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Vol. 29, No. 32

December 24 - 30, 2023

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ஆலந்தூர் பர்மனென்ட் பண்டு நிதி லிமிடெட்
(முடிவை - 1992)
(மத்திய அரசாங்க அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்ட நிதி நிறுவனம்)

முதிய என்.18, (மத்ய என்.107), புதுப்பேட்டை தெரு. (MKN மார்வெட் ரோடு அருகில்)
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பங்குதாரர்களுக்கு ஒரு நற்செய்தி! வைப்புத்தொகை திட்டம் சேகரிப்பு விழா

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கடன் : தங்க நகைகளுக்கு வட்டி 12% (குடியாப் 100-க்கு 1-குடியாப் மட்டும்) மற்றும் வீட்டின் வாடகை அடங்கிய அடக்கு மறுக்கப்படத்தின் போல் கடன் வழங்கப்படும்

முதிய உறுப்பினர்களுக்கு சேர்ந்து பயன் பெறுவதில் ...

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பட்டுப்புடவை
(டிஷ்யூ, தகிடி ஊசிவானா, வைர ஊசி கொடி பனாரஸ், வெள்ளை பனாரஸ்) அனைத்தும் வாங்கப்படும்

நல்ல நிலையில் உள்ள புடவை மற்றும் வேஷ்டி வாங்கப்படும்

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63, சுப்ரமணியன் தெரு, ஆரிய கௌடா ரோடு, மேற்கு மாம்பலம்

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‘உங்களுக்கு சுண்டு விரல் குண்டு விரல் மாதிரி இருக்கு. ஈசியா காயம் ஆகும். சுண்டு விரல் இளைக்கணும்’ என்றார் டாக்டர். ‘என்ன செய்யலாம் டாக்டர்? சுண்டு விரல் வாக்கிங் போகணுமா?’

‘நீங்க இனிமேல் நகம் வெட்டவே கூடாது.’ நகம் வெட்டாமல் நீண்ட நகங்களுடன் இருந்தால் நகசிம்மர் மாதிரி இருக்குமே! பிச்சுமணி குழம்பினான்.

‘வேற யாரையாவது நகம் வெட்டிவிடச் சொல்லுங்க.’

டாக்டரின் இந்த அரிய அறிவுரைக்கு ஃபீஸை வெட்டிவிட்டுக் கிளம்பினான் பிச்சுமணி.

ஒரு வாரம் கழித்துப் பிச்சுமணிக்கு இடது காது லேசாக வலிக்க ஆரம்பித்தது. ENT டாக்டரிடம் போனான்.

‘காது என்ன செய்யுது?’ என்றார் டாக்டர்.

‘டாக்டர், காதுலே சொய்ங், சொய்ங்னு சத்தம் கேட்குது.’

‘காதுலே ஏதாவது நுழைஞ்சுதா?’

‘கிரைண்டர் போடறப்ப தோசை மாவு தெறிச்சு காதுக்குள்ளே போயிடுச்சு.’

‘இன்னொரு காதைக் காட்டுங்க.’

‘எதுக்கு டாக்டர்?’

‘அதுக்குள்ளே சட்னி ஏதாவது நுழைஞ்சுச்சான்னு பார்க்கணும்.’

இரண்டு காதுகளையும் தீவிரமாக ஆராய்ந்த டாக்டர் சொன்னார்: ‘உங்களுக்கு மெட்ராஸ் காது வந்துருக்கு.’

‘டாக்டர், மெட்ராஸ் ஐ தான் வரும். மெட்ராஸ் காதுகூட வருமா?’

‘உங்களுக்கு வரும் ஸார். நாக்பூர் நோஸ்கூட வரும். உடம்பா ஸார் இது? வியாதியை வாவானு கூப்பிடுது.’

‘காதுக்குள்ளே மாவு போயிடுச்சே. என்ன செய்வீங்க? மாவுக்கட்டு போடுவீங்களா?’

‘அதுவா வெந்துடும். ஸாரி, வந்துடும்.’

இரண்டு வாரங்கள் வியாதி எதுவும் இல்லாமல் இருந்தான் பிச்சுமணி.

திடீரெனப் பல் வலி வந்துவிட்டது. சைக்கிள் ஸ்போக்ஸ் கம்பிகள் மாதிரி வலி எல்லா பக்கமும் எட்டியது. அந்த நேரம் பார்த்து ஒரு நண்பர் திருப்பதி பிரசாதமாக லட்டு கொண்டு வந்தார்.

‘பிரசாதம் சாப்பிட முடியாதே!’ என்றான் பிச்சுமணி.

‘லட்டை பூந்தியா உடைச்சு சாப்பிடுங்கோ.’

‘அதுவும் முடியாது போல இருக்கு. பல்லைத் தொட்டாலே வலிக்குது.’

‘அப்போ ஒய்ஃப்கிட்டே சொல்லி பூந்தியை ஜூஸா அடிச்சுக் கொடுக்கச் சொல்லுங்கோ. ஜூஸ் போட்டுக்காதிங்க.’

பத்து நாட்கள் கழித்து வாக்கிங் போகும்போது கால் பிசகிவிட்டது. கணுக்கால் வீங்கிக் கொண்டுவிட்டது.

