh Vaidhya & Sri. U.Rajesh - Veena & Mandolin
05.01.22	WED	Smt. S. Mahathi - Vocal
06.01.22	THU	Sri. N. Vijay Siva - Vocal
07.01.22	FRI	Smt. Urmila Satyanarayanan - Dance
08.01.22	SAT	Smt. Ranjani & Smt. Gayathri - Vocal
09.01.22	SUN	Sri. Sid Sriram - Vocal
10.01.22	MON	Sri. Ramakrishnan Murthy - Vocal
11.01.22	TUE	Dr. Pantula Rama - Vocal
12.01.22	WED	Smt. Sudha Ragunathan - Vocal
13.01.22	THU	Trichur Brothers Sri. SriKrishna Mohan & Sri.Ramkumar Mohan - Vocal
14.01.22	FRI	Sri. S. Saketharaman - Vocal
15.01.22	SAT	Smt. Visaka Hari - Harikatha
16.01.22	SUN	Sri. Sanjay Subrahmanyam - Vocal
17.01.22	MON	Smt. Gayathri Venkataraghavan - Vocal
18.01.22	TUE	Sikkil Sri. C. Gurucharan - Vocal
19.01.22	WED	Sri. V.P. Dhananjayan Troupe - Dance
20.01.22	THU	Sri. Malladi Brothers - Vocal
21.01.22	FRI	Kathadi Ramamoorthy in " ATM " - New Play

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சங்கிலி புங்கிலி கதவைத் திற!

ஊரிலிருந்து அனந்து வந்திருந்தான். பால்ய சிநேகிதன். என் வயதுதான். ஆகையினாலே 'வந்திருந்தார்' என்று சொல்லி நட்பைக் கொச்சைப்படுத்தவில்லை. வந்திருந்தான் என்று சொன்னேன்.

கையில் ஒரு ஆண்டிராய்டு ஃபோன். மொபைல் பரிபாஷையில் இன்னும் 'அன்பாக்கல்' செய்யப்படவில்லை. 80 வயது ஆணுக்கு உரிய லட்சணத்துடன் அதை பயம் கலந்த மரியாதை யுடன் பார்த்தான். 'இதுக்குக் கொடுத்த விலைக்கு அந்தக் காலத்தில் இரண்டு பெண்களுக்கு சீர் செனத்தியோடு ஜாம்ஜாம்னு நாலு நாள் கல்யாணம் பண்ணியிருக்கலாம். என் பிள்ளை வாங்கிக் கொடுத்தான். யாருக்கு என்று அப்புறம் சொல்றேன். வீட்டுக்கு எடுத்துண்டு போற வழியிலே உன்னைப் பார்க்கலாம் என்று வந்தேன். இதெல்லாம் வீடியோ கேம்ஸ் விளையாடற பசங்களுக்குத்தான் தோதா இருக்கும். அந்தக் காலத்திலே நாம் விளையாடிய விளையாட்டு எல்லாம் ஞாபகம் இருக்கா?'

'ஏன் இல்லாமல், நல்ல வேளை டிமன்ஷியா வரலே. ஜாட், பூட், தீர் ஞாபகம் இருக்கா?'

'என்னடா இது? தெரியாமல் இருக்குமா என்ன? மூன்று பேர்களில் யார் முதலில் ஆடணும்கிறதற்காக சக்தி நின்னு ஜாட், பூட், தீர்ன்னு சொல்லி ஒரு உள்ளங்கை மேலே அடுத்ததைத் தட்டி, முணியிலே யாரோடது மற்ற இரண்டு பேர் மாதிரி இல்லையோ அவன் வின். கரெக்டா?'

'அதை விட ஒணர டகர டன், யாவல் காவல் மஸ்ட் பி டன், யா யூ பிளாக், பிளாக்கைத் தூக்கி மேலே போட்டா செட்டியார் வீட்டிலே நண்டு, நண்டைத் தூக்கி மேலே போட்டா நாகரத் தின்பப் பாம்பு, பாம்பைத் தூக்கி மேலே போட்டா?' என்று சொல்லி நிறுத்தினேன்.

