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India 4th worst-hit in coronavirus cases

By Our Staff Reporter

With 2,97,535 coronavirus cases and 1,47,194 have cases, India has overtaken Uni-ited Kingdom to become the fourth worst-hit nation as the US continued to top the chart with 20,90,542 cases. Globally, 72,73,958 have been affected by the virus of which 4,13,372 have so far died. In India, 10,956 fresh Covid cases were reported on June 12 along with 396 deaths, taking the total fatalities to 8,498.

There are 1,41,842 active recovered and discharged till date. 70% of the deaths are due to co-morbid conditions. Maharashtra remained the worst hit state in the country with 96,648 cases, followed by Tamil Nadu (40,698) and Delhi (34,687). Other states to cross 10,000 cases include Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Chief Minister scotches rumour about total lockdown

By Our Staff Reporter

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on June 12 scotched rumours about an intensified lockdown in Chennai and its nearby districts from June 15 to 30 to curb the spread of COVID-19. "A message circulating on social media with my photo is a false one. Criminal action will be taken against people who circulate the false message," the Chief Minister told

reporters. He said that the government has also informed the Madras High Court that it had no plan to implement complete lockdown in Chennai and other parts of the state. Additional Advocate General S. R. Rajagopal made the submission while responding to a question raised by a division bench of Justice Vineet Kothari and Justice R. Suresh Kumar on June 10.

Cauvery panel orders Karnataka to release water

The Cauvery water management authority on June 9 directed Karnataka to release 9.19 tmcft of water for June and 31.24 tmcft for July as per the tribunal award later modified by the Supreme Court. It also deferred the Karnataka government's proposal to construct a multi-crore reservoir at Mekedatu across river Cauvery, after vehement protests from Tamilnadu and Puducherry governments.

Vintage Carnatic concerts all 24 hours

By Our Staff Reporter

You can now listen to vintage Carnatic music concerts all 24 hours of the day by accessing the website www.arangamonline.com from your computer, laptop or smart phone. Two or three veteran artistes are featured each day, and these include MS Subbulakshmi, DK Pattammal, ML Vasanthakumari, Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer, Maharajapuram Santhanam, Mudigondan Venkatarama Iyer, Musiri Subramania Iyer, Alathur Brothers, GN Balasubramanian, M. Balamuralikrishna, B. Rajam Iyer, Chittoor Subramania Pillai and Ramnad Krishnan among others. Among the accompanists featured are T. Chowdiah, Kumbakonam Rajamanickam Pillai, Lalgudi Jayaraman, TN Krishnan, Palghat Mani Iyer, Pazhani Subramania Pillai, CS Murugaboopathy and Alangudi Ramachandran among others. Some concerts are repeated in the course of the day.

Woman conned of jewels by fiancé

A 24-year-old woman (a resident of Teynampet) was cheated by the man she was to marry, after he took her to a beauty parlour on the pretext of giving her a facial on June 9, and escaped with her jewellery weighing 6 sovereigns. According to the police, the man, Surya Ganesh, picked his fiancé from her house and took her to a textile showroom in T. Nagar and bought her a saree worth Rs. 9,500. Later, he cajoled her into getting a facial done in a beauty parlour.

Inside the parlour, he asked her to remove her jewels and told her that he would wait in the lobby. But when she returned after the facial, Ganesh was missing. The girl tried contact him over phone but both his phone numbers were switched off. Later, she informed her family and filed a complaint in Pondy Bazaar police station on June 10.

New COVID-19 cases continue to surge in Chennai

By Our Staff Reporter
With 1,477 new coronavirus cases reported on June 12, the total number of cases in Chennai stands at 28,924. 17,675 samples were tested that day, taking the total since April 1 to 6.96 lakhs. With the coronavirus count continuing to show an uptrend in the state, the government is in the process of augmenting its bed strength and workforce.

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கொரோனா கேள்வித்தாள்!

(வீடுகளில் அடைபட்டிருக்கும் (அடைபட்டிருந்து) மக்களுக்குக் கொரோனா பற்றிய புரிதலைப் பரிசோதிக்கும் வகையில் தயாரான ஒரு கேள்வித்தாள் இதோ. லாக்டௌன் காலத்தில் பொழுது போகாதவர்களும், மதிய வேளையில் கொட்டாவிக்கூட விடாதவர்களும் இதை நீட்டிப்போன்ற நுழைவுத் தேர்வுத் தலைவலிகள் இல்லாமல் ஜாலியாக எழுதலாம்.)

1. கடவுள் உங்கள் முன்னால் தோன்றிக் கொரோனா கிருமி களுக்கு மாற்றாக வெட்டுக்கிளி படை எடுப்பைத் தருகிறேன் என்று கேட்டிருந்தால் உங்கள் நிலைப்பாடு என்னவாக இருந்திருக்கும் என்பதை விரிவாக எழுதவும்.