‘என்ன ஆச்சு?’ என்றார் டாக்டர்.

‘வாக்கிங் போறப்ப தப்பான இடத்துலே காலை வைச்சுட்டேன்.’

‘ஓ, சமதளமான ரோட்டே நடந்துகிட்டு இருக்கறப்ப திடீர்னு குழியிலே காலை வைச்சுட்டீங்களா?’

‘இல்லே ஸார், குழியான ரோட்டே நடக்கறப்ப திடீர்னு சம தளத்துலே காலை வைச்சுட்டேன்.’

‘இது ஒண்ணும் இல்லே ஸார். இதுக்குப் பெயர் குழிப் பிணி.’ கணுக்கால் ஜவ்வு ஏதாவது கிழிஞ்சிருக்கா டாக்டர்?

‘இல்லே.’

‘நல்லா பாருங்க.’

‘பார்த்துட்டேன். பேன்ட்தான் அந்த இடத்துலே கிழிஞ்சிருக்கு.’

ஒரு வியாழக்கிழமை காலை கண் விழித்ததும் வயிறு கட்டுமடவென ஏதோ செய்தது. டாக்டரிடம் போனான்.

‘Food poison ஆகியிருக்கு. ஃப்ரிட்ஜிலே வச்சது எதையும் பூஸ் பண்ணாதீங்க’ என்று கூறிய டாக்டர் ஒரு ஊசியைப் போட்டார்.

‘டாக்டர், இந்த இஞ்ஜெக்ஷனை ஃப்ரிட்ஜிலேயிருந்து தான் எடுத்தீங்க.’

டாக்டர் முறைத்தார். பிச்சுமணி வெளியே ஓடி வந்துவிட்டான்.

இப்படியாக பிச்சுமணி வியாதிகளுக்கு விசா வழங்கிக் கொண்டிருக்கும் போது அவனுடைய சித்தப்பா சாமா வந்தார்.

‘ஹப் ஆர் யூ?’ என்று கையை நீட்டினார்.

‘ஸாரி, கையை நீட்ட முடியலே. டென்னிஸ் எல்போ’ என்றான் பிச்சுமணி.

‘உனக்கு அடிக்கடி வியாதி வருது போல இருக்கே?’ என்றார் சித்தப்பா.

‘ஆமாம், எல்லா டாக்டர்கிட்டேயும் போயாச்சு. இன்னும் பிரசவ டாக்டர்கிட்டே தான் போகலே. இதுவரைக்கும் ஆஸ்பத் திரியிலே அட்மிட் ஆகலே. அது வரைக்கும் நல்லது.’

‘சொல்ல முடியாது. வியாதி பெருசானா அட்மிட்கூட ஆகலாம். ஏகப்பட்ட செலவாகலாம்.’

‘ஜயோ’ என்றான் பிச்சுமணி.

‘நீ ஒரு ஹெல்த் இன்ஷூரன்ஸ் பாலிசி எடுத்துக்கோ. ஆஸ்பத் திரியிலே அட்மிட் ஆனால்கூட எல்லா பணமும் வந்துடும். என்கிட்டயே பாலிசி எடுத்துக்கோ.’

பாலிசி எடுத்துக்கொண்டு விட்டான் பிச்சுமணி.

‘சபாஷ், இனிமே நீ தைரியமா ஆஸ்பத்திரியிலே அட்மிட் ஆகலாம்’. சித்தப்பா போய்விட்டார்.

இரண்டு மாதங்கள் கழித்து சித்தப்பா மறுபடியும் வந்தார்.

‘என்ன பிச்சுமணி, ஏன் சோகமா இருக்கே?’ என்று கேட்டார்.

‘ஐம்பதாயிரம் ரூபாய்க்கு ஹெல்த் இன்ஷூரன்ஸ் பாலிசி எடுத்தேன். அதற்கப்புறம் ஒரு தடவைகூட அட்மிட் ஆகலே.’

இப்போ எல்லாம் ஒரு சின்ன வியாதிக்கூட வராமட்டேங்குது’ என்றான் பிச்சுமணி வருத்தத்துடன்.

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Leaning post poses danger for pedestrians



By Our Staff Reporter

A 20-foot-tall iron post on Pinjala Subramani Street (near Venkatanarayana Road junction, T. Nagar), installed by a broadband service provider, has fallen as its foundation is damaged.

It is resting against the compound wall of a house adjacent to it. It is blocking the entire width of the pavement and poses a danger for pedestrians.

Street name board missing for over four months



By Our Staff Reporter

The name board of Bharathi Street, near 70 Feet Road junction, Vivekanandapuram, West Mambalam is missing from its frame.

Mambalam Times had reported it 4 months back, but it has still not been rectified.

ESIC to do post-mortem on Three college students held request

By Our Staff Reporter

The State Health Department has allowed ESIC Hospital (Ashok Pillar Road, KK Nagar) to conduct post-mortem on requests from nine police stations in the city.

