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S PRADISH VAIDYA
Class 10 - CBSE
Maths - 91
Science - 85
Total - 421



S HARSHINI
Class 10 - CBSE
Maths - 77
Science - 78
Total - 438



PRABURAAMBALAJI V
Class 12 - Commerce
Accountancy - 100 ★
Maths - 92
Total - 569



SRINATH J
Class 12 - Science
Maths - 94
Physics - 82
Chemistry - 93
Biology - 88
Total - 540



S KAUSHIK
Class 12 - Science
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Comet Neowise visible in the evening sky



By Our Staff Reporter

A comet named Neowise is now visible to the naked eye in the evening sky for about 20 minutes after the sun has set. Just look to the northwest after sunset, a little bit to the right of where the sun disappeared.

You can get an even clearer view through binoculars. Its position will rise in the sky in the coming week and it will be visible for a longer time after sunset. Neowise, the first comet visible from the earth after 1997, will make its closest approach to earth at 65 million miles on July 22.

In the past few weeks, Neowise has developed a spectacular, curving tail composed of dust particles ejected from the main body of the comet as it is warmed by the sun. This dusty trail catches sunlight, causing the comet to shine in the night sky.

The visibility will fade after August 1 when the comet disappears from the vicinity of the solar system in the course of its 6,800 years elongated orbit around the sun.

Threat of coconuts landing on street

By Our Staff Reporter

The trunk of a very tall coconut tree growing in the compound of a house in 48th Street in Ashok Nagar is slanting across the street. The tree is laden with a number of coconuts which may, in the event of a strong wind blowing, fall on the head of an unwary pedestrian or bike rider.

They may also land on the roof of a passing vehicle. The tree itself may topple over if there is a gale.



TNEA 2020 online admission window opens

By Our Staff Reporter

The last date for filing online applications for undergraduate engineering courses in Tamilnadu is Aug. 16.

Till date, 465 engineering colleges have registered for the counselling process.

Minister for Higher Education K. P. Anbalagan has announced that the government's plan is to conclude online counselling for engineering admissions by Oct. 15.

He added that a similar set-up for arts and science courses will be announced in a few days.

Some important dates:

- Last date to submit online applications: Aug. 16
- Last date for uploading original certificates: Aug. 20
- Verification of original certificates: Aug. 24 to Sept. 1
- Publication of rank list: Sept. 7

Several private universities have announced cancellation of entrance examinations usually conducted for engineering admissions.

The Union Minister for HRD recently announced that the Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE-Mains) will be held from Sept. 1 to 6.

JEE (advanced) will be held on Sept. 27 and the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for MBBS admissions on Sept. 13.

Police conduct awareness programs

By Our Staff Reporter

Police personnel are conducting coronavirus awareness programs, which include songs, at road junctions and on major roads in the neighbourhood.

Photo, taken on July 16, shows a program being conducted at Vadapalani signal junction.



Essentials distributed

By Our Staff Reporter

Members of Inner Wheel Club of Madras Cosmos (District 323) distributed groceries and other essentials among various organizations during the lockdown.

The recipients were RMD Pain and Palliative Care Trust (T. Nagar), ARK Foundation (Pallikaranai), Akshaya Old Age Home (Valasaravakkam), Charu Illam (T. Nagar), Seer Home (Vyasarpadi), Emmimah Charitable Trust (Vyasarpadi) and Arvind Foundation (Home for Mentally Challenged Children, K. K. Nagar). They also gave face masks to Makkal Padai and Rs.12,000 to Tanker Foundation for Dialysis.



Road topping work makes riding tough



By Our Staff Reporter

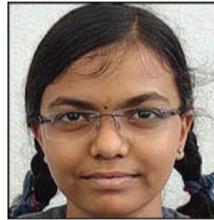
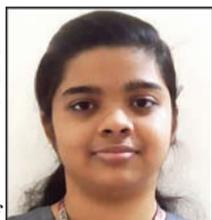
With surface topping work apace in Usman Road Service Road, T. Nagar, 2-wheeler riders find the going tough.

Velammal Vidyalaya produces 100% pass in CBSE Std. 12 exams

All the 700 students of Velammal Vidyalaya (Mel Ayanambakkam) passed in the CBSE Std. 12 board exams held in March this year, the results of which were declared on July 13. Fathima Naushin top scored with 493 out of 500 marks, followed by Prashanthika (491). Four more students scored 489 marks and three others 487 marks.

All the 700 students scored above 65% marks while 299 students scored more than 90%. Online admissions are open for IIT-JEE, NEET, CA, CPT, NATA and CLAT entrance exams.

For more details, call 80561 35353.



Fathima Naushin

Prashanthika

Man held for marrying minor

By Our Staff Reporter

Thirumangalam all-woman police detained a man for marrying a 16-year-old girl.

The victim's father lodged a complaint in Koyambedu police station on July 12 that his daughter was missing.