'பஞ்சவர்ணக் கிளி' என்று அனந்து பஞ்சகடன் சொன்னான். 'அதைத்தானே இப்போ இருக்கிற பசங்க இங்கி பிங்கி பாங்கினு சொல்லி ஆடறாங்க.'

'சங்கிலி புங்கிலி கதவைத் திற ஞாபகம் இருக்கா?'

'இல்லாம, சொல்லட்டுமா? ஒரு பாடகருக்கும் இன்னொரு பாடகருக்கும் இருக்கிற மாதிரி பாட பேதம் இருக்கலாம். 'சங்கிலி புங்கிலி கதவைத் திற, நான் மாட்டேன். வேங்கைப் புலி, ஆட்டுக் குட்டியைக் கண்

டங்கலா? கண்டோம். எங்கே? வீட்டுக்குள்ளே! வரலாமா? வரக்கூடாது' என்று சொல்லி பசங்க வளையத்துக்குள்ளே ஆட்டுக் குட்டியாக நிற்கிற சிறுபயலைத் தப்பிக்கவிட்டு வேங்கைப் புலியாக இருக்கிறவன் ஓடிப் பிடிக்கிறது. ஒரு குடம் தண்ணி ஊற்றி தெரியுமா?'

'என்னடா இப்படி கேட்கிறே. ஒரு குடம் தண்ணி ஊற்றி ஒரே பூ பூத்ததாம். இரண்டு குடம் தண்ணி ஊற்றி இரண்டே பூ பூத்ததாம், மூன்று குடம் தண்ணி ஊற்றி... என்று சொல்லிண்டு போறது. ஒன்று, இரண்டு, மூன்று கத்துக்கிறதுக்கு சலபமான முறை. அதோடு எவ்வளவுக்கு எவ்வளவு நீ முயற்சி பன்றியோ அவ்வளவுக்கு அவ்வளவு பலன் கிடைக்கும் என்று ஒரு மெசேஜ் வேறு இருக்கு.

'இது எனக்குத் தோணலே. ஒண்ணு பார்த்தியா? விளையாட்டிலே அந்தக் கால அம்பளிஸ்தான். இப்போதைய டைம் அவுட். ஜூட் தான் விம்பிள்டன்லே நெட் அம்பயர் கெத்தா சொல்ற ப்ளே.'

'அப்புறம் 'அட்டாக்கை விட்டுட்டோமே! இதனுடைய வேரி யேஷன் ஊருக்கு ஊர் மாறுபடும். நண்பனை அவன் கவனிக் காதபோது 'அட்டாக்கை' சொல்லிவிட்டால் அவன் எந்த நிலையில் இருந்தானோ அதே நிலையில் உறைஞ்சு போய் இருக்கணும். அதுக்கு 'ஓ.கே டென் மினிட்ஸ் டெளன்' என்று ஒரு காலக்கெடு சாப விமோசனம் உண்டு. அதுக்குள்ள மாட்டிண்டவன் அசைந்துவிட்டால் தலையிலே 'ணங்கணங்கு குட்டலாம்.

'சடுகுடுவில் குந்ததைத் தாண்டி எதிரணியைப் பாய்ந்து தாக்கப் போகும்போது சொல்ற வசனம் ஏகத்துக்கு இருக்கு. அதிகமாக நான் ஆடாததிலாலே ஒன்றுகூட ஞாபகத்துக்கு வரலே.'

'நான் சொல்றேன். 'வாழைக்காய் பொரியலு, வாடா மச்சான் சாப்பிடலாம்' என்று ஒன்று எனக்கு ஞாபகம் வருது. சிலது ரொம்பக் கொச்சையாக இருக்கும். சொல்றதுக்கு இல்லே.'