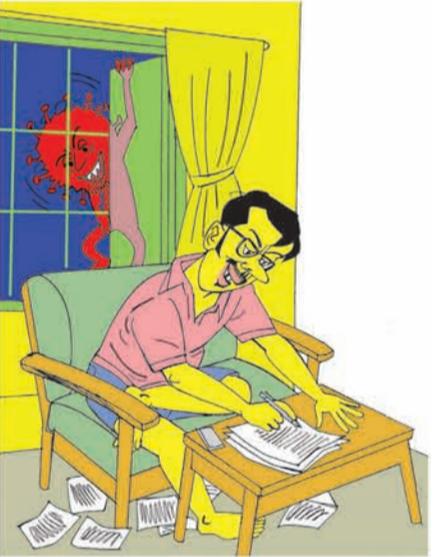
2. உலகம் பூராவும் உலுக்கும் இந்த நுண் கிருமி யாரால் ஏவி விடப்பட்டிருக்கும் என்கிற உங்களுடைய புனைவை அம்புலி மாமா ஸ்டைலில் 500 வார்த்தைகளுக்கு மிகாமல் எழுதவும்.

3. முழுக் கதவடைப்பின்போது 'ச்ச்ச்சுமமா கால்நடையாகவோ, டீவீலரிலோ அலையும் தற்கால வாஸ்கோடகாமாக்களைக் காவல்துறையின் காரணிய தயாநிதிகள் நீள லத்திகளால் அதிகம் விரும்பித் தாக்கியது பின் பாகத்திலா? முட்டிக்குக் கீழேயா?

4. தெருக்களில் காய்கறி வியாபாரிகள் அரைபாடி வண்டி, மினி டிரக் போன்ற வாகனங்களில் நிமிஷத்துக்கு ஒருமுறை மயிலை அறுபத்துமூவர் அணிவகுப்பைப் போல வந்து போனாலும் ஒருவர் மீது ஒருவர் மோதி, சென்னை பாஷையில் ஒரு வருக்கு ஒருவர் மாலை போட்டுக் கொள்ளாமல் வியாபாரம் செய்யும் பேரதிசயம் நடப்பது எவ்வாறு?

5. மூன்று மாதங்கள் நீண்ட இடைவெளிக்குப் பிறகு 'அம்மா' என்று அபயம் அளிக்கும் குரலுடன் அழைத்து, வீட்டைப் பெருக்கி, துடைத்து, பத்துப் பாத்நிரங்களைத் தேய்க்க வீட்டு வேலைக்குத் திரும்பி வந்த மகராசி புஷ்பாவோ, யசோதாவோ, கண்ணம்மாவோ உங்களைப் புளகாங்கிதம் அடைய வைத்தால் அந்த மங்கையர் திலகத்தை ஆரத்தி எடுத்தோ, சுற்றி வந்து கும்மி அடித்தோ, உலுலுலுலு என்று நாக்கைப் புரட்டிப் போட்டுக் குலவை இட்டோ அல்லது பூரண கும்பத்துடன் வரவேற்றோ உரிய மரியாதை செய்வீர்களா?

6. கொரோனா பாதிப்பால் உண்டாகும் எரிச்சல் அத்துடன் சித்திரை வெயிலின் புழுக்கம், இறுக்கம், தாக்கம், மின்சார அவுட்டேஜ் எல்லாம் சேர்ந்து கொண்ட உச்சி வேளைகளில் அப்போதுதான் கண் அசந்த உங்களை ஃபேஸில் அழைத்து, 'ஏன் ஸார் லோன் வேண்டாமனு சொல்றீங்கன்னு செல்ல அட்டலுடன் கேட்கும் இளம்பெண்ணின் மனம் நோகாமல், வசவு வார்த்தைகளைத் தவிர்த்து என்ன சாக்கு சொல்வீர்கள்?



7. தமிழ்நாட்டிற்கு வருடம் ரூபாய் 30,000 கோடி வருமானத்தை மினிமம் கேள்டியாகக் கொடுக்கும் மதுபானக் கடைகளின் முன்னால் மெய் வருத்தம் பாராது, கண் துஞ்சாது, பசி நோக்காது தவம் செய்து போதிய இடைவெளிவிட்டு நிற்கத் தோதாக வட்ட அல்லது சதுரக் கட்டங்கள் மேல் நிற்பவர்கள், சிறு வயதில் சிறுமிகள் விளையாடிய ஏரோப்ளேன் பாண்டி, 'ரைட்டா? ரைட்டா? கொய்ட்டா?' போன்ற விளையாட்டுகளுக்கு உயிர்ப் பிச்சை கொடுத்து துள்ளி, எகிறி, பாய்ந்து ஆட உங்களால் முயற்சி செய்ய முடியுமா? முடியும் என்றால், எப்படி? முடியாது என்றால், ஏன்?

8. வலது தாடையை மழித்துவிட்டு இடது தாடைக்குத் தாவி அந்தப் பக்க ஜோலியை முடிக்குமுன் 'கருகரு' என்று வலது பக்கம் வளர்ந்து அசர வைக்கும் செழிப்பான உங்கள் அமேலான் ரோமக் காடுகள் புல் என்று புதராக வளர்ந்து, உங்கள் தலையை ஓவர் லோடாக ஏற்றப்பட்ட வைக்கோல் லாரிகளாகத் தோற்ற மளிக்க வைத்தாலும் பருவத்தே செய்யவேண்டிய அறுவடை செய்யமுடியாது அல்லாடும் மாந்தர்கள், சுந்தரி அழகு நிலையம், நியூ மதுரா ஹேர் டிரஸ்ஸர்ஸ், ஸ்வஸ்திகா முடி திருத்தகம் போன்ற கடைகள் இல்லாத காரணத்தால் எவ்வாறு சின்னடைப் பிய்த்துக் கொள்ளாமல் பிரச்சனையை எதிர்கொண்டீர்கள் என்பதை நகைச்சுவை தரும்படி எழுதவும்.