The government order, signed by state health secretary, Gagandeep Singh Bedi, said that based on the recommendation of the director general of police, it has been decided that T. Nagar district police stations R7 KK Nagar, R3 Ashok Nagar, R2 Kodambakkam, R1 Mambalam, R10 MGR Nagar, R8 Vadapalani and R4 SP Angaadi police stations can send requests to the ESIC Hospital for postmortem.

Three college students held

Police have arrested three students of Government Arts College (Nandanam) for attacking a youngster at Pallavan Salai bus stop in the evening on Dec. 18. They are searching for another student involved in the attack.

The arrested have been identified as Kishore, Suryah, Rajeswaran – all B A History students of Nandanam college.

According to police, a student named Sherif was attacked by the four students with sticks when he alighted near Pallavan Salai bus stop to allow way for other passengers.

Mambalam Times can be accessed in
www.mambalamtimes.in

Christmas gifts on sale



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 on Prakasam Road, Pondy Bazaar, Raghavaiah Road, G. N. Chetty Road and Lakshminathan Salai (T. Nagar).

Musical instruments donated to Sarada Vidyalaya



By Our Staff Reporter

Lions Club of Central Madras, in association with ExNoRa Greater Chennai, recently donated musical instruments worth Rs. 50,000 to RKM Sarada Vidyalaya Matriculation, Hr Sec School (Muthurangam Salai, T. Nagar).

Elderly denied flood relief as biometrics fail



By Our Staff Reporter

As the scanner could not read the fingerprint of 90-year-old R. Annammal (a resident of West Mambalam), she was denied the flood-relief amount of Rs. 6,000 at the ration shop on Railway Border Road (West Mambalam).

Despite having a token, the staff refused to hand over Rs. 6,000 to me, she said. She is not alone. Senior citizens in other localities too faced the same issue at the PDS shops as their fingerprints were not readable due to age. K. Saravanan (resident of K.K. Nagar) said that self-attested letters by senior citizens authorising others to collect the relief amount on their behalf were not accepted at ration shops.

"The staff at the shop wanted the ration card holder to come in person," he said. Following complaints on social media, senior officials of Civil Supplies Department stated that they have instructed the shop staff to provide the amount only to senior citizens who possess token and ration card if the biometrics fail.

Play 'Arutprakaasa Vallalaarr' this evening



The Tamil play 'Arutpra-kaasa Vallalaarr' will be presented by S. Shivprasad's Nataka Kavalara Chemmal R.S. Manohar's NXGs at 6.30 p.m on Sunday, Dec. 24 in Rajah Annamalai Mandram.

Written by K.P. Arivanandam, the play is directed

by S. Shivprasad and S. Sruuthi.

The play is based on the life and preachings of Saint Vallalar who launched poor feeding in Vadalur in 1867 after seeing the plight of those who could not satiate their hunger even after begging house-to-house.

He made poor feeding a life mission as he felt that only if a person is well fed he will be mentally agile. His followers continue the mission.

While Shivprasad plays the main role, his daughter Sruuthi enacts the roles of Lord Muruga, Vadivudaya Amman and Zamindar's wife.

Admission is free. All are welcome.

Online classes for Gita sloka recitation contest

By Our Staff Reporter

Gurukul Sloka Classes (West Mambalam) will conduct online Bhagavad Gita classes for children entering the Gita sloka recitation competition to be conducted by Egmore Sanskrit School and Chinmaya Mission.

Thirty-minute classes will be conducted in the evening on three days in a week.

For fees and other details contact S. Sriram in 93825 13825.

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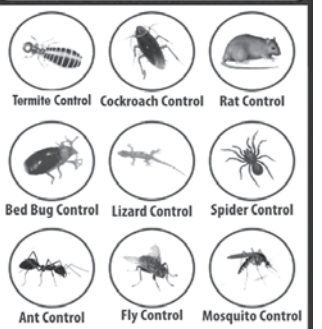
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Wins Rs. 70,000 cash prize in chess tourney

By Our Staff Reporter

V. Pranav (Std. 11 student in Velammal Vidyalaya, Mogappair) won a cash prize of Rs. 70,000 for coming 2nd in the Kashvi 1st International Open FIDE Rated Rapid Chess Tournament conducted in Mangalore last week.

He won four games and drew two in the run-up to the final.



Bharathi Salai name board sticker torn



By Our Staff Reporter

Almost 3/4th of the name board sticker pasted on the metal frame on Bharathi Salai (Vivekanandapuram, West Mambalam) has been torn away.

A resident told *Mambalam Times* that the sticker gets torn due to frequent pasting of advertisement posters on the name board.

He has requested Chennai Corporation to replace the torn sticker soon.

Grandmaster siblings Pragganandhaa, Vaishali train in local academy



Grandmaster siblings R. Pragganandhaa and R. Vaishali have started preparations to compete in the International FIDE 8-player Candidates Chess Tournament to be held in April 2024 in Canada.

Under the guidance of their coach R.B. Ramesh, they are practising daily in Chess Gurukul (A-2, First Floor, 15, Vaidyaraman Street, T. Nagar). Limiting the number of tournaments they will participate in is part of a meticulously planned program for the Grandmasters.

"We are putting out a team for both players and have already had one camp for them and there will be more to follow," Ramesh said.

He said the preparation is critical as the winners of the Candidates will get to face China's Ding Liren and Ju Wenjun in the World Chess Championship later next year.

