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Anti-mosquito spray initiative **Iaunched in Mogappair and Ambattur**

By Our Correspondent

IN a proactive step to curb the rise in mosquito-borne diseases, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has commenced anti-mosquito spraying operations across several areas of Mogappair and Ambattur. The initiative comes in light of the upcoming northeast monsoon, which often creates an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. Residents have praised the measure, hoping it will help prevent the spread of diseases like dengue and malaria.

The spraying campaign, which began earlier this week, focuses on Ward 86 within the Ambattur zone, along with other parts of Mogappair. The operation is being carried out by the GCC's health department, using environmentally safe insecticides to target mosquito larvae in stagnant water bodies, drains, and other areas prone to mosquito breeding.

Local residents have expressed relief at the government's efforts to tackle the growing menace of mosquitoes, especially with the monsoon season fast approaching. "The monsoon brings with it a lot of issues, especially with the



increase in mosquito populations. We've seen a rise in cases of dengue over the past years, so this spray initiative is very welcome," said Kamalakannan, a resident of Ambattur. "I am glad the corporation is taking these preventive measures to ensure the health of the community."

Mogappair residents, too, have shown strong support for the initiative. "We have been asking the authorities to focus on mosquito control for a long time now. The stagnant water in several parts of Mogappair leads to a significant increase in mosquito breeding. With this spraving campaign. I hope we can avoid the outbreaks we've seen in the past," said Rani, a resident of the area.

The anti-mosquito drive is an important part of the GCC's annual monsoon preparedness

plan. According to the corporation, the spraying uses a combination of fogging and larvicides to target different stages of the mosquito lifecycle. The areas being targeted include public parks, drainage systems, and residential areas that have reported higher mosquito activity. Health officials are urging residents to continue their cooperation by ensuring that there is no stagnant water around their homes, as this can further contribute to the mosquito problem. "While the spraying will reduce mosquito numbers, it is also important for residents to maintain cleanliness around their homes. Stagnant water in containers, tires, and even flowerpots can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes," said an official of the Health Department of the Greater Chennai Corporation.



ship held in Gujarat.

Along with the medal

he won a cash prize

of ₹1,00,000. **Good response to** voters' spl camps

Election Commission of India (ECI) said that 6,85,513 applications were received in the special camps conducted for inclusion, deletion, linking of Aadhaar with EPIC, modification and transposition of entries on Nov 16 and 17. The majority of the applications (4.42 lakh) were related to new registration of general voters above the age of 18. The next round of special camps will be held on Nov 23 and 24 at designated centres.

MTC introduces new baggage policy in buses

ACCORDING to a newly introduced baggage policy, goods weighing below 20 kg can be carried free of charge on Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) buses. But bags heavier than that would incur a charge of one passenger fare. This includes items such as shoulder bags, handbags, portable electronic devices like cameras and laptops, wheelchairs for differently-abled passengers and musical instruments for folk artists. In addition, passengers will be permitted to carry trolley suitcases or bags with a maximum size of 65 cm, free of charge. A passenger carrying a baggage in excess of 20 kg or larger than 65 cm in size will have to pay a fare equivalent to one passenger.



The road dividers at Thiruvalluvar Salai had become more menace than convenience for the commuters in front of DAV Girls School. Particularly during peak hours, parents occupy a huge chunk of the already divided road by parking their vehicles. This even delays a driver from taking a free left. Moreso this spot being a four road junction has automatic signal lights. Things get worse as the time alloted for vehicles passing through to the other end is less than a minute. It is learnt that owing to public request, the dividers have been removed. Is it for the good, only time will tell?

2



Velammal Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mogappair received a special award in organising the largest school project exhibition from Tamil Nadu Education Minister, Mr Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi. This feat was accomplished during the Science Festival showcasing 1000 projects.

Chennai Int'l Book fair from Jan 16–18

tional Book Fair (CIBF) is scheduled to be conducted from January 16-18. As many as 24 countries participated in the CIBF held in 2023 and 365 MoUs were signed. Last year, 40

THE Chennai Interna- countries participated and 752 MoUs were signed. This year, the government plans to sign 1,000 MoUs from at least 50 countries. Through the MoUs, 160 books were translated from Indian and interna-

tional languages such as Turkish, Persian, Italian, Spanish, Bulgarian, Serbian, English, Russian, Greek to Tamil. The government had allocated Rs 3 crore for translation work.