9. கற்பனா சக்தி மிக்கவர்கள் கொரோனாவிற்கு எதுகை மோனையாக டயானா, ரெக்லோனா, வெரோனா, காலனா, தரனனா போன்ற சொற்களை அள்ளித் தெளித்து, அது பாமரர்களுக்கும் புரியும் வகையில் ஒரு மரபுக் கவிதை எழுதி அரங்கேற்றம் செய்ய முடியுமா?

10. மணிக்கணக்காக யூ ட்யூபில் சமையல் குறிப்புகளைப் பார்த்துப் பக்கம் பக்கமாக பழைய டைரிகளில் செய்முறையை எழுதிக்கொண்ட மனைவி தூத் கீ சிரோட்டி அல்லது சமோஸா பர்கர் போன்ற புதிய ரக சிறுண்டியை செய்யப் போகிறார் என்று ஆவலுடன் உட்கார்ந்து இருக்கும்போது தடை செய்ய வேண்டிய ரவா உப்புமாவை ஜலப் பக்குவமாக அல்லது கட்டிகட்டியாக 'வரவர்', 'கொசுகொசு' என்று எண்ணெய்ப் பசை கிஞ்சித்தும் இல்லாமல் கிண்டப்பட்டதைப் பார்த்தவுடன் கண்கள் கோவைப்பழமாக சிவக்க விரரென்று எழுந்து கை கழுவுவது, கொரோனா தொற்றுவிடுமா? உப்புமாவிடுமா? (அல்லது நெஞ்சில் உரமுள்ளவராக இருந்தால்) மனைவிக்கா?

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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. 600) and 4 cm. x 2 column (costing Rs. 1200)

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3 positive cases to form a cluster ward

By Our Staff Reporter

Due to the increasing number of cases, Tamilnadu government is planning to declare an entire ward in the city as a 'COVID-19' cluster zone if three positive cases are reported from there.

Earlier a ward was a cluster if there were five or more cases.

Minister visits Brindavan Street



By Our Staff Reporter

R. Kamaraj (Minister for Food) and B. Sathya (T. Nagar MLA), accompanied by officials, inspected Brindavan Street, a COVID-19 containment zone in West Mambalam, on June 10.

The minister distributed face masks and relief material among residents.

Brindavan Street has since been opened for traffic

3 workers on a bike riding to construction site



By Our Staff Reporter

Three workers on a bike riding to their construction site were spotted on 15th Avenue Road, Ashok Nagar on June 11.

Though the govt. has banned pillion riding on bikes to enforce social distancing norms to curb the spread of the virus, many are violating the rule.

Autos, cabs yet to pick up patronage



By Our Staff Reporter

As the city opens up for more services, residents are allowed to move about more freely now and the government has aided this by imposing strict guidelines for cabs and auto drivers.

However, this does not translate into business for drivers, who say that the rising number of cases in the city and fear have residents stuck in their homes.

Drivers operating through a ride-share app said that the number of requests has gone down significantly.

"Even during peak hours, there are no requests for rides. I have kept the app open all day and still no requests have come. It's pointless to cruise around the city searching for rides spending on petrol," said M. Bhavani, an auto driver.

Photo shows a number of autorickshaws waiting near Ranganathan Street, T. Nagar for fares but many drivers said that they are not earning enough even to cover fuel cost.

"For the last four days, the roads have been deserted. I can carry two passengers with

Anbazhagan passes away



By Our Staff Reporter

DMK Legislator J. Anbazhagan, who was undergoing treatment for COVID-19 in Dr. Rela Institute & Medical Centre (Chrompet) passed away on June 10 which was, incidentally, his birthday.

He was admitted in the hospital on June 2 with acute respiratory distress syndrome, and was on continuous ventilator support.

He was actively involved in DMK's 'Ondrinaivom Vaa' initiative to provide relief material for people in distress due to the pandemic.

He was 62 years old.

Anbazhagan was first elected to the assembly in 2001 from T. Nagar constituency and from Chepauk-Tiruvallikeni seat in 2011 and 2016.

The death of Anbazhagan has reduced the DMK's strength in the assembly to 97.

Anbazhagan was the first legislator in the state to have contracted coronavirus.

His body was buried at Kannamapettai crematorium in the presence of scores of party workers and family members while police and civic authorities had a tough time regulating crowd.

He is survived by wife, a son and a daughter.

112 teams to check home isolation cases

By Our Staff Reporter

With the continuing daily spurt in coronavirus cases, 112 mobile medical teams from various district health units have arrived in the city to monitor the people put under home isolation.

The teams comprise doctors and paramedical staff.

They will report to the City Health Officer, Corporation.

Each team will be assigned a particular area every day.

City receives moderate rains

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai received moderate rains on the night of June 11.

More rains are expected due to the southeast monsoon wind, said N. Puvirasan (Director, Regional Metrological Centre).

The partly cloudy skies during the day brought down the maximum temperature by around 3 degrees Celsius to 34.4 degrees on June 11.

Puncture shop on new bench on Theyagaraya Road



By Our Staff Reporter

One of the concrete benches installed on the pavement of Theyagaraya Road in T. Nagar as part of the Smart City project has been converted into a makeshift puncture shop.

Jewel of an idea!



By Our Staff Reporter

GR Thanga Maligai (GRT) is perhaps the only showroom in the city which seems to have no faith in hand sanitisers and trusts only handwash probably believing that handwash is the ultimate.