The duo is set to feature in the World Rapid and Blitz tournament scheduled for the next week in Samarkand (Uzbekistan).

Awareness program on eye donation



By Our Staff Reporter

Vidyodaya Girls Higher Secondary School, T. Nagar, Lions Club of Central Madras, ExNoRa Greater Chennai, Sankara Nethralaya and Rajan Eye Care Hospital jointly organized an awareness program in the school recently on the 'Need and necessity for eye donation' to commemorate 'National Fortnight for Eye Donation'.

V. Shanthi (Headmistress) presided over the program. S. Siriskandarajah (Lions Club Presiden) delivered the special address. Dr. M. Ravishankar of Rajan Eye Care delivered the keynote address. He explained the need, necessity and importance of eye donation and the significance of National Fortnight for Eye Donation.

A number of posters on eye donation were put up and pamphlets distributed.

Complaints about confusion in flood relief norms



By Our Staff Reporter

After having borne the brunt of the cyclone, residents are questioning why tokens were not being given to every ration card holder and the rationale behind sugar card holders not getting the relief amount of Rs. 6,000.

V.S. Jayaraman of T. Nagar said many rice card holders had returned disappointed as they had not been given tokens. Even officials of the Civil Supplies Department are unable to explain why many rice cardholders have not been given tokens, he said. "Both sugar and rice card holders must be treated alike," he added.

Many fair price shops are seeing long queues.

74-year-old R. Sarada complained that she had to make two trips to the ration shop on Mambalam High Road and wait long in queue both times as she has a sugar-only card and the application form did not specify the documents she must attach.

She said, "I had to return again the next day with copies of my Aadhaar card, smart card and first page of my bank passbook and wait in the queue to submit the form."

"Instead of resorting to direct bank transfer, it was unfortunate that poor people and senior citizens were forced to stand in queues for hours on end to get a token and relief money," she said. A senior Corporation official told *Mambalam Times* that public distribution system employees were checking the new addresses of those who had shifted their residence and issuing tokens.

"Application forms are also being given to those without ration cards," he said.

He said sugar-only card holders who had lost household goods and did not possess family cards due to rain water entering their houses, could submit applications at their respective fair price shop. For clarification on guidelines, residents can contact 044-28592828 or the toll-free helpline 1100.

Reports said 4.9 lakh non-ration card holders from Chennai have applied for the Rs. 6,000 flood relief.

Mumbai firm to construct elevated corridor on Anna Salai

The Mumbai-based J. Kumar Infraprojects Ltd. has bagged the contract to construct the 3.2 km elevated corridor from Teynampet to Saidapet on Anna Salai. The company won the Rs. 582-crore order from the Tamilnadu Government to construct the four-lane elevated corridor.

The project will be taken up in Engineering, Procurement and Construction mode and completed in 24 months. The Highways Department had submitted the detailed project report on the elevated corridor to the State Government last year. The corridor will allow motorists to cross the busy junctions at Eldams Road, SIET College, Cenotaph Road, Nandanam, CIT Nagar 3rd and 1st Main Roads and Tod Hunter Nagar without stopping. Chennai Metro has also given its approval for the layout and preliminary design of the proposed structure subject to certain conditions made necessary as some of its tunnels will be below the corridor. The travel time will be reduced from 35 minutes to five minutes due to the corridor, and it will be reduced to 18 minutes at the ground level.

The conditions stipulated by Chennai Metro include ensuring that the depth of drilling does not exceed 7m from road level and the pressure on top of the tunnels does not go over 60 kPa (kilopascal). The spacing between the piers must not exceed 15m instead of the usual spacing of 25-30m.

No land acquisition will be necessary for the construction of the corridor since the road is wide enough.

History-sheeter murdered by gang of 10

By Our Staff Reporter

A 10-member gang hacked a 39-year-old history-sheeter to death near a Tasmac outlet in Periamet in the evening on Dec. 19.

Following investigation, Periamet police have arrested six of the gang members identified as S. Manoj (24) of Palavakkam, R. Ajay (20) and R. Duraimurugan (18) of Mylapore and K. Rohith (18), M. Santhosh (18) and a 16-year-old — all three residents of KK Nagar.

According to police, in the morning, the deceased G. Premkumar, had appeared at the Allikulam Court in Periamet.

When Premkumar was drinking near the outlet with his cousin Naresh Kumar and friend Vasanthakumar, he was surrounded by the gang.

Sensing danger, the trio tried to escape but the gang attacked them with sharp weapons and left them bleeding on the street.

While Premkumar died on the way to hospital, the other two are undergoing treatment for grievous injuries.

Police said that in 2013, Premkumar's brother Ranjith was murdered by a gang in Pulianthope.

To avenge that murder, Premkumar had killed the main suspect Karthik last year.

In retaliation for that, Karthik's relatives plotted and murdered Premkumar.

The kingpin Sivashankar (cousin of Karthik) and the other three gang members are absconding.

Drunk men held for causing accident, attacking SI

By Our Staff Reporter

The Teynampet police on Dec. 20 arrested a 32-year-old man on charges of rash driving and causing injury to a woman and for assaulting a Sub-Inspector who tried to stop him from escaping from the accident spot near Nandanam junction on Anna Salai.

