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## தமாஷா வரிகள்

ஜே.எஸ். ராகவன்

லேடீஸ்! சைலன்ஸ் ப்ளீஸ்!

'டேய் சிவசாமி, லேடீஸ்கிட்டே உனக்குப் பிடிச்சது எது? பிடிக்காதது எது?'

பஞ்சாமி பெண்களைப் பெண்கள் என்றோ, பொம்மனாட்டிகள் என்றோ குறிப்பிட மாட்டார். 'லேடீஸ்'தான் அவருடைய சாய்ஸ்.

'அண்ணா? என்ன கேள்வி இது? அனவரதமும் கணபதியையும், ஆஞ்சநேயரையும் நெஞ்சிலே பூட்டி வைத்து பூஜித்து இருக்கேன். அப்படி இருக்கச்சே லேடீஸ்கிட்டே பிடிச்சது எது பிடிக்காதது எதுன்னு கேட்டால் எப்படி? ரசமே பிடிக்காதவன்கிட்டே உனக்கு ரசத்திலே பிடிச்ச ரசம் எது? பிடிக்காத ரசம் எதுன்னு கேக்கறது எப்படி நியாயம்?'

'சிவசாமி, ரசமே பிடிக்காத அபூர்வ ஆசாமிகள் இருக்காங்களா என்ன? அது சரி, ரசத்திலே எவ்வளவு ரசம் இருக்குடா?'

'இதோ சொல்லிட்டா போச்சு. தக்காளி ரசம், பைனாப்பிள் ரசம், மிளகு ரசம், ஜீரா ரசம், கண்டந்திப்பிலி ரசம், பூண்டு ரசம், ஆனியன் ரசம், கொட்டு ரசம்தான் வேணது இருக்கு.'

'பிப்பே ராம ரசம்தான் ஒண்ணு உண்டுல்லே.'

'அண்ணா அதெல்லாம் பெரிய விஷயம். நம்ம பாமர லிஸ்ட்டிலே இழுக்கக் கூடாது. தப்பு தப்பு, கன்னத்திலே போட்டுக்கணும்.'

'போட்டுக்கறேன். லேடீஸ்லே ஆரம்பிச்ச ரசத்துக்குத் தாவிட்டோம். ஏண்டா உனக்கு அவங்களைக் கண்டா பிடிக்காது?'

'அண்ணா, பிடிக்காதுன்னா பிடிக்காதுன்னு அர்த்தம் இல்லை. அவர்களுக்குத் தக்க மரியாதை கொடுப்பேன். அவங்களுக்குள்ளே சண்டை வந்தால்...'

'நில்லுடா சிவசாமி. நீ உன் பால காண்டத்தை ஆரம்பிக்கிற துக்கு முன்னாடி என்னுடைய கதைகளை சொல்லிட்டுறேன். எல்லாத்திலேயும் சென்ட்ரல் கேர்ட்டர் லேடீஸ்தான். சின்ன வயசிலே பக்கத்து வீட்டிலே இருந்த இரட்டை வாலு ஆண்டான யாருக்கானும் அடி பட்டுட்டா 'பஞ்சு, வாடா வந்து துடைச்ச விடுடா'ன்னு கூப்பிடுவார். 'என்னை ஏண்டி கூப்பிட்டுறே?'னு கேட்டால், 'நீ பஞ்சுதானே? அதனாலேதான்! ரத்தத்தைப் பஞ்சுதானே துடைக்கணும்'னு கேலி பண்ணுவார்.'

'ரொம்ப சூட்டிகையான பொண்ணு போல இருக்கே? இன்னிக்கு நம்ம வேங்கைவாசல் பஞ்சு பிளாட் மாடியிலே நடக்கிற மீட்டிங்குக்குப் போக வேண்டாமா?'

'ஆமாண்ணா அங்கே மொத்தம் இருக்கிற 36 பிளாட்டும் வித்தாச்சு. ரெண்டு பேர் அடுத்த வாரம் கிரஹப் பிரவேசம் பண்ணப் போறாங்க. அப்புறம் அவங்க கையிலே ஒப்படைச்சுடலாம். அதுவரை அசோசியேஷன் இல்லாததனால் ப்ரமோட்டர், பில்லரை நாமதான் அவங்க குறைகளைக் கேக்கணும்னு A4 சண்டைக் கோழி சுந்தரம்பா நம்மனை வரச் சொல்லி இருக்காங்க.'

'ஏதோ ஸ்நாக்ஸ் கூட அரேஞ்சு பண்ணி இருக்காங்கன்னு நீ சொன்னே இல்லே?'

'ஆமாண்ணா. மினி பாதுஷா, தில் குஷ் மிக்சர், அப்புறம் மசாலா டியாம். அதை விடுங்கண்ணா. ஆனால் ஒரே தகராறா இருக்கும். அங்கே ஒரே அல்லி ராஜ்ஜியம். A4 கூட B8 கலகவிலியும், சாரிண்ணா கனக வல்லியும் சேர்ந்துண்டு நம்ம உலுக்கப் போறாங்க, பார்த்துக்கலாம்.'

'வேங்கைவாசல் 'பஞ்சு பிளாட்' மொட்டை மாடியிலே குழுமியிருந்தோரில் சுமார் எண்பது விழுக்காடு பெண்கள். நாலஞ்சு சூப்பர் சீனியர் பெருசுகள் ஹைடெக்காகக் காத்திருந்தார்கள். புரமோட்டர்/பில்லர் என்கிற தோரணையுடன் பஞ்சாமி நட் நடு நாயக நாற்காலியில் உட்கார், அவரை லட்சியம் பண்ணாமல் பெண்கள் (அதாவது லேடீஸ்) ஆளுக்கொருவராக குருகேத்திர யுத்த ரேஞ்சுசில் வார்த்தை அஸ்திரங்களை வீசித் தாக்கத் தொடங்கினர்.'

'சிவசாமி! என்னடா இது? ஏதானும் செய்யடா. நீதான் சண்டைகளை நிறுத்தறதிலே எக்ஸ்பர்ட் ஆச்சே' என்றார்.

ஆணை கிடைத்தவுடன் 'பழைய சரிகைப் புடவைகள், பட்டுப் பாவாடைகள், பட்டு வேட்டிகள், பட்டு அங்கவஸ்திரங்கள் எல்லாத்தையும் 'நல்ல' விலைக்கு வாங்கி ஸ்பாட்டிலேயே பணத்தைக் கொடுக்கிறோம், வாங்கிக்கோங்க!' என்று தெருவில் கூவி அறிவிக்கும் வியாபாரியின் குரலை விஞ்சும் வண்ணம் 'நிறுத்துங்க' என்று சிம்மக் குரலில் கத்தினான் சிவசாமி. சத்தம் நின்றது. தொடர்ந்து 'எல்லாரும் தயவுசெய்து உட்காருங்க' என்று அதட்டலுடன் கேட்டுக் கொண்டான்.

