

A sense of belonging

Sense



SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT STAFF CREDIT
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

MARCH 2024

MCI (P) 004/04/2024



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Future

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Year 2024

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SGS CO-OP
A sense of belonging.

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**FROM
THE CHAIRMAN**

Charting a Sustainable Future

Dear Members,

As we embark upon the threshold of our society's 100th centennial year celebrations, it fills me with immense pride and gratitude to witness how far we've come together. Over the past century, our credit cooperative society has weathered storms, faced challenges, and emerged stronger, standing tall as a beacon of financial resilience and community support.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your steadfast commitment and support that has enabled us to reach this historic milestone. It is through your trust, perseverance, and collective efforts that we stand here today, ready to embark on the next chapter of our journey.

Our Target to Hit

One of our primary objectives as we step into our centennial year is to further expand our membership base. Currently boasting 7,232 members, we aim to reach a target of 10,000 members, symbolising our society's enduring strength and relevance. Membership expansion is not merely a numerical goal; it is the cornerstone of our sustainability and growth. As per legal guidelines, our avenues for advertisement are restricted, making it imperative for us to rely on our existing members to extend our reach. To incentivise this, we have increased the referral bonus to \$30 for every new member brought in by existing members.

Reaping Our Yield

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to report a promising outlook for our society's core business. Our prudent investments in a balanced portfolio with rentable properties have yielded commendable returns, with assets exceeding \$105 million for the financial year ending 2023. Moreover, our liabilities stand lower at approximately \$85 million, while retained surpluses amount to around \$16.5 million. Detailed Annual Financial Statements will be released shortly, providing transparent insights into our financial health.

Furthermore, our members' increased savings in specific deposit and fixed deposit accounts signify a growing culture of thrift and financial responsibility within our society. I urge all members to continue this commendable practice and prioritise SGS Co-op as their trusted partner in financial planning and savings.

Have Kopi in Our Office

In line with our commitment to enhancing member experience, we have successfully completed the relocation of our office to Fu Lu Shou Complex. I extend a warm invitation to each

of you to visit our new premises and indulge in complimentary coffee at our very own Kopi @ COOP corner. Bring along your family and colleagues, and avail yourselves of our joining gifts as we strive to foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie within our community.

Nurturing the Next Generation

Additionally, I am delighted to announce an increase in the number of Annual Bursary Awards for our children and youth, reaffirming our dedication to supporting education and nurturing future leaders.

A Sustainable Future

As we embrace the digital age and embarked on our green initiatives, SENSE magazine has now transition into an e-magazine format starting with this issue. This move aligns with our commitment to sustainability and accessibility, ensuring that members can easily access and enjoy our publication. E-SENSE will be available quarterly, featuring engaging content and quizzes for your reading pleasure.

In closing, let us approach our centennial year with renewed vigor and determination, honoring our past while embracing the opportunities of



the future. Together, we shall continue to thrive and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our members and the community at large.

Regards,



John Raghavan PB, PBS
Chairman



FIXED DEPOSIT: 3.0%

Effective Date: 1 June 2023

Deposits are accepted from \$1,000 with a minimum tenor of 12 months, and capped at \$50,000 per member.

Notes: Rates quoted are in % per annum and are subject to change without prior notice. Rates apply to individual SGD accounts only and for new placements or renewals. Members are advised to check the latest rate with our office.

For A Brighter Future

A previous recipient of SGS Co-op's Annual Bursary Awards, Jivantikaa, 17 years recounts her most stressful periods in school when it is nearing exams. Revising and remembering many things can be stressful, so she now practices active learning where she actively recalls her lessons to keep new information in her long-term memory.

She is now in her second year studying Science in Victoria Junior College. For those who are struggling in their studies, she strongly urges them to seek out teachers or friends who can help to explain difficult concepts for them to understand better. She also suggests practicing as much as possible and says that, "it is ok to fail but you need to be willing to pick yourself up and go through your mistakes. Then you will really see yourself shine."

Encouraging others to apply for SGS Co-op's Annual Bursary Awards, Jivantikaa says, "Receiving the Bursary Award has been a booster to my studies. It pushes me to do even better because it acknowledges my hard work."



Application for SGS Co-op Bursary Awards

Now Open!

Members with children currently enrolled in local schools or universities are eligible to apply for the award.

