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Vol. 26, No. 5

1305th Issue: June 21 - 27, 2020

FREE

Police Inspector succumbs to Covid-19

By Our Staff Reporter

Balamurali (Inspector (L & O), Mambalam) succumbed to Covid-19 on June 17.

He tested positive on June 5, and was quarantined at Mahanadhi Hostel (IIT-Madras)

This is the first incident of a police official succumbing to coronavirus in the State.

When Balamurali's condition worsened, he was transferred



Over 2 lakh cases expected in city by July end

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai will have more than two lakh people with COVID-19 by the end of July, and will need 40,000 more beds and 2,000 more ventilators, says an internal assessment of the Tamilnadu government.

Chennai, where every fifth sample tested has returned positive, has an infection rate higher than the state's and the nation's and will continue to be the worst hit.

Officials in the COVID-19 control room, meanwhile, said that they are ramping up bed capacity, setting up oxygen pipelines and organising ventilators besides getting doctors, nurses and paramedics ready for all the secondary and tertiary care facilities.

The study has estimated that the infection growth rate in the city will be about 5%, but may double in other districts like Sivaganga which are beginning to see an upsurge.

District collectors have been asked to look for educational institutions, large auditoriums and marriage halls to set up COVID-19 care centers similar to the one in Chennai Trade Centre.

Patients admitted to these centers have mild or no symptoms.

23,965 active COVID-19 cases in Tamilnadu as on June 18

By Our Staff Reporter

Though the total number of COVID-19 cases in Tamilnadu crossed 50,000 to reach 52,334 on June 18, the number of active cases was less than 50% at 23,965.

While 625 persons (1.2%) have died of the infection, 27,744 (53%) have been discharged.

Chennai had 16,882 active cases as on June 18, which is 70% of the total active cases in the state.

The total number of persons tested in the state till June 18 was 7.63 lakhs.

காஞ்சி ஸ்ரீ மஹா பெரியவா அருளாசியால் ஜாதகம் துல்லியமாக எழுதி தரப்படும். ஜாதக பலன்கள் மற்றும் தோஷ பரிசீலனைகள், திருமணப் பொருத்தங்கள் பார்த்து தரப்படும்.

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to General Hospital on June 8.

On June 13, doctors informed higher officials in the police department that Balamurali's condition was critical.

Following that, Commissioner A.K. Viswanathan and other officials stepped up and stood guarantee to buy a crucial drug which was not easily available. It is said that three doses of the injection cost about Rs 2.25 lakhs and a separate medical crew monitored him.

But he passed away on June 17.

After getting a degree in engineering, Balamurali joined the police department as a Sub-Inspector in 2000 and was

promoted as an Inspector in 2010. He has served as an inspector in Neelankarai, K.K. Nagar and Mambalam police stations.

It is said that his name was on the list of police officials soon to be promoted as Assistant Commissioner.

He is survived by his wife Kavita, daughter Harshavardhi (16) and son Nishanth (13).

A floral tribute was paid to the portrait of the deceased in Mambalam police station on June 18.

731 police personnel have so far tested positive in the city, and 330 of them have been discharged after treatment.

Free online coaching for NEET exam

By Our Staff Reporter

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, on June 16, inaugurated the free online coaching for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for Std. 12 students in Tamilnadu.

The Department of School Education has tied up with Amphisoft Technologies (E-box) to provide the coaching services.

The classes are held everyday for four hours, followed by four hours of practice tests in Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology.

Apart from this, the coaching sessions will also have mock tests, unit tests and revision tests for the students to test their skill to face NEET.

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Arya Gowda Road under containment following surge in cases



By Our Staff Reporter

After over 25 COVID-19 cases were reported from the lanes off Arya Gowda Street (West Mambalam) on June 14, shops there have been ordered to shut down till June 30.

As the area surrounding the street is congested, closing down the shops was an important move to stop further spread of the pandemic, said an official.

Police and Corporation officials inspected the stretch on June 15.