'இந்த கேம்ஸ் எல்லாம் வீட்டுப் பழக்கடையிலும், தெரு முக்கிலேயும் பசங்க விளையாடுவாங்க. இப்போது எல்லாம் வீட்டுக்குள்ளேயே அடைஞ்சு இந்த மொபைலிலும், அஞ்சறைப் பெட்டி மாதிரி இருக்கிற லாப்டாப் முன்னாலேயும் அந்தக்கால முனிசிபாலிட்டி விளக்கு மாதிரி முதுகைக் கேள்விக் குறியாக வளைச்சுண்டு மணிக்கணக்காக ஆடறாங்க ஆடறாங்க அப்படி என்னதான் ஆடுவாங்களோ தெரியலை. ஒரு குடும்பத்துக்குள்ளே நுழைஞ்சா ஆளுக்கு ஒரு ஃபோனை வைச்சுண்டு ஏதோ ரிஷிகள் ஆசிரமத்துக்குள்ளே மெளனமா தவம் பன்ற மாதிரி உட்கார்ந்து ஜப்ப மாலையாக அதை உருட்டிண்டு இருக்காங்க.

'இந்த ஃபோன் யாருக்குன்னு நினைச்சே? சிரிக்காதே எனக்குத்தான். இப்போது அநேக வீடுகளிலே சமையல் கிடையாது. தெருத்தெருவாக, விதவிதமாக இருக்கிற கேட்டரிங் சர்வீஸுக்கு ஆர்டர் கொடுத்தால் ஸ்விக்கி, லொமாட்டோ, டன்லோன்னு டெலிவரி பாய்ஸ் அனுமார் சஞ்சீவி மலையைத் தூக்கிண்டு வந்த மாதிரி கொண்டு வந்து கொடுத்துடறாங்க. நான் ஆர்டர் பண்ணத்தான் இந்த ஃபோன். இதை ஆப்பிரேட் பன்றது மகா கஷ்டம். அடிக்கடி, 'என்னடா இது?' என்று சந்தேகம் கேட்டால் பேரப்பிள்ளை எரிச்சலோடு, 'ப்ச! தாத்தா இதுகூடப் புரியலையா?னு எரிந்து விழுவான். அது முதுகிலே சாத்தின அறை மாதிரி விழும். எல்லாம் அந்தக் காலத்திலே நாம் பண்ணினது. திரும்பி வருது. 'முற்பகல் செய்யின், பிற்பகல் விளையும்' என்று.

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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Mysore Coffee offers sugar on purchases

Mysore Coffee (57, Lake View Road, Near Station Road, West Mambalam) is offering 1 kg. sugar free on purchase of 1 kg. of coffee powder, 500 gm. sugar on purchase of 500 gm. coffee powder and 250gm. sugar on purchase of 250 gm. of coffee powder.

The price of coffee powder is Rs. 440 for 1 kg., Rs. 220 for 500 gm. and Rs. 110 for 250 gm. According to its proprietor, it sources export quality coffee seeds from Chikmagalur, Karnataka. He said that free home delivery is available for orders of 500 gm. and above.

Mambalam Mami's homemade vathal, vadam, pickle and appalam are also available.

Its phone numbers are 91764 43894 and 91764 43891.

Velammal student excels in vovinam tourney

By Our Staff Reporter

Kowshika L (Class 8 student in Velammal Main School, Mogappair Campus) bagged the first prize in the 3rd District Level Vovinam Championship in girls (U-14) category in Long Ho Quyen event, organised by Chennai District Vovinam Association affiliated to Tamilnadu Vovinam Association and Vovinam Association of India, in Human Aura Arts Academy, Aminjikarai recently. Kowshika scored 19 points out of 20 in the final round and qualified for the State-level championship scheduled in January. There were 50 participants from schools across the state. Vovinam is a Vietnamese martial art. It is practised with and without weapons. More details can be had in 80560 63519



Guntur Subbiah School students send greetings to BSF men



The students, teachers and headmistress of Guntur Subbiah T. Nagar Girls Higher Secondary School sent New Year greetings in the form of painting on postcards to members of the Border Security Force stationed on Hussainwalaborder in Punjab on Dec.23to show their gratitude and salute them for protecting Indian citizens.