After receiving information that the girl was in Maduravoyal, a team from the station went there and rescued her. Investigation revealed that Ajith (24) had married her. Both the victim and the accused were handed over to Thirumangalam all-woman police station.

Further investigation is on.

'Kalvi Tholaikatchi' telecasts lessons for Std. 10, 12 students

By Our Staff Reporter

The state-run education channel 'Kalvi Tholaikatchi' was launched in August 2019 to help government school students on board exams and government scholarships.

The channel started broadcasting lessons for Std. 10 and 12 students on July 14. The lessons are telecast for 2 hours 30 minutes daily from Monday to Friday.

Textbooks will be issued free to students in government and government-aided schools.

Std. 12 students can also download the video lessons.

The lessons were prepared by Tamil Nadu Text Book Corporation (TNTBC) and Higher Secondary school teachers.

Online seminar marks 'World Snake Day'

Kalinga Centre for Rainforest Ecology, a premier institute in the country which studies the behavioural pattern of King Cobra, conducted a livestream event called 'Wild-Sync' on World Snake Day on July 16 with experts from five continents.

The one-day event helped viewers broaden their understanding about snakes and snakebites.

Experts like Mahmood Sasa Marín (University of Costa Rica), Bryan Grieg Fry (University of Queensland), Wolfgang Wüster (Bangor University, UK), Colin Strine (SCSET), and Johan Marais (African Snakebite Institute) spoke on how snakes and snakebite issues are handled in their continents.

The video can be viewed at youtube page <https://www.youtube.com/c/kcekalinga>

Free online Veda classes

By Our Staff Reporter

Mambalam Brahmana Seva conducts free online Veda classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7 p.m to 8 p.m, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 7 p.m to 8.30 p.m

Brahmashri Raja Vadiyaar and his son Shrudheesh conduct the classes.

For more details, call G. Sivaraman (Secretary, Mambraas Vedha Vidhya) in 99628 84355.

NEET quota to include RTE students

By Our Staff Reporter

The Tamilnadu cabinet on July 14 cleared a proposal to include students with access to elementary education under Right to Education (RTE) Act in its special 7.5% NEET quota proposed for government school students.

But it comes with a rider.

These RTE students will have to migrate to government schools and study for four years beginning Std. 9.

Following the recommendations of Justice P. Kalaiyaran commission, the state, in its last cabinet meeting on June 15, cleared the proposal for 7.5% quota to benefit the students who miss the national competitive examination for medical admission.

The constitutional experts felt that the ordinance on NEET will be sustainable if only students, who got access to elementary education under RTE Act, were given similar support. So, the cabinet decided to include them as well, provided that students, who study under RTE up to Std. 8 in private schools, come back to study in government schools up to Std. 12.

72 cops back on duty after recovering from COVID-19

1,434 police personnel in the city had contracted the virus as of July 13, and close to half of them have recovered. 72 of them have so far returned to duty.

Asymptomatic policemen are being treated and monitored in a COVID-19 care center in the Mahanadhi block of the IIT-Madras.

Four police personnel have so far succumbed to the virus in the city.

This includes an inspector from Mambalam police station, a special sub-inspector from the Pattinapakkam police station, a constable from the Vepery police station and sub-inspector attached to the Meenambakkam station.

To protect policemen, the measures that are being taken include unlimited supplies of gloves and masks at stations across the city. In addition to this, police are given a weekly supply of sanitisers for constant use.

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FREE

1 lakh discharged but situation still critical, warn experts

As cases continue to mount across all districts, the total number of patients discharged in the state crossed one lakh on July 15.

Tamilnadu added 5,000 discharges, taking the number of people treated and sent home to 1,02,310, and the recovery rate to 66%.

The state, worst hit by the pandemic after Maharashtra, has recorded the lowest death rate among the top five high-incidence states.

While Maharashtra has a 55% recovery rate and a case fatality rate of nearly 4%, Delhi has a recovery rate of 82%, with fatality inching close to 3%.

The number of days it took for the recovery to reach 25,000 cases from the day the state recorded as many cases was 12. The same pattern followed for the 50,000 and 1 lakh milestones.

If the trend follows, by July 28, most people who tested positive until now should be out of hospital.

But experts say that the worst may still not be over unless the government keeps

up its measures of controlling the spread and the public cooperate by following the safety norms.

Dr. Prabhdeep Kaur of National Institute of Epidemiology said that the challenge is to keep active cases low. She said that the bed occupancy should not go beyond 70%.

"We have managed to keep the fatality low and recovery high throughout the past four months," said health minister C. Vijayabaskar.

"This was achieved through meticulous planning by officials and the hard work of doctors and paramedical staff. We ensure our doctors have all the drugs and equipment to treat complicated cases," he added.

Director of public health Dr. T. S. Selva Vinayagam said the state has been following stringent protocols for discharge.

