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ஜே.எஸ். ராகவன்

அந்தப்புரத்தில் கொரோனா!

(குரட்டுர் அரண்மனையின் அந்தப்புரத்தில் கொத்துக் கொத்தாகக் கொரோனா தொற்று இருக்கிறது என்று விஷமிகள் கிளப்பிவிட்ட வதந்தியால் அரசர் குரகேசி இடியோசை கேட்ட சர்ப்பம் போல சர்வாங்கமும் நடுங்கி செயல் வீரர்களின் ரகசியக் கூட்டத்தைக் கூட்டுகிறார். தலைமை மருத்துவர் லேகியதாசனார் முட்டிகள் கிறிச்சிட எழுந்து முதலில் பேசுகிறார்.)

லேகி: வணங்குகிறேன் மன்னா...

குரகேசி: நிறுத்தும், நீவிர் யார்? அந்திய நாட்டின் கைக்கலி யா? அண்டை நாட்டின் கைப்பாவையா? எதிரிகளின் ஒற்றரா? அனைவரும் முகத்தின் என்பது விழுக்காடு மறைக்கும் மூக்கு முண்டாசு அணிந்திருப்பதால் அடையாளம் தெரியவில்லை.

லேகி: (அவசர அவசரமாக) மன்னா! இந்த அற்பப் புழு லேகியதாசன் என்று அறியப்படுவார். எம் தொழில் மருத்துவம் என்பதை நீவிர் அறிவிர். அரசரின் ஐயத்தைப் போக்க எல்லோரும் தங்கள் பெயர் தாங்கிய நறுக்கை மேலங்கியில் குத்தி இருக்கிறோம். நிற்க...

குரகேசி: அமைச்சரே! நிற்க, ஓட, உட்கார, குதிக்க என்கிற காலாவதியான வார்த்தைகளைத் தவிர்க்கவும். தவறினால் உம்மை காராக்கிருகத்தில் தள்ளி அன்ன ஆகாரம் இன்றித் தலைகீழாக நிற்க வைத்துவிடுவேன், ஜாக்கிரதை.

லேகி: (குரலைத் தாழ்த்தி) மன்னா! தாங்கள் மறந்துவிட்டீர்கள். தற்போது காராக்கிருகத்தில்தான் தீநுண்மிக்கான தடுப்பு மருந்து பற்றிய ரகசிய ஆராய்ச்சியை குரட்டுர் மருத்துவ விஞ்ஞானிகள் செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதைத் தலைமை தாங்கி நடத்துபவர் அரசரின் மைத்துனர் மெச்சினார்க்கினியர்.

குரகேசி: அதென்ன தீநுண்மி? புரியாத சொற்களை உபயோகித்து என்னைக் குழப்பாதீர்கள்.

லேகி: வேந்தே!

அந்தத் தீய கிருமிக்கு குட்டப்பட்ட தூய தமிழ்ச் சொல் தீநுண்மி யாகும். யாமறிந்த சிசிச்சை முறைகளிலே தலையானது 'கபகப' குடிநீராகும். நாக்கில் சொட்டு பட்டாலும் பக்கத்தில் இருப்பவர் களுக்கும் கசக்கும். மேலும்....

குரகேசி: நிறுத்தும். அரசியின் சகோதரர் மெச்சினார்க்கினியருடன் நான் பேச்சு வார்த்தைகள் வைத்துக் கொள்வ தில்லை. காரணம் உமக்குத் தெரிய வேண்டிய அவசியம் இல்லை.

லேகி: ஆனால் (சகுனி பிராண்டு விளக்கெண்ணெய் சிரிப்பை உதிர்ந்துவிட்டு) எனக்குத் தெரியும் என்று தெரிந்ததைச் சொல்லி மன்னர் அவர்களின் தெளிந்த குடும்பத் தடாகத்தைக் கலக்கிவிட வேண்டாம் என்று வாய் மூடி இருக்கிறேன்.

குரகேசி: (கண்கள் சிவக்க) லேகியதாசரே! உமக்கு என்ன தெரியும்? வாய் திறந்து கூறும். வழக்கமான தங்களது உறலாக இருந்தால் ஊர் எல்லையில் இருக்கும் கழுவேற்றும் மரத்தில் உம்மை ஏற்றி அழகு பார்க்க ஆணையிட்டு விடுவேன். (கைகளைத் தட்டி) யாரங்கே?

லேகி: மன்னா, மன்னா, மன்னிக்க வேண்டுகிறேன். கழுவேற்றும் தண்டனை குரூரமானது என்று கருதி அண்டை நாட்டு அரசர்கள் அவர்கள் நாட்டில் உள்ள அந்த மரங்களை வெட்டி வீழ்த்தி, சனி அன்று சுடு தண்ணீர் போட்டு எண்ணெய் தேய்த்துக் குளித்துவிட்டனர்.

குரகேசி: (அமைதி அடைந்து) ஹூம்! அந்த பயம் இருக்கட்டும்.

லேகி: மாமன்னா! நம்முடைய உளவுத் துறையிலிருந்து பறந்து வந்த டீவீட்படி தொற்று நோயைக் காரணம் காட்டி அந்தப்புர மாதர்களின் எண்ணிக்கையை ஐம்பது விழுக்காடு குறைத்துவிட்டது அரசருக்குத் தெரியுமா?

குரகேசி: (கண்கள் கோவைப் பழங்கனாக சிவக்க) என்ன பிதற்றல் இது? யார் தந்த உத்தரவின் பேரில் இந்த நீச்சு செயலைச் செய்தது?