R.Rajalakshmi (Headmistress) said that a total of 650 students and 40 teachers sent the postcards.

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 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.

Rs. 1.5 lakh donated to PHC

R. P. Krishnamachari (Managing Director, Texbioscience Ltd.) donated Rs.1.5 lakh to Public Health Center, West Mambalam for repairing equipment damaged during the recent rains.

He also contributed towards the cost of heart operations for three children



Pregnant woman who fell from 2nd floor dies

A 21-year-old pregnant woman who reportedly slipped and fell from the second floor of her house in Palayakaran Street (Kodambakkam) on Dec. 13, succumbed to her injuries in Government General Hospital on Dec. 16.

The deceased, R. Yamini, who was nine months pregnant, had delivered a still born after the fall.

The incident happened when the woman went to the terrace on the second floor to dry clothes.

There is no parapet wall and she allegedly slipped and fell from a height of about 30 feet.

Kodambakkam police have registered a case and further investigation is on.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why KYC again?

Sir, The news report that if the accounts in banks/finance companies/Mutual Funds/broking houses etc. do not comply with Know-Your-Customer [KYC] norms, as per the Reserve Bank of India regulations, these accounts will be frozen, comes as a shock, particularly to those with no pension and who park their hard-earned money in fixed deposits with banks/finance companies.

While it is common knowledge that one has to submit identity/address proof such as Aadhaar/PAN cards whenever an account is initiated, the account holders are told to provide these details again and again and one ends up submitting these umpteen times. Despite providing these details on a regular basis, one does not understand why a customer is harassed, humiliated and pressured to give these details yet again? When customer details remain the same even when one parts with the information on multiple occasions, why is a client being tortured like this? And, what safety does the bank/finance offer to the already submitted details as they are subject to breach unless they are guarded well? And, how can the banks/finance companies freeze the accounts of customers when they already possess the required details.

When it is impossible for one to open account with bank/place deposit without providing this preliminary information, how can the accounts be termed as non-KYC compliant? If the banks/finance companies do not update the details, that is a different issue and RBI should, therefore, initiate action against the erring banks/finance companies. **S Jayaraman, 31 Motilal Street, T. Nagar**

Corporation closes complaint without attending to problem

Sir, I am a resident of NTR Street (Kodambakkam). Sewage has been stagnating in the storm water drain on our street since the November rains. I lodged a complaint about the stagnation with photos on the Corporation's website on Dec.13. To my surprise, on Dec. 17, the complaint was closed with a rider 'Attended To' when no steps had been taken to remove the sewage from the drain. When I again raised the issue questioning how they could close the complaint without attending to the problem, an official replied that 'Estimates are being prepared to solve the issue.'

When no one from Chennai Corporation has visited the spot to conduct an inspection, how can they close the complaint or state that estimates are being prepared.

I appeal to the officer of Chennai Corporation for immediate action to remove the sewage water stagnating in the drains as it is a health hazard and has led to proliferation of mosquitoes. **N. Vijayanand, NTR Street, Kodambakkam.**

Free 5-day winter camp for children

Bamboola (61, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar, next to Thalapakati Hotel) will conduct a free 5-day (Dec. 27-31) winter camp for children in the 4-8 years and 8-12 years age groups. There will be western dancing, arts and crafts, karate, and painting classes.

Students need to pay only Rs. 500 towards cost of materials. For more details call 86676 28279/98403 94190/63851 06903.

Veteran film director passes away

Veteran Sinhalese, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi film director K. S.Sethumadhavan (KSS) passed away in Chennai on Dec.24. He was 90 and had been a resident of 8, Kanniah Naidu Street, T. Nagar for over 5 decades.