All people in home quarantine are monitored by hospitals concerned and respective local bodies. People admitted to COVID-19 care facilities – isolation in non-hospital environment – are monitored

every day for temperature and oxygen saturation (using pulse oximeter).

"Patients in both these groups are discharged 10 days after the onset of symptoms provided they show no symptoms for three consecutive days. They are tested prior to discharge," he said.

However, at the time of discharge, the patients are advised home isolation and told to self-monitor their health for a week.

Patients with moderate symptoms are hospitalised for oxygen support and other medical interventions.

The discharge protocol for such patients is similar (10 days post onset of symptoms).

In severe cases, including immunocompromised (HIV patients, transplant recipients, malignancy) patients, the discharge criteria are based on clinical recovery. "The patient has to test negative once by RT-PCR after resolution of symptoms. We ensure all parameters, including blood sugar and pressure, are normal before they are discharged," he said.

Kodambakkam has lowest COVID-19 recovery rate

Though the city has witnessed a steady decline in active cases since July 5, Kodambakkam zone is yet to start flattening the curve.

It now has the most number of active cases and the worst recovery rates.

Earlier, Royapuram, Tondiarpet and Thiru Vi Ka Nagar zones had the most cases, prompting the civic body to concentrate more on those areas.

"Due to the dense population and a large number of slum areas, cases in Royapuram and Tondiarpet zones were rapidly increasing. We conducted several community intervention programs to control the spread. Now, cases are emerging from middle-class neighborhoods in Kodambakkam, Anna Nagar, and Teynampet zones," said an official. Among the 15 zones, Kodambakkam in central Chennai region has become the worst-hit zone with the highest number of active cases, 2,497 out of 17,469 active cases in the city as on July 12.

Among 278 containment zones in the city as on July 12, 134 were in Kodambakkam. The Corporation converts a street into a containment zone if three families get infected. Also, Kodambakkam's growth rate of new cases of -4.2 is the highest in

core city zones and higher than the city average (-7.2).

Anna Nagar and Teynampet zones neighbouring Kodambakkam have 1,849 and 1,651 active cases respectively.

The Koyambedu wholesale market complex that falls within Kodambakkam zone was the main reason for the initial surge

of cases. After that, more cases are being identified through the fever camps.

Among the city zones, camps in Kodambakkam recorded the highest footfall. Between May 8 and July 12, 1,11,880 persons had visited the camps, of whom 3,344 were identified with influenza-like-illness symptoms (ILI).

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ஜே.எஸ். ராகவன்

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(பிரமிக்க வைக்கும் விதமான ஐட்டம் டான்ஸரின் குத் தாட்ட அசைவுகளை சின்னத் திரையில் பெரியவர் ராமசுப்பு ஓரக்கண்ணால் பார்த்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார். பேரன் கிரி உள்ளே வருகிறான்.)

ராம: டேய் கிரி, டான்ஸ் ஆடறது யாருடா?

கிரி: (அசுவாரஸ்யமாக) தெரியலே தாத்தா.

ராம: ஏண்டா வெக்கமா இல்லை? வயசுப் பையன், கல் யாணம் பண்ண வேண்டிய வயசு. கம்ப்யூட்டர் படிச்சுட்டு மாசம் களையா ஒரு லட்சம் சம்பாதிக்கறே. வாங் ஷாட்டிலே பார்த்துட்டே, 'இது மோனிகா, சுமன் தாரா, கிளி'ன்னு பொட்டிலே அடிச்ச மாதிரி சொல்ல வேண்டாமா?

கிரி: அட சுமம் இருக்க தாத்தா. ஹார்டு டிஸ்க் கிராஷ் ஆயிடுத்துன்னு அவஸ்தைப் பட்டுண்டு இருக்கேன். நாளைக்கு அமெரிக்க கிளையன்ட்டைப் பார்க்கக் காலங்கார்த்தாலே பெங்களூருக்கு வேற போயாகணும்.

ராம: கிரி! கவலையை விடுடா. டைட் குளோஸப்பிலே தெரிஞ்சிடுத்து. ஆடறது அனன்யா! நம்ம அனன்யாடா. தெலுகு பீல்டிலே கோபிகாணு பேரு. மலையாளத்திலே ஷோபினி. மேக்கப் மேன் கடிவாடா அல்லுடு பொம்ம ராஜுவோட பேத்தி. சைடிலே பார்த்தா அந்தக் கால அஞ்சலிதேவி மாதிரி இல்லை?

கிரி: ரொம்ப முக்கியம். வைரலாலே நான் படற அவஸ்தை போறாதுன்னு நீங்க வேற...
ராம: இப்படி சாப்டீவெர் சந்தியாசியா இருக்கியே. பில் கேட்ஸ் சியாட்டிலே சிவபெருமான் மாதிரிக் குழந்தை குட்டி யோட குடும்பியாத்தானே சவுக்கியமாக இருக்கார்? உனக்கு எப்போ கல்யாணம் கார்க்கிதை வரப் போறதுடா?