லேகி: (பணிவுடன்) மன்னா! உத்தரவு போட்டது மேன்மை பொருந்திய அரசியார்தான்.

குரகேசி: (புல்லென்று பொங்கும் பால் மேல் தண்ணீர் விட்டது போல அமைதி அடைந்து) லேகிய தாசரே, மேலும் விளக்கம் தேவை.

லேகி: மன்னா! அந்தப்புர விஸ்தீரணத்தை மனதில் கொண்டு இரண்டு அந்தப்புர ஆரணங்களுக்கு இடையே மூன்றடி இடைவெளிவிட வேண்டிய நிர்ப்பந்தத்தைக் கருதி, அரசி யாரிடம் ஆற அமர விவாதித்து ஒரு முடிவு எடுக்கப்பட்டது.

குரகேசி: முடிவா? என்னைக் கேட்காமலா? என்ன முடிவு?

லேகி: மன்னா, அந்தப்புரத்திற்கு அழகூட்டும் பெண்களை வயது ரீதியில் கன்னிகைகள், பேரிளம் பெண்கள் என்று இரண்டு பகுதிகளாகப் பிரித்து...

குரகேசி: (கண்களில் உற்சாகம் கொப்பளிக்க) இரண்டு பகுதிகளாகப் பிரித்து?

லேகி: பேரிளம் பெண்களை அரசருக்கும், வாலைக் குமரி களை அரசிக்கும் பணி செய்ய அமர்த்த அரசியால் முடிவெடுக்கப்பட்டது. சிக்கலைத் தரும் முகக் கவசத்தை விடுத்து, மாற்றாகக் கொரோனா கவசத்தை இயற்றக் குரட்டுர் மூலிகை மலைச்சாரலில் உள்ள குகையில் வசிக்கும் 120 பிராயத்தைத் தாண்டிய பாம்பு சித்தரை வேண்டிக் கொண்டோம். அவரும் தந்து அருளி னார். தாங்கள் ஆணையிட்டால் இப்போதே சேர்ந்திசையாகப் பாடிக்காட்டத் தயாராக உள்ளோம். ஆரம்பிக்கட்டுமா? (நடுங்கும் குரலில்) துதிப்போர்க்கு.... jsraghavan@gmail.com

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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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Free online course on Bhagavad Gita

By Our Staff Reporter

ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) is starting a free online course on Bhagavad Gita in Tamil from Thursday, July 30. The course is divided into 18 sessions to be held on Thursdays and Fridays between 7 p.m and 8 p.m.

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

For more details, call 73584 23100 or 86108 38405.

Corporation to start sample pooling to cut cost, time

By Our Staff Reporter

As per the directions of the Indian Council of Medical Research, Corporation is mulling to conduct pooled sample testing for COVID-19 in areas with lesser number of cases to prevent any sudden spurt.

Once they are pooled in groups, five persons, one from each of the five groups will be tested. If any group tests positive, more tests will be conducted among the particular section.

"This will cut cost and manpower as a large number of unnecessary tests can be avoided. As of now, Chennai has more cases and we are contemplating conducting the pooled sample testing once the cases decline. Now we are testing more than 10,000 samples every day, but only around 1,000 test positive," the official said.

Woman chases phone snatchers, nabs one

A woman whose phone was snatched by two motorcycle-borne youths in Ashok Nagar, gave chase in an autorickshaw for almost a kilometer and managed to nab one of them.

The pillion rider who managed to escape with the phone was later arrested by the police. Geethapriya (a resident of Jafferkanpet) was waiting at a bus stop on 11th Avenue, Ashok Nagar when the two youths grabbed her phone and raced away. She jumped into an autorickshaw and told the driver to chase the 2-wheeler.

Kumaran Nagar police are investigating the case.

Covid-19 daily cases breach 6,000-mark

Covid-19 daily cases breach 6,000-mark in Tamil Nadu

The number fresh Covid-19 cases breached the 6,000-mark on July 23, to reach 6,472, pushing the total number of cases to 1,92,964. The state reported 88 deaths and a cumulative toll of 3,232.

With 1,336 cases, hotspot Chennai continued to report the maximum number of cases.

Rig and Yajur Veda Upakarma on Aug. 3

By Our Staff Reporter

Rig and Yajur Veda Upakarma will be conducted by RMDD Swamiji from 7 a.m to 11 a.m on Monday, Aug. 3 in Vena Garden (36, Velu Street, West Mambalam).

Wearing face mask is mandatory for all participating in the Upakarma.

Proper arrangement will be made to ensure social distancing at the venue.

For more details, call 98415 02313.

Now, a health mix with sprouted grains

By Our Staff Reporter

S. Vijayalakshmi (resident of LIG Flats, 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar), who markets a health mix, has introduced a new one with sprouted grains (ragi, wheat, cumbu, moong dhal), almond, cashewnut etc. The mix can be used to make porridge for breakfast.

She has been selling health mix with millets for three years.

"Our customers who buy millet health mix want the product with sprouted ingredients like ragi, wheat etc. So I have introduced the sprouted mix," she told Mambalam Times.

Vijayalakshmi earlier attended a training program on millet products conducted by Tamilnadu Agriculture University Information & Training Centre.

"Millets are God's gift for diabetics and they are hypertension-friendly too," she said.

300 gm. and 500 gm. packs are available at her residence. She can be contacted in 97907 72370 / 2371 1835.

