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TN CM congratulates Pragga's achievement

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay congratulated Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa, a Velammal alumnus for creating history by becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess tournament, describing the achievement as a moment of pride for both Tamil Nadu and the nation on Saturday. In a statement, Vijay hailed the 20-year-old chess prodigy for his remarkable performance.

The Chief Minister noted that Praggnanandhaa had achieved several milestones during the tournament, including defeating reigning world No.1 Magnus Carlsen twice and registering four consecutive victories in a single Norway Chess campaign. He said the young Grandmaster had set new records while showcasing exceptional skill and determination against some of the strongest players in the world.

"Heartfelt congratulations to Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa for becoming the first Indian to win the Norway Chess tournament and for bringing immense pride to Tamil Nadu and India," Vijay

said in his message.

Praggnanandhaa's victory marks a historic milestone for Indian chess. Chennai-born player and a Velammalian has been re-writing records since childhood. (Details on Page 4)

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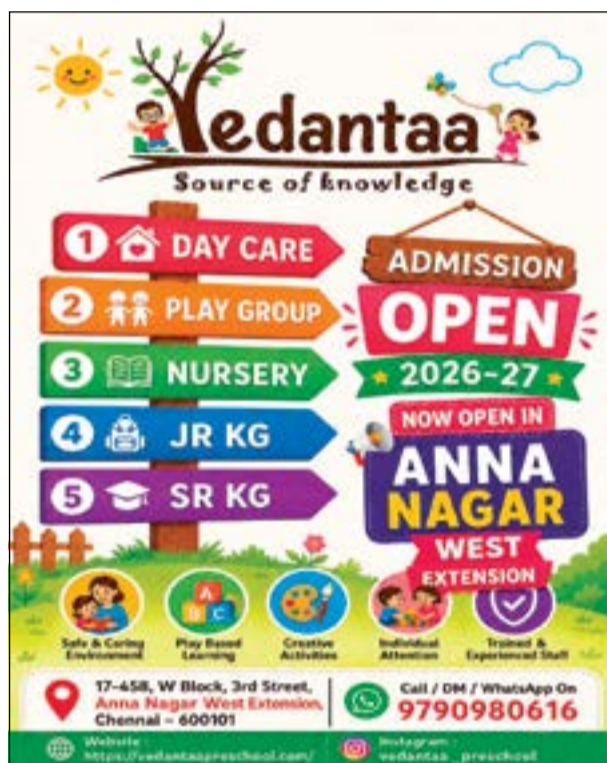
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Attach ribbons or use markers to avoid baggage mix-up: AAI

THE city airport authorities have advised passengers to attach coloured ribbons or other distinctive markers to their suitcases to help avoid baggage mix-ups at airports.

Chennai airport sources said that incidents of passengers mistakenly collecting the wrong luggage from conveyor belts are reported frequently, particularly on international flights. As many suitcases look similar in size and colour, passengers often find it difficult to quickly identify their baggage.

Although airlines provide baggage tags and matching tag numbers on boarding passes, passengers sometimes fail to verify them due to travel fatigue, resulting in luggage being exchanged by mistake.

To address the issue, the Airports Authority of India has advised passengers to tie brightly colored ribbons or other easily identifiable markers to their bags. Officials say this will help passengers quickly recognise their luggage and reduce confusion at baggage claim areas.

Meanwhile, passengers at Chennai Airport have also called for better management of baggage collection areas. They say passengers often crowd around conveyor belts with trolleys, making it difficult for others to retrieve their luggage. Passengers have urged airport authorities to encourage travellers to maintain some distance from conveyor belts and wait for their luggage in an orderly manner to reduce congestion.

If you or your neighbours are facing any civic problems such as water logging, stray dogs menace, garbage dump on vacant sites and so on.

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₹45.60-lakh road relaid in Ambattur Zone's Ward 82

By N Rathi Chithra

THE Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has completed road improvement works on Karukku Main Road in Ward 82 of Ambattur Zone at an estimated cost of ₹45.60 lakh, providing a smoother and safer commuting experience for thousands of residents and motorists in the locality.

The renovated stretch, which serves as an important arterial road connecting several residential neighbourhoods and commercial establishments, was recently opened for public use after undergoing extensive relaying and restoration works. The project forms part of the Corporation's ongoing efforts to strengthen urban infrastructure and improve road conditions across the city.