'இப்படி நீங்க ஆளாளுக்கு கோஷம் போட்டுக் கத்தினா பஞ்சாமி லார் கிளம்பிப் போயிடுவார். ஆகையினாலே உங்கனிலே யார் வயசிலே ரொம்பவும் பெரியவங்களோ, மறுபடியும் சொல்றேன் யார் வயசிலே பெரியவங்களோ அவங்க முதலிலே எழுந்து நின்று பேசுங்க.'

தெருமுனைப் பொதுக் கூட்டத்திலே, 'மதிப்பிற்குரிய...' என்று ஒரு கரகர குரல் ஆரம்பிக்கும்போதே கரண்ட் போய் மைக் ஆஃப் ஆன மாதிரி சப்தம் பொசுக்கென்று நின்று அமைதி நிலவியது. எல்லாப் பெண்களும் (அதாவது லேடீஸ்) கப்சிப்!

'வயசிலே பெரியவளா? அது யாரா இருக்கும்?' என்று ஒரு வரை ஒருவர் பக்க வாட்டுப் பார்வையிலே பார்த்து எடை போட்டு முடிவுக்கு வர முடியாமலும், வர விரும்பாமலும், திகைத்து இருந்தபோது சிவசாமி ஏற்கெனவே தயாரித்து வைத்திருந்த அவர்களின் கோரிக்கைகளின் பட்டியலுடன் அவைகளின் தீர்வுகளையும், செய்து கொடுக்கப்படும் தேதிகளையும், உபரியாக இரண்டொரு சலுகைகளையும் தெள்ளத் தெளிய வாசித்து, அந்த அறிக்கையின் நகலை ஆளுக்கொன்றாக விநியோகிக்குமாறு அங்கிருந்த ரெட்டை ஜடை சிறுமியைப் பணிக்க, கூட்டம் இனிது முடிந்தது என்று அறிவித்தான். பஞ்சாமி எழுந்து கொண்டார்.

'அட! பத்து நிமிஷத்துக்குள்ளே மீட்டிங் ஓவரா?' என்று ஒரு சீனியர் சிடிஸன் வியந்து மொட்டைமாடி கைச்சவர் அருகிலிருந்த மினி பாதுஷா, தில் குஷ் மிக்சர், மசாலா டி மேஜைகளுக்கு அருகில் வட்டமிடக் காக்காயை விரட்ட விரைந்தார்.

jsraghavan@yahoo.com



## T. NAGAR & MAMBALAM BAZAAR

This column is intended to help small businesses to have a cost-effective advertisement medium. Advertisement in this section will be in standard panel sizes of 4 cm. x 1 column (costing only Rs. 1000) and 4 cm. x 2 column (costing Rs. 2000)

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70109 23179

## Std. 12 paper evaluation begins, no centers in Chennai

After being postponed several times, the evaluation of the answer scripts of Std. 12 State Board exams in which more than 8.5 lakh students appeared began on May 27.

There are no evaluation centers in Chennai due to the high number of active coronavirus cases. The answer scripts allotted for evaluation in Chennai have been shifted to other districts.

The process involves more than 40,000 teachers assessing 48 lakh answer scripts in 200 evaluation centers. Each evaluation room has one chief ex-

aminer for scrutiny and six assistant examiners seated following social distancing norms.

The centers are disinfected twice a day, before and after the evaluation.

An official said that once the evaluation is completed for a particular subject, the answer scripts will be uploaded on the central server the same day.

The evaluation of Std. 11 answers scripts will begin once the Std. 12 work is over.

He added that the results are likely to be announced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June.

## T. Nagar DCP resumes duty after 14-day quarantine

By Our Staff Reporter

Ashok Kumar (Deputy Commissioner, T. Nagar) resumed duty on May 26 after home quarantine for 14 days.

He had tested positive for COVID-19

## Advance booking time for special trains now 120 days

The railways have increased the advance reservation period from the present 30 days to 120 days for all special trains, the 15 pairs operating since May 12 on Rajdhani routes and the 100 new pairs of special trains scheduled to run from June 1.

Booking of parcel and luggage has also been permitted.

It said the other terms and conditions such as current booking, tatkal quota allocation of seats to roadside stations and others will be the same as in regular timetabled trains.

## 20 inmates of home test positive in Ashok Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

According to Corporation sources, 20 of the inmates staying in a home run by actor Raghava Lawrence in Pudur (Ashok Nagar) have tested positive for COVID-19.

It houses disabled persons and orphans.

When asked about the source of infection, field-level officials said that a woman, who worked as cook there, had the infection and

## Pawnbrokers have brisk business

By Our Staff Reporter

Pawnbrokers and moneylenders in the city are witnessing brisk business with women, small time businessmen, traders and others seeking cash against gold jewellery and documents.

Those in this trade said that immediately after the lockdown, businesses went down, but with the shutdown gradually being eased now, many are queuing up for money.

Vijaya Amma (58), the sole breadwinner for her family said, "I work as a maid in an apartment in West Mambalam. Since the lockdown, I am at home and my employers said they can pay only 30% salary. Since I ran out of cash I went to a bank for pledging the little gold that I have and found the process to be cumbersome. That's when I went to a pawnbroker. I was given Rs. 17,000 for the one sovereign gold that I pledged with a 2% interest per month. I hope I am able to redeem it soon," she added.

A small trader who runs a fancy store in West Mambalam, pledged his wife's jewels weighing 10 sovereigns with a financier and borrowed money at a high interest rate to pay salary to his staff.

"I hope that the business looks up in June, or else I will be in a big financial mess," he said.

At a pawnbroker shop in Saidapet, there was a big queue and most of the women standing there were street vendors who sell toys, utensils and fancy items.

Some were even pledging mobile phones.

The pawnbrokers said that with salary cuts and job losses expected in the days to come, there would be more persons approaching them for money.

the inmates contracted the virus from her. The woman lives near the trust where positive cases were reported.

"On May 23, four inmates contacted the civic body and reported mild fever. Following this, a medical team visited the home and collected samples from all the other inmates of which 20 tested positive.

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## Helper in TTD tests positive

A man working as a helper in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar) has tested positive for coronavirus.