They made announcements through PA systems requesting the shop owners to down shutters.

According to an official, a similar measure was adopted in the housing board quarters in Brindavan Street, a few meters off Arya Gowda Road.

Arya Gowda Road comes under Zone-10 (Kodambakkam).

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Signs on COVID-19 on Amma canteen wall



By Our Staff Reporter

Signs about coronavirus painted on the wall of the Amma canteen on North Usman Road, T. Nagar near New Boag Road.

Images of Gods on Metrowater office wall



By Our Staff Reporter

Images of Gods and saints have been painted on the compound wall of the Metrowater Zone office on Muthukrishna Street, T. Nagar to discourage people from dumping garbage and passerby from urinating near the wall

Corporation workers have placed garbage bins outside the office.

Rotarians donate advanced laproscopy system to PHC



By Our Staff Reporter

G. Chandramohan (Rotary District Governor 3232), Bhavesh Sha (President, Rotary Club of Madras Midtown) and other Rotary members donated a HD Laproscopy CMOS chip camera system worth Rs. 34.5 lakhs to Public Health Centre, West Mambalam on June 18.

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Fever clinics organised in 14 Corporation Zones

By Our Staff Reporter

10,541 persons were screened for COVID-19 symptoms on June 14 in the 203 fever camps organised in 14 of the 15 Corporation zones (except Alandur).

Of them, 392 were identified with influenza-like illness.

On June 15, the civic body conducted 483 fever clinics in which thousands of residents participated.

In the fever clinics camps, the doctors check the symptoms and give tablets and medicines to persons with mild symptoms.

Dog on scooter



By Our Staff Reporter

This photo of a dog being transported on a scooter perched between the two riders was clicked at 1st Avenue-2nd Avenue junction in Ashok Nagar on June 17.

Garbage dumped on Jubilee Road



By Our Staff Reporter

Garbage has been dumped surrounding the overflowing bin on Jubilee Road (West Mambalam) near Rajaji Street. The bin which is kept closer to the middle of the road, blocks the way for motorists. The garbage also blocks the usable width of the carriageway.

The nearby residents told this reporter that the putrefying garbage is a serious health hazard, added on to the existing coronavirus pandemic.

They have appealed to the Corporation officials to clear the garbage immediately and reposition the garbage bin closer to the road margin.

Railway workers repair overhead cables



By Our Staff Reporter

Railway workers busy repairing cables above the track near Mambalam Station on June 17.

Road blocks lead to traffic congestion



By Our Staff Reporter

There was heavy traffic during peak hours at Station Road-Lake View Road junction in West Mambalam on June 18 due to many streets being closed to traffic after reporting increase in COVID-19 cases.

Apartment under quarantine after 2 residents test positive



An apartment building in West Mambalam put under containment as two residents there tested positive for COVID-19.

Corp'n deploys more test kits to meet demand

By Our Staff Reporter

Due to the spiralling of new cases every day, the Corporation has deployed 10,000 infrared thermal scanners and 1,000 pulse oximeters for COVID-19 testing by its medical staff, said an official release on June 18.

Health staff will be going door-to-door and checking residents for fever and oxygen levels during daily visits, the release said.

Patients who have contracted COVID-19 show a decrease in blood oxygen level resulting in sudden death.

If any residents are found to have a high temperature or low blood oxygen count, they will be sent to any of the 680 medical camps in the city for treatment.

The 1,000 pulse oximeters will be used in the worst-affected Tondiarpet and Royapuram zones as of now.

Rise in cases in Mambalam worries Kodambakkam residents

By Our Staff Reporter

The rise in number of patient, the street was COVID-19 cases in West Mambalam in a single day on since been revised.

June 15 has raised concerns among the residents of zone is Tondiarpet with 24 Kodambakkam and parts of T. streets, followed by Nagar which fall under Sholinganallur zone with only Kodambakkam Zone. four streets. Royapuram now

This zone currently has the highest number of designated as containment zones. Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar and

Despite the Royapuram Teynampet zones have three zone having more than 5,200 COVID-19 positive cases, the Ambattur and Perungudi Kodambakkam zone has the highest number of containment streets each.