The culprit was identified as Harshwardhan (32) of Adharamapuram.

On the late evening on Dec. 20, he was riding his bike with another man on the pillion in a rash manner. The pillion rider was also arrested.

The two were inebriated and hit a woman, who was riding a two-wheeler.

The woman, a resident of Lake View Road (West Mambalam), was returning home from work. After her bike was hit, she fell and suffered bruises on both her hands.

An SI, who was nearby, happened to see them and attempted to overpower them.

But they attacked him with their helmets.

The Teynampet police have registered a case and arrested Harshwardhan and his associate. The woman was treated in Royapettah Government Hospital.

Jaya Medicals celebrating 50th anniversary

By Our Staff Reporter

Jaya Medicals (51, Arya Gowda Road, West Mamblam. Ph. 044-66212122), which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, stocks more than 3,000 kinds of medicines and other allied products.

The shop was started in 1973.

The shop's system was computerised in 1986 which enables accurate tracking of expiry dates and stock position of medicines.

K.R.Chidambaram (Proprietor) told *Mamblam Times* that the procurement of newly launched products or rare medicines is assured. Blood pressure and weight check-up facilities are available free.

Free delivery is offered in and around West Mambalam on purchase of medicines worth Rs.1000 and above. All modes of digital payments are accepted.

Automated entrance doors help senior citizens enter and exit easily.

A few years back, the shop started selling organic vegetables and pure Desi cow's milk procured from the owner's farm in Venthanpatti, Pudukottai district.

Van abandoned on Nana Street



By Our Staff Reporter

A mini commercial vehicle (Tata Ace) has been abandoned for more than a year on the margin of Nana Street, T. Nagar.

One of the residents told *Mamblam Times* that during night, miscreants use of the vehicle for illegal activities including consumption of alcohol.

She appealed to the traffic police or Corporation to remove the vehicle immediately.

Krishnammachari donates 20 lakhs to Heart Foundation



By Our Staff Reporter

R. P. Krishnammachari has donated Rs. 20 lakhs to the National Heart Foundation, Chennai.

Dr. Latchumanadas (Senior Cardiologist), who received the cheque, said the donation will be used to treat children from very poor families suffering from heart ailments.

Krishnammachari has been offering donations for 12 years.

Hindu Vidyalaya distributes relief materials



By Our Staff Reporter

J. G. Hindu Vidyalaya (West Mambalam) distribution relief materials to 400 flood-affected families on Dec. 19.

It included 5 kg rice bag, rava, wheat, tea, sugar, cooking oil, bedsheet and a towel.

The students and staff contributed for buying the essentials.

Girija Seshadri (Principal), Sri Vedantamji (Founder, Vishwa Hindu Vidya Kendra School) and Uma Anandan (Councillor, Ward 134) were present.

Problems with bulk waste management

By Our Staff Reporter

Several gated communities, marriage halls and star hotels are throwing waste on the road or in Corporation bins, as close to 1,450 of the 1,500 bulk waste collectors, who are supposed to handle their solid waste, are yet to turn up for work after Cyclone Michaung.

Nearly 20% of the 1,02,709 tonnes of waste the corporation has collected since Dec. 6 is bulk waste which should have been originally handled by private players and processed in their own plants.

Further, close to 1,000 tonnes are dumped daily on the

roadside or bins across the 15 zones causing a stink as well as burdening the conservancy staff, who collect household waste door-to-door.

Of the 1 lakh-odd tonnes of waste collected, core city areas contributed over 50% of the waste. Teynampet zone generated 11,302 tonnes, followed by 10,356 tonnes in Adyar, 10,318 tonnes in Anna Nagar and 10,258 tonnes in Kodambakkam.



Margazhi Mahotsav of Bharat Kalachar inaugurated



By Our Staff Reporter

The 31-day Margazhi Mahotsav, the music, dance and drama festival of Bharat Kalachar, was inaugurated in YGP Auditorium (Satyamurthy Nagar, T. Nagar) on Dec. 16.

On the inaugural day, Viswa Kala Bharathi award was presented to Bharatanatyam dancer Narthaki Nataraj and Yuva Kala Bharathi awards to young musicians and scholarships to meritorious students from four neighbourhood schools.

There will be concerts daily by upcoming and leading musicians and stage shows.

Wins javelin gold at State meet

By Our Staff Reporter



Two weeks back, N. Selvarajan (54) (resident of KK Nagar), Officer in Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services (TNFRS), was going around in boats rescuing persons during the Chennai floods.

On Dec. 17, he won a gold medal in javelin throw at the Tamil Nadu State Masters Athletics Championships held in Tiruvannamalai in the 50+ age category.

He was a university-level athlete in his younger days, but stopped participating in competitions after he joined the fire department in 1994.

After two decades of not holding a Javelin, Selvarajan took up the sport again in 2015 to motivate his son to be physically active and to prepare for Civil Services exams.

"Cyclone Michaung ravaged the city two weeks before the competition and I could not practise before the meet as the whole department was working round-the-clock in rescue operations.