He had directed over 60 feature films. He introduced SPB as a singer, MSV as a music director and Kamal Hassan as an actor in his Malayalam films. He was the director of the film 'Naalai Namadhey' in which MGR had acted and the Malayalam film 'Ollathu Mathi' in which former Kerala Chief Minister E.M.S.Namboothiripadhad acted. He had won 10 National Awards and 8 State Awards.

He had also produced Malayalam and Tamil films.

OBITUARY

S. CHANDRASEKARAN

S. Chandrasekaran (resident of M.K. Apartments, 8/15, Rangarajapuram 1st Street, Kodambakkam) passed away on Dec.13.

He was 72, and had been a resident of Lake View Road (West Mambalam) for 60 years.

He had retired from *Times of India*.

He was a Committee Member of Public Health Center (West Mambalam) and Secretary of Tamil Nadu Brahmin Association (T. Nagar). He is survived by his wife Shenbagavalli, son Ashok and grandchildren.

His family can be contacted in 94440 09235.



Burial ground used as dumping yard



By Our Staff Reporter

Kannammappet Burial Ground (New Boag Road, CIT Nagar) has been converted into a dumping yard.

Heaps of old clothes, damaged furniture and other household waste have been dumped inside the burial ground near the damaged fence. Persons who visit the place for performing last rites are put to hardship.

The workers at the crematorium have appealed to Chennai Corporation to remove the garbage.

Fire in garbage bin causes scare



By Our Staff Reporter

Smoke coming out of a garbage bin on Brindavan Street, West Mambalam created panic among passersby at around 3 p.m. on Dec.23. Nearby shop owners poured water into the bin to douse the fire.

Corporation to build 85 km of storm water drains

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation is to construct 85 km of storm water drains at a cost of Rs. 270 crores over the next few months.

This will be under two different projects – the KFW-funded Kovalam Basin and the World Bank-funded missing link storm water drain project in the core city.

Both projects were sanctioned last year but were reworked after issues of faulty design were raised and a National Green Tribunal case came up.

The World Bank-funded project entails construction of 12 km of missing links and demolition and reconstruction of 33 km of drains in Teynampet, Kodambakkam, T. Nagar, Tondiarpet, Royapuram, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, Anna Nagar and Adyar.

Contractors fined Rs. 7.67 lakhs for poor upkeep of parks

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has levied a fine of Rs.7,67,491 on private contractors for poor maintenance of parks across the 15 zones.

The contractors were asked tough questions on why watchmen were absent during duty hours, the shortfall in labour, deficiency in pruning and watering among things related to park maintenance.

Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi personally reviewed the inspection reports given by the zonal officials on the poor upkeep of parks and pulled up the contractors.

While there are around 800 parks in the city, 542 parks have been outsourced to private contractors for maintenance.

Of the Rs. 7.67 lakhs collected since August this year, 2.5 lakh (32.59%), was collected from contractors tasked with maintaining the parks in zone 4 (Tondiarpet), while contractors in zone 10 (Kodambakkam) were fined 1.25 lakh (16.2%).

"We are now imposing fines and are asking for a response from them. If they continue with poor upkeep and their watchmen are not present during working hours, we will terminate their contracts," an official said.

Kalaiselvi Karunalaya appeals for baby needs

By Our Staff Reporter

Kalaiselvi Karunalaya has been running Babies Home which is taking care of 24 abandoned babies ranging in age from new born to below 1 year in Mogappair West.

In December, it received three male and two female babies under its cradle scheme.

It has appealed to readers of *Mambalam Times* donate milk powder tins and other baby needs for the babies.

Donations can be made in the name of Kalaiselvi Karunalaya Social Welfare Society at 3rd Block, Mogappair West, Chennai 600037. For more information, contact K. Rajini Devi (Joint Secretary) in 94451 99619.

Complainant told to pay for shifting transformer

By Our Staff Reporter

A resident who tried to bring to the attention of the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) about a transformer encroaching upon road space on Anna Main Road (near Police Booth, MGR Nagar) was asked to pay if he wanted it to be shifted.