Seven zones including streets of the total of 95 Tirvottiyur, Manali, and containment zones declared by Madhavaram in north Chennai Corporation. Chennai, and

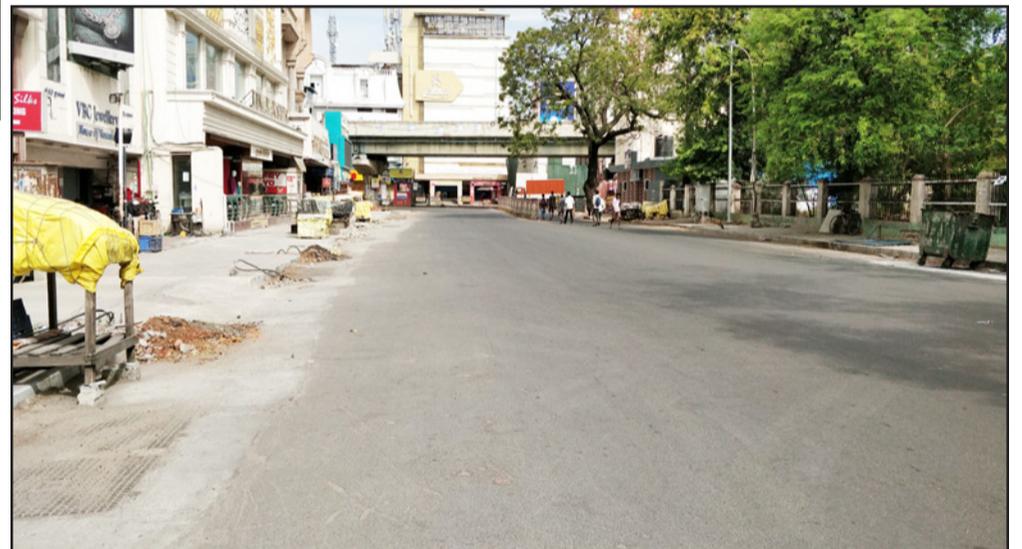
An official said that any Valasaravakkam, Alandur street which has more than 5 and Adyar zones in south COVID-19 cases would be Chennai, do not have any designated as a containment zones.

zone and the entire street would Anna Nagar zone in west be closed. Previously, even if Chennai has no barricaded there was one COVID-19 street.

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Roads deserted as 12-day lockdown begins



By Our Staff Reporter

All the main roads in the commercial hub of the neighbourhood were deserted on the 1st day of the intense lockdown on June 19.

The photo shows Nageswara Road presenting an empty look with no vehicles and all shops closed.

Police block links to main roads to curb lockdown violation



By Our Staff Reporter

To prevent motorists coming on to main roads defying prohibitory orders and escaping through inner lanes, police have identified and blocked may of these 'short cuts'.

This, the law enforcers believe, will force motorists and others to take main roads where they can be stopped and booked if the reason for stepping out of their homes is found to be frivolous.

In this regard, Motilal Street, T. Nagar has been barricaded at both ends.

Online Bhakta Prahalad course for children

By Our Staff Reporter

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) will conduct its year-long 'Bhakta Prahalad' course for children in the age group of 6-12 years from Monday, June 22.

Similarly a bhakti course will also be held for students in the age group of 13-17 years.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the classes will be conducted online and both the courses are titled 'BhaktE-Zone'.

The topic this year for the younger children is based on mystical mountains.

They will learn the intriguing stories of ten sacred mountains such as Kailash, Simhachalam and Govardhan.

They will also be taught

bhajans, Bhagavad Gita slokas, mantra meditation, arts and crafts, fun games, cultural and social activities.

For elder students, the topic is 'The Great Teachers'. They will learn about the Saptarishis and Acharyas.

Other activities include debates, group discussions, role play and more.