(2)

(முதலிரை ராஜாஜி எழுதிய மகாபாரதத்தில் ரம்யா மூழ்கி இருக்கிறாள். அருகில் அவளுடைய தாத்தா மகாதேவன் நெட்பிளிக்ஸில் படம் பார்த்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்.)

ரம்யா: தாத்தா! விதூரோட தாத்தா யாரு?

மகா: சத்யமா நான் இல்லை. நான் ரம்யாவோட தாத்தா.

ரம்யா: விளையாடதீங்க தாத்தா. ஆனால் நீங்க ராமாயணத் திலே வேங்கைப் புலி. மகாபாரதத்திலே கண்டெலி இல்லை?

மகா: ஆமாம்மா, 'மெகா' பாரதத்தை சாய்ஸிலே விட்டுட்டேம்மா. ஏகப்பட்ட கேரக்டர்ஸ். பிளாட், சட்பிளாட், உபகதை கன்னு மசாலா நாடல் சா சிக்கல். அதை விடு. ஜாக்கி ஜான் சூப்பர் இல்லை. கண்ணு பூரா குறும்பு, உடம்பு பூரா மூலமென்ட்....
ரம்யா: அட போங்க தாத்தா. அதெல்லாம் கண்ணுக்கு சூயிங்கம். நேத்துதான் ஒரு பிரா ஜக்டை முடிச்சேன். ரிலாக்ஸ் பண்ணிக்க மகாபாரதத்தை எடுத்தேன். அதைப் புரிஞ்சிக்கிறது புரோக்ராம் எழுதறதைவிட சாலஞ்ச்.

மகா: அதை எல்லாம் விடு. எப்பம்மா கல்யாணம் பண்ணிக்கப் போறே? அந்தப் பையன் கிரியைப் பத்தி என்ன நினைக்கிறே? ரம்யா: அது சரியான ஓர்க்குறாலிக் தாத்தா. ஏன் 24 மணி நேரமும் வேலை வேலைங்கிறான் தெரியுமா? ஒரு நாளைக்கு 24 மணி தான் இருக்கு. அதுக்கு மேலே கிடைக்காது. அவனுக்கு சாப்டீவெரிலேதான் குறி. சம்சாரத்திலே இல்லை. கல்யாணம் அவனுக்கு பீஷ்மரோட அம்புப் படுக்கை மாதிரி.

மகா: அன்னிக்கு நான் கேட்டேனே? அவனுக்குக் கழுத்தை நீட்டறயா?

ரம்யா: ம்? யோசிக்கணும். (கேலியாக) கண்டிஷன்ஸ் அப்பளை, மகாபாரதத்திலே வீக்கா இருக்கிற நீங்க தம் பிடிச்ச துரியோதனனிலிருந்து ஆரம்பிச்ச துச்சாதனன், சித்திரகன் வரை 100 கௌரவர்கள் பேரையும் எஃப் எம் ரேடியோ டிஸ்க் ஜாக்கி மாதிரி காலையிலே எழுந்து பல் தேய்க்காமல், காப்பி குடிக்காமல், பிரேக் விடாமல், நாக்கு பிறழாமல் சொல்லணும். செய் வீங்களா?

மகா: பாண்டவா! ஸாரி! ஆண்டவா, பார்க்கிறேன்.

(3)

(கண் டாக்டர் கிளிநிக்கில் இரண்டு தாத்தாக்களும் மருந்து விடப்பட்ட கண்களை மூடி திருதராஷ்டிரர்களாக உட்கார்ந்து இருக்கிறார்கள்.)

மகா: ராமசுப்பு! கல்யாணம் வரப்போறதுடா. நாம சம்பந்தி ஆகப் போறோம்.

ராம: ஆமாண்டா! உன் பேத்தி ரம்யா கிரேட்டுடா. ஓர்க்குறாலிக்காக இருக்கிற கிரிக்கு இள வயசிலே சாப்டீவெர் பசங்களுக்குப் பிடிக்கிற ரத்த அழுத்தம். டயாபடீஸ், கொலஸ்ட்ரால், டிப்ரஷன் வந்தாச்சுன்னு டாக்டர் சினிவாச கண்ணன் பயமுறுத்தின உடனே ஆடிப் போயிட்டேன். தாயில்லாத பையனை யார் பார்த்துக்கறதுன்னு?

மகா: ரம்யா சொன்னா, 'பாவம்பா அவன், என்னை மாதிரி எத்தனையோ பேருக்கு ராப் பகலா கண் முழிச்சு, உடம்பையும், மூளையும் வருத்திண்டு புரோக்ராம் எழுத சகாயம் பண்ணிண்டு இருக்கான். தன் வேலையை விட்டுட்டு அவனுடைய உடம்பை சரியாக்கப் பாஞ்சாலி மாதிரி அஞ்சு பேரைக் கல்யாணம் பண்ணிக்க முடிவெடுக்கலாமான்னு பார்க்கிறேன்...'