In a social media post on Nov. 30, V. Gopalakrishnan (a resident of K. K. Nagar) uploaded a video showing that the transformer was encroaching on Anna Main Road and how it was impeding the free flow of vehicles.

In reply to the post the next day, an Asst. Engineer from the MGR Nagar section office wrote that traffic was impacted due to digging of the road by Metrowater.

"Since the transformer capacity is 250 KVA, it cannot be replaced with a single-pole transformer. If the transformer has to be shifted, as per the board's rules, the consumer has to pay the charges," the official wrote.

Annadhaanam center opened in Kodambakkam

By Our Staff Reporter

In a bid to reach out to the needy, Tablets India Foundation (a charitable trust) on Dec. 18 inaugurated its 3rd Annadhaanam centre at Samiyar Madam (Kodambakkam).

Bharat Jhaver (President, Tablets India Foundation) said that the project was begun in 2019 with the starting of the first centre in Tondiarpet and the second in MKB Nagar.

Free unlimited meals are served daily between 12 noon and 3 p.m. for the needy. "Over 40,000 persons are served every month in the two centers. We expect to serve around 15,000 persons every month at the new center," Jhaver said.

Monthly target for officials to fine those littering

In a bid to crack down on littering, Chennai Corporation is going to set monthly targets for its officials to fine those who leave garbage and construction debris on roadsides and other public places.

Corporation will rope in the police to access CCTV camera footage to catch those who dump garbage on the roads.

It has been collecting more than Rs. 10 lakhs a month as fines on an average. However, it hopes target-based collection will push the zone level assistant engineers and sanitary inspectors to rigorously implement the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

"Not all zones fine people with the same rigor. We found some zones giving us 'nil' report on fines collected for dumping of garbage and debris," a senior official said.

The civic body so far this month has collected Rs. 4.29 lakhs as fines from those dumping garbage and debris in the open of which Rs. 35,900 was collected in Teynampet Zone and Rs. 26,600 in Kodambakkam Zone.

Posters resurface on public walls

By Our Staff Reporter

Despite sustained efforts by Chennai Corporation to remove posters from all public walls, the posters have started resurfacing in several parts of the city including T. Nagar, Kodambakkam and Teynampet.

In July, the Corporation began a campaign to keep the walls free of posters.

Until the first week of September, the Corporation had removed 1,37,267 posters from 45,900 locations across the city.

While a large number of walls still remain clean, posters have reappeared at several places.

Posters of political parties and films are the most common, followed by condolence posters.

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Asst. Film Director held for chain snatching

By Our Staff Reporter

Vijaya Babu (an Assistant Film Director) was arrested for snatching a 6-sovereign chain from K. Vijayalakshmi (54) (resident of West Mambalam) when she was returning home by walk after visiting a relative in Ashok Nagar. According to police, he was identified from the footage of a CCTV camera installed near the location of the crime.

Police traced his address from the registration number of the motorcycle he had used at the time of committing the crime.

He told the police that he resorted to chain snatching as he lost his job in the film industry during the pandemic and was struggling.

Police found that he was involved in two other chain snatching incidents in West Mambalam last month.

13 sovereigns of gold and a two-wheeler were seized from him.

Flood-hit areas set for major revamp

By Our Staff Reporter

Flood-affected constituencies in the city including T. Nagar, West Mambalam and K. K. Nagar are set to undergo a major overhaul in their civic infrastructure, a government official said.

MLAs have started submitting the areas that were recently flooded and the reasons behind the waterlogging. Issues like sewer overflow, low-lying power cables, inadequate storm water drains, new pumping stations are some of the issues that have been raised and the petitions have reached the Municipal Administration Department and other government departments, the official said.

The issues that the constituency faced during the recent deluge is ascertained and improvement works have already commenced, the official said.