OBITUARY

C.V. CHANDRASEKARAN

C.V. Chandrasekaran (resident of 37, Madley 2nd Street, T. Nagar, Ph: 98405 95453) passed away on July 17. He was 72, and had been a resident of T. Nagar for 40 years. He was a businessman.

He is survived his wife, son and daughter.



Chennai Metro open bids for work on Corridor 4

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Metro has invited bids for construction of elevated stations on Corridor 4 of the proposed phase two project even as train services remain suspended for the past three months due to the lockdown.

It has planned to expand the rail network by 118.9 km in the phase 2 project comprising three corridors – Corridor 3 from Madhavaram to SIPCOT, Corridor 4 from Lighthouse to Poonamallee and Corridor 5 from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur.

The bids have been invited for the construction of nine elevated stations from Kodambakkam Power House to Porur Junction along the 7.955 km stretch of Corridor 4 between Lighthouse and Poonamallee, a total distance of 26.09 km. Interestingly, of the 7.955 km stretch, about 4.2 km is an integrated section with the 47km-long Corridor 5 between Alwarthirunagar and Porur junction with five stations.

Nine elevated stations will be constructed in Corridor 3 at Power House, Vadapalani, Saligramam, Avichi School, Alwarthiru Nagar, Valasaravakkam, Karambakkam, Alapapakkam Junction, Porur Junction. At Vadapalani, an interchange facility will be built to allow users to transfer to and from the existing Corridor between Central and St. Thomas Mount.

Corridor 4 will be partly financed by Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) through a \$356.65 million (Rs. 2,700 crores) loan. The bids for the construction of the elevated stations have come months after tenders invited for the construction of Corridor 3's tunnels in January 2020 under two packages.

For Corridor 3, Chennai Metro has invited bids for the construction of 12 km twin tunnel from Kellys Station to Taramani Road junction and another 9 km twin tunnel from Venugopal Nagar to Kelly's station.

Lake View Road no longer containment zone

By Our Staff Reporter

Lake View Road in West Mambalam, which had remained a containment zone for several days, opened for traffic last week.



Karuna Sagar celebrates 5th anniversary



By Our Staff Reporter

Karuna Sagar (home for advanced cancer patients, palliative care, chronic patients and mentally challenged persons run by RMD Trust, T. Nagar) in Maduravoyal celebrated its 15th anniversary on July 17.

Dr. Republica Sridhar (Founder and Medical Director of RMD Trust) said that Karuna Sagar has taken care of 12,400 patients so far. There are more than 50 inmates now.

She thanked donors, volunteers, NGOs, individuals and the media for supporting its activities. Those interested in supporting the Trust may contact 93810 16588.

Business good for shops under flyover



A number of pavement shops have opened under the Usman Road flyover in T. Nagar and are doing good business as shoppers seem to prefer shops in the open rather than those in enclosed areas with the fear of COVID-19 in the air.

High Court restrains officials from seizing pets

By Our Staff Reporter

Officials should not seize dogs and other pets from their breeders, traders and owners for violation of new breeding rules introduced by the central government.

Restraining animal welfare authorities from taking such coercive actions, the Madras High Court on July 23 said dogs as pets are big stress-relievers.

"Pet owners who are already facing Covid-19 threat cannot be made to face the threat of losing their dogs also," the first bench of Justice A. P. Sahi and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy said.

The issue pertains to the plea moved by Kennel Club challenging the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing) Rules, 2017 notified by the central government on May 23, 2017.

As per the rules, dog breeders must compulsorily register with the animal welfare department. Violation of registration will result in seizure of dogs owned by the breeder.

Is anything interesting happening in your street or locality? Please inform Mambalam Times!

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COVID-19 testing ramped up to record high

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai recorded 1,298 fresh COVID-19-positive cases on July 21, showing a slight spike in positive cases after remaining steady for past few days. However, the Corporation simultaneously ramped up testing to a record 14,030.

The number of positive cases came down from 2,400 in the first week of June to about 1,100 in the third week of July. It had hovered around the figure for a few days and now has dipped close to 1,300.

But the good news is that

COVID-19-positivity rate on July 19 further dipped to 8.9 per cent. Experts have said in the past that a positivity rate of 5 percent or below is a good indicator that the spread has been contained.

Meanwhile, the city has tested more than 5 lakh persons, which accounts for 27 percent of the State's total of 18.55 lakhs.

The Corporation's testing figure stood at the 10,000-mark in the third week of July before testing was further ramped up.

So far, 69,382 (81 percent)

of patients have recovered in the city, and 15,042 (18 percent) are still under treatment.

The mortality rate stands at 1.67 as 1,434 persons have died.

Zone-wise data shows that 89 percent of affected persons have recovered in Tondiarpet, 88% in Royapuram and 84% in Teynampet and Madhavaram.

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Private labs told to give COVID-19 results in 24 hours

By Our Staff Reporter

In the wake of complaints from residents that COVID-19 results are being delayed by two to three days, Corporation Commissioner G. Prakash has told all testing centers in the city to produce results within 24 hours.

In a meeting in Ripon Buildings with representatives of private testing centers, the Commissioner on July 22 said that there must be no delay in results and all staff involved in testing must be well trained.

"All labs must collect basic details like name, address, phone number, contact history for the past 15 days and health issues. This information must be given to the Corporation immediately," the Commissioner said.