While the other shops on Usman Road, T. Nagar spray a sanitiser on the hands of customers before they enter the premises, GRT has gone to great lengths to make

arrangements to utilize only handwash.

It has installed a prefabricated touch-free hand washing station outside the shop which is operated with a foot pedal.

A container with handwash has been placed alongside.

This is also operated with a foot pedal to dispense handwash which can be used to cleanse the hands. Tissue paper has been provided to

wipe the hands after rinsing in the wash basin.

The whole process is completed with the customer dropping the used tissue paper in a wastepaper basket.

You guessed right - the lid of the wastepaper basket is also lifted by operating a foot pedal!

A customer to the shop is directed to the setup to follow the step-by-step procedure. Of course, social distancing is also followed.

Work apace on pillars for skywalk project



By Our Staff Reporter

Work on constructing pillars for the skywalk project to connect Mambalam Railway Station and T. Nagar bus terminus is apace. Workers seen busy in the vegetable market site on Railway Border, T. Nagar adjoining the railway station.

The few shops which were demolished to facilitate construction work will be reconstructed, an official said.

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Offer by Eswaran Coffee

By Our Staff Reporter

Eswaran Coffee (Station Road, opposite Lingam Coffee) is offering extra 50 gms. on purchase of 500 gms. and extra 100 gms. on purchase of 1-kg. of coffee powder.

The price of coffee powder is Rs. 400 for 1 kg.

According to its proprietor, it sources export quality coffee seeds from Chickmagalur, Karnataka.

He said that free home delivery is available for orders of 500 gms. and more.

It also sells Thanjavur Iyer special homemade vathal, vadam, pickle and appalam.

Its phone numbers are 89397 48053 / 54.

City-based entrepreneur makes low-cost ventilator

By Our Staff Reporter

With the need for ventilators increasing due to the surge in coronavirus cases, Krishna Kumar (a technocrat-cum-entrepreneur in Chennai) has designed a low-cost ventilator.

He is the Founder of Kriti Kare, which produces low-cost ventilators.

"There are three models of ventilators available on the market at present; of these, the ACUvent is what is largely required now, as it is what is



used for those with severe COVID-19," he explained.

In the market, the cost of currently available ventilators ranges from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs, depending on the type of ventilator and the manufacturer who produces them. Krishna Kumar's company however sells ventilators at Rs. 2 lakhs.

"It is designed in a manner so that it doesn't take up a lot of space and can also be loaded onto an ambulance for emergencies. It uses oxygen gas blended with air from the environment to provide 50 to 100 percent oxygen delivery to the individual requiring it for support", he said.

He said that the demand has outstripped the manufacturing limitation of 50 ventilators a month.

So he has now tied up with Ashok Leyland to augment production capacity.

Canal cleaned following report in Mambalam Times

By Our Staff Reporter



Before



After

Following the report 'Floating garbage impedes flow in canal' published in Mambalam Times (May 9-15 issue), workers removed the garbage from the canal along North Road (West CIT Nagar) recently.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BSNL leaves customers frustrated

Sir, We are residents of an apartment in Rangan Street, T. Nagar. When our BSNL landlines went dead and broadband connections did not work we were a frustrated lot as repeated complaints evoked no response.

Elderly residents who use their landline phones to order medicines and groceries were the worst affected as they had to venture out to get their necessities. Repeated complaints to online customer care and even the head-office received no response. At last one person was assigned the job but did not turn up. Reason: he was far away and had submitted his resignation.

After repeated calls to 'customer care' we were told that no one was willing to enter our complex because of the fear of coronavirus. The problem was finally solved after 15 days after more attempts.

With BSNL becoming so customer-unfriendly and being least bothered about good service, it is no wonder that customers are abandoning BSNL in hordes. Service was already bad and the coronavirus situation has made it hit rock bottom. Residents of Shanmugapriya Apartments, Rangan Street, T. Nagar

Barricade invisible when dark



By Our Staff Reporter

A barricade placed near a small pit at the junction of West Road and 3rd Cross Street, West CIT Nagar, is invisible in the dark posing a threat to motorists.

Car lying on Chakrapani Street Extn.



By Our Staff Reporter

A car in broken down condition has been lying on Chakrapani Street Extension, West Mambalam near Five Lights for several months.

Lane closed to help cable laying NGO alleges misreporting of COVID-19 deaths in Chennai

By Our Staff Reporter

The number of COVID-19 deaths has been misreported in Chennai, revealed an inspection by Tamil Nadu's Department of Public Health (DPH) of death records maintained by the Corporation's health department.

A report in the The Times of India stated that 460 persons had died of COVID-19 in the city till June 8, which is more than double the number, 224 deaths, as announced.

The team found that the Corporation had recorded more deaths than the state registry, which changes the mortality rate due to coronavirus to 1.5% and not 0.7%, as reported by the state, said the report.

Meanwhile the NGO Arappor Iyakkam revealed that they had adequate evidence to prove that the number of COVID-19 deaths is being under-reported based on the records accessed from hospitals by its members.

Citing examples, Jayaraman (Convener) stated that the deaths of two aged COVID-19 patients in Stanley Medical College and Hospital on May 28 and May 31 were not listed under COVID-19 deaths.

"We have sent a complaint backed with evidence, to the health secretary to look into the matter at the earliest and ensure complete transparency in the process," he said.