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Editor
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Asst. Advt. Manager
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Advt. Representative
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Thanvesree has bharatanatyam arangetram



By Our Staff Reporter

B. Thanvesree (resident of West Mambalam and student of Lalthia Aravindan, Premalaya Natyaniketan, Nanganallur) had her bharathanatyam arangetram in Rani Seethai Hall on Dec. 19. S. V. Sekar was the chief guest. Thanvesree is a Std. 5 student in Modern Senior Secondary School, Nanganallur. She is also fond of singing, painting and yoga. She can be contacted on 99401 82608

Circle Library has audio books, e-magazines

By Our Staff Reporter

J. Karunanidhi (T. Nagar MLA) inspected the Circle Library (11th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) recently.

K. Deenadayalan (Librarian) told *Mambalam*



Times that a section with more than 1500 audio books and 4000 e-magazines on various topics was opened recently in the library. Visitors need to register once to listen to the audio books or read the e-magazines for free.

The library has 23000 members and gets around 500 visi-

tors a day. The library was badly damaged during the floods in 2015 and was later renovated.

Deenadayalan said that lakhs of books were destroyed in the floods and the library now has 40000 books.

The library welcomes donation of books in good condition.

It has separate sections for newspaper reading, book reading, children and civil service books. It is open from 8 a.m to 8 p.m on all days except Fridays, 2nd Saturdays and government holidays.

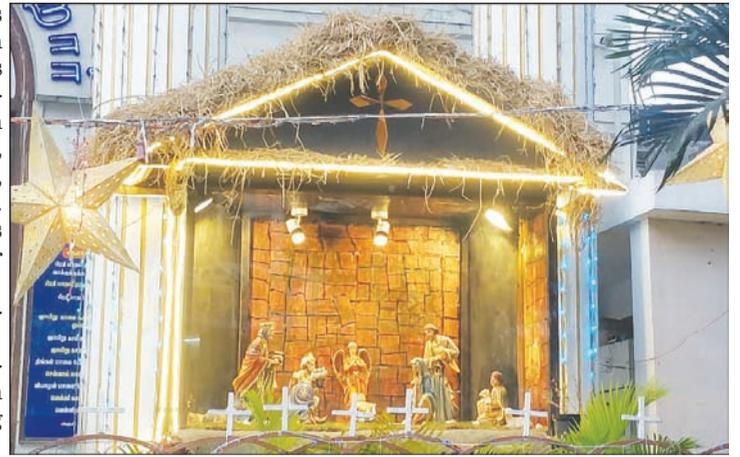
More details can be had in 2371 9319 and 98418 82138.

Christmas cribs installed in neighbourhood churches

Big Christmas cribs have been installed in neighbourhood churches including Arputhanathar Church (Govindan Road, West Mambalam), Holy Cross Church (76, South Boag Road, T. Nagar) and St. Mathias Church (Kamarajar Salai, Ashok Nagar)

They will be on display till Jan. 1.

There are special exhibits of art objects in the cribs representing the birth of Jesus.



Special prayers for New Year in Annai Arul Maiyam

Special programshave been organised in Sri Aravindhar Annai Arul Maiyam (9, Mahadevan Street, West Mambalam, near SBI Bank) from 6 a.m to 9 p.m on Saturday, Jan.1.

The following is the program: 6 a.m: Special mass prayer. 6.30 a.m: Divine Mother balcony darshan.

7 p.m: Mass prayer. Sri AnnaiAdigal (Founder) said that Blessing Cards from Pondicherry Ashram will be given to all the visitors.

Devotees can perform pushpanjali and take part in the special flower arrangement to be done at the premises.

There will be Annadhaanam at noon. "The construction of 'GnanaoliThiru Temple' for Goddess Savithiri Devi and Lord

Yama on the 50-ground land in Acharapakkam will begin in January," AnnaiAdigal said.

Devotees can contribute in cash or building materials for the construction of the temple. Donors may contact the Maiyam in 98414 25456.

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