The Commissioner said that of the 35 testing centers in the city, 12 are operated by the government and 23 are private. He said about 10,000 tests are being done every day and the city has carried out 5,04,460 tests so far.

He said that all labs must follow ICMR protocols on sanitation and must keep banners on safety measures for people to follow. "All the staff must have protective gear without fail," he said.

Discarded cables lying on service lane

By Our Staff Reporter

Discarded overhead cables have been lying on the margin of North Usman Road Service lane in T. Nagar for several days.



Slanting poles hinder 2-wheeler riders



By Our Staff Reporter

Wooden poles slanting across the Mambalam High Road, T. Nagar entrance of Rangarajapuram two-wheeler subway are hindering riders.

Barricades in containment areas yet to be removed

The number of containment zones in the city has gone down and sent home on June 30. As but the barricades and asbestos sheets that were placed to control access have not yet been removed in several areas. Though officials from Health Department and Corporation said it would be done only after the cases reduce, residents alleged that workers were demanding the money for removing them.

However, even after the completion of the quarantine period, they were not removed for more than a fortnight. When the family requested the civic officials, they allegedly asked Rs 1,000 to remove the patient from West Mambalam barricades.

Garbage dumping yard along Railway Border Road



The area along the compound wall of Mambalam Railway Station on Railway Border Road, West Mambalam has been converted into a garbage dumping yard by Corporation workers.

V. Srinivasan (resident) said that a number of damaged bins are lying on the road margin and garbage collected from different areas is being dumped at the spot.

He added that complaints to officials concerned had evoked no response and raised concerns that that a number of COVID-19 cases had been reported from nearby areas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Garbage woes in Mahadevan Street



Sir, Residents are dumping garbage at the junction of Mahadevan Street and KV Colony 2nd Street.

My house is close to the junction, and it is becoming a health hazard. With the city already reeling under the fear of COVID-19, this kind of bad hygiene practice could only worsen the situation, especially for those living in the vicinity. The garbage bin kept at the junction is damaged and has not replaced.

The conservancy workers are not clearing the garbage daily, which leads to accumulation. The putrefying smell is impossible to bear and we are forced to keep our windows closed.

I appeal to the residents of the street not to dump garbage on the street corner, and to Corporation officials to remove the damaged bin and place another in a spot away from the present location. **Mohan, Mahadevan Street, West Mambalam**

COVID-19 notice has name of non-existent resident

Sir, I am a resident of 3, Varadhappan Street, West Mambalam.

There have been COVID-19 positive cases in our apartment complex. The entrance to our building has therefore been barricaded to prevent anyone from entering or leaving and a notice has been stuck at the gate to warn outsiders.

But the notice also mentions the name of a patient named Sriram (52) who does not reside in our building.

Presuming it could be a clerical error, we took up the issue with the Corporation volunteer who takes thermal readings of all residents daily. When he feigned ignorance and directed us to another volunteer, the latter showed remained nonchalant and said he will strike off the name. I am not sure if this is a one-off incident or there are more such cases, or we are becoming paranoid. **Vaikunth, 99520 33642**

How Chennai is faring in its fight against COVID-19

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai, as on July 20, had 87,235 positive cases, which is 50 percent of the total cases in Tamilnadu. The positive rate of Chennai has fallen in the past couple of days. As of July 20, the recovery rate of Chennai was 81 percent.

Among 15 zones, Royapuram (Zone 5), Anna Nagar (Zone 8), Teynampet (Zone 9), Tondiarpet (Zone 4), and Kodambakkam (Zone 10) are the most affected areas.

Aggressive and focused testing has helped Chennai control the spread of COVID-19, the city's corporation officials said. Positive cases are identified at an early stage, they said, with the help of door to door surveillance and fever camps. The corporation has introduced mobile testing centers in densely populated areas to identify potential cases and avoid unnecessary movement of asymptomatic patients.

There are 10,240 cases in Royapuram, 9,745 in Anna Nagar, 9,727 in Kodambakkam, 9,421 in Teynampet, and 8,750 in Tondiarpet.

Kodambakkam and Teynampet have been reporting a decline in the number of fresh COVID-19 cases.

According to data released

by the Corporation, 20,071 fever camps have been conducted from May 8 till July 20. 12,22,931 persons have attended and 65,159 symptomatic cases were identified and tested for COVID-19. Swab tests were taken from 60,170 persons. Tondiarpet, which has reported 8,750 COVID-19 cases, has the highest recovery rate of 89 percent among all 15 zones. There are still 807 active cases in the zone.

Approximately 4,000 volunteers are employed in the city to monitor COVID-19 patients in home quarantine. All essentials are brought by the volunteers. On the one hand, we are placing shields so that no inmate of the house steps out. On the other hand, the volunteers are helping them with all services so there is no need for them to come out," the official added.

After coming out of an intense lockdown earlier this month, Chennai markets are the next big challenge for the corporation. A cluster like Koyembedu is the last thing the officials want.

On reports of huge crowds gathering at Kasimedu fish market, the official said that they had warned the representatives of the associations that

the harbour would be sealed if they fail to adhere to social distancing norms.

"The corporation is planning to install CCTV and appoint security guards for crowd management," the official added.

Corporation Commissioner G. Prakash said that Rs. 400 crores has been spent so far for COVID-19 preventive measures.

"Earlier, we were testing 4,500 persons and now we have reached a stage where we are testing close to 12,000 persons a day. Five lakh persons have been tested in Chennai till date, the highest in India.