Visuals released by the civic body show a freshly laid blacktop road with improved riding conditions, clear carriageways and uninterrupted traffic movement. The road is frequently used by two-



wheelers, autorickshaws, cars and public transport vehicles, making its maintenance crucial for daily commuters.

Residents said the road had suffered from wear and tear due to continuous traffic movement and weather-related damage over the years. The relaying work has significantly improved travel conditions and reduced discomfort for road users.

"We had been requesting repairs for quite some time. Earlier, the uneven stretches would slow down traffic and make commuting difficult, especially during the rainy

season. The new road has made travel much smoother," said R. Kumar, a resident of Ambattur.

Motorists also expressed satisfaction with the quality of the work. "The difference is noticeable. Vehicles can now move without frequent braking and swerving. It has improved both comfort and safety," said autorickshaw driver Selvam.

Corporation officials stated that the project was executed as part of a broader initiative to upgrade key roads in Ambattur Zone. The objective is to enhance

connectivity, reduce vehicle wear and tear and ensure safer transportation for residents.

"The Corporation is committed to improving civic infrastructure across all zones. Road relaying works are being taken up based on field inspections and public feedback. Karukku Main Road was identified as a priority stretch because of its importance to local traffic movement," an official said.

Local traders believe the improved road will also benefit businesses in the area by making access easier for customers and delivery vehicles. "Good roads have a direct impact on commercial activity. Better connectivity encourages movement and helps local businesses," said a shop owner operating near the road.

Residents, however, urged civic authorities to ensure regular maintenance of stormwater drains, road margins and utility cuts to preserve the quality of the newly relaid surface.



Velammal Vidyalaya, Mogappair West, celebrated World Environment Day with a meaningful tree plantation drive organized by the NCC Army and Naval Cadets in collaboration with the Lalitha Mandali Seva Trust. The programme was held during the morning assembly, where students took a pledge to protect and preserve the environment.

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Construction material dumped on footpath raises concern

By Our Correspondent

RESIDENTS of Anna Nagar have raised concerns over the increasing practice of dumping construction materials on public footpaths, forcing pedestrians to walk on busy roads.

A visit to Shanthi Colony in Anna Nagar revealed a large heap of construction gravel occupying a substantial portion of a pedestrian walkway. Concrete paving blocks were also stacked along the side of the footpath, leaving little room for people to walk comfortably. The obstruction has effectively rendered the footpath unusable for pedestrians, particularly senior citizens, children and persons with disabilities.

The incident highlights a growing problem in several residential and commercial localities of Chennai, where public spaces are often encroached upon during construction and renovation activities. While construction work is a common sight in rapidly developing neighbourhoods, residents argue that private projects should not

come at the expense of public convenience and safety.

Local residents said the situation becomes especially dangerous during peak traffic hours. Pedestrians are frequently forced to step onto the carriage-way to bypass such obstructions, exposing them to moving vehicles. The risk is even greater for elderly residents, who may find it difficult to navigate uneven surfaces or walk amidst traffic.

This footpath was recently improved to encourage people to walk safely. If construction materials are allowed to be dumped here, the entire purpose is defeated," said a resident of Shanthi Colony, requesting anonymity.

Urban planners have repeatedly stressed that footpaths are essential public infrastructure and must remain free of obstructions. Chennai has invested significant resources in creating pedestrian-friendly streets over the past decade. However, experts note that poor enforcement often allows temporary encroachments to become a recurring

problem.

Residents also pointed out that construction debris and materials left in public spaces can create additional issues such as dust pollution, inconvenience to road users and difficulties for emergency responders. During the monsoon season, such obstructions can also impede drainage and contribute to water stagnation.

Under civic regulations, builders and property owners are generally expected to ensure that construction materials are stored within the premises or in designated areas with appropriate permissions. Unauthorised occupation of footpaths and public spaces can attract penalties from civic authorities.

Citizens have urged the Greater Chennai Corporation and local officials to conduct regular inspections and take prompt action against violators. They have also called for stricter monitoring of construction activities in residential neighbourhoods to ensure that pedestrian rights are protected.

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Velammal Alumnus Pragg Wins Norway Chess

By R Srinivasa Raghavan

FORMER Velammal student Ramesh Pragganandhaa made a stirring comeback to win the Norway Chess in Oslo on Friday. With a victory in the final round against Vincent Keymer, Pragg became the first Indian to seal the double round-robin tournament, securing 18 points. Former American champion Wesley So took the second spot (17). Alireza Firouzja (15.5) came third.