ராம: அ? அஞ்சு பேரையா? பாஞ்சாலி மாதிரியா?

மகா: ஸ்ட்ரெஸ், பிளட் பிரஷர், ஷுகர், கொலஸ்ட்ரால், டிப்ரஷன் இறச்சையும் அவியலாக்கின பஞ்சு பாண்டவர்க் கூட்டணியைத்தான் அவள் சொன்னது.

ராம: சபாஷ்! ஆக மொத்தம் பீஷ்மரா மாற இருந்தவனை அர்ஜுனனா மாத்திட்டா. ஆமா உங்கிட்டே ஒரு சவால் விட்டாளே நூறு கௌரவர்கள் பேரையும் எஃப் எம் ரேடியோ ஜாக்கி ஸ்பீடிலே ஒப்பிக்கச் சொல்லி, அது என்ன ஆச்சு ஒப்பிச்சியா?

மகா: அதுக்கு பதில் கிரியோட உடம்புக்கு கான்காரிலே யிருந்து கார்க்கிவால், டனோனில், அமரில் வரை நூறு மாத்திரைகள் பெயரைகளை ஜெனரிக் கோத்திரத்தோட சேர்த்து மூச்சு விடாமல் சொல்லி அவளை அசத்திட்டேன்.

(தாத்தாக்கள் இருவரும் ஹைஃபை அடித்து சந்தோஷமாக சிரிக்கிறார்கள்.)

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Velammal Vidyalaya produces 100% pass in CBSE Std. 10 exams

By Our Staff Reporter

All the 143 students of Velammal Vidyalaya (Paruthipattu) passed in the CBSE Std. 10 board exams held in March this year,



the results of which were declared on July 15. V. Bhavna Jain top scored with 493 out of 500 marks, followed by Lakshmi Priya (491) and Jeevika (489).

Admissions are open for Std. 11.

For more details, call 95660 21669.

Covid-19 care center opened at National Institute of Ageing

Dr. V.S. Natarajan (Geriatrician)

The National Institute of Ageing, which was recently setup at Kings Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research Campus (Guindy) has been converted into a Covid-19 care center on July 7.

For three decades while I was in government service, I had been pushing the Central Government to set up the National Ageing Center in Chennai.

Finally, my successor Dr. B. Krishnaswamy got the proposal sanctioned, and the facility was setup at Kings Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research Campus (Guindy, Chennai) before the lockdown.

Even while the current HOD Dr. G.S. Shanthi was in the process of throwing open the facility, it has been taken over for treating critically ill coronavirus patients.

I now hope that the crisis caused by the pandemic subsides at the earliest so that the facility can be used for the intended purpose of treating aged persons. (Dr. Natarajan is a senior geriatrician and resident of Anna Nagar)

Cover on drain poses danger during night



A tin sheet covering a pit for a chamber of a storm water under construction in North Usman Road Service Road in T. Nagar is not visible in the dark posing a danger to road users.

Tuberculosis vaccines tested on senior citizens for fighting COVID-19

By Our Staff Reporter

Seniors citizens above 60 years of age in Chennai and Tiruvallur are being given anti-tuberculosis shots that are normally given to children as part of a national trial to study the vaccine's effect in preventing COVID-19, health minister C. Vijaya Baskar told a press conference on July 13.

"As we do not have any drug or vaccine to cure the disease yet, Tamilnadu is part of the study undertaken by ICMR. The Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccines are expected to help people between 65 and 90 years," he said.

According to Dr. Manoj V. Murhekar from the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), six high incidence states including Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi are part of the study.

Experts suggest that this vaccine, which prevents infant death, helps the immune system recognize and respond to a variety of infections, including viruses.

"It is not clear if BCG will block COVID-19, but clinical trials are being done across the globe. We are now initiating the study in the most vulnerable population where fatalities are high," he said.

Certain studies done among adults have revealed that BCG vaccinations reduced the incidence of acute upper respiratory tract infections.

The team has started administering the live-attenuated vaccine (LAV), which comprises live but weakened TB virus, to thousands of senior citizens as part of the trial since July 13, said deputy director Dr. Padmapriyadarsini, the principal investigator of this study. Doctors and health workers are expected to vaccinate at least 1,200 senior citizens across the country by July end.

For details email: directornirt@nirt.res.in or call 2836 9503/00

Temple bull's video leads to reunion with COW

By Our Staff Reporter

One often reads and watches legendary stories of love and friendship in fiction. But a real-life example of this emerged from Madurai district recently – not between persons, but a bull and a cow.

The two bovines' apparent affection for one another forced many people in the state to help reunite them.

Celebrations erupted in Madurai district's Palamedu on July 13, when Lakshmi, a cow that was sold by its owner to a milk farm returned to be reunited with her companion Manjamalai, a bull.