The helper, who fell sick on May 18, was tested, and the results turned positive on May 20. His wife and elderly parents living with him are under home quarantine.

According to J. Sekhar Reddy (President, Advisory Committee) arrangements were made to sanitise and disinfect the temple and information center premises.

All the employees in the TTD Center were also instructed to undergo check-up for COVID-19.

Nightingale School conducts program on COVID-19

SRM Nightingale School (West Mambalam) organised a COVID-19 healthcare program for its staff on May 25.

Krishnan (Crime Inspector, R3 Police Station, Ashok Nagar) was the Chief Guest.

Kaabasura Kudin-

ner was given to app-

participants

participants

participants

participants

participants

## ANNOUNCEMENT

With the easing of the lockdown, we are happy to resume publication of the print edition of *Mambalam Times* after a gap of 10 weeks. We were posting the online editions of *Mambalam Times* in the Internet even during this interval, and these were regularly accessed and read by thousands of residents of this neighbourhood. The last six issues are still available in [www.mambalamtimes.in](http://www.mambalamtimes.in). For the time being, the copies are being distributed on Sunday.

### Car service center offers free oil, A/c check

By Our Staff Reporter

KRSA Auto Care (Ayyavu Street, Jafferkanpet) is offering free engine oil and A/c check-up for vehicles serviced till June 30.

The 19-year-old center provides various services for a number of car brands. They include mechanical services, painting work and electrical work. It also offers value added services like free pickup and delivery of vehicles, insurance renewal etc.

P. L. Kathiresan (Proprietor) told *Mambalam Times* that the service center has a fully automated service system.

Several doorstep services and emergency breakdown service are provided. 044-4358 9090 can be called for enquiries and 86810 70707/98846 34567 for break down service.

### Most shops open but not many visitors



By Our Staff Reporter

Many big shops and multi-level showrooms in T. Nagar area have reopened observing the Government guidelines but there are not many shoppers.

Due to low footfalls, Saravana Stores in Ranagnathan Street has also resorted to selling vegetables and fruits.

### Brindavan Street declared containment zone

By Our Staff Reporter

Brindavan Street (West Mambalam) near Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board Quarters was declared a containment zone last week due to the presence of positive coronavirus cases.

All the by-lanes leading to the road and street have been barricaded.

The residents are not allowed to leave the streets.

Containment activities including disinfection, daily door-to-door survey and testing of all residents are underway.

Metrowater tanker lorries are finding it difficult to enter the street for refilling roadside tanks in the area.

Police personnel have been deployed to monitor the area and help the residents.

## OBITUARY

### D. MOHAN

D. Mohan (resident of E3, LIG Flat, 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) passed away on May 22.

He was 87 and had been a resident of Ashok Nagar for 38 years.

He is survived by his wife Rukmani, daughter Shanthi Viswanathan, sons Balaji and Venkataramana (Ph. 98845 90529), grandchildren and great grandchildren.



### P. S. SWAMINATHAN

P. S. Swaminathan (resident of 13, 3rd floor, Srinath Apartments, 31/16, Postal Colony 2nd Street, West Mambalam) passed away on May 25.

He was 88 and had been a resident of West Mambalam for 35 years.

He hailed from Ponnirai, Tiruvarur District, and had served as Mirasdhar.

His son Sivaramakrishnan (Ph. 94442 18948) is a social activist in Thambraas, West Mambalam branch.

He is survived by his daughters Nagalakshmi, Meenakshi, Mangalam and Bagyalakshmi, another son Srinivasan and grandchildren.



### Private hospitals turn away symptomatic patients

By Our Staff Reporter

Though 70% beds in private hospitals designated to treat COVID-19 cases are unoccupied, there have been several reports of symptomatic and critical cases being turned away and referred to crowded government hospitals.

Private hospitals attribute it to the limited availability of ICU and ventilator facilities.

"Every day, we get at least two cases from private hospitals in advanced stage. This adds to our mortality," said R. Jayanthi (Dean, Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital).

One of them is a 52-year-old patient with diabetes from Royapuram. He was taken to a private hospital on Mount Poonamalle Road on May 28 and was turned away because he had breathing difficulties, said his son-in-law. The hospital said that though beds designated for COVID-19 patients were available, their ICUs were full treating non-COVID-19 patients. Similar cases were reported at two hospitals in the western suburbs.

Patients treated in private hospitals also stated that the cost of treatment is very high.

### 4.23 lakh tested for COVID-19

Till May 27, 4.23 lakh persons in Tamilnadu have been tested for COVID-19 which continues to be the highest figure for any State in the country.

With 70 approved labs, 10,661 persons were tested on May 27.

Of the total of 18,545 cases till date, 9,909 have been discharged.

There were 8,500 active patients in isolation in home quarantine or institutional care.

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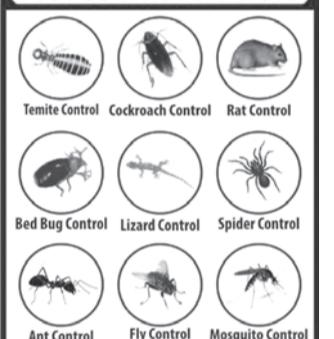
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## Foodgrains distributed



By Our Staff Reporter

Thambrass (Ashok Nagar branch) distributed foodgrains among around 60 persons in and around Ashok Nagar recently. It also extended financial assistance to 26 cooks and temple workers. 500 masks were also distributed. Lalitha Sugumaran (president) was present. For details call 98411 44550.

## Groceries given to slum dwellers



By Our Staff Reporter

Vedic Ravi (Founder, Sri Bhuvaneshwari Charitable Trust, K. K. Nagar) distributed groceries among more than 50 slum families in West Mambalam, T. Nagar, Ashok Nagar, K. K. Nagar and nearby areas recently.

## Homeo drug given to firemen



By Our Staff Reporter

Fire and Rescue Service personnel of Chennai South district engaged in sanitisation measures were last week provided the homeopathy medicine Arsenicum Album 30 recommended by Ministry of Ayush.

Chandramohan (District Governor, Rotary Club) and Dr. N. R. Jayakumar (Homeopathy) distributed the medicine. S. Syed Mohamed Sha (Division Fire Officer, South District) was present.

## Groceries given to temple priests



By Our Staff Reporter

Kutti Ganesan (General Secretary, Vinayagar Chaturthi Vizha Kuzhu, T. Nagar) distributed groceries among temple priests, and face masks and sanitisers to others recently.

## Panchangam released

Thambrass (K. K. Nagar Unit) released a panchangam prepared by Sundari Reg-anathan (Chennai District President) on May 25.