World champion Dommaraju Gukesh (8) had a forgettable tournament, ending in last place (8th). He lost five games, besides winning his only game against his compatriot Pragg. World No.1 and seven-time Norway

Chess champion Magnus Carlsen had a below-par event (13), capturing the fourth spot. In a rare occurrence, Carlsen suffered four losses, besides dropping 17.8 rating points.

It was a much-needed victory for Pragg, who has been not having the best results for the last 10 months, losing more than 50 rating points. The way it was going it looked like another disappointing tournament (2.5/6) for Pragg, who lost back-to-back games against Firouzja and So. However, in a remarkable turnaround, Pragg posted four straight victories over Carlsen, Firouzja, Gukesh and Keymer to end the tournament on a memorable note.

Pragg's tournament win will

also be remembered for his twin victories against Carlsen.

The former Velammal student gained 15.2 points to jump to world No.11 with a live rating of 2750.2. Talking to the commentators following his victory, Pragg had this to say: "I just wanted to play chess, but somehow things all went my way, and I also feel that I started playing with more control, which in this time control is always a good thing."

"I was speaking to my mother on June 1, before Alireza's game, and she was telling me, "It's a new month, you'll play well. It's just one of those things that mother always says, and then these four games I won. She knew something, I guess," reflected the 20-year-old on his

mother's foresight and encouraging words.

Bibisara Triumphs

World Blitz champion Bibisara Assaubayeva emerged champion in the Norway Chess Women, which took place simultaneously at the same venue. Posting three classical victories over Koneru Humpy, Zhu Jiner and Divya Deshmukh, the Kazakh (16.5) outdistanced her nearest rival by half a point.

Zhu Jiner of China came second with 16 points, followed by last year's champion Anna Muzychuk (15) in third place.

India No.1 Koneru Humpy and India No.2 Divya Deshmukh had a difficult tournament. Divya at least had one bright spot, de-

feating Zhu Jiner in a classical game. She finished fifth with 10 points. Humpy (9), who has won many big tournaments, ended at the bottom of the standings.

Mitrabha C' wealth Champion

Mitrabha Guha bagged the Open section (classical) at the Commonwealth Chess Championship in Kalutara, Sri Lanka. Remaining unbeaten, Mitrabha (7.5/9, six wins and three losses) clinched the title with a +6 score.

Pannerselvam Iniyan, who had a fruitful 2025, comprehensively won the Commonwealth Rapid title, scoring 6.5 points in seven rounds.

(The writer of this article is a senior sports correspondent)



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Maintenance Rs 3000/-
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JOTI
81229 50989

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FOR RENT @ 20K
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93810 31426

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Rs. 70L
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30FT RD: Rs. 1.40 Cr
1000 SQ.FT., G+2:
Rs. 1.40 Cr
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AISHWARYA NAGAR
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BYPASS ROAD
NEAR BY ALL
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NOLAMBUR
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13x36=468 SQ.FT.
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G+1, OLD HOUSE
590 SQ.FT., G+2,
2 BHK, RENTAL
INCOME Rs. 39K
74010 02006

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READY TO OCCUPY
BRAND NEW HOUSE
ON 30 FT ROAD
STILT + 2 FLOORS
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EACH FLOOR: 2 BHK
LAND: 1080 SQ.FT
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WITH ARCHITECTURE INTERIORS
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SILVER OAK ₹50.4
LAKHS
2 BHK SPACIOUS HOMES
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LIFT / CCP
GATED COMMUNITY
READY TO OCCUPY
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APPROVED /
பட்டி மனைகள்
முதலீடு மற்றும் வீடு
கட்டுவதற்கு ஏற்ற மனைகள்
மிக குறைந்த விலையில்
விற்பனைக்கு உள்ளது.
3000திற்கும் மேற்பட்ட
கம்பெனிகள். பூந்தமல்லி
இருந்து மெட்ரா ரெயில்
புராஜக்ட், சென்னை
வங்களுர் எக்ஸ்பிரஸ் ரோடு.
புதிதாக ஆவடி
கட்டுவாருசெரி ரெயில் பாதை.
ஏற்போர்ட் மற்றும் எண்ணூர் TO
மகாபலிபுரம் வெளிவட்ட சாலை
வோன்ற புராஜக்ட் இருப்பதால்
அங்கள் முதலீடு விரைவில்
பலமடங்கு ஆகும்.
புரோக்டர் கமிஷன் இல்லை.
5 லட்சம் முதல்
20 லட்சம் வரை.
94445 80952