The online classes will be held once a week for 90 minutes in English and Tamil using the video conferencing software 'Google Classrooms' for posting the lessons, videos and audios.

Trained teachers with several years of experience will handle the classes. For more details and to register, contact Mohana in 92821 57776 or Varuna in 97899 21942.

Schools struggle to retrieve Std. 10 answer sheets

By Our Staff Reporter

Schools are trying to retrieve answer sheets for quarterly and half-yearly exams of Std. 10 students following the directive of the Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE) to submit records including evaluated answer scripts.

To prevent malpractice and inflation of marks by schools, the DGE on June 16 asked headmasters to submit records including progress report, mark registers and answer sheets for half-yearly and quarterly exams.

With board exams being cancelled, marks from these exams will carry 80% weightage while attendance will make up the rest 20%.

But, since board exams are conducted by the government, most schools have returned the scripts to students.

"After the exams, we evaluated the answer scripts and returned them to the students telling them where they need to improve. We are not sure how many have preserved them," said V. Shanthi (Headmistress of Vidhyodaya Girls Higher Secondary School, T. Nagar).

In view of the 12-day lockdown, the DGE has relaxed the submission deadline for schools in Chennai and neighbouring districts.

COVID-19 death toll crosses 600

By Our Staff Reporter

The number of deaths in Tamilnadu due to COVID-19 crossed the 600 mark to reach 625 on June 18.

With the state registering over 2,000 new cases of coronavirus for the second day in a row, 49 more died of the disease.

Chennai, with 1,373 new cases continued to rank top among districts, taking its cumulative tally to 37,070.

Former T. Nagar MLA tests positive

A week after the death of legislator and DMK leader J. Anbazhagan due to COVID-19, another DMK leader, V. P. Kalairajan (former T. Nagar MLA), has tested positive for coronavirus.

He is currently the Literary Wing secretary of the party.

Kalairajan was reportedly unwell and admitted to a private hospital in the city.

Kalairajan won the T. Nagar constituency as an AIADMK candidate in the 2006 and 2011 Assembly elections.

Checklist for total lockdown till June 30

By Our Staff Reporter

In view of the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Chennai and its surrounding districts of Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur are under total lockdown from June 19 to 30.

The State government has issued the following regulations on the services permitted and prohibited during these days:

- Hospitals, labs, medical shops, ambulances, hearse vehicles and other allied medical activities are permitted.
- Autos, taxis, private vehicles not allowed to ply. However, vehicles ferrying passengers to and from the airport and railway stations are allowed to operate. The e-pass issued to passengers is sufficient proof of permission.
- Shops selling vegetables and groceries including mobile outlets can operate from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Delivery apps like Big Basket and Dunzo are allowed to operate.
- Chennai Corporation has ordered closure of all slaughter houses and meat stalls in its limits from June 19 to 30. The ban will be applicable to online meat delivery services also.
- Milk and water supply vehicles are allowed to ply.
- Restaurants are allowed only parcel service from 6 a.m to 8 p.m. Food delivery services are allowed to function. Tea shops, however, are not permitted to operate.
- Amma canteens and community kitchens run by the government and local bodies will continue to function. Till June 30, food will be available for free in Amma canteens in the four districts.
- NGOs and voluntary organisations are allowed to provide relief after obtaining permission from authorities.
- Goods vehicles transporting essential commodities are allowed to ply.
- On two Sundays (June 21 and 28), total shutdown has been enforced. Only distribution of milk, and functioning of hospitals, ambulances, medical shops and hearse vehicles will be allowed.
- No activities will be allowed in containment zones. Rations to people living in these zones will be supplied through Public Distribution System (PDS) shops at their doors.
- Bank branches will be allowed to function from June 20 to 26 from 10 a.m to 2 p.m with minimal staff. However, direct services are not permitted during these days. Only transactions related to distributors and retailers of essential items will be allowed.
- Telecommunications and essential Information technology and information technology enabled services will be allowed to function with minimal staff. E-passes will be issued only to those employees mentioned in the list provided by the companies.
- Distribution of petroleum products and LPG cylinders will be permitted during this period.