S. Sathish (President) said that the panchangam will be given free to all members and is available for others for Rs. 100. More details can be had in 91766 51942 and 99403 81969.

## Unmasking the 'Face mask'



By Dr. Sita Ganesh

The Government has mandated wearing face masks in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, while visiting your doctor, and traveling on public transportation (whenever they are to resume).

The virus can spread via respiratory droplets between people interacting in close proximity, such as coughing, sneezing or talking. Wearing a face mask in public can help protect others if you are infected with the virus and don't know it, since you can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms.

The masks can be purchased or made at home from household items or common materials.

The office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the government has issued a detailed manual on making reusable masks with household materials. It can be downloaded from the website <http://164.100.117.97/WriteReadData/userfiles/FINAL%20MASK%20MANUAL.pdf>.

The manual helps making of masks with materials such as cotton cloth with or without sewing machine.

Here are some dos and don'ts of wearing face masks/cloth face coverings:

**DOs**  
Wear the mask whenever you go out in public. Ensure that the mask has multiple layers of tightly woven fabric and easy to breathe through. Make sure the mask fits snugly against the face and covers the nose and mouth with no gaps. Wash hands before putting on the mask, every time it is touched and after removing it.

**Proper way to put on and remove the mask:**  
To put it on, grasp the mask and pinch it at the ear loops or grasp the upper ties. For ear-loop style masks, secure ear loops behind the ears. For tie back style masks, secure upper ties first behind the head, then secure the lower ties. Always put the same side of a reused mask against the face.

While removing, do not touch the outer side of the mask, or the eyes/nose/mouth. Reusable masks should be placed in a bag until washing.

Continue to practise good social distancing by staying at home, avoiding contact with others, and staying at least 6 feet away from others when you go out in public.

Consider wearing a mask at home if you live and interact with an older adult or someone who is immuno compromised.

**DON'Ts**  
Do not put masks on children under 2 years or on anyone with breathing problems.

Do not use medical-grade masks, which should be reserved for health care persons.

Avoid masks while exercising including walking and jogging as it can strain your lungs.

Remove the mask for eating and drinking, instead of pulling it down to the chin.

Avoid going out when you feel sick, have a fever or are coughing or sneezing.

## Digital screen in Panagal Park displays corona awareness messages



By Our Staff Reporter

A tall digital screen installed in Panagal Park in T. Nagar in April by Corporation, displays corona awareness messages. It also displays the time, date, day, temperature and humidity.

## Herbal water distributed



By Our Staff Reporter

The members of Sri Aravindhar Annai Dhyana Maiyam (14, Bakthavatchalam Street, West Mambalam, Ph: 98414 25456) are distributing 'Kabasura' herbal water daily among members of the public from 5 p.m to 6.30 p.m.

Sri Annai Adigal (Founder) said that the herbal water is prepared hygienically and served with devotion.

## Fire tender used to spray disinfectants



Fire & Rescue personnel are using a fire tender to spray disinfectants on Ranganathan Street, Rameswaram Street, Railway Border Road (Vegetable market) and nearby streets in T. Nagar to prevent spread of coronavirus in the area. Picture was taken on May 27.

## Two women from migrant families die in trains

A heart-wrenching video of a toddler pulling the shroud from the dead body of her mother in Bihar's Muzaffarpur railway station has gone viral on social media, highlighting the tragedy of migrant workers going back to their native places.

In the video, the toddler is seen playing with her mother's shawl seemingly to wake her up.

The deceased has been identified as Arbina Khatoon (35), who had arrived in Muzaffarpur station in a Shramik Special train for migrants on May 25. It has been alleged that she passed away due to severe heat or hunger in the train after traveling without food or water.

According to railway officials, the family was going back to its home in Katihar. After she died, the body was taken down from the train in Muzaffarpur station.

Similarly, another migrant woman working in Surat died on the train and her body was removed at Mansi station (Bihar) on May 27.

## Ramesh Babu new Lions District Governor

By Our Staff Reporter

V. Ramesh Babu took charge as District Governor (Lions International, 324-A8) through video conference on May 26.

The other office-bearers are Rajan Srinivasan (Vice District Governor) and K. G. Anilkumar (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Governor). P. Ganapathy (Past District Governor) and Dr. G. Manilal (Advisor) sat in on the conference.

## 3 zones account for more than 3000 coronavirus cases

By Our Staff Reporter

Royapuram, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar and Kodambakkam zones have reported more than 1,000 cases of COVID-19 each out of a total of 12,762 cases in the city as on May 28.

On a more positive note, with over 3,000 residents returning from COVID-19 care centers and hospitals after treatment, the Corporation has removed 517 areas from the list of containment zones in the city.

26 containment zones were removed in Thiruvottiyur, 9 in Manali, 18 in Madhavaram, 43 in Tondiarpet, 98 in Royapuram, 90 in Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, 32 in Ambattur, 27 in Anna Nagar, 59 in Teynampet, 39 in Kodambakkam, 39 in Valasaravakkam, 6 in Alandur, 12 in Adyar, 13 in Perungudi and 8 in Sholi-

nganallur. Movement of residents in such areas will no longer be restricted after the barricades are off.

The city now has 635 containment zones where positive cases continue to be reported. Most of them are located in Royapuram, Kodambakkam and Thiru Vi Ka Nagar.

The Corporation has started allowing shops to resume operations after they were sealed for violations with regard to social distancing norms.

Shops in areas such as George Town, Purasawalkam, T. Nagar and Mylapore were permitted to open after the shopkeepers agreed to follow norms.

More than 1,000 shops were sealed in various parts of the city during the lockdown after they were found flouting rules.

## 21.65 lakh liters of disinfectant used to fight COVID-19



By Our Staff Reporter

The Corporation has so far utilised 21.65 lakh liters of disinfectant in containment zones and other parts of the city in its fight to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Apart from hand-held sprayers, 292 vehicles fitted with high pressure sprayers are being used in the disinfectant activity. 2,180 workers are engaged in the work, said an official.

The Corporation had also introduced robots to spray disinfectants in containment zones to reduce human contact.

## 50 artistes to perform in 'One India Virtual Concert'

By Our Staff Reporter

More than 50 artistes will come together on May 31 to present the biggest concert on a virtual platform.

The event 'One India Virtual Concert' will start at 5 p.m.

It is being organised by the Indian Event Professional Association (IEPA) to boost the morale of the event management industry, which has been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 'One India Virtual Concert' was conceived with the idea of raising funds for those suffering hardship during COVID-19, provide visibility

to these event managers and artistes, and discuss the issues.