Lakshmi was given a grand welcome as she strutted around town, with garlands around her neck. Lakshmi was taken straight to meet Manjamalai, whose apparent affection for the cow compelled people to request that the duo be reunited.

On July 13, visuals of an agitated Manjamalai, a temple bull, went viral as he circled and paced around the lorry in which Lakshmi was apparently in distress. The lorry was to transport Lakshmi out of Palamedu as the cow's owner, Vellaiyan, had sold it to a milk farm due to financial difficulties due caused by the ongoing lockdown in Madurai.

In the video, Manjamalai could be seen snorting in frustration and attempting to push his nose through the lorry's grills. Lakshmi too could be seen looking at Manjamalai, but was unable to get off the vehicle. When the vehicle finally left, a grief-stricken Manjamalai chased it for a kilometer.

The video of the bull chasing the lorry went viral on social media with many requesting the new owner to reunite the bull with the cow.

It was finally O. P. Pradeep (son of Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam) who paid off the cow's new owner and helped bring Lakshmi back to town.

No devotees in temples on Aadi first

All temples including Arulmigu Moopathman Temple (T. Nagar) and Arulmigu Muthalamman Temple (West Mambalam) have remained closed due to the lockdown. No festivals, which usually draw hundreds of devotees, are being conducted. The first day of Aadi month (July 16) also saw no devotees thronging the temple.



Decline in new COVID-19 cases in city

By Our Staff Reporter

The total number of infected persons in Chennai was 78,573 on July 14, of which 60,694 have completely recovered and been sent home.

The recovery percentage since July 7 has gone up from 53% to 77%.

With 277 fatalities, the toll percentage is 1.6%.

The number of daily new cases in the city has dropped from an average of 2000+ to under 1,300 in the past week.

A Corporation official said that there has been no reduction in the number of sample tests being done daily and fever camps are being held in all

zones.

He added that door-to-door thermal check-up is being in all the critical zones including Kodambakkam, Anna Nagar, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar and Royapettah.

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7.5% quota in medical colleges for govt. school students

Students from government schools in Tamilnadu who clear NEET exam (National Eligibility cum Eligibility Test) will get 7.5 percent quota in medical colleges. The decision to provide reservation for students who have studied in government schools in the state was taken based on the report submitted by P. Kalaiyaran, a retired judge, who had recommended reservation of 7.5%-10% of seats for government school students. This quota is expected to be applicable horizontally across various existing reservations for candidates from the Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. According to data from the Directorate of Medical Education (DME), the number of students who have finished Std. 12 from a government school has been steadily decreasing over the past few years.

'Vikatakavi', free internet weekly in Tamil

Not many readers know about 'Vikatakavi', an Internet free weekly magazine in Tamil, which is being published since November 27, 2017. Edited by well-known cartoonist and writer Madhan, its editorial team consists of Rao, Sudhangan and Deepa Venkat.

Published on Saturdays, its content is similar to those in other popular Tamil magazines and, in addition, it also features topical videos. For reading the magazine, you must download the App 'Vikatakavi' from Apple Store or Google Play Store, and register yourself with a password.

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High Court upholds EB bill calculation method

Dismissing a public interest writ petition against the billing method adopted by Tangedco for the lockdown period, a division bench of Justice M. M. Sundresh and Justice R. Hemalatha on July 13 concurred with the submissions of Additional Advocate General P. H. Arvinth Pandian, and said: "Looking from any perspective, we do not find any valid reason to find the method adopted as arbitrary. It is sound in reasoning and has benefited consumers."

As meter reading could not be done for March, April, May and June due to the lockdown, Tangedco had followed the following methodology

1. It asked consumers to remit the previous month's bill amount as provisional payment for March-April months.
2. It treated the four months as one block and divided the total consumption into two equal bi-monthly readings before applying the relevant slab charges
3. It deducted the first 100 units of free power from each bi-monthly bill, and then charged the consumer for the remaining consumed electricity after deducting the provisional amount already paid.

Assailing this calculation, M. L. Ravi filed the present PIL petition saying that the method would inflate the bill amount, as people would be placed in higher power consumption slabs and, consequently, asked to pay higher charges. It wanted the provisional payment to be first equated with the number of units of power consumed, and then the remaining units calculated to arrive at a bill. Dividing the total units of four months into two equal parts is not provided for anywhere in the supply code and it is an arbitrary exercise of power, he argued.

The judges held that the PIL-petitioner cannot seek a direction to adopt a particular methodology, which is beneficial to one set of consumers.

"We find that the procedure adopted exhibits an element of fairness. Obviously, one could infer that there has to be an increase in the usage of electricity of home during lockdown.

"While the welfare of the general public is important and the difficulties they have undergone due to the pandemic is serious, the role of the government in tackling the crisis and the resources required for the same is not a trivial issue to be brushed aside. "The need to pay taxes and other statutory obligations on time becomes paramount to keep the government active and helpful. The method of calculation has to be uniform and acceptable to all and also in tune with the Electricity Supply Code," the court said.