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Exodus clogs checkpoints, toll plazas

By Our Staff Reporter

With thousands leaving the city to escape the total lockdown, the Vandalur checkpoint in Chengalpattu, Paralur Toll plaza in Kancheepuram and Sholavaram checkpoint in Tiruvallur were clogged with thousands of vehicles from June 15 to 18.

People on two-wheelers with children on petrol tanks and huge bags hung along the sides were seen heading for their home towns.

While the police were allowing only four-wheelers with e-passes to pass through, they allowed two-wheelers with children on them on 'humanitarian' grounds. "It looked like a massive exodus and I have never seen anything like this before," said a police constable.

At the Sholavaram checkpoint, as vehicles waited in long lines, the police also seized at least 100 two-wheelers from men who had gone to other districts to buy liquor and were entering without e-passes.

Similar scenes were seen in all the bordering districts as well.

In the city, there was not as much panic as was seen ahead of the previous lockdown since people had three days to prepare.

The shop owners and workers in supermarkets also said that people did not throng in bigger numbers as was expected.



Shops shut since June 16 on Arya Gowda Road



By Our Staff Reporter

All shop owners were ordered to down shutters from June 16 after more than 20 COVID-19 cases were reported in and around Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam.

OBITUARY

P. SUSEELA

P. Suseela (resident of D 43, 240, LIG Flats, 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) passed away on June 13.

She was 62, and a resident of Ashok Nagar for 36 years.

She is survived by her husband P. Narayanan (retired as Accounts Officer from Khivraj Motors), son Raghavendran and a grandchild.



R. SEETHARAMAN

R. Seetharaman (resident of Kavarai Street, West Mambalam) passed away on June 16.

He was 91, and had been a resident Mambalam for 50 years.

He was a priest in Kasi Viswanathar Temple (West Mambalam) for 5 years.

He was a motorbike fan and used to ride his vintage Rajdoot bike with ease even in his 90s.

He is survived by his wife Kamalam, 3 sons and a daughter. His family can be contacted in 2489 8944.



Flower traders appeal to reopen Koyambedu market

By Our Staff Reporter

More than 50 days after the Koyambedu wholesale market was shut, hundreds of flower vendors lament that they have not been able to do business. Traders have urged the government to provide a viable alternative place to continue their business or to reopen the market after disinfecting it.

Though CMDA officials have suggested alternative locations in Chrompet, Pallavaram and Tiruvanmiyur, the traders are reluctant to move.

They fear that they will lose their main customers from Parry's flower bazaar who contribute 80% of the daily business.

Amma canteens to provide free food till June 30

By Our Staff Reporter

Amma canteens in Chennai and the other three districts where the intense lockdown is in effect till June 30, will provide free food.

The government also provides food to elders, sick and destitute through community kitchens.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Metrowater pipeline in Vivekanandapuram 1st Street needs to be replaced

Sir, Due to the uneven layout of the underground pipeline 35 years back, very few houses in Vivekanandapuram 1st Street get metrowater in their hand pumps.

In February 2018, the residents submitted a petition to the Area Engineer (Zone-10, Division 135) requesting Metrowater to replace the pipeline, but there has been no response in spite of several reminders.

On June 8 this year, we submitted another petition to the Asst Engineer, but that too has evoked no response.

At times when we meet the officials in person, they just send some workers to clear the main line, but that does not solve problem.

We once again appeal to Metrowater officials to relay the 35-year-old pipeline in a proper manner so that all the residents get water in their sumps or at least hand pumps. **S. Murali (President, Vivekanandapuram 1st Street Residents' Welfare Association, West Mambalam)**

Sugar card holders deprived of Coronavirus relief

Sir, The of Tamilnadu Government is giving Rs.1,000 each per month since the lockdown began on March 24 to all rice card holders in the state.

However, it has deprived the sugar card holders of this benefit for reasons unknown.