Prominent bodies such as the Indian Performing Right Society (IPRS) and Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) have also joined hands with IEPA for the event.

The concert will feature artistes like Sumit Saini, winner of the third season of The Voice, Bollywood playback singers Vipin Aneja, Abhijit Ghosal and Shibani Kashyap, standup comedian Manan Desai and others.

The event will be held on multiple social media channels.

## After month's gap, city to get Krishna water

After a gap of one month, Andhra Pradesh has started releasing Krishna water at the rate of 1,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) from the dam there which will soon reach Chennai. The water release was suspended a month back because the staff in charge of the release were not able to attend work due to the lockdown.

Earlier, Tamil Nadu was receiving 450 cusecs to 500 cusecs. But from February, the discharge was reduced to 248 cusecs.

## Traders' claim of 200 tonnes of vegetables going waste daily disputed



By Our Staff Reporter

According to traders, around 200 tonnes of vegetables go waste daily in the temporary vegetable market in Thirumazhisai with no warehouse to stock them and the limited number of retail traders visiting the market from across Chennai.

V. R. Soundararajan (President, Koyambedu Wholesale Potato Traders Association) said that of the 6,000 tonnes of vegetables the market received on a daily basis, around 200 are rendered waste because there is no facility to stock them.

Nearly 200 shops are operating in Thirumazhisai, which sources 350 to 400 trucks ferrying all varieties vegetables. Each vehicle brings 10 to 20 tonnes of vegetables. Carrot, onion, beans and brinjal are the major vegetables end up as trash.

However, government authorities engaged in clearing the trash disputed the claims of traders on waste disposal saying only 25 to 30 tonnes of vegetables are left as garbage everyday.

## Accident victim clings to speeding car for a kilometer

By Our Staff Reporter

In a bizarre hit-and-run accident on Vanagaram-Ambattur Road, the victim fell on the roof of the car that hit him and clung on to it for a kilometer before the police gave chase and stopped the car.

The accident victim Ranjith Kumar is undergoing treatment in a hospital and his condition is stable, police said.

Kumar, a resident of Ayapakkam, was riding towards Vanagaram when he was hit by a car at around 8 p.m. In the impact, he landed atop the car.

The driver, Ganeshamoorthy of Virugambakkam, continued speeding in an attempt to escape even after the police and others on the road waved him to stop.

A police vehicle finally overtook the car after nearly a kilometer and stopped it.

Only after the car driver got down from the vehicle did he notice the man on the top wearing a mask and with injuries all over his body.

Police took Ganeshamoorthy into custody and seized his car. He is a wholesale vegetable vendor.

## CBSE students can write exams where they are now staying

By Our Staff Reporter

CBSE has decided to allow Std. 10 and Std. 12 students who shifted to their home town or other districts after schools were closed ahead of the nationwide lockdown, to appear for the pending board papers in their current place of stay.

The Board will notify the decision in the first week of June and students can apply for change of location online.

All students need to contact their respective schools and inform them of their location and also to get the location of the schools (centers) in their present district. CBSE secretary Anurag Tripathi said.

The board exams, which were postponed due to the lockdown, will be held from July 1 to 15.

The HRD ministry has already announced that students will appear for exams at the schools in which they are enrolled rather than external examination centers.

The CBSE will conduct the pending exams in 15,000 centers across the country, instead of the 3,000 planned earlier, to ensure social distancing and minimise travel.

## Corporation resumes work on major projects

By Our Staff Reporter

Corporation is slowly resuming civic work that had piled up during the lockdown. Commissioner G. Prakash held a meeting last week to instruct all engineers and zonal officials to complete pending projects.

Pre-monsoon work under the Chennai mega city development fund has started. Construction of drains in T. Nagar under the smart city project began last week while 37 tenders have been floated for road restoration.

Of the 47 ponds to be restored at a cost of Rs. 103 crores, work has begun in 21 locations.

Road restoration and storm water drain construction have also begun in six zones.

Under the smart city project, the corporation has started preparing detailed project reports for the integrated transport management project, smart parking system and river restoration projects.

Other World Bank-funded projects will also be taken up, said an engineer.

"Under the Tamil Nadu Urban Road Infrastructure Fund, work on 674 bus route roads were to be taken up of which 164 had been completed. Work on 96 roads which were going on before the lockdown, will begin now," said L. Nandakumar (Chief Engineer). 4.4 km. of storm water drain work across several prime roads will begin.

## 3 sent to Puzhal prison for course test positive

By Our Staff Reporter

A day after three life convicts tested positive for COVID-19, swabs were taken from more than 190 of the contacts to prevent the central prisons from turning into a new hotspot for COVID-19.

The source of infection of the three life convicts, two from Cuddalore and one from Trichy, is yet to be identified.

Aged between 39 and 45, they were among the 34 convicts, who were brought from eight central prisons to Puzhal prison for a six-week para legal volunteers' training program.

All of them were shifted to their respective prisons last week.

Besides, prisoners from various prisons were brought to Puzhal to appear for the Stds. 10 and 12 board examinations as it is the only examination center for convicts.

Prisoners who were in close contact with the three infected prisoners have been quarantined in a dormitory on the Puzhal prison campus.

## 795 streets removed from containment list

By Our Staff Reporter

795 streets in Chennai have been removed from the containment list till May 27.

As on May 27, the city had 365 areas under containment.

Over the past week, the civic body has been releasing areas from containment if no cases are reported for 14 days.

He said that as the containment plans were successfully enforced, new cases were not reported from 90% of these streets during the containment period.

## Call taxis ready to install fiber glass partition

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the example set by call taxi operators in Kerala, OLA and Uber call taxi associations have said they are ready to install fiber glass partitions in vehicles to separate the driver's cabin, if the government permits them to operate their vehicles.

The partition may cost between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 4,000.

Saying that such a move would ensure social distancing while travelling, the call taxi drivers association submitted petitions to 37 Collectors on May 26 urging them to permit operations.

The association said about 25,000 drivers have been struggling to make ends meet owing to the lockdown.

## Is it safe to exercise with face masks on?



By Our Staff Reporter

Though gyms and fitness studios are closed owing to the lockdown, many still prefer to go outdoors for exercises for some fresh air.

If one exercises outdoors, avoiding face masks is recommended to make sure one gets enough oxygen.

Also, after gyms open again, the question will arise 'How safe will it be? What are the precautions needed?'

Here are some tips from a therapist:

Generally, it is safe to exercise while wearing a face mask, but it is important to monitor how you're feeling while exercising and watch out for specific symptoms such as lightheadedness, dizziness, numbness or tingling and shortness of breath.