"In most places, I rowed the boat as I felt it to be my physical training for the competition even as I, along with other members of the team, was rescuing people," Selvarajan said.

'Navachandi Mahayagam' on Dec. 25, 26

By Our Staff Reporter

Durga Parameswari Trust (Vallakottai, Ph: 9789803857) will conduct 'Navachandi Mahayagam' for 'Bagalamugi Annai' and 'Durga Parameswari' on Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26 in Ayodhya Mandapam.

The following is the program: Dec. 25

4 p.m: Vigneswara pooja, Sankalpam and Kalasa Pooja

6 p.m: Deepamangala Chandi Paarayanam

9 p.m: Deeparadhanai, Prasadam distribution

9.15 p.m: Chadurshti

Dec. 26

6 a.m: Vigneswara pooja

6.30 a.m: Sriharithra

Ganapathihomam

7 a.m: Kalasapooja, Nava Varana pooja and Bagla Brahmastra Yagam

9.30 a.m: Sri Navachandi Yagam

11.30 a.m: Mahapoor-nahoothi Deeparadhanai

12 noon: Kalsabishekam, Special Alangaaram and Prasadam distribution.

Devotees are welcome to donate in cash or kind for the Goshala run by the trust in Vallakottai.

Thirupugazh-led panel continues review of flood-hit areas

Members of the advisory committee for mitigation and management of flood risk in Chennai Metropolitan Area, headed by former civil servant V. Thirupugazh, visited various areas across the city last week to assess the flood damage post cyclone Michaung.

The committee visited many flood-affected areas including Trurstpuram Canal in K.K. Nagar to assess the problems. Officials of the Water Resources Department said the committee will provide its assessment on the extent of recommendations implemented for flood mitigation in various areas after their field visits. It will also review the lacunae in works executed and those in progress.

The department was carrying out projects based on the recommendations on priority basis due to paucity of funds.

Discourse on Bhagavad Gita today

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (3, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar), Swami Guruvaramanda will deliver a discourse in Tamil on Bhagavad Gita at 5.30 p.m on Sunday, Dec. 24 in the Ashram's premises.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in 2814 3896 and 2814 3514.

Today last day for online entries for Times Thyagaraja music contest

By Our Staff Reporter

Federal Bank has invited entries from trained Carnatic singers in the 16-26 years age group for the contest for 'Times Thyagaraja Awards'.

The last date for submitting entries is Sunday, Dec. 17.

Participants can access rules and regulations at www.chanceyilla.in.

The award, now in its 13th year, aims to honour amateur Carnatic singers during the Marghazhi music season.

Over the years, hundreds of Carnatic vocalists have been nominated by music sabhas worldwide.

An expert panel of judges will shortlist the applicants for participating in auditions scheduled from 5 p.m. from Dec. 19 to 23 in T. N. Rajarathinam Kalai Arangam (R.A. Puram).

The grand finale is on Jan. 20 at Music Academy.

The winners will get gold prizes worth more than Rs. 2 lakhs and a chance to perform at the Music Academy.

The 5-day live auditions will see performance by Nithyasree Mahadevan (Dec. 19); Ambi Subramaniam (Dec. 20); S. Sowmya (Dec. 21); O.S. Arun (Dec. 22) and Shobana Vignesh (Dec. 23).

Christmas cribs installed in neighbourhood churches



By Our Staff Reporter

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.

Pet dog available for adoption

By Our Staff Reporter

An 8-month-old male pet dog of native breed is available for adoption as its owners have moved to a different city.

The dog is presently under the care of Selvin Kumar.



He said the dog is healthy and fully vaccinated.

He said it is harmless, toilet-trained and playful.

Dog lovers interested in adopting it, can contact Selvin in 7010309611.

Work on Valluvar Kottam bridge to start after Pongal



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation is set to float tenders for the much-awaited bridge near Valluvar Kottam after Pongal as the land acquisition process is expected to be completed shortly.

The four-lane bridge to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 82 crores will ease traffic congestion in Nungambakkam and T. Nagar, facilitating the flow of traffic towards Vadapalani from Gemini flyover. Once the work order is issued after the tender is finalised in January, the bridge is expected to be completed in 18 months.

"We have reduced the area of private land to be acquired for the project. The acquisition of 37 private properties along the road is expected to be completed shortly. Land from government property including Corporation public health centre will be utilised for the bridge," an official said.

The alignment of the bridge has been finalised to facilitate the flow of storm water to the canal during heavy rains. After a change in alignment, the land cost for the 2,800 sq. m. of private property to be acquired for the bridge will be Rs. 113 crores.

Corporation begins repair of potholes post floods

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation on Dec. 19 started repairing potholes in roads that were damaged in the floods.

Commissioner J. Radhakrishnan flagged off vehicles carrying cold mix at Ripon Buildings on Dec. 19 for carrying out repairs on 87 bus route roads and 4,034 interior roads in all the zones.

Of the 4,034 roads damaged in the city, Kodambakkam zone reported the highest number, with 1,056 roads ridden with potholes. In Kodambakkam zone, which covers flood-prone areas such as T. Nagar, Kodambakkam and Mam-balam, more than 21,692 sq.m. of road patches have been identified for repair.