A report also stated that over 20 COVID-19 deaths recorded by the railway hospital in Perambur were also not reported to the state nodal office.

Replying to the allegation from different quarters, Health Minister Vijayabhaskar stated that the ministry has been transparent and they had no 'intention of hiding' anything.

He said that the special committee formed to investigate these allegations will present its report soon.

CM warns of action against schools

By Our Staff Reporter

In a press meet held on June 11 in Salem, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami said that some private schools in the state were collecting fees from the parents during the lockdown period.

"We are requesting the parents and the public to lodge complaints against such schools. We will take strict action against such schools," he said.

Garbage dumped under flyover



By Our Staff Reporter

Garbage is being dumped under the Bazullah Road flyover in T. Nagar and remains uncleared for several days.

Residents said that garbage collected from nearby streets is being dumped here.

Axed tree branches dumped on road margin



By Our Staff Reporter

The axed branches of a tree have been dumped on the road margin on Srinivasa Street, West Mambalam.

They block the carriageway causing obstruction to pedestrians and motorists.



By Our Staff Reporter

Usman Road Service lane in T. Nagar has been closed at Ramasamy Street end to facilitate cable laying work in Mahalakshmi Street.

Homoeo medicine distributed



By Our Staff Reporter

Maruthi Agency (Bharat Petroleum Corporation agent, 1st Avenue, Ashok Nagar) organised distribution of Arsenicum Album 30C, a homeopathic medicine recommended as an immunity booster, among members of the public last week.

The program was inaugurated by Arun Kandikonda (Deputy Manager, Sales, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Chennai Territory, South).

Dr. Sandhyakalidas (member, Dr. Koppikar Foundation for Homeopathy, Manassa Homoeo Health Care) outlined the steps to be followed to take the medicine.

Interstate wedding held on Tamilnadu-Kerala border



By Our Staff Reporter

Robinson (a native of Coimbatore) and Priyanka (a resident of Munnar in Idukki) got married on the Tamilnadu-Kerala border in Idukki on June 7.

The wedding was conducted on the road in front of the Excise checkpost in Chinnar (Idukki). The forest officials at the checkpost rolled out a cloth mat as the mandapam on the road, in front of the checkpost office, and arranged other items like lamp and fruits on it.

To ensure physical distancing protocol, the families of the bride and the groom were asked to stand away from the couple.

The wedding was arranged on the border as it was not possible for all family members to get interstate passes.

As seen in the pictures, the couple also had some uninvited friends, a small troop of monkeys.

Udavum Karangal helps 3 elderly persons suffering in isolation

By Our Staff Reporter

Udavum Karangal has extended help to a family of three elderly persons living in abject poverty, and in isolation and poor health in the city.

Indra Priyadarshini (60) who is living with her mother Rajalakshmi (85) and uncle (75) sent a video of their sufferings with an appeal to Udavum Karangal.

For Indra, life has been a struggle for over 15 years after her father passed away. As she has been bed-ridden for over 4 decades due to paralysis, her uncle, a widower, joined them and they managed to pull on.

But after her uncle got afflicted with Hansen's disease, her aged mother was forced to earn a living by selling appalams door-to-door. She added that her immediate family members too are not able to help them due to financial constraints.

Mohan (Social Worker, Udavum Karangal) was appalled to see the pathetic condition in which the three were living in a shanty.

They were in an emaciated state due to lack of regular food. The lockdown had only



worsened their situation.

The NGO has taken steps to alleviate their suffering by improving their living condition and providing food on a daily basis. All the three have also been provided the necessary medical care.

A nurse visits their house daily and to take care of their health. Vidyaakar (Founder) said that a whole family would

have decayed in front of the community if no one had reached them.

Every member of the family was a senior citizen and affected by some disease.

All were travelling in the same boat of tragedy and it was the SOS call from Indra which gave Udavum Karangal an opportunity to provide them a life of dignity.

Online Carnatic music classes

By Our Staff Reporter

Vijayalakshmi (Founder, Vijayakalalaya, 11/5, Raju Street, West Mambalam) plans to start conducting weekend online Carnatic music classes soon.

Navagraha krithis of Muthuswamy Dikshithar (9 songs on 9 planets) will be taught.

More details can be had from her in 98844 84860.

Corporation to reconcile COVID-19 deaths

Corporation has started reconciliation of COVID-19 death figures in the city.

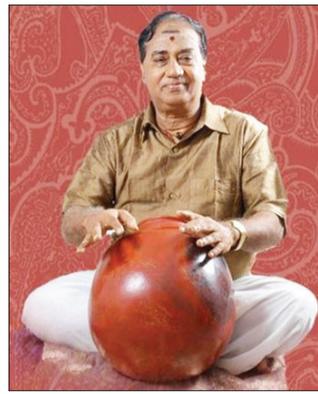
An expert committee has been constituted and it will go into the details of the data submitted by the Corporation.

The move came following discrepancies noticed in the toll after it was found that deaths in individual homes due to the virus were being under reported.

The Corporation will submit the data of COVID-19-related deaths from all its burial grounds in the city from March to the committee and intimate it daily henceforth.

As per its records, up to June 10, the death toll in the city was 260 and the death rate in the state is about 0.8 per cent.

Ghatam vidwan Subash Chandran passes away



By Our Staff Reporter

Renowned ghatam and konnakkol vidwan T. H. Subash Chandran (a resident of West Mambalam) passed away on June 5.