Who should avoid exercising with a face mask on?

Persons who have underlying cardiovascular or respiratory conditions should be cautious when exercising with a face mask on. The severity of their condition will dictate whether or not it is appropriate for them to exercise with a face mask on.

Examples of such conditions include asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), bronchitis, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and any other conditions that affect the heart or lungs. If you have a cardiovascular or respiratory condition, it's a good idea to ask your doctor about exercising with a face mask before attempting it.

Also, all who are new to exercising or have not exercised for a long time should pay extra attention if exercising while wearing a face mask and watch for symptoms like dizziness and fainting while exerting oneself.

What happens when you exercise with a face mask on?

Wearing masks decreases the flow of air into the lungs, leading to less oxygen in the bloodstream and the working muscles, which is what makes training more difficult.

Even those who have a relatively high level of fitness should expect to fatigue faster when exercising with a face mask.

## Kodambakkam sees spike in cases after improvement

By Our Staff Reporter

Data released by the Corporation shows that Kodambakkam (zone 10) recorded 160 cases on May 24 and 25 as against 163 cases on the previous four days.

This development has really worried officials, given that Kodambakkam zone, which had the Koyambedu market, was gradually improving as far as the numbers are concerned.

The zone had recorded a huge spike early this month due to the emergence of Koyambedu cluster, but due to intensive containment measures, the numbers had started to drop.

## Free 3-month online course on Bhagavad Gita

By Our Staff Reporter

ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) is starting a free online course on Bhagavad Gita in Tamil for children in the age group of 6-12 years from Sunday, May 31.

The 3-month course will have 30-minute sessions daily between 6 p.m and 6.30 p.m.

The audio/video sessions will include lessons, moral stories and slokas and its practical applications.

For more details, call 99410 92331 or 98406 77286.

## Duo develops handsfree sanitation with plastic waste

Pradyumna Rao and Mridhula Chandramohan (a resident of K.K. Nagar) have developed a prototype of a handsfree sanitation station with plastic waste to provide an option where there is zero contact with the sanitiser bottle.

They run a company called Samsara - The Recycle Company that makes products from discarded plastics.

They said, "We made a prototype last week and will be manufacturing the same in the coming days depending on how the market responds. Since it is lockdown, we developed it with different materials from our stock."

They also explained the functions of the station.

There is a pedal at the base of the stand. It is connected to the top part by a metal wire. So, when one presses the pedal, it automatically presses the nozzle of the bottle.

"This prevents any chance of cross-contamination," said Pradyumna.

## Industries struggle to resume operations amid cash crunch

By Our Staff Reporter

The 17 industrial estates in Chennai, which resumed work after two months are now grappling with staff shortage and costly raw materials.

At least 20 per cent of industries inside Ambattur Industrial Estate (IE) have not begun operations due to shortage of labour.

"The main reason for this is no public transportation. Most of our workers come from Arakkonam and Tiruvallur, by suburban trains. Though we have been given an option to hire government buses, it costs Rs. 250 per passenger for a two-way trip from Arakkonam," said A.N Suje-esh (President, Ambattur Industrial Estate Manufacturing Association).

Another major issue for the industries is the spike in cost of raw materials.

"Due to shortage, the prices of raw materials have also shot up, adding to the burden," he added.

## RMD Nursing Home offers online consultation

RMD Nursing Home (13, Raghaviah Road, T. Nagar) is providing online medical consultation for emergency care.

A diabetologist, ENT specialist, urologist, gynecologist and neurologist are available for consultation.

Homecare, nursing care, and check-up for all including elderly patients and terminally ill patients are offered there is a pharmacy. More details can be had in 93810 16588.

## Water pots with taps on sale on Arya Gowda Road



By Our Staff Reporter

Earthen water pots with taps are being sold on the pavement of Arya Gowda Road Extension, West Mambalam.

The pots are transported from Punjab and other states. The prices of the pots start at Rs. 200.

## Trenches dug to relay pipes



By Our Staff Reporter

With the easing of the lockdown, Metrowater has restarted the unfinished and pending works in the neighbourhood.

Trenches have been dug in Dhandapani Street and Venkatanarayana Road in T. Nagar to relay metrowater pipes.

## Athletic Association resents use of stadium as quarantine center

## Airport gears up to handle international flights

By Our Staff Reporter

Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (Periamet) has not only been converted into a mass quarantine center to host 500-600 persons, but also as a waiting point for migrant workers employed in Central Railway Station.

While the move can certainly be termed necessary, it has killed all chances of athletes using the grounds for training in the near future.

All those reliant on the facility had banked on the possibility of the government allowing them on its grounds in June.

Disappointed with the decision, the Tamil Nadu Athletic Association (TNAA) is considering requesting the government to shift the center elsewhere.

The TNAA is also scheduled to host the senior national athletic championship in the stadium between September and October this year. The stadium playing host to patients has also rendered the facilities for volleyball, throwball, handball, kabaddi, judo, weightlifting, table-tennis, and boxing inaccessible for players.

With the government announcing its intent to permit international flights, Chennai airport has started preparations to keep the terminals ready to handle arrivals and departures.

As the check-in and arrival process may take longer than for domestic flights, the staff are being trained and advisories are being issued to other agencies to keep personnel trained on social distancing norms.

A senior official said, "Not much of preparations are needed to start operation of international flights. Already foreign airlines are flying in one or two planes almost every other day to evacuate passengers. The experience of handling these passengers as per the social distancing norms will come in handy when regular services resume."

While there were no domestic departures, international departures and arrivals of international flights during the shutdown period. The number of departures for stranded foreign citizens increased after the shutdown was extended further.

However, there will be discussions and trials closer to the date of resumption of services. The same protocol in contactless check-in process will be followed. However, there will be more stress on safety precautions as many Indians who reached Chennai on flights operated by Air India Express and Air India have tested positive. "It is unlikely to allow too many arrivals and departures in a day," said an airline official.

"Passengers may have to reach the airport earlier than the existing reporting time of three hours prior to departure. These details will be decided later," he added.

The ministry of civil aviation has said that flights may start in a phased manner from mid-June and that passengers need to be in institutional quarantine at their own expense for seven days. However, the date of resumption will be decided based on the state governments' preparedness to quarantine passengers because many countries in the Middle East and southeast Asia continue to have cases.

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**Elderly couple found dead in house**

By Our Staff Reporter

An elderly Sindhi couple was found dead in its flat in Gill Nagar (Choolaimedu) on May 25.

The police, alerted by some residents of the building after foul smell emanated from the couple's flat, informed health department officials suspecting the couple may have died of COVID-19.