12,000 workers have been deployed for conducting door-to-door surveillance to identify persons with COVID-19 symptoms. 300 doctors have been additionally deployed to provide necessary services for COVID-19 positive patients," he said. Prakash added that the doubling time of Chennai has increased to 47 days. "As per ICMR and WHO, if the doubling time of COVID-19 is more than 14 days it is a good trend and we are doing well. In most affected areas like Royapuram, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, Tondiarpet the doubling time is 90 days," he added.

Illustrator showcases city's daily activities in art series

"Soon after the lockdown, I started illustrating things people were doing at home like cooking, binge-watching, working out, playing card games and so on. I stay at Teynampet and visiting the beach was a weekly affair. After being stuck at home, I started feeling nostalgic about the activities on the beach like the merry-go-round, small shops selling cotton candy, 'sundal', roasted masala corn, etc. I know that many miss Chennai's beautiful beaches full of various activities. So, I started illustrating these small things on social media. I got amazing response to the beach artwork series," said illustrator Hiral Makwana.

She started illustrating day-to-day street activities like the clothes ironing man in action, the clothes, juice shop vendor making sugarcane juice, small shops selling chips and other eatables, tea shops selling hot tea and coffee, etc. We never realised the value of these simple things until we started missing them. After seeing the artwork, many messaged me saying how much they are wanting to revisit all these things once everything is back to normal," she added.

Hiral has used gouache art for her work. "After painting, I convert the work into digital illustrations. I am planning to explore more city activities in the coming days," she said.

State Govt. cancels semester exams for UG courses

By Our Staff Reporter

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has announced the cancellation of semester exams for the first and second year of UG courses of arts and science colleges in the State for the academic year 2019-2020. This decision was taken following the recommendations from a high-level committee, formed by the government of Tamilnadu.

In a press note released by the government, the Chief Minister announced the cancellation of exams for the following courses.

1. The first and second year students of arts and science colleges and students of polytechnic courses
2. The first year students of post graduate courses
3. First, second and third year students of bachelors of engineering courses (BE, B. Tech)
4. First year students of Masters in Engineering (ME)
5. First and second year students of Masters of Computer Application (MCA - 3 years course) and first year students of MCA (2 years course)

The students who are exempted will be promoted to the next academic year.

Short-term course on 'Conservation and restoration of archival material and books'

Hepzibah Institute of Heritage Conservation (21, VOC Street, MGR Nagar) is conducting a short-term course on 'Conservation and restoration of archival material and books' for those employed in libraries, museums, galleries, colleges, corporate offices and those who interested in the field from Monday, July 27 to Saturday, Aug. 1

It will cover a wide range of topics including material science, documentation and photography, preventive and interactive conservation, restoration methods, lamination, post-care and transportation.

Participants will be taken to institutions in Chennai which maintain archival material, records and books.

V. Jeyaraj (Director) will conduct the classes. Experts will be invited to give guest lectures.

The fee is Rs. 6,000 per candidate.

For more details, call 2474 5944, 93810 08253

Tanker Foundation donates 5,000 face masks

By Our Staff Reporter

TANKER Foundation (Abiramee Apartments, Flat 11, 3rd Floor, 11, Thirumurthy Street, T. Nagar, Ph: 4309 0998, 2834 1635) has been providing free dialysis for underprivileged persons for nearly three decades.

Since the lockdown, it has teamed up with the Corporation to provide free treatment for COVID-19 patients suffering from severe kidney problems. On July 20, the Foundation supplied 5000 face masks to the Corporation at its zonal office in Teynampet for distribution among its employees and health workers on COVID-19-related duty.

According to Latha Kumaraswami (Managing Trustee), among patients who have succumbed to COVID-19 infection, a big number had comorbidities like respiratory and renal problems.

It has also been reported



that even normal people who contract the virus are also vulnerable to kidney failure, she said. It has so far provided free dialysis for 3,48,492 patients.

It has also provided financial support totalling Rs. 3.86 crores for 3,372 patients as one-time contributions ranging from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 50,000 for transplantation, medication, investigation and surgeries. Of the average of 5,000 dialysis per month, 4,500 are provided free.

The dialysis units, with a total of 147 dialysis stations,

are located in Chennai in Ambattur Rotary Hospital, Corporation PHC (Nungambakkam), Rotary Club of Madras East, (Thiruverkadu), Corporation UPHC (Retteri), Rotary Club of Chennai Towers (Perungudi), Corporation UCHC (Valasaravakkam), Rotary Club of Chennai Coastal (Kilpauk) and Corporation UCHC (Injambakkam). It also has centers in Vellore, Coimbatore and Madurai.

For more details, visit the website www.tankerfoundation.org

Active cases cross 50,000, recovery rate 70%

Tamilnadu reported 4,965 new COVID-19 cases and discharged 4,894 people from hospitals on July 21.

The state presently has 51,344 active COVID-19 cases of which 14,952 are in Chennai followed by Tiruvallur (3,475), Madurai (3,280), Chengalpattu (2,564), Kancheepuram (2,357), Virudhunagar (2,186) and Thoothukudi (2,107).

Other districts with over 1,000 active COVID-19 cases include Coimbatore (1,314), Kanyakumari (1,584), Theni (1,231), Thiruvannamalai (1,732), Tirunelveli (1,225), Trichy (1,096) and Vellore (1,453). Chennai reported 1,130 new cases, but saw 1,298 people getting discharged after recovery. So far, 1,26,670 patients out of the state's tally of 1,80,643 have been discharged after recovery. A total of 9,028 children below the age of 12 and 22,332 persons above the age of 60 have contracted the virus. The state has 113 COVID-19 testing facilities and has conducted 19,56,672 tests so far.