Karapakkam K Ganapathy, MLA, Maduravoyal constituency and Joseph Samuel, MLA (Ambattur) jointly inaugurated the Violet Aaron Memorial bus shelter in Mogappair West on Friday. Others to take part were Violet Aaron church members, BK Moorthy, V Rajan and KV Thilagar (all Municipal councillors).



P Puviatral, Velammal Vidyalaya West won 3 gold and one silver in the 5th Junior and 10th Senior State Para Swimming Championship.





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November 24 - 30, 2024



Will Velammal's Gukesh become youngest-ever World Champ?

CHESS EXCLUSIVE: WHAT THE EXPERTS HAVE TO SAY

By R Srinivasa Raghavan

DOMMARAJU Gukesh will be hoping to make history, when he faces Ding Liren in a 14-game match for the World title in Singapore on November 25. If he wins the crown, Velammal's Gukesh will become the youngest-ever World chess champion at 18. Gukesh has had an incredible 2024, winning the Candidates in Toronto at 17! He was one of the star performers in India's maiden gold medal triumph at the Chess Olympiad this year in Budapest. The Chennaiite (9/10 on first board) bagged back-to-back individual gold medals in two successive Olympiads (2022 & 2024), which is a unique accomplishment.

Coming to the match, Gukesh, who has been in top form, starts as favourite in his first attempt at the World title against a struggling Ding. The world No.5 (with a rating of 2783) has had a successful year, while Ding has been out of sorts from the time he became a World champion. The Chinese has slipped to world No.23 (with a rating of 2728) after being world No.2 at one point.

How do you rate Gukesh's chances of becoming World champion? GM R B Ramesh, who is one of India's top coaches, had this to say: "Very good chances given Ding's issue with his mental state. This tilts the match in Gukesh's favour."

Chennai GM Sundarajan Kidambi echoed the same: "I would say Gukesh is a slight favourite as opposed to an overwhelming one. The reason is he is still new and Ding can comeback like he did against Ian Nepomniachthci in his last World Championship Match."

Gukesh's breakthrough event was the Chennai Olympiad in 2022 (9/11), when he raced to eight out of eight start on the top board and played a part in India 2 winning a bronze medal. His



stunning performance got the attention of the chess world. From that point, it has been a upward curve for the youngster. This year's Olympiad, he performed even better, having a performance rating of 3056! Gukesh won eight games, drew two to power India to a dominant victory.

What do you think is the

reason for Gukesh's stunning performance in the Olympiad? Ramesh said: "He is a phenomenal talent. Has tremendous self confidence. He is improving his chess strength day by day."

Kidambi pointed out Gukesh's motivation was the key to India's victory, saying: In the Olympiad, he showed tremendous class and determination. As Gukesh rightly pointed out, he was motivated to win the team gold which they missed last time around. "He is one of the best calculators among top chess players. Added to that, Gukesh's good opening preparation, revelling in complicated positions, and having steely nerves to perform well in crunch situation is what makes him a world-class player. Grzegorz Gajeswki, who was the former trainer of five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand, and main trainer of Gukesh now, has played a big part in his ward's success. Former Polish champion has improved Gukesh's opening preparation, which is crucial at the top level. Gajewski's friendly disposition has benefited Gukesh away from the board also.

Do you think Ding can recreate his 2019 form in Singapore? Kidambi had doubts about recreating his old form, reflecting: "I am not sure if Ding can reach his 2019 form. However, even if he comes close to his best form, it will be a very tough match."

Ramesh was candid on Ding regaining his prime form: "I don't want to speculate on another person's psychological state. Ding is such a strong player, it will be good to see him back in his good old self soon."

One thing in favour of Ding being his positive head to head record against Gukesh (two wins and one draw) in classical. However, Ding has to raise his level to make it an exciting and compelling match.



Akshay Prathab, a 3rd standard student of Velammal Academy, Nolambur, secured the second place in the under-8 category at the 2nd SV Square Board state level school tournament, organised by Sudharshana Vidhyashram School, Avadi. He scored 6.5 out of 7 rounds

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- have already begun.



Restoration of Kalaivanar Nagar pond in Ambattur underway

By N Rathi Chithra

THE restoration work of Kalaivanar Nagar Pond, a significant water body in the Ambattur locality, is currently underway, bringing relief and joy to the local residents. Spanning 13,441 square meters, with a water spread area of 10,169 square meters and a holding capacity of 5,332 cubic meters, the pond is being revived as part of a comprehensive effort by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) to restore and beautify the area.

The restoration work, which began recently aims to enhance the pond's capacity to hold rainwater while also transforming the surrounding area into a community space for recreation. Among the

ongoing improvements are the construction of a toe wall, a pathway, and the creation of a park area for residents to enjoy.