The value of awards and eligibility criteria for various levels are as follows:

Level of Education	Award
Primary 2 & 3	\$75.00
Primary 4 & 5	\$100.00
Primary 6	\$125.00
Secondary 1 to 4N	\$150.00
GCE "O" Level	\$250.00
Poly Foundation Programme (via N/O Level)	\$200.00

Level of Education	Award
ITE (via "N" Level)	\$200.00
ITE (via "O" Level)	\$250.00
Junior College / Diploma	\$300.00
University Level	\$1,000.00

To apply, please complete and submit your application forms before the closing date. Bursary Awards application forms are available online or at SGS Co-op Office at #05-12, Fu Lu Shou Complex.

For more information on the criteria or eligibility of the award, please visit our website at www.sgscoop.sg.

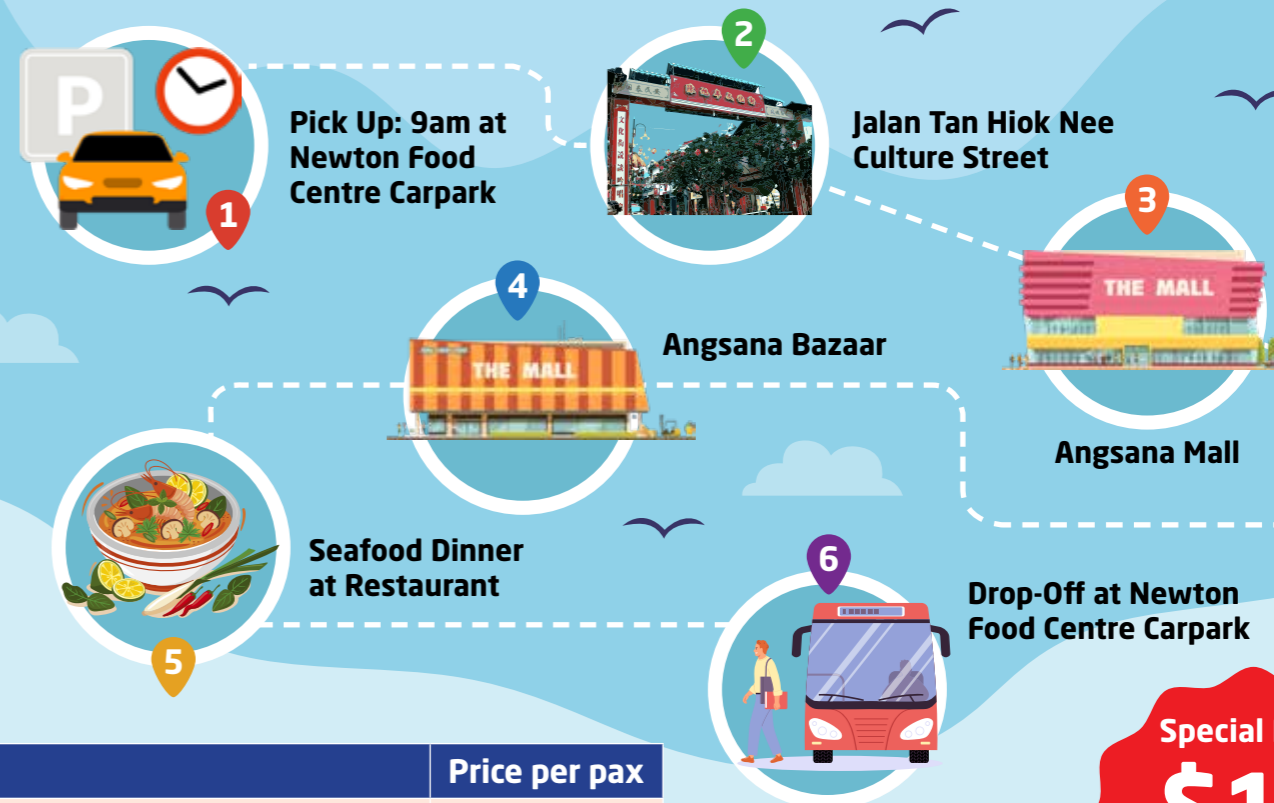
Closing Date: 30 April 2024



1 DAY JB SHOPPING TOUR Sat, 30 March 2024

Join us for a one-day free-and-easy shopping trip in Johor Bahru, Malaysia! We will be heading down to the huge award-winning Angsana JB Mall. With five floors of toys, clothes, IT gadgets, books, home & lifestyle boutiques, you'll find what you need for your home and maybe, stock up on daily essentials for the year! With Hari Raya Puasa round the corner, we will stop at Angsana Bazaar and Jalan Tan Hiok Nee to shop for traditional pastries such as Bengali curry puffs and banana cakes.