Teynampet zone has reported potholes formed in 381 roads during the floods and 331 roads in Thiru Vi Ka Nagar. Other zones have reported potholes in less than 200 roads.

Residents have been requested to call 1913 to report potholes that pose a high risk of road accidents.



Buses from KK Nagar terminus skip stops, passengers complain

By Our Staff Reporter

Passengers in KK Nagar are complaining that MTC buses on routes 17D (KK Nagar to Broadway), 11G (KK Nagar to Broadway via T. Nagar), and 12G (KK Nagar to Anna Square) which ply from the KK Nagar terminus are skipping certain stops in their locality causing hardship to residents, office-goers, and students.

Buses leaving the terminus have to turn left on Ashok Pillar Road and go via Munnusamy Salai, Ramaswamy Salai, PT Rajan Salai, and Kamarajar Salai to join Ashok Pillar Road again to proceed towards Udhayam Theatre stop.

"There are 10 stops on a 3-km stretch covering MGR Nagar, Nesapakkam and Sivan Park. Some drivers skip them leaving us stranded," NB Babu, a commuter said.

"Often, I have to walk a kilometre to the Udhayam Theatre stop from MGR Nagar to board the bus as some drivers are turning right from the bus terminus toward Ashok Pillar by skipping stops" he added.

In spite of complains to the Branch Manager of KK Nagar depot and on the social media handle of MTC, no action has been taken yet.

Similarly, when buses arrive at the terminus, they have to take a right turn on Kamarajar Salai and reach the terminus via Sivan Park, Nesapakkam and MGR Market.

"But some drivers give excuses of breakdown to ask passengers to get down at ESIC hospital to reach the terminus directly skipping the stops," he pointed out.

RTI activist V. Gopalakrishnan of KK Nagar said that bus drivers skipping stops has been happening for many years.

"Now with technology, when bus services can be monitored via GPS at the MTC headquarters, I wonder how drivers skip 10 stops?" he asked.

Eye camp conducted for special children

By Our Staff Reporter

Hundred children including 75 special children attended the free eye screening camp organised by Vedic Ravi (President, Sri Bhuvaneshwari Charitable Trust) in Vijay Human Services (Sathya Garden, P.V. Rajamannar Salai, K.K. Nagar) on Dec. 22.

Doctors from Radhathri Nethralaya (T. Nagar) examined the children.

Vedic Ravi, R.D. Kalusha (Principal, Vijay Human Services), T. Padma Arasu (Sai Acupuncture Center), D. Sabitha Devi (President, Rani Mangammal Trust) and K. Murugan (Managing Director, Sai Vaishnav Interiors).

Vijay Human Services (Ph: 9840703199) has been running a school for adolescents special children suffering from learning disabilities, autism and cerebral palsy for more than four decades.

Tenants opt out of flood-prone areas

By Our Staff Reporter

Many tenants who faced the brunt of the floods caused by Cyclone Michaung and had to suffer material losses, are opting to move to elevated localities which did not suffer flooding.

The downpour caused water-logging in several low-lying areas in the city.

P. Geetha Lakshmi, a housebroker, said that people have started to move from Velachery and Zamin Pallavaram to Alwarpet and nearby areas that did not see any waterlogging. "Most of the people are young professionals," she added.

Another real estate broker stated that localities like Pallikaranai, Velachery, Madipakkam and IT hubs of Sholinganallur, Thoraipakkam and Guindy are seeing fewer queries.

Urbaser Sumeet to collect discarded items from homes

By Our Staff Reporter

Those living in Teynampet, Kodambakkam, Alandur, Valasaravakkam, Adyar, Perungudi and Sholinganallur zones can now use the toll-free number — 18005712069 — to get rid of their old and worn-out items.

Urbaser Sumeet, which carried out conservancy operations in the above zones, will collect such items from houses.

Chennai Corporation introduced the toll-free number since many residents are dumping furniture, mattresses and other items on roads after the recent floods. Chennai Corporation has requested residents not to throw such items on the road.

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T. NAGAR, 5/5, Krishna-swamy Street, near Vivek & Co, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, 900 sq.ft, Brahmins only, open car park. Ph: 98409 27784, 98409 27791.

WEST MAMBALAM, Baroda Street, near Duraiswamy Subway, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1000 sq.ft, rent Rs. 22000, vegetarians only. Ph: 90801 64510.

ASHOK NAGAR, 15/3, 4th Avenue, SNR Flat, near Police Station Signal, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, balcony, 1st floor, car park, rent Rs. 22000 (negotiable), for immediate occupation. Ph: 94442 88784, 98410 25996.

WEST MAMBALAM, Viswanathan Street, 1st floor, 3 bedrooms, dining and hall, kitchen, 1800 sq.ft, covered car park, rent Rs. 43000, 6 months advance, Brahmins only. Ph: 9841826402.

Grievance redressal meets once a month

By Our Staff Reporter

Metrowater conducts open-house meetings at the respective area offices every second Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To know the address of the Metro Water area office relevant to you, visit cmwssb.tn.gov.in/area-office

Complaints can also be raised on 044-4567 4567

Tamilnadu Electricity Board conducts grievance day meetings every month in every division from 11 a.m. onwards. A day slotted for each division.