The bodies were sent to the government Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital (KMCH) for postmortem.

The 82-year-old man and his wife (78) did not have children and had been living in the flat for the past 25 years.

The entire flat complex was disinfected by Corporation workers.

On request, the bodies were handed over to Sindhi Community Residents' Association (Aminjikai) for cremation.

**Pay fines online for traffic rule violations**

By Our Staff Reporter

You can now pay fines imposed by the police department for traffic rule violations from the comfort of your home.

Starting May 26, fines generated digitally by the State Traffic Police Control Unit through the e-challan system can be paid directly on the Virtual Court web portal.

Under the current system, violators paid fines issued by the traffic police department in the nearest post office through e-challans generated.

However, from now, fines for traffic rule violations including helmetless travel, speeding, red light-jumping, not wearing seat belts and overloading of vehicles can be paid through the website.

According to a senior official from the Madras High Court, "The Virtual Court was created to eliminate the presence of the litigant or lawyer in court and for adjudication of the case online."

In this system, the challan generated by the police department is sent in a digital form and uploaded to the Virtual Courts website. The court, as per Section 208 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, will issue special summons to the violator on his mobile phone.

Once a violator receives intimation, he/she will have the option to either contest the summons or pay by visiting the web portal, <https://vcourts.gov.in>.

Once the fine is paid, the challan will be disposed of by a Judicial Officer in the rank of a Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate. The facility has been introduced in Chennai and will be extended later to other districts in the state, added the official.

**Two COVID-19 patients end life**

By Our Staff Reporter

Two COVID-19 patients ended their lives in the government hospitals they were admitted in for treatment on May 26 and 27.

In the 1st instance, Mani (50) (a resident of MMDA Colony) committed suicide in the early hours of the day by hanging in the bathroom of Stanley Medical Hospital.

According to the police, he had been admitted a week back and his condition had deteriorated.

His body, which was hanging from the bathroom grille, was found by the security guard.

In the 2nd instance, Venkatrao (57) (a resident of Royapettah) also committed suicide in the same fashion in Omandurar Government Hospital.

He had been admitted a day earlier with breathing difficulty.

**Enjoy a virtual tour of Ooty gardens**



By Our Staff Reporter

Ooty is one of the favorite summer holiday destinations, especially the flower show organised in May every year by Government Botanical Garden.

As enthusiasts are missing the blooming beauty this year due to lockdown, the Times of India has brought out a virtual tour of the green expanse and the flower show.

An aerial video shoot of the garden that is resplendent with lilies, buttercups and begonias can now be enjoyed in the comfort of one's home on Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TOIcoimbatore/videos/1164877500515613/>

The Horticulture Department has themed this year's presentation to honour the frontline officials and workers engaged in combating the pandemic.

Though there are no visitors, the gardens are tended to and are in full bloom.

**Wholesalers appeal to reopen Koyambedu market**

By Our Staff Reporter

With large quantities of vegetables going waste causing monetary losses, the wholesale vegetable traders operating in the temporary market in Thirumazhisai have asked the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) to reopen Koyambedu Wholesale Market Complex.

The market was shut down three weeks ago, after it emerged as the single largest hotspot for spreading coronavirus across Tamilnadu as social distancing was not followed in the overcrowded facility.

The 200-odd wholesale traders have assured CMDA, which is maintaining both Koyambedu and Thirumazhisai markets, that they will adhere to social distancing by limiting the number of vehicles entering the market.

A member of the Traders' Association stated that 50 percent of the vegetables remain unsold daily as retail buyers are finding it inconvenient to visit Thirumazhisai which is far away from the city.

"The traders and farmers are suffering huge losses due to this," he said.

**Toll-free number to cope with board exam pressure**

By Our Staff Reporter

The School Education Department, in partnership with Unicef, has launched a program to support students appearing for Std. 10 board exams this year amid the COVID-19 crisis.

The number for the program, titled 'Take it Eazy', is toll-free.

Students can give a missed call to 92666 17888 and will get a callback. They can then listen to short fun audio clips that speak about ways to cope with the pressure and other aspects they are going through during the pandemic.

"The audio clips are comical, funny, and also have quotes from movie characters just to grab their attention. They cover all topics, right from battling exam stress, staying indoors, not being able to hang out with their friends and every other issue the students might be dealing with at this time," said a senior official from the department.

He said that this is in addition to the existing helplines meant for students.

"Our greatest worry has been to ensure that students are well prepared to write the board exams. We feel that a few of them have been finding it hard to prepare since they are behind closed doors and are also distracted," said Jeeva Rani, a senior teacher in the Government Girls High School in T. Nagar.

She said that they have been keeping in touch with their students on a regular basis, exchanging books and conducting lessons via Whatsapp, and also counselling them so that they do not lose focus.

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## Chennai crosses 12,000 mark in coronavirus cases

By Our Staff Reporter

With 559 new cases registered on May 28, the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Chennai crossed the 12,000 mark to reach 12,762.

Till date, 106 patients have died and 6,304 have been discharged leaving 6,351 active cases.

Till date, 86 persons who

arrived from abroad and 67 from other states who reached by trains have tested positive.

The total number of containment areas in the city stands at 305 with Royapuram leading with 90. Anna Nagar (zone 7) has 28 streets under containment and Kodambakkam zone (10) has 8 streets under containment.

## Experts suggest 18,000 tests a day to flatten curve

By Our Staff Reporter

At least 10,000 persons in the city and another 8,000 across the state must be tested every day for COVID-19 to flatten the epidemic curve, according to epidemiologists.

But in the past one week, on an average 11,300 people were tested daily.

The city, which has about two-thirds of the cases in Tamilnadu, does 40% of these daily tests.

According to Dr. Pradeep Kaur (Deputy Director, ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology), at least 100 per lakh persons should be tested daily.

He said that when testing increases, the case load too will increase. But after a peak, the

numbers will decline even as aggressive testing continues.

On May 26, the government's panel of medical experts told Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami that unless testing was increased to identify and treat people in the early stages of the infection, Chennai could end up with two lakh cases and more than 1,400 fatalities by June-end.

Although the mortality rate has been below 1%, the number of deaths goes up with the number of cases.

For instance, in March when there were 124 cases, there was one death. In April when there were 2,075 cases, the toll increased to 26 and in May it crossed 100.

## Completion deadline extended for housing projects

By Our Staff Reporter

Weeks after extending the completion period of registered projects by five months, the Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA) has extended it further by another month.