Perform Aavani Avittam online on Aug. 3, 4

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Bhuvaneshwari Vedic Center is organizing Yajur Upakarma on Aug. 3 and Rig Upakarma on Aug. 4 from 7 a.m to 12 noon online considering the present situation.

Vedic Ravi (Founder) said that those who are not able to engage a purohit for the purpose can perform Aavani Avittam online on Zoom App.

Those interested may send details such as name, veda, sutharam, phone number and location through Whatsapp or SMS. The last date for registration is July 29. More details can be had in 98407 87957.

HRD Dept. issues guideline for online classes

Central Human Resources Department has issues guideline for conducting online classes as schools are expected to remain closed for at least 2 more months owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As per the guideline, there will be only one online session per day for 30 minutes for LKG and UKG.

There will be 2 sessions of 45-minute each for Std. 1 to 8 and 4 sessions of 30 to 45-minute each for Std. 9 to 12.

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Guideline for disinfection

By Our Staff Reporter

While most businesses are staring at an uncertain future, the COVID-19 pandemic has opened up a plethora of opportunities for disinfection service providers.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), it is mandatory to disinfect the house of a COVID-19 patient. Though it is the job of the Corporation, municipal staff crunch raises the risk of inadequate or delayed action. This has prompted many citizens to opt for private disinfection services, which have, in turn, created an alternative business opportunity for people in this space.

Guidelines for disinfection:

1. All indoor areas such as entrance lobbies, corridors and staircases, escalators, elevators, security guard booths, office rooms, meeting rooms and cafeteria should be mopped with a disinfectant with 1% sodium hypochlorite or phenolic disinfectants.

2. High contact surfaces such as elevator buttons, handrails/handles and call buttons, escalator handrails, public counters, intercom systems, equipment like telephones, printers/scanners, and other office machines should be cleaned twice daily by mopping with a linen/absorbable cloth soaked in 1% sodium hypochlorite.

3. Frequently touched areas such as tabletops, chair handles, pens, files, keyboards, mouse, mouse pad and tea/coffee dispensing machines should be cleaned.

4. For metallic surfaces like door handles, security locks and keys 70% alcohol can be used to wipe surfaces where the use of bleach is not suitable.

5. Do not use disinfectant spray on highly contaminated areas (such as toilet bowl or surrounding surfaces) as it may create splashes which can further spread the virus.

6. To prevent cross-contamination, discard cleaning material made of cloth (mop and wiping cloth) in separate bags after cleaning and disinfecting. Wear a new pair of gloves and fasten the bag.

7. Disinfect all cleaning equipment after use and before using in other areas. Disinfect buckets by soaking in bleach solution or rinse in hot water.

Preparing houses for sanitisation

1. Heavily soiled surfaces should be cleaned with water and floor cleaner prior to disinfection.

2. Trash/waste contents must be bagged, sealed and left in appropriate places for surface disinfection.

3. Open all cabinet doors, drawers, and doors to suites and minimize occluded/covered surfaces to facilitate the penetration of chemicals for disinfection.

4. Air-conditioners and heating equipment should be turned off prior to disinfection.

5. Clothes should be stored in a closed cupboard. Disinfection in the kitchen should be done excluding the places where edible items and vessels are stored.

6. The disinfected rooms should not be used two hours after disinfection, post which rooms can be just wiped with a dry cloth.

Presently, service providers charge on the basis of area. The cost per sq ft is fixed depending on the total area; the larger the area, the less the unit rate.

Some private disinfection service providers in the city

1. Yah Facilities Service – 86676 03856
2. Shariq & Co – 98841 50994
3. 1 Solutions – 98411 23524
4. Camaleon Service – 89258 87783
5. Pest Rid – 95518 55050

2-wheeler rider carries long pipe



By Our Staff Reporter

A 2-wheeler rider snapped carrying a long pipe under his arm on Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam on July 19.

Mambalam High Road milled for relaying

By Our Staff Reporter

Milling was done on Mambalam High Road in T. Nagar a few days back to enable relaying. Since the road was not closed to traffic, bikers choosing to use the road are having a rough ride.



Shoppers throng Theagaraya Road



By Our Staff Reporter

With shoppers beginning to visit shops on Theagaraya Road, T. Nagar (Smart City Road), the two-wheeler and four-wheeler parking areas were found full on July 22.

Velammal School produces 100% pass in Std. 12 exam

All the 1,668 students of Velammal Main School (Mogappair) passed the State Board Standard 12 board exam held in March this year, the results of which were declared on July 16.

S. Anush Priya top scored with 591 out of 600 marks.

90 students got centum in various subjects. Online admissions are open for Std. 11. For more details, call 80567 71790



Urban Horticulture to promote terrace gardening

By Our Staff Reporter

Lush rooftop gardens could be a reality across the city with the launching of the Patchai Madi Project, a Urban Horticulture Initiative (UHI). It is one of the key projects recommended by the Chennai Resilience Strategy Report released by 100 Resilient Cities in June 2019. The project is in its pilot stage and is expected to be rolled out in October this year.

The UHI design has been formulated in close partnership with technical experts from the Centre for Urbanization, Building & Environment (CUBE), Greater Chennai Corporation, Tamil Nadu Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women and the Tamil Nadu Skills Development Corporation.