ITINERARY



	Price per pax
Members	\$40
Non-Members (entitled to Members' Price if sign-up for membership)	\$60

Special Price:

\$10

Sign up a new member before the tour to enjoy the Special Price for the tour



Price Includes:

- Dedicated Guide
- Return Air Conditioned Private Coach
- Dinner
- Gratuities to Guide and Driver
- Travel Insurance Coverage: Personal Accident (\$10,000) & Personal Medical (\$500)

Spaces are limited.

Call/WhatsApp 6337 4936

Email admin@sgscoop.sg to book now.

Enter the Dragon Year 2024

2024 is the Year of the Wood Dragon, beginning on 10 February. The Dragon is also the only mythical creature amongst the 12 animal signs, symbolising strength, wisdom, luck, and prosperity. In particular, the Wood Dragon is expected to be a time of visionary leaders, innovators, and problem solvers.

There will be unique energies for each of the 12 Chinese zodiac signs. Those born in the year of the Pig are the luckiest this year with their sincerity and hard work paying off, bringing them success and recognition at work. Those born in the year of the Ox may encounter challenges due to the energy of the Wood Dragon. Find out the opportunities and challenges that can influence you in the year ahead and how you can maximise the opportunities for yourself.



Dragon

1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024

Luck: 44% Rank: 11/12 Auspicious colours: blue, black, white, gold Lucky numbers: 1, 10



Snake

1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013

Luck: 84%
Rank: 3/12
Auspicious Colours: Yellow, Brown, White, Gold
Lucky Numbers: 2, 10



Horse

1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014

Luck: 56%
Rank: 9/12
Auspicious Colours: Red, Orange, Yellow, Brown
Lucky Numbers: 6, 8



Goat

1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015

Luck: 80%
Rank: 4/12
Auspicious Colours: Red, Orange, Blue, Black
Lucky Numbers: 6, 12



Tiger

1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022

Luck: 68%
Rank: 7/12
Auspicious Colours: Blue, Black
Lucky Numbers: 12



Rabbit

1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023

Luck: 64%
Rank: 8/12
Auspicious Colours: Yellow, Brown, Blue, Black
Lucky Numbers: 8, 12



Monkey

1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016

Luck: 52%
Rank: 10/12
Auspicious Colours: Blue, Black, Red Orange
Lucky Numbers: 1, 6



Rooster

1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017

Luck: 72%
Rank: 6/12
Auspicious Colours: Yellow, Brown, Red Orange
Lucky Numbers: 2, 6



Dog

1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018

Luck: 36%
Rank: 12/12
Auspicious Colours: White, Gold
Lucky Numbers: 10



Pig

1959, 1972, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019

Luck: 92%
Rank: 1/12
Auspicious Colours: Yellow, Brown
Lucky Numbers: 2, 8



Rat

1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020

Luck: 75%
Rank: 5/12
Auspicious Colours: Yellow, Brown, Blue, Black
Lucky Numbers: 2, 12



Ox

1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021

Luck: 88%
Rank: 2/12
Auspicious Colours: Blue, Black, Red, Orange
Lucky Numbers: 1, 6

Please note that this article is for entertainment purposes and makes no guarantee or claim for absolute effectiveness. Chinese Astrology is a subject of traditional knowledge that has been used through the Orient for many years. Readers are advised to seek professional consultants for personal advice and deeper insights.



- Filling**
1. Heat skillet and sauté onion until soft.
 2. Add chicken and stir fry until they just changed colour.
 3. Add potatoes, mixed vegetables, and chili mixture. Continue to cook for about 5 minutes.
 4. Stir in chicken broth. Cover and let mixture simmer for about 5 minutes or until potatoes are soft.
 5. Open the cover and sprinkle in the flour. This will help the mixture become stickier and make it easier to wrap.
 6. Transfer the mixture into a bowl and let filling cool down before wrapping.