He was 74, and had been a longtime resident of West Mambalam.

He hailed from a family of percussionists and was the recipient of many awards and titles including Asthana Vidwan of Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt.

His elder brother is the famous percussionist and ghatam player 'Vikku' Vinayakram.

Subhash Chandran is survived by his wife Geetha, a daughter and a son.

Chief Minister clarifies on COVID-19 death figures

By Our Staff Reporter

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on June 11 denied everyday," insisted the Chief Minister.

hiding the actual number of deaths due to coronavirus. He further listed figures of the number of people who have

He claimed that it was impossible to suppress such figures and maintained that the state continues to have the lowest mortality rate in the country.

The Chief Minister's clarification comes a day after reports suggested that 236 additional deaths due to COVID-19 have not been reported by the state government.

"If people die of coronavirus, it can't be hidden. The government gets nothing from hiding these figures. We have been open and been giving all statistics. Our health department is giving data on samples tested, active cases and several other criteria. We

A reconciliation process to examine mortuary records, burial reports and cremation ground data is currently underway to correct any mistakes in reporting deaths.

Sealed buildings to be used as COVID-19 wards

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has decided to take over buildings which have been sealed for violation of norms to create COVID-19 treatment wards and isolation centers.

It has so far taken over 4 such buildings in the city including 4 floors of a hospital in Shenoy Nagar.

An official said that each building can accommodate around 120 to 150 beds.

The decision was taken following a spurt in the number of daily cases.



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Pesticides sprayed in Umapathy Street



By Our Staff Reporter

Corporation workers sprayed pesticides in Umapathy Street, West Mambalam on June 11.

Coronavirus can kill the young also, warn doctors

By Our Staff Reporter

On June 7, six individuals who tested positive for coronavirus in Tamilnadu, died despite having no underlying health factors.

A day later, three more individuals with no other underlying condition succumbed to the virus.

An analysis put out on June 8 by the Tamilnadu Health Department showed that out of 252 deaths that were recorded during this period, at least 47 COVID-19 patients or over 18.65% died despite having no medical condition.

Six patients were in the 30-39 age group and 8 in the 40-49. 21 of these were senior citizens who did not report any co-morbid factors.

Dr. V. Ramasubramanian (Infectious Diseases Specialist, Apollo Hospitals) points out that COVID-19 is like any other infectious disease and can be fatal for even those who are fit and healthy, though the percentage will be very small.

He warned that healthy persons who catch the virus should follow all medical advice to avoid complications.

He added that another risk with healthy individuals is being asymptomatic till the infection suddenly takes a serious turn in a short period making recovery that much more difficult.

So he advises people to be cautious and follow all safety protocols when moving out.

“Better to be safe than regret” said Dr. Robin (Director, Robin Hospitals, Anna Nagar).

“Those who are symptomatic should report earlier, and get treatment irrespective of age and health. Some of the leading causes of death among a majority of COVID-19 patients who had no pre-existing conditions, is respiratory failure, and pneumonia,” he said.

Dr. Nalini from Mogappair said that coronavirus has an affinity for the lungs. She said smoking strains the lungs and, under the present pandemic condition, could prove fatal if one catches the virus irrespective of the health condition. She also warned those working in chemical factories to be extra cautious.

Government teachers to assist in coronavirus-related counselling

By Our Staff Reporter

With no specific work left after the Tamilnadu government cancelled the board exams for Std. 10, teachers in government-run schools in the city will turn counselling professionals for coronavirus patients and the public to deal with COVID-19 related issues.

The order, given by the School Education Department on June 10, has surprised several thousand teachers working in government and government-aided schools across Chennai.

A senior official from the Directorate of School Education said that as the teachers do not have much work in government schools without students, they have been asked to report to their respective educational zonal offices.

“More than 30 teachers will be deployed in each zone to attend calls and give counselling not only to coronavirus patients, but also clear doubts raised by members of the general public regarding the disease,” he said adding that the teachers will be working in shifts 8 a.m to 2 p.m and 2 p.m to 8 p.m regularly

He said that about 10,000 teachers will be involved as of now for which short training sessions will be conducted.

According to the official, the counselling work for the teachers includes creating awareness among the people about the implication of the pandemic, social distancing and the fine payable for not wearing face masks.

Post lockdown, many take to gardening



By Our Staff Reporter

Among the various hobbies turned to during the lockdown, gardening has emerged a sustainable one.

“I got into gardening a month back. It is a very therapeutic experience for me. Amid all of the chaos going around, it is an activity that calms me and gives a moment of quiet,” said N. Anjana (a local resident).

“I used vegetables from the kitchen for seeds and kitchen waste as manure and soil, after watching some youtube videos”, she said.

“I purchased a full kit from the Horticulture Department and have started a small terrace garden,” said A. Radha (a resident of Lake View Road, West Mambalam).

For those already having terrace gardens like C. Mythreyi, they are reaping the benefit by growing their own produce.

She grows brinjals, green chillies, tomatoes, radish, lettuce, ladies’finger, cucumber and many more vegetable varieties and greens in her terrace garden.

“I nowadays buy only onions and potatoes. Watching these plants grow is also a stress buster for me, especially during the lockdown. It gives one a sense of peace and contentment,” she said.

Corpn to promote bicycles for commuting



By Our Staff Reporter

With COVID-19 making people vexed with public transport, the Corporation has decided to use this as an opportunity to push people to switch to cycling.