The pond has long been a crucial part of the local ecosystem, but years of neglect and encroachments had significantly reduced its capacity and water-holding ability. The current restoration is expected to address these issues by improving the pond's infrastructure and ensuring it can store more water during the monsoon season, helping to alleviate flood risks in the area.

In addition to improving flood management, the project aims to create an accessible green space for the public. "This restoration is a great initiative. It's not just about cleaning up the pond, but also making it a part of the community," said Nandhakumar, a resident and local business owner. "The new park and pathway will be perfect for morning walks and family outings. It will definitely add value to the neighbourhood."

According to GCC officials, the pond's restoration is expected to be completed in phases, with the park and pathway slated to be finished in the coming months. In the meantime, residents are already noticing positive changes. "The work is progressing well. It's heartening to see how the pond is being restored to its original beauty. I'm looking forward to enjoying the new space," said Murali, another local resident.



The Director of SV High School has been honoured with an award for the school's outstanding participation in the world's largest Thumbz Up Campaign, a record-setting event supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030. This monumental campaign was organised by the Negizhi Masilla Tamil Nadu Movement and brought together countless students in a unified display of commitment towards a better, sustainable future.

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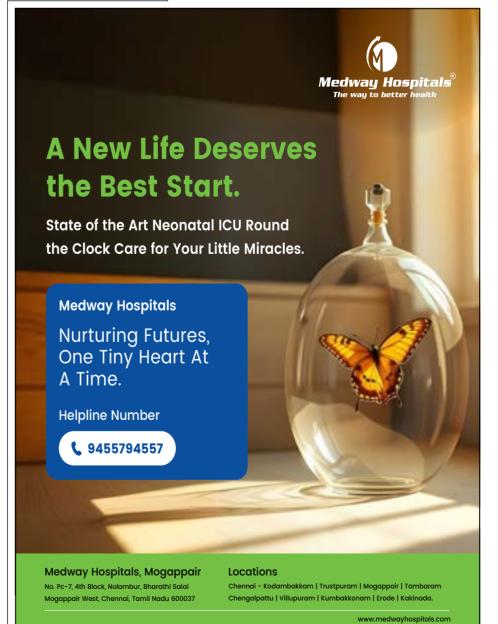


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Velammal Vidyalaya Ayanambakkam clinched the silver medal at the SGFI National Chess Championship 2024 in Kolkata. Lakshanaa and Ratnapriya were among the medal winners.

Half marathon on Nov 24

police team for the prompt action.

be made possible only by using the registration

number of his bike. He was called to the station

and the jewels handed over. Anna Nagar depu-

ty commissioner Sneha Priya appreciated the

THE sixth edition of Chennai half marathon, which will see over 6,000 participants is to be held on Sunday, Nov 24. The event, organised by NEB Sports will be flagged off from Olcott Memorial High School Ground in Besant Nagar. The event will see runners compete in three different categories: half marathon (21.1km), timed 10K and 5K Run. The half marathon will start at 4.30am, and the timed 10k at 5.45am. The 5k run kicks off at 7am. Every participant will get a race day tee, finisher medal and refreshments.

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Residents call for installation of precast planter boxes on wider roads

By N Rathi Chithra

RESIDENTS of Anna Nagar are urging the civic authorites to consider installing precast planter boxes on the wider roads in their locality. The initiative, already being implemented in certain other parts of the city, involves placing large concrete planter boxes along roadsides that will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area but also serve as central medians to manage traffic flow.

The precast planter boxes, which are designed to hold flowering plants, are being installed by the Forest Department on roads in other parts of Chennai. These planters not only add greenery to the urban landscape but also act as dividers for traffic, creating a safer and more organized road environment.

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has several wider roads that, according to residents, would be ideal for

this initiative. "Our locality has some of the widest roads in



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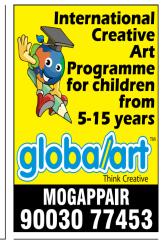
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Biryani

Chennai, and we believe the installation of precast planter boxes here will beautify the area while also improving traffic management," said Govindan, a long-time resident of Anna Nagar. "It's a win-win situation.

The flowers will brighten up the roads, and the planters will create safer spaces for pedestrians and vehicles."

The Forest Department, which is responsible for planting flowering plants in the boxes, has already started planting a variety of seasonal flowers in the precast planters placed in other neighbourhoods. The department's efforts are aimed at not only enhancing the visual appeal of the roads but also contributing to the city's green cover.







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