- Dough Wrap**
1. Whisk all-purpose flour and salt together in a large mixing bowl.
 2. Make a well in the middle.
 3. In a saucepan, heat 1/3 cup and 3 tablespoon vegetable oil on high heat. Once it bubbles, pour the hot oil into the flour well.
 4. Allow the oil to bubble for a minute, then mix the flour and oil.
 5. Add water and knead the mixture until you get a very oiled ball of dough.
 6. Divide the dough into small balls. Each ball should fit into your palm. You should be able to get 25 balls.

- Wrapping**
1. Flatten out each ball by rolling it out into a circular shape.
 2. Place about 1 tablespoon of the filling into the center of the circle and fold the dough up.
 3. Seal the puff by pressing or pinching the edges together. Make sure it's completely sealed
 4. Once all puffs are wrapped, you can choose to deep fry or bake them.

To Deep Fry: Remember to wait until the oil is hot and bubbles appear before putting in the puffs. It should take about 2 minutes for the puff to turn golden brown.

To Bake: Preheat oven to 350F. Line a baking sheet with a parchment paper. Brush the curry puffs with some egg wash and bake for about 25-30 minutes until golden brown.



A Little Spice

Celebrating festivals are usually the times when we feast. Good food with good company – a perfect combination for a joyous occasion. With Hari Raya Puasa coming soon, we ask our member to share some of their favourite recipes. Retired Mdm Jamilah Toha, 71 years, shares with us her recipe for curry puff (also known as Epok Epok or kripap pusing) – Singaporeans' favourite snack! Want more spice in your life? Add more chillis! Or choose to bake instead of deep-fry for a healthier option.

Ingredients

- 150g boneless skinless chicken (diced)
- 430g potatoes peeled (diced)
- ½ small brown onion (diced)
- Chillli mixture: Pound or blend the ingredients together:
 - o 2 bay leaves for chill
 - o 4 teaspoon curry powder
 - o ½ teaspoon turmeric powder
- o 5 shallots
- o 50g dried red chilli (optional for spice)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 500g all-purpose flour
- 1 ¼ cup water
- 1 teaspoon salt (for dough wrap)
- 1/3 cup + 3 tbs vegetable oil



100th Year Centennial Celebration Draw

Happy Birthday!

Is it your birthday? Members celebrating their birthdays can look forward to a free meal voucher redeemable at Pizza Hut, McDonald's or KFC.

Swing by the office to pick up your voucher and leave your Birthday Card behind for a chance to win in the 100th Year Centennial Celebration Draw! Members will get one chance in the Centennial Celebration Draw each time they redeem their birthday gift.



Your Last 2 Chances for 100th Year Centennial Celebration Draw.



Disclaimer: Images are for illustration purposes only

GREEN CORNER

Simple yet easily implementable tips and practices that contribute to a greener, more sustainable environment without breaking the bank.

Water is Precious

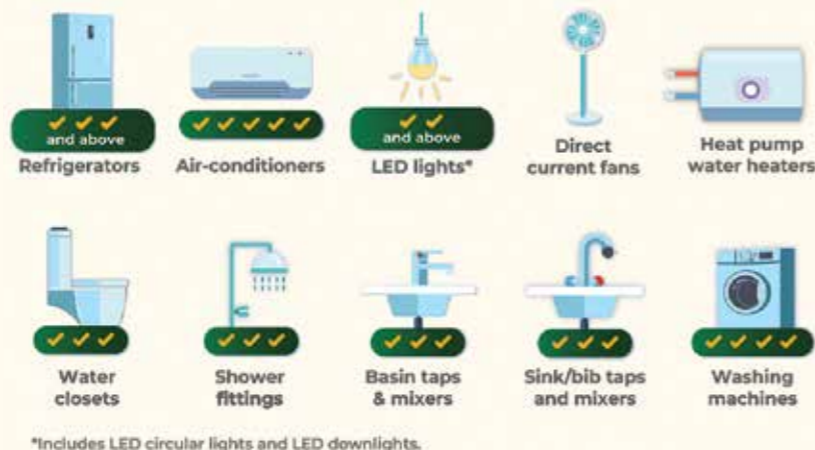
Conserve Water: Habits like turning off the tap while brushing teeth, taking shorter showers, and fixing leaky faucets can significantly reduce water wastage. Choose water-efficient fixtures such as low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators to further conserve water without compromising on comfort. When buying home appliances, look for mandatory WELS Labels and choose water-saving models.

Water Efficiency

How to Read

- 1 Products with the most ticks are recommended.
- 2 The Label shows a product's water consumption, wash programme, type, brand and model.
- 3 Each Label carries a registration number for validation.