Rooftop gardens in schools

To begin with, the UHI will target Corporation schools to introduce rooftop gardening, prioritizing the schools in low income areas. The initiative will also aim to reach and educate students' families and encourage them to start gardening at home. The produce from these efforts will be used in midday meals centers and help to provide more nutritious and balanced meals for students.

The program is envisioned over a span of 10 years and is aimed at reducing the vulnerability of 2.5 million people to climate change, through local food production on rooftops and in community spaces. This effort will yield a multitude of benefits such as food security, mitigating urban heat, delaying and holding rainwater run-off, livelihood generation for vulnerable communities, especially women and community cohesion.

Cop helps reinstate maid after she recovers from Covid-19

By Our Staff Reporter

56-year-old Radhamma who had been employed for more than 10 years in an apartment complex in K.K.Nagar, was not reinstated after she recovered from Covid-19.

She used to clean the premises and deliver milk packets to all the flats in the apartment.

Even after she pleaded with the apartment's welfare association, they refused to reemploy her, and said they had engaged someone else in her place.

After coming to know of her plight as she had lost her livelihood, Hari Kiran the Deputy Commissioner of Police (T. Nagar) met the members of the apartment association and convinced them to reemploy her.

"I clarified that most of the 'information' surrounding the Covid-19 was a myth and told them that there was no need to fear. But I left the decision to them," said the police officer.

The association members then called Radhamma back and told her she could resume working immediately.

They also agreed to provide her with some money.

An overwhelmed Radhamma thanked the DCP.

444 unaccounted deaths take toll to 3100

By Our Staff Reporter

Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan on July 22 said that the death of 444 persons left out of the state's tally has been added to the list of persons who died due to COVID-19 taking the total toll in the state to 3,144.

Speaking to reporters, he said that these deaths occurred between March 1 and June 10 and were not accounted for earlier. The numbers were arrived at by the Death Reconciliation Committee set up by the state government, which submitted its report.

The committee recommended that an additional 444 deaths would also fall under the category of COVID-19 deaths as per ICMR guidelines, though such cases were medically considered deaths due to comorbidity or other terminal illness.

Radhakrishnan also said that a weekly reconciliation report will be submitted henceforth on the deaths in Chennai, based on the orders of the Chief Minister.

The nine-member committee, headed by Dr. P. Vadivelan, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, was formed to reconcile the deaths and report the actual figures of mortality linked to COVID-19 in the city.

Govt advises home quarantine as cases cross 5,000 a day

By Our Staff Reporter

With the daily number of new cases crossing 5,000 in Tamilnadu, the State Govt. has been advised by the health department to promote telemedicine and home quarantine and keep the facilities open for patients with serious conditions.

According to a health official, home quarantine has advantages for the patients with mild infections.

Parameters like body temperature and oxygen saturation of every patient are monitored twice a day, which readings are made available to doctors through software to track those in home quarantine.

"The majority of patients only require quarantine care with basic medicines," said the official.

Home isolation: do's & don'ts

Who should opt for home quarantine?

Those without any comorbid conditions like diabetes, BP, heart and kidney ailment

Those with mild symptoms like body pain and headache
Spacious house with telemedicine facility and separate bathrooms

Families with less than three members

Who should not opt for home quarantine

Those with breathing difficulties and comorbid conditions

Small houses without separate bathrooms and poor ventilation

Joint family with aged persons and kids

Who should opt for quarantine centre

Those with a sore throat and mild symptoms

No facility for isolation at home

Those without telemedicine option

More than two members positive

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WEST MAMBALAM, 21/A, Thambiah Road, 200 sq.ft, bachelor room or office use, bath attached, 2nd floor, rent Rs. 6000. Ph: 98408 18795.

WEST MAMBALAM, Nagarathinmamal Colony (Off. Govindan Road), 1000 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1st floor, no lift, covered car park, ready wood work, A/c & geyser fitted, rent Rs. 20000 (negotiable) + maintenance Rs. 500, advance Rs. 80000, vegetarians only. Ph: 70101 23100.

WEST MAMBALAM, 1, Kasi viswanadhar Koil Street, near Railway Station/T.Nagar Busstand, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, fully wood work, 1100 sq.ft, ground floor apartment, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 22000 negotiable. Contact: Sarathy Ph: 81489 59362.

WEST MAMBALAM, 170/171, Kala flats, K.R. Koil Street, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, lift, covered car park, vegetarians only, immediate occupation. Ph: 99625 82857, 98841 08893.

WEST MAMBALAM, 33/26, Postal Colony 1st Street, individual house, 500 sq.ft, suitable for software or office purpose, rent Rs. 45000 (negotiable). Contact: Bharath, Ph: 72000 89884, 87545 00999.

KODAMBAKKAM, 2/12, Trustpuram, 2nd Cross Street, opp. Playground, near Arcot Road, corner plot, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 3rd floor, 950 sq.ft, 2 wardrobes, 1 balcony, lift, open parking, small vegetarian family, rent Rs. 20000, advance one lakh. Ph: 98199 94623.

Slight rise in COVID-19 growth rate in city

By Our Staff Reporter

According to the data released by the Corporation, the overall average growth rate of new cases for the seven days till July 22 was zero percent.

Among the 15 zones of the city, seven zones, including Anna Nagar, Adyar and Thiru Vi Ka Nagar have registered a positive growth rate of new cases.