Though the payment deadline was set as July 15, for consumers in containment zones, it will be 15 days after the curbs are lifted.

Provisions distributed



By Our Staff Reporter Vedic Ravi (Founder, Sri Bhuvanewari Charitable Trust, K. K. Nagar) donated Rs. 20,000 worth provisions to Karuna Sagar, Maduravoyal (home extending advanced cancer care, terminally ill care and palliative care) on July 14. He said that the Trust is also giving provisions and other essentials to temple priests and workers, Veda Paadasala and needy families.

Indians coming from abroad put under quarantine

By Our Staff Reporter 668 persons who landed in Chennai on July 13 from Dubai, Qatar, Bahrain, and England were put under quarantine as per the State's protocol to control the spread of coronavirus.

The first flight arrived from London with 115 Indians, including 12 children. After samples were collected for COVID-19 test, all the passengers were taken to quarantine camps in special vehicles.

Later, a special flight from Qatar arrived with 204 Indians. 157 chose in the free stay camp in Melakotaiyur, while the rest chose hotels.

A special flight with 170 employees of a private firm in Dubai also landed during the day. In the wee hours, a special flight from Bahrain arrived with 179 passengers.

After collecting samples, 145 of them were taken to the free stay camp, and the rest were taken to hotels.

290 COVID-19 deaths unaccounted for since June 11

At least 290 deaths in the city due to COVID-19 between June 11 and July 5 still remain unaccounted for.

The report states that these numbers are over and above the 256 deaths reported to be unaccounted from March to June 10. The report adds that if these deaths are added, the fatality rate in Chennai will rise to 2.3% from the current 1.6%. The death toll in Chennai currently stands at 1,295.

The missing data was discovered by officials of Chennai Corporation while reconciling data from Chennai's cremation and burial grounds. The health department found that while 188 of the 290 had tested positive, the results of the remaining 102 have either not been located yet or they have not been tested for COVID-19.

Most of the deceased were those who were either brought dead to hospital or died shortly after being admitted. While hospitals handed over some of the bodies to the families for cremation or burial as per COVID-19 protocol, the hospital did not inform the civic body or the health department when the tests of these people returned positive. Some of the unaccounted deaths had also taken place at home.

A team has been set up to review and reconcile such numbers with the state's death toll.

The Health Department has issued notices to hospitals and the Corporation asking them to ensure that COVID-19 related deaths are reported to the Directorate of Public Health.

Following this, the 9-member committee had been formed to reconcile the actual number of COVID-19 deaths in the state. This committee had stated that 256 deaths between March and June 10 needed to be added to Tamilnadu's COVID-19 tally.

Tamilnadu reported 4,526 new COVID-19 cases on July 14. The state presently has 47,912 active COVID-19 cases and 15,814 of the active cases are from Chennai.

The death toll in the state currently stands at 2,099.

Marina beach looks deserted

By Our Staff Reporter Though restrictions were eased on July 6, Marina beach, one of the major attractions in the city, continues to look deserted.

Though some walkers from nearby areas can be seen in the morning and evening, the beach is relatively deserted on weekends when thousands used to flock before the pandemic hit the city. However, young couples and youths have started visiting the beach.

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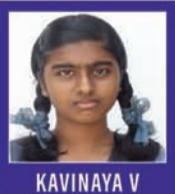
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I, Mrs. B. Jayelekshmi, No. 2, Singaram Street, Chennai 600017 lost certificates for 106 shares of M/s. Karnataka Bank Ltd., of Rs. 10/- face value under Folio 11000227 having Certificate Nos: 32103, 235146 to 235148, 354392 and 428301 with Distinctive No. from 277725 to 277738, from 9680504 to 9680527, from 22751147 to 22751184 and from 135577546 to 13557755. If found please contact 85478 77381.

Following Share Certificates covering 196 shares of M/s. Panasonic Energy India Company Ltd., with face value of Rs.10/- each under Folio U000045 standing in the name of Mr. Udipi Bhujanga Rau, of No.2, Singaram Street, Chennai 600017 were lost/misplaced. Certificate No: 7592, 15535, 15536, 25590, 39531 and 39532 with distinctive No. from 586176 to 586200, from 782781 to 782800, from 782801 to 782803, from 2200821 to 2200868, from 4401882 to 4401931 and from 4401932 to 4401981 respectively. If found please contact 85478 77381.

Following Share Certificates covering 20 shares of M/s/ Siemens Ltd., with face value of Rs.2/- each under folio No. SIU6000247 in the name of Mr. U. Bhujanga Rau, No.2, Singaram Street, Chennai 600017 were lost/misplaced. Certificate No: 00432600 and B004459963 with distinctive No. from 5006061 to 5006070 and from 172388104 to 172388113 respectively. If found please contact 85478 77381.