\$300 vouchers for climate-friendly appliances



*Includes LED circular lights and LED downlights.

The Climate Friendly Households Programme (CFHP) will expand to include all HDB households from 15 April 2024. Under the programme, each household will receive \$300 climate-friendly vouchers which can be used to purchase 10 types of energy- and water-efficient household products with new additions such as direct current fans, washing machines, and water closets. The vouchers will be valid until 31 December 2027.

This is to enable households to be more efficient in their use of energy and water. To use the Climate Vouchers, log on to RedeemSG (go.gov.sg/cv-claim) with your Singpass account and present the vouchers with proof of address at the participating retail outlets.

Source: National Environment Agency (NEA)

Find out how to claim your vouchers by watching this video.



ENHANCED MID-CAREER SUPPORT WITH SkillsFuture Level-Up Programme



\$4,000 SkillsFuture Credit top-up

From 1 May 2024, a SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career) top-up of \$4,000 will allow all Singaporeans 40 and above to receive subsidies for publicly-funded full-time diploma or about 7,000 selected courses that have 'better employability outcomes' with no expiry date for the credit.

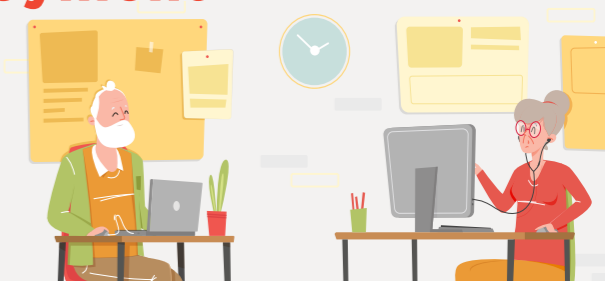
These courses support substantive upskilling and reskilling to help Singaporeans pursue a substantive skill reboot and stay relevant in a changing economy. Younger Singaporeans will also receive this credit when they turn 40.

Eligible courses also include SkillsFuture Career Transition Programmes (SCTP) which are train-and-place programmes in sectors with good hiring opportunities. The full list of eligible courses can be viewed from 22 April 2024.

Source: SkillsFuture

Retirement and Re-employment Age to rise from 1 July 2026

From 1 July 2026, the retirement age in Singapore will be 64 and the re-employment age will be 69. Companies must offer eligible staff re-employment until that age, though on adjusted terms if necessary, or offer employment assistance in its place.



The age ceilings were last raised in 2022 and will be increased again until it reaches 65 for retirement and 70 for re-employment by the year 2030. The Government will

support firms to hire older workers and help them update their skills.

Source: Ministry of Manpower (MOM)

Enhanced Support under the Assurance Package

Singaporeans will get a mix of cash, vouchers and rebates under a \$1.9 billion boost to the Assurance Package to help them cope with cost-of-living concerns and an uncertain economic outlook.

Assurance for You Apr 2024 – Mar 2025

Cash and other benefits to provide more support for Singaporeans

2024	2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apr: U-Save \$110 to \$190, S&CC Rebate 0.5 to 1 month Jul: U-Save \$165 to \$285, S&CC Rebate 0.5 to 1 month Sep: Cash \$200 to \$400 Nov: NS LifeSG Credits \$200 YA 2024: Personal Income Tax Rebate for the Year of Assessment (YA) 2024 Up to \$200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan: CDC Vouchers \$300 Aug: Cash \$450 or \$850, CPF MediSave Account \$150 to \$450 Oct: U-Save \$110 to \$190, S&CC Rebate 0.5 to 1 month Dec: Cash \$200 to \$600, CPF MediSave Account \$100 to \$150, CPF Retirement or Special Account \$1,000 to \$1,500
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan: U-Save \$165 to \$285, S&CC Rebate 0.5 to 1 month, CDC Vouchers \$300 Feb: CPF MediSave Account \$150, Seniors' Bonus \$200 to \$300 Mar: CPF Retirement or Special Account \$400 to \$1,000

Note: Benefits are subject to the individual's or household's eligibility.