There are lakhs of sugar card holders in the state who are not rich and have chosen the card to avail more sugar foregoing rice.

Holders of these cards do not enjoy any special benefits which can prompt the government to deny them doles.

I appeal to the government to extend all the benefits given to the rice card holders including the Rs.1,000 per month. **K. Krishnan, 56/14, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar. Ph: 98407 27935**

5,700 more beds in COVID-19 care centers

By Our Staff Reporter

According to Chennai Corporation data, 4,405 beds are available at the 18 COVID-19 care centers in educational institutions.

Apart from the existing number of beds, an additional 5,720 beds will be augmented to increase the total number of beds to 10,125 in institutional COVID-19 care centers.

Apart from educational institutions, COVID-19 care centers have been set up in convention centers and vacant Slum Board tenements. Overall, 13,000 beds will be ready.

According to an official, 80% of the positive patients without symptoms are put under home quarantine.

In another move to increase the number of beds, the civic body has decided to take over large buildings which have violated any norms.

AIADMK legislator, wife test positive for coronavirus

By Our Staff Reporter

After testing positive last week, AIADMK legislator K. Palani was admitted to a private hospital on the outskirts of the city.

Following this, the officials isolated 13 persons who were in close contact with him, including his family members.

After showing symptoms associated with coronavirus infection, on June 16, it was confirmed that his wife was also infected by the virus.

She was admitted to a private hospital.

Police intensify vehicle checking



By Our Staff Reporter

On the first day of intense lockdown in the city, most motorists stayed off the road. The intense lockdown will be in force in Chennai and parts of Tiruvallur, Chengelpet and Kanchipuram districts till June 30 to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The city police had announced that Anna Salai and Kamarajar Salai would be completely blocked during the intense lockdown period.

Police personnel have been deployed on many roads.

They have seized several vehicles.

Additional barricading work was undertaken on the city outskirts on the night of June 18, to check vehicles leaving the city.

"There have been incidents of people using bogus passes to leave the city," said an official.

The Corporation has also intensified the fever surveillance and fever camps in all zones that have reported higher number of daily cases.

Photo shows traffic personnel booking a motorist at the junction of Burkit Road and Venkatanarayana Road in T. Nagar on June 19 for violating the lockdown rules by venturing out without a valid reason.

Differently-abled to get Rs. 1,000 cash relief

By Our Staff Reporter

On June 16, the Tamilnadu government announced that Rs. 1,000 each will be disbursed among 13-lakh disabled persons in the state as part of COVID-19 relief.

This comes a day after it announced another round of Rs 1,000 cash assistance to rice ration card holders and workers of the unorganised sector.

Additionally, beginning June 22, officials will directly visit the families of rice ration card holders in person and give Rs. 1,000.

Fresh e-passes to travel during total lockdown

By Our Staff Reporter

Persons wishing to travel in and out of Chennai will have to apply for e-passes. E-passes issued before the lockdown from June 19 was announced are not valid.

The State government, in its latest order, has categorically stated that e-passes will be provided for those who want to travel out of Chennai only for events like weddings, deaths and medical emergencies.

6.57 lakh held for violating lockdown norms since March

By Our Staff Reporter

As of June 18 morning, 6,57,399 persons had been arrested and released on bail since the beginning of the lockdown period in March for moving within the city in vehicles violating lockdown rules.

Over 4,78,714 vehicles were seized and 6,08,791 cases were registered against the violators. The Tamilnadu government has collected Rs 13.38 crores in fines for failure to follow the rules.

Sale of school textbooks begins

By Our Staff Reporter

The Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation on June 17 began sale of textbooks for the 2020-21 year, but private schools decided not to buy them until clarity emerges on reopening of schools and pruning portions.

During the lockdown, the Textbook Corporation printed more than five crore books to be distributed among school students in the state.

Of these, 1.95 crore books are for sale and the rest will be distributed free among students in Government-run schools.

The sale counters will remain closed till June 30 due to the intense lockdown.