AMBATTUR ICF COLONY
TNHB Land,
Manohar Apt, 4 in 1
flat, Buildup 840 Sqft,
UDS 472 Sqft, G.flr,
2 BHK, N.F, 10 Yrs Old,
CCP, Rs. 42L (Nego)
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AYANAMBAKKAM
CHENNAI NEW CITY
VELAMMAL VIDHYALAYA
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20X60=1200 SQFT
33 FT ROAD,
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LOCATIONCMDA APPD
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24 HRS WATER,
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SALE 1.50 CR
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VNR BUILDING
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Srivari Kalayana Mandapam
912 Sq.ft., UDS 412 Sq.ft.,
2nd Flr, 2 BHK Flat, E.F,
W.W, Lift, CCP, 5 Yrs old
BASKARAN REAL ESTATE
98403 33099
94444 55885

AYANAMBAKKAM
NEAR VELAMMAL
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CMDA Appd. Land,
N.F, 40ft Road.
24x39, CMDA
Appd. Land, S.F
99400 88981

MOGAPPAIR EAST
390, 468,
1200 SQFT
20 YEARS OLD
FOR SALE
MOGAPPAIR WEST
1000 SQFT
G+1, G+2
99401 77426

NOLAMBUR
VIGNESH NAGAR
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2 BHK 1ST FLOOR
EAST FACING
COVERED CAR
PARKING
Rs.69L
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Rs. 6200/-PER SQFT
RESI. CMDA APPD. 1337 SQFT LAND,
30 FT.RD, W.F. Rs. 6200/-PER SQFT
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9000 SQFT
BOTH SIDE ROAD,
50 FEET ROAD
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RESIDENTIAL, CMDA APPD,
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SQFT LAND Rs.7800-PER SQFT
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CORNER, 1900.SQFT LAND, 24 &
24 FT, RD, Rs.6500-PER SQFT
FINAL RATE
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9000 SQFT
BOTH SIDE ROAD,
50 FEET ROAD
99401 77426

AYAPAKKAM
9000 SQFT
BOTH SIDE ROAD,
50 FEET ROAD
99401 77426

AYAPAKKAM
430, 640,
1000 SQ.FT.
RESALE & NEW
IND. HOUSE SALE
99401 77426

HITECH NAGAR
GATED COMMUNITY
700 SQ.FT E.F,
24 FEET ROAD Rs. 82L
NOLAMBUR VGN LAYOUT
1000SQ.FT SOUTH
WEST CORNER
Rs. 1.30CR
99401 77426

ANNANUR
750 SQ.FT
2BHK, GF, NF
RS.33L
98405 13455

Parked vehicles choke traffic, residents seek action

By N Rathi Chithra

UNREGULATED parking of cars and two-wheelers on both sides of the Electricity Board (EB) Road in Mogappair East has emerged as a major concern for motorists and residents, with many complaining that the practice has significantly reduced the effective width of the road and created traffic bottlenecks throughout the day. The EB Road is an important thoroughfare in Mogappair East and serves several key establishments, including the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board office, the popular EB Road Park, a school, two marriage halls (kalyana mandapams) and a temple. The constant flow of visitors to these facilities has led to a growing number of vehicles being parked along the roadside, often for extended periods.

A visit to the area revealed cars lined up on both sides of the road, leaving only a narrow carriageway for moving traffic. Residents say the situation worsens during school hours, temple festivals and wedding functions, when the number of parked vehicles increases substantially.

Motorists complain that the indiscriminate parking creates blind spots and makes it difficult for vehicles travelling in opposite directions to pass safely. They also point out that emergency vehicles could face delays if the road becomes fully congested.

"Every day we have to slow down and carefully manoeuvre through this stretch. When vehicles are parked on both sides, two cars cannot pass comfortably. During peak hours, traffic comes to a standstill," said R. Prakash, a regular commuter who uses the road. "The park attracts senior citi-



zens, children and families throughout the day. At the same time, school students and devotees visit the temple. A road with so many public facilities should not be turned into a parking lot," said a resident of the locality.

Local residents have urged the Greater Chennai Corporation and traffic police to conduct regular enforcement drives, install no-parking signs at critical points and explore the possibility of creating designated parking spaces near the public institutions.



V. Sriharini, of Velammal Vidyalaya, secured the second place in the women's 4x200m freestyle relay at the 80th Senior State Aquatic Championship, held at SRMIST, Kattankulathur. She clocked an impressive time of 09:28.93.



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