Find out how much support you may receive: go.gov.sg/budget-2024

BUDGET 2024 | MOE | gov.sg | FORWARD SG

Source: Gov.sg

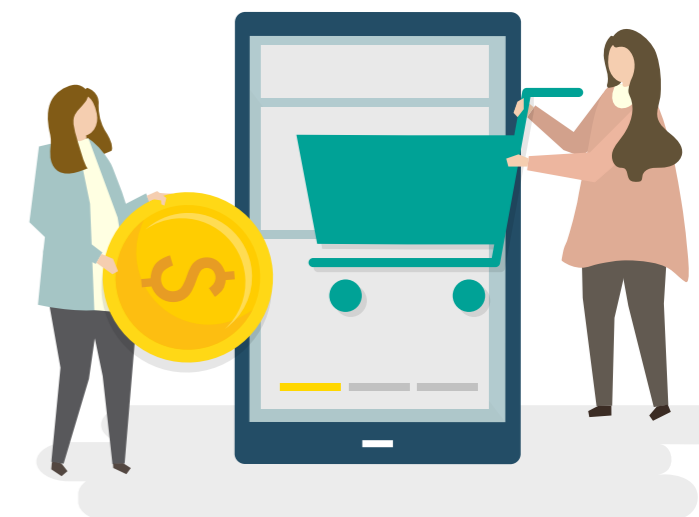
BE MONEY SMART

Buy Now Pay Later

Have you heard of Grab Pay, Atome, LatitudePay, SeaMoney and ShopBack? These are "buy now, pay later" (BNPL) services offering "no-interest" or "hidden fee" instalment plans. But, what's the catch?

These payment schemes seem to make your purchase more affordable. Instead of buying a laptop for \$3,000 outright, you can now spread the large payment over three smaller payments of \$1,000 instead. This payment option helps you to stick to your budget so you don't overspend in a month. You won't need an overdraft or incur interest loans if you need to purchase the item.

However, such schemes tend to work on the fear of missing out (FOMO) to lure customers to buy now, to "secure the deal". Therefore, you need to be very clear about when to use BNPL.



In fact, not all such deals are cheaper. You may not get the item for a discount and instead, end up paying more due to late payment fees should you miss a payment! So, be very careful and think twice before using BNPL services!

Make payments on time. If you miss any payment, late fees can be expensive!

QUIZ?

- When is the deadline to apply for SGS Co-op Annual Bursary Awards?**
 A) 1 April 2024 C) 30 April 2023
 B) 30 April 2024 D) 31 Jan 2024
- 2024 is the year of the _____ according to the Chinese zodiac.**
 A) Fire Dragon C) Wood Pig
 B) Water Rabbit D) Wood Dragon
- Which country is Angsana Mall located in?**
 A) Malaysia C) Singapore
 B) Thailand D) India
- SENSE is now fully digital.**
 True / False
- What is our target number of members by the year 2025?**
 A) 1,000 C) 100
 B) 10,000 D) 2,025

Name (as in NRIC): _____

NRIC (Last 3 digits and letter only): S XXXX _____

Contact No.: (M) _____

(H) _____

(O) _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____



STAND A CHANCE TO WIN A TIERED TING-KAT FOOD CONTAINER

10 Lucky winners will be announced in our next issue.

Congratulations!

Here are the lucky winners from our 2023 December issue:

- Hoo Chew Hoon – Sxxxx809D
- Nedunsezhan S/O Subrayalu – Sxxxx102D
- Shahriman Bin Arip – Sxxxx125Z
- Tan Xiu Ye – Sxxxx157B
- Yusoff Bin Hussain – Sxxxx764E
- Lim Lee Tiam – Sxxxx677G
- Ranavir Kumar Yadaw S/O Ramsing – Sxxxx266B
- Loy Kia Ek – Sxxxx880Z
- Norhazura Binti Amin – Sxxxx783F
- Seto Chee Choon Johnny – Sxxxx074B

Please collect your prize by 30 Apr 2024

Here are the lucky winners from our 2023 Year-End Special Draw:

- Kamalarani D/O Krishna Subramaniam – Sxxxx518E
- Chan Foo Weng – Sxxxx040H
- Ng Chui Koon – Sxxxx476D
- Balkis Bte Khabi Ismail – Sxxxx255J
- Tan Bang Choon David – Sxxxx697A

Please collect your prize by 30 Apr 2024

Submit your answers by **8 Apr 2024** through:

Fax: 6339 6772 | Email: admin@sgscoop.sg | Post: 149 Rochor Road, #05-12, Fu Lu Shou Complex, Singapore 188425

Please note that multiple entries will not be accepted. Winners will be announced in the next issue. Good luck!