The urban governing body is planning to deploy around 5,000 bicycles across the city in an attempt to encourage people to use bicycles more.

As a part of the Smart City project, around 1,000 bicycles were deployed across 50 locations in the city, which will be further extended, said an official.

We have identified around 500 spots where 10 bicycles each will be deployed in the next 3 months, he said.

The payment for hiring the cycles will be processed through UPI apps.

Doctors suspect new strain of coronavirus

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the death of Dr. R. Balasubramanian (a resident of Kilpauk) due to coronavirus, doctors who attended on him suspect that a different strain of the novel coronavirus could be affecting patients in the city.

They said that an individual initially responds well to treatment but the health condition suddenly deteriorates leading to death, as was seen in the case of the doctor.

They added that in the past week, several such cases have been reported across hospitals in Chennai.

According to a senior doctor in Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, earlier the virus was infecting elderly people with comorbid conditions. Now it is affecting the young. The status is worrisome.

“That is why we requested the state government for designated COVID-19 hospitals and allotment of 25% of the beds in private hospitals for COVID-19 treatment so that both facility and manpower can be pooled to treat such serious cases,” he said.

Job portal for skilled returnees to Tamilnadu

By Our Staff Reporter

To help skilled returnees from other states and abroad, Tamilnadu government has started the job portal www.tnskill.tn.gov.in.

They can register in this portal.

It will help to bridge the gap created by lakhs of workers who have returned to other states from Tamilnadu.

IIT Madras tops rankings 5th time in a row

By Our Staff Reporter

For the fifth year in a row, IIT-Madras has been ranked the number one engineering institute in the country according to the Human Resources and Development Ministry’s National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings announced on June 11.

A total of 3,771 universities and higher educational institutions across the country participated in the ranking process. The ranking framework evaluates institutions on five broad generic groups of parameters — teaching, learning and resources (TLR), research and professional practice (RP), graduation outcomes (GO), outreach and inclusivity (OI) and perception (PR).

The ranks are given on the basis of the sum total of marks assigned for each of these five broad groups of parameters.

IIT Madras was followed by IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay.

Anna University is ranked 9th, down by two places from last year’s ranking.

If anything interesting is happening in your neighbourhood please inform Mambalam Times.

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Free masks for ration card holders
 By Our Staff Reporter

The Tamilnadu government plans to supply cloth masks free of cost to the families of all ration card holders as a containment measure to stop the spread of coronavirus.

A 7-member rate fixation committee will look into procurement of the masks for distribution at all the ration shops.

As per the data maintained by the Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, there are a total of 2,08,23,076 ration card holders in the state, with 6,74,15,899 family members.

Based on this, the government has estimated that 13,48,31,789 cloth masks need to be procured on the basis of 2 masks per person.

No more exemption on plastic for pre-packaged items
 By Our Staff Reporter

The Tamilnadu government has repealed the previously granted exemption to manufacturers of packaged food that allowed them to manufacture and distribute their pre-packaged food items like biscuits and chips in plastic packing material.

This order came into effect on June 5.

It had banned the use of single use plastic items last year.

However, among exemptions that continue to be in place are plastic used for packing milk and milk products, oil, medicine, medical equipment and plastic carry bags manufactured exclusively on export orders in a Special Economic Zone and export-oriented units.

Tamilnadu police 2nd highest in corona cases pan India
 By Our Staff Reporter

The city police on June 9 disclosed that the number of coronavirus positive cases within the department has crossed 500.

As on June 11, 523 police personnel have tested positive.

An officer in the rank of Asst Commissioner is also among the latest 20 new cases reported on June 10 and 11.

Tamilnadu police now ranks 2nd in the list of police departments with the most number of cases after Maharashtra.

While the state police department has reported 560 cases, more than 3,000 Maharashtra police department personnel have tested positive.

Sources said that 184 personnel have returned to work after treatment so far.

Meanwhile, the number of affected persons in the State police headquarters alone stood at 30 on June 9.

New data shows higher city mortality rate
 By Our Staff Reporter

According to Corporation figures, the mortality rate in the city due to COVID-19 was 1 percent as on June 10.

Till May 31, the mortality as reported by the officials, was hovering around 0.7 percent and 0.8 percent.

30 percent of the recent cases have died within a few hours of admission to hospital.

Of the total of 25,937 positive cases reported so far in the city, 260 had died, as per records.

As the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) has decided to crossverify the deaths, the city's mortality rate is expected to increase further.

Also, the surge in cases reported recently has also resulted in a slump in the overall recovery rate.

The recovery rate has dropped from 51.8% as on June 4 to 46.2% on June 10.

Among the 15 zones in the city, the highest number of deaths has been reported from Royapuram zone, with 52 deaths so far.

Thiru Vi Ka Nagar and Teynampet zones have registered 43 and 37 deaths respectively.

Reactions vary on scrapping of Std. 10 exams
 By Our Staff Reporter

The cancellation of Std. 10 board exams has brought in varying views from students and teachers.

As the evaluation has been left to the performance based on quarterly and half-yearly results, some students who did not do well said that they had got a raw deal.

"I could not do well in the school exams, but prepared hard for the board exams. Now with he exams scrapped, I am going to get a low score and possibly no choice to choose the group I want to study," said Bhargavi (a student in Sarada Vidyalaya, West Mambalam). Another student said that he could not attend the half-yearly exams due to health issues and is now confused how the evaluation will be done as there has been no clarity on this aspect.