The move is based on an advisory from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Hundreds of ongoing housing projects registered with the realty regulator across the state during the past couple of years would benefit from the extension as construction work has come to a standstill due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

## Family charters flight to reach home

By Our Staff Reporter

While lakhs of migrants are suffering and are prepared to walk hundreds of kilometers to reach their homes, the affluent are looking to own the skies to reach home.

On May 25, a family of 4 chartered a whole 180-seater Airbus A320 aircraft for Rs. 10 lakhs to fly from Bhopal to Delhi.

According to reports, the passengers consisted of a mother, two children and a nanny.

It is reported that a number of high network customers have approached airlines to charter flights to avoid traveling in crowded aircraft due to fear of COVID-19.

## Rise in cases strains infrastructure

Amid the rising cases and the government reporting 10,000+ tests each day, there have been several reports of official apathy from families of COVID-19-affected persons.

In addition to local infections, the government is now burdened with testing and quarantining returnees from other States and abroad.

On May 27, a resident of Kilpauk had to go through the indignity of not being beside his mother when she passed away due to COVID-19 in Omandarur hospital. He complained that he could not get himself tested after suffering from high fever for more than 2 days. After hopping from one urban health center to another in vain, he finally borrowed money after his condition deteriorated and got tested in an approved private hospital.

In another case, a victim's son alleged that his aged father showed COVID-19 symptoms in the second week of May. After visiting five hospitals which refused to admit him out of fear that the facility would be closed, he managed to get his father tested in a hospital in Vadapalani. After testing positive, the hospital wanted Rs. 1.5 lakh charges per day

for treatment. Unable to afford this huge amount, he took his father to three government hospitals all of which refused admission though he sought police help. Finally, after pleading with the dean, his father was admitted to Government General Hospital, and passed away on May 23.

Sukumar (name changed) had returned home from Surat on May 20. He alleged that though he was asymptomatic and requested the free quarantine facility provided by the Corporation, he was denied the same and forced to pay Rs. 2,500 per day to stay in a hotel. "I was told that swab would be taken the next day and I can go back home if I tested negative. But they took the test only after 3 days and it took another 2 days for the results. In effect, I was forced to shell out more than Rs. 15,000 which is 50% of my monthly salary. I am out of job and, in the present circumstance, whom will I approach to complain," he lamented.

A Corporation official stated that the work force is stretched out. "We are trying and increasing the facilities. More doctors, paramedical staff and health workers will be recruited in the days ahead," he said.

## Traffic police provided eyewear to cope with sunlight

By Our Staff Reporter

In a move to prevent damage to their eyes due to long hours of exposure to the scorching sun, dust and pollution, the police authorities have provided safety glasses for traffic police personnel in the city.

"Though they wear masks to cover their nose and mouth, their eyes remain exposed," said a senior police officer.

These are like sunglasses and provide comfort to the eyes by reducing the impact of the sunlight, he said.

## UNICEF seeks teachers' opinion on re-opening schools

By Our Staff Reporter

UNICEF, along with Solar Trust and Federation for Child Friendly School (FCFS), is conducting a survey among school teachers on possible challenges in reopening schools post COVID-19 lockdown through their mobile app called 'FCFS-TN'.

The teachers have to answer 41 questions and are also encouraged to provide their recommendations.

They aim to get a feedback from at least 100 teachers per district before submitting recommendations based on survey results to the expert group formed by the School Education Department.

## Metrowater faces sharp drop in revenue

As the city continues to be locked down, Chennai Metrowater Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) faces a sharp dip in revenue.

In the last three months, the board earned Rs. 91 crores whereas it collected Rs. 201 crores last year during the same period.

An official stated that it collected only about Rs. 11 crores in May as against nearly Rs. 50 crores earned as revenue during May 2019.

Besides tax collection, the dip in industrial and commercial usage has also contributed to the loss.

Metrowater has sought Rs. 25 crores from the state disaster response fund for its fight against COVID-19.

## Zoomcar resumes operations

By Our Staff Reporter

Self-driven car rental platform Zoomcar on May 26 said it has resumed operations in 35 cities including Chennai.

The company has also launched a special 'Zoom to Atmanirbharta' offer to help customers avail of personal mobility options that are safe, convenient and affordable.

"Our vehicles will be sanitised thoroughly after every single use to ensure the safety of passengers," said Zoomcar CEO and co-founder Greg Moran.

## The country crosses 1.5 lakh mark in coronavirus cases

By Our Staff Reporter

After touching the 75,000 mark on May 15, it just took another 12 days for the total number of coronavirus cases in India to double and cross the 1.5 lakh mark to reach 1,51,767 on May 27.

In 4 days since May 23, 25,000 more cases were added. However, the country also posted a strong recovery rate of 42.44 per cent.

With this, India continues to remain the tenth worst hit country by the pandemic globally.

Of the total cases so far, 83,004 are active, while 64,425 persons have been cured and 4,337 have died.

Maharashtra continues to have the lion's share of the COVID-19 cases, with at least 56,948 which is 36.08 percent of the total number of cases across the country. The state has reported 1,792 fatalities so far, as per the health ministry data.

The situation in Tamilnadu is also worsening as the total number of cases reported there hovers at 18,545 with 817 new cases added on May 27, followed by Gujarat with 14,821 cases and Delhi with 14,465 cases.

New cases were reported from various other states and union territories as well, including Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Odisha, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry.

A nationwide lockdown has been in place since March 25 and the ongoing fourth phase of the lockdown will end on May 31. While several relaxations have been given in the fourth phase for allowing various economic activities, educational institutions are among those that have not been allowed to open as yet.

Globally, the cases of COVID-19 topped at 56 lakhs and over 3 lakh fatalities.

## Rs. 8 crores fine collected for lockdown norms violation

By Our Staff Reporter

In a media release on May 27, Tamilnadu police said that it has so far registered more than 5 lakh FIRs for alleged violation of lockdown norms across the state and levied a fine of over Rs. 8 crores.

In Chennai, the number of cases registered has crossed 1 lakh and the fine collected has crossed Rs. 1.5 crores.

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## State witnesses highest single-day jump in COVID-19 deaths

By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu reported its highest single-day jump in COVID-19 deaths as the toll reached 145 with 12 fatalities recorded on May 28.

The number of coronavirus cases reached 19,372, after 827 more people tested positive.

Chennai alone accounted for 559 of these 827 new patients.

Four among them returned from other states by air. The 827 cases included 74 persons who travelled from Maharashtra and 20 who came from Karnataka.

639 patients were discharged on May 28, taking the total number of recoveries to 10,548. There are 8,676 active cases in the state.

A total of 4,55,216 samples have been taken and sent for testing till date