In T. Nagar, it is held on the second Friday of every month.

Most of these meetings are conveyed by the superintending engineer.

Consumers can also raise complaints on the 24x7 helpline number 94987 94987.

T.NAGAR
43/19, Giri Road, Near PSBB / Vidyodhya School, 600 sq.ft, 1 BHK, AC, Rent Rs.17500 Vegetarians. 98840 94648

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Margazhi Sabha canteens

By Our Staff Reporter

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From 3 p.m to 6 p.m: Snacks that include raw banana bajji, sevai, keera vada, Kasi halwa, ashoka halwa, wheat halwa and coffee.

For dinner from 6.30 p.m to 10 p.m: Idli, dosa, chapathi, poori and variety rice.

Must Try: Kasi Halwa, Idiyappam kurma and Adai aviyal

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Catering managed by Sattvaa Catering Service, Ph: 98403 03403

Breakfast Menu: 7 a.m to 9 a.m: Nei pongal, medhu vada, podi dosa and poori.

Lunch: 11.30 a.m to 3 p.m: Onion and garlic-free wedding style South Indian meals on banana leaf comprising delicacies from Thanjavur, Tirunelveli and Kumbakonam with variants of payasam, sambar, kozhambu and rasam.

Snacks from 4 p.m to 6 p.m and dinner from 7 p.m to 10 p.m.

Must try: Karupatti sweets, bonda more kozhambu and kichdi.

20,000 workers engaged in clean-up work

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has engaged more than 20,000 sanitation workers in forcleaning accumulated waste and garbage since Dec. 5, a day after Cyclone Michaung ravaged the city.

On Dec. 20, Corporation Commissioner J. Radhakrishnan inspected mass cleaning and garbage removal in several areas of the city including T. Nagar.

While an average of 5000 tonnes of garbage is collected and disposed daily, since Dec. 5, an additional garbage of about 1.25 lakh tonnes has been removed, Radhakrishnan said.

Workers are also clearing the garbage that has accumulated in and along canals as residents are dumping household items damaged in the floods in and around the water bodies.

The waste accumulated in storm water drains and tanks due to the rainfall will also be removed, he said.



Metro commuters irked with parking lots closing early

By Our Staff Reporter

Several passengers of Chennai Metro are irked that the parking lots of some metro stations including Ashok Nagar, Teynampet and Nandanam are shutting down earlier than the scheduled service hours of the day.

Due to this, passengers allege that they are unable to take their 2-wheelers from the parking lots, ultimately forcing them to pay overnight parking charges.

"I regularly park my 2-wheeler at the parking lot in Ashok Nagar metro station and take a train to reach my office near the airport. On Dec. 18, I was late and reached Ashok Nagar station at 10 p.m only to find that the parking lot had closed and I could not take out my 2-wheeler to go home.

The next morning, I was asked to pay Rs. 120 towards overnight parking charges", Ravi Kiran, a regular commuter said.

Speaking about this, a staff member stated that it has been the practice of smaller parking lots to close at 10 p.m. "We will ensure that all parking lots are open till 11.30 p.m or till the last service timing," he said.



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Walkathon to create awareness on Diabetic Retinopathy



By Our Staff Reporter

A walkathon was conducted at Elliot's Beach, Besant Nagar, on Sunday, Dec.17 to create awareness on Diabetic Retinopathy (the blinding disease affecting the eyes due to diabetes). Radhatri Nethralaya Eye Hospital (12, Hindi Prachara Sabha Street, T. Nagar) and Health & Public Image team of Rotary Dist 3232 organised the event in which hundreds of students from arts and optometry colleges, Rotarians, doctors, and "Veera Pengal" (women auto drivers) participated.

Rekha Nair (actress) was the guest of honour and Natarajan Nagoji the chief guest. Minister for Health Ma Subramanian and ACP Julius cheered the walkers.

The program educated diabetics and members of the public on how to recognise

visual symptoms of diabetic retinopathy (eg: vision changes, floaters, distortion) and the need to regularly get the eyes examined.

The walkers shouted slogans, distributed pamphlets,

carried placards and banners. The students received certificates of participation recognising them as Yuva Nethra Jyotis (Youth Vision Ambassadors of Radhatri Nethralaya).

Matrimonial service provided for all religions

By Our Staff Reporter

Hamara ThirumanaThagval Maiyam (Choolaimedu), a matrimonial service provider, arranges horoscope matching for brides and grooms of all religions. It was started in 2008.

It also offers astrological services like prediction,

matchmaking, numerology etc. and vaastu. Its phone number is 9710413755.

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One-day program on 'Preparation of milk products'

By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Agricultural University Information and Training Center (1st

Floor, Opposite CIPET, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy) will conduct a one-day training program on 'Preparation of milk products' from 9.30 a.m to 4.30 p.m on Thursday, Dec. 28 in its premises.

The program will cover preparation of rasagolla, malai peda, rasmalai, kaalajamun, instant milk kova, rose sandesh, gulabjamun, rose milk and badam milk.

The program is open to all.

Lunch will be provided.

Training material and certificates will be issued to participants. For registration, contact 044-29530048.

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