2-km limit to buy essentials till June 30

By Our Staff Reporter

Commissioner of Police A. K. Viswanathan has announced that residents should not venture out beyond a 2-km radius from their homes and advised them to purchase essentials from nearby shops.

“Travelling far to buy vegetables and groceries on two-wheelers and in cars is discouraged. The government has given enough time to stock up on essentials. Private vehicles will be allowed in case of medical emergencies or scheduled travel to airport or railway stations. Other vehicles will be confiscated,” he said.

Drones have been deployed to spot persons wandering on the streets unnecessarily. 288 additional checkpoints have been set up within the city to control residents’ movement.

He said action will be taken against those crossing the Chennai Police limits without valid passes or with fake passes. Those found without masks will also be booked.

Schools told not to summon students to return answer sheets

By Our Staff Reporter

A day after seeking Std. 10 quarterly and half-yearly exam answer scripts and other documents for awarding marks to students, the Tamil Nadu Directorate of Government Examinations on June 17 asked schools not to summon parents and students to get back answer sheets due to the possibility of new COVID-19 clusters. But since most schools had returned the

scripts to students, they asked the students to bring back the answer scripts to the schools.

Officials said that schools can instead submit other documents like progress report and mark registers if they do not have answer scripts.

With board exams cancelled, the marks in quarterly and half-yearly exams will carry 80% weightage while attendance makes up 20%.

Some temples violate norms

By Our Staff Reporter

The lockdown rules mandate temples to be shut, but several remain open in residential areas attracting huge number of devotees none of them following distancing norms or wearing masks.

In Gangai Amman Koil in Vadapalani, many devotees participated in the Sunday (June 14) poojas shunning the safety norms.

A marriage was allowed in Vembuliamman Temple (near T. Nagar bus stand) on June 14, breaking all norms.

This temple is in walking distance of Mambalam police station.

Members of several temple trusts said that sometimes they have to accede to requests and allow devotees on auspicious days.

A Corporation official told this reporter that they are monitoring and taking quick action whenever such incidents are reported.

Being places of worship, it was a sensitive issue, and they manage situations by requesting trust members to cooperate and implement the curfew orders.

He explained that all the temples under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department have remained closed to the public since March 25.

Since the lockdown began, daily pujas and annual festivals in all big and small temples under the HR&CE department are being conducted without devotees.

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Residents seek PM’s intervention to close shops in T. Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

T. Nagar Residents’ Welfare Association has written to the Union government seeking its intervention to close shops in T. Nagar, one of the biggest shopping hubs of the city.

With the COVID-19 cases on the rise, the association has requested the Prime Minister’s Office to ensure commercial hubs remain shut until the pandemic is under control.

“Market places are one of the biggest hotspots and in the past few weeks we have seen a rise in the number of cases in T. Nagar area in Kodambakkam zone that has the 4th highest number of cases in the city.

These markets should be closed until the cases in Chennai reduce,” said V. S. Jayaraman (President of the Association) said.

“There are 36 multistoried commercial establishments in the T. Nagar hub. Due to the constrained fashion in which these buildings have been built flouting all norms, social

distancing cannot be maintained.

The centralised airconditioning in cramped shops will only increase the spread of infection,” said B. Kannan (Secretary of the Association).

“To keep businesses running, many people are travelling from other cities such as Mumbai, Pune and Surat and they do not quarantine themselves. They come for business purposes and leave in a couple of days. This is highly risky for us,” he added.

In its letter to the ministry of personnel, public grievances & pensions, the association stated, “The main reason for Chennai becoming a hotspot was the Koyambedu vegetable market where gatherings were allowed without restriction and as a result the situation has gone out of control. T. Nagar is another area where crowding takes place and any relaxation and opening of commercial establishments will result in disaster”, it stressed.

Flyovers closed to traffic till June 30



By Our Staff Reporter

All the flyovers in and around T. Nagar including Usman Road flyover have been closed to traffic till June 30 on account of the intense lockdown in place in the city.

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