Similar is the fate of private students who do not attend school and only write the final exams.

The Education Department

3.5 lakh in vulnerable persons list
 By Our Staff Reporter

According to a statement released by Chennai Corporation on June 10, there are 3,47,380 persons in the city who could fall victim to COVID-19.

They include pregnant women, persons with comorbidities and elderly persons.

"The civic body has deployed Anganwadi workers, Corporation nurses and others to monitor the health of the identified persons regularly," the statement said.

Corporation workers, assisted by Helpage India, are contacting 100 senior citizens each in the city every day to get updates on their health condition and also to provide assistance. Doctors have been appointed to contact persons under home quarantine every day for 14 days.

Meanwhile, the civic body has decided to increase the number of fever camps in the city to 200 from the present 100. Fever camps are being conducted in containment areas to identify persons with influenza-like illness so that patients could be identified at the earliest.

It has indicated that they might conduct exams for these private students in July or August.

Some schools that have already started planning the mode for Std. 11 admission and said that they would take the aptitude of children into account while allotting groups.

Though there was immense pressure on the State Government to postpone the exams, it chose instead to scrap it them without providing proper clarity on evaluation. This is going to lead to a lot of confusion and possible panic among the parents and the students, said a local school Principal.

V. Shanthi (Headmistress, Vidyodaya Girls School, T. Nagar) said that some students missed half-yearly exams due to their participation in sports events. "We don't know what marks to give them. We are waiting for guidelines from the government," she added.

Bodies of two babies found near dustbins

The bodies of two newborn babies were found abandoned near dustbins in different parts of city on June 10.

The bodies had been mauled by stray dogs.

The incidents created panic in Raghavan Salai in Perambur and Mummoothy Nagar in Chrompet.

In Perambur, a resident who was walking back to his house found a pack of dogs fighting over something wrapped in a plastic cover placed very close to a garbage bin on the roadside. He checked and found it was the body of a baby.

Similarly, in Chrompet, passers-by spotted a pack of dogs fighting near a dustbin and found the body of an infant left there.

The police also collecting records from nearby hospitals to locate the parents.

Online scholarship exam for Std. 9 and 11 students

By Our Staff Reporter

Velammal IIT and NEET Academy (Mogappair) will jointly conduct an online scholarship exam on June 17, 24 and 28 for Std. 9 and Std. 11 students.

The exams are open to students from all schools.

According to a faculty member, the scholarship exam is being held to help deserving students with admission and to motivate them to take up competitive exams like IIT and NEET with confidence.

For more details and registration, visit the website www.velammalnexus.com or call 73583 90402.

State's COVID-19 tally crosses 40,000, recoveries at 54%

By Our Staff Reporter

Though the total number of COVID-19 cases in Tamilnadu touched 40,698 as on June 12, on the green side, the number of patients who have been discharged till date after getting cured stood at 22,047, a healthy 54%.

On June 12, 1342 persons across the state were discharged.

The number of active cases including those who are in home quarantine is 18,281.

The State is now averaging close to 2,000 cases daily since June 6.

Chennai continues to be the major contributor at close to 80% of the daily cases.

On June 12, of the 1,982 new cases, 1,477 cases were from the city.

The city has also accounted for 294 of the 367 Covid fatalities in the state.

Radhakrishnan returns as Health Secretary

By Our Staff Reporter

The Tamilnadu government on June 5 transferred Health Secretary Beela Rajesh and brought back J. Radhakrishnan.

The order comes at a time when Tamilnadu has seen over 38,000 cases of COVID-19 across the state with Chennai accounting for 27,000 patients.

She has been transferred and posted as Secretary to Government (Commercial Taxes and Registration Department).

Radhakrishnan will continue to hold the post of Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Revenue Administration in full additional charge until further orders.

As a special nodal officer, he was overseeing the lockdown measures.

Son drives 1,000 km. to fetch drug to save father

Joel Pinto was forced to make a hurried 1,000-km. up and down trip to Hyderabad to fetch a medicine that had run out of stock in the State to save his father who is undergoing treatment for COVID-19 in a private hospital in the city.

When doctors prescribed the patented drug Tocilizumab to cure his father, he found after running from pillar to post that it had run out of stock in all shops 15 days back.

As his father's condition was deteriorating, and the drug was the only hope, according to the doctors, he finally managed to locate a distributor in Hyderabad.

As the courier could not guarantee delivery within 24 hours, he decided to drive down to fetch the medicine priced at Rs. 90,000 per strip.

Water table improves in city

By Our Staff Reporter

Owing to reduced industrial and commercial activities post lockdown, the groundwater levels in various parts of the city have increase by 1 to 3 meters.

Perungudi zone saw the highest increase in ground water table (2.93m).

While ground water was available at a depth of 8.37m last May, it now stands at a depth of 5.44m.

Further, Adyar and Alandur zones also witnessed the groundwater level rise by over two meters.

In zones like Kodambakkam, Royapuram and Thiruvika Nagar which usually witness water shortage during most summers, the water level rose by 1.17m, 1.11m and 0.90m respectively.

Though the groundwater level has risen by a meter in Ambattur zone, it is the lowest among all the zones in the city.

The augmenting and installation of rain water harvesting systems in apartment complexes/homes after the drought last year has also helped in the recharge of the groundwater table.

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