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Free online classes on Gita and Bhagavatam

By Our Staff Reporter
Sowmya Lakshmana of ISKCON (Chennai) is conducting free online classes on Bhagavad Gita (4 p.m to 5 p.m) and Srimad Bhagavatam (5 p.m. to 6 p.m) on all weekdays (Monday to Saturday).

Anyone above the age of 10 can join.
For more details, call 94458 49608.

EB bill payment deadline extended to July 30

By Our Staff Reporter
Tangedco has extended the bill payment deadline for domestic consumers from July 15 to July 30.

According to an official, following a PIL filed by an individual challenging the method of tariff calculation for consumption during the lockdown period, many consumers had abstained from paying, awaiting the Court's order.

As the High Court dismissed the petition on July 13, the deadline has been extended to July 30 to prevent crowding at the counters.

No permanent power connection without completion certificate

By Our Staff Reporter
New buildings in Tamilnadu can no longer obtain a permanent electricity connection without submitting completion certificates issued by the local body.

This rule does not apply to buildings which were completed on or before February 4, 2019.

Residential buildings upto 12 meters in height and not exceeding three dwelling units have been exempted from this ruling.

According to the circular, the temporary connection given to the building should be disconnected and a permanent connection given on receipt of the completion certificate.

Ten lakhs tested in fever camps

10,48,833 persons attended the 17,111 fever camps held in the 15 Corporation Zones in the city including Kodambakkam till July 14.

51,212 cases of Influenza-like illness were reported and 48,100 swabs were taken for COVID-19 test.

Among these, 12,308 were found to be positive, bringing the positivity rate to 25.20 percent.

Child Helpline 1098

Conservancy staff face pay cut if found sans mask, gloves

By Our Staff Reporter
Police fine people venturing out without masks Rs. 100 to 500. But, for the 22,000 conservancy workers, reporting to work without a mask or gloves can prove costlier.

They will be asked to go home and lose a day's salary. This was revealed by Corporation Commissioner G. Prakash recently. Conservancy workers are paid around Rs.12,000 each every month.

Everyday at 7 a.m., at every ward level, there is a roll call. "During this exercise, we check if they have a mask and gloves. If not, they are sent home," said Prakash.

An acknowledgement is taken from them when masks are given. "The attendance has remained at 90% and the conservancy work is better than what it was during non-COVID-19 days," he said.

This stringent check is the reason why the number of COVID-19 affected among conservancy workers is only around 200, which is only 1% of the total work force. "Of this, 70% have recovered and returned to work as well," Prakash said.

Apart from this, all conservancy workers are also given kabasura kudineer before they start work at 7 a.m. Zinc and vitamin C tablets are also given in a set of 10, which have to be consumed regularly, Prakash said.

A conservancy worker coming from a containment zone is exempted from work but given full pay. A worker who does not feel well and shows symptoms is tested for COVID-19.

Special panel to decide on reopening Koyambedu market

By Our Staff Reporter
The Tamilnadu government will soon form a committee comprising officials and traders to decide on reopening of the Koyambedu wholesale market.

The market was closed in May when it became a big cluster for the spread of COVID-19.

Since then, close to 5,000 wholesalers and retailers have lost their livelihood, said a member of the traders' association.

Though 200 wholesale vegetable shops are functioning in the temporary market in Thirumazhisai, it is causing huge wastage and losses for shop owners as sufficient infrastructure like cold storage facility has not been provided, said another member.

Tons of unsold produce is dumped and left to rot in the open.

The Koyambedu Food Grains Traders' Association has moved the High Court seeking reopening of the foodgrains market. It argued that though COVID-19 cases were detected among workers and traders in the vegetable market on the sprawling complex, the Corporation authorities closed the shops in the foodgrain market too. "While an alternative vegetable market was set up in Thirumazhisai, no such arrangement has been made for the foodgrain market," it said. CMDA, however, ruled out the possibility of reopening any portion of the market until the outbreak is contained.

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Nonstop vintage concerts in Internet

By Our Staff Reporter
You can listen to nonstop vintage Carnatic music concerts by accessing the website 'arangamonline.com'.
The site features two or three reputed Vidwans of the last century everyday including Musiri, Mudicondan, Semmangudi, GNB, Madurai Mani Iyer, Alathur Brothers, Flute Mali, T. N. Rajarathinam Pillai, Chowdiah, M. D. Ramanathan, MSS, DKP, MLV, Palghar Mani Iyer, Lalgudi among others.

Peeping Tom caught

Aminjikarai police arrested a man for peeking into a restroom used by women.
The accused, J. Selvam (32) of Shenoy Nagar, works in a private firm, said police. Selvam was caught by neighbours on the night of July 13 when he allegedly tried to peek into the toilet of a house in Railway Colony.
A few girls staying in the house lodged a complaint at Aminjikarai police station.
The man was released on station bail after being booked.

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