It may be noted that for the week ended July 13, all the 15 zones had registered a negative growth rate of new cases and the city had registered -6.6 percent growth rate. Positive growth rate indicates more COVID-19 positive cases during the week than the number of cases confirmed in the previous week.

Between July 13 and 19, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar was identified as the worst-performing zone as it had registered -12.3 percent growth rate on July 13 only to slip to 8.4 percent growth rate on July 19. During the period, cases in the zone had increased to 6,853 from 6,182. Among the zones, Kodambakkam has the lowest growth rate with -4 percent.

A Corporation official said that more cases are being identified as the civic body has been increasing the number of samples tested every day.

Meanwhile, the Corporation has removed the details of streets that have COVID-19 positive cases from its official website without citing any reason. As on Monday, there were 188 containment zones in the city, of which Kodambakkam zone alone had 124 containment zones.

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Sunday lockdown helps fight COVID-19

By Our Staff Reporter

After spiraling of cases till the 3rd week of June, things began to take a turn for the better in Chennai.

This has prompted the government to relax lockdown restrictions from July 6 and allow more movement.

However, the government declared that every Sunday in July would be a day of total lockdown, with all people strictly confined indoors.

The logic behind these Sunday lockdowns perplexed many. Going by the behavioural pattern of the COVID-19 virus, a single day break between two weeks, when most restrictions would be relaxed, was hard to comprehend. But two weeks on, this appears to have delivered some results.

The one-day lockdown is presumably intended to let people prepare and take necessary steps to keep the pandemic at bay. For example, with shops closed and movement in public areas banned, people will be forced to remain at home.

Making homes COVID-19 proof, keeping every nook and corner clean and sanitised, washing all that is washable and keeping them ready for use over the following week is a time consuming and mindful process, and the Sunday can be used for that.

As people move to learning to live with COVID-19, the following must be carefully observed:

- Scrubbing and fumigating dwelling places
- With online education becoming the norm, cleaning of all electronic gadgets and decontamination
- Decontamination of any PPE and face masks used, or any other gear used for personal safety.

The lockdown Sundays gives an ideal opportunity to COVID-19-proof every household. A Sunday holiday will not only help to rejuvenate the body and mind and strengthen one's internal and external resistance against COVID-19.

Though the Sunday lockdown is not a popular move, it has brought better results and set the Uttar Pradesh government thinking about following suit.

Tips to reduce food wastage in kitchen

By Our Staff Reporter

The kitchen has become the busiest place in many households with people experimenting with new cuisines and recipes. But the mindless cooking has led to a serious concern about food wastage and the best way to tackle this is by embracing zero-waste cooking.

Author of the book My Genius Lunch Box, Uma Raghuraman opines that one of the good things about the lockdown is that people have started cooking at home.

"Some are expert cooks and they know how to prepare meals with less or zero wastage. But those who are new to the kitchen tend to waste a huge quantity of food. The first step is to learn to manage the quantity while cooking. And for this, you can follow recipes in which the exact amount of ingredient is mentioned. If you are not keen on following any recipes, then you have to make notes of quantity that you use. After a few days of practice, you will become an expert. In some cases, zero-waste cooking might not be possible. But everyone can minimise waste while cooking," said Uma.

She suggested making chutneys, pickles and storing them for a long time.

"You can even make different types of podis and which can be used with any dish. Avoid hoarding of vegetables in the fridge. It is better to have monthly planning before buying vegetables and fruits. Once you are used to cooking, you will learn small tricks on how to reduce food wastage. For example, store-bought curry leaves will dry soon. So, after washing and drying the leaves, heat some coconut oil and fry the leaves in it. Store this fried leaves — they will last a few days. You can use the same oil for cooking. If you buy extra veggies or fruits, make pickles, jams and sauces. Such food items have a long shelf life," she added.

Chennai-based home chef Shanthi Ramachandran said that she started to cook minimum quantities to avoid food wastage. "We get plenty of vegetables and fruits from roadside vendors but I make it a point to buy the required vegetables once in three days instead of dumping my fridge with vegetables for a week. However, some vegetables tend to perish quickly. Once or twice a week, you can cook with pulses and legumes which are healthy as well. I strongly recommend that everyone should have a vegetable garden at home — on the terrace, in the balcony or backyard. In my small terrace garden, I grow herbs, mint leaves, ajwain leaves (known as karpooravalli leaves), spinach, mudakathan keerai (balloon vines), methi leaves, sorrel greens, drumstick leaves, lemon leaves, adamant creeper, etc. The herbs, when used with pepper, cumin and turmeric act as a wonderful immunity booster," she concluded.

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Krishnammachari donates Rs. 20 lakhs to Heart Foundation

By Our Staff Reporter

R. P. Krishnammachari (Managing Director, Tex Bio Science Private Limited, Ashok Nagar) donated Rs. 20 lakhs to National Heart Foundation, Mogappair, on July 14.

National Heart Foundation was started in 2000 by eminent cardiologists Dr. Rajan and Dr. Letchumanadhas of Madras Medical Mission (MMM) Hospital.

They offer free surgery for deserving poor patients with the help of MMM Hospital.



Webinar on Abdul Kalam

By Our Staff Reporter

SAI Global Mission (USA) and Prime Point Foundation (T. Nagar) have jointly organised a webinar through Zoom at 6.30 p.m (IST) on Sunday, July 26 in memory of Dr. Abdul Kalam on the occasion of his 5th anniversary.

Arjun Ram Meghwal (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs) will be the chief guest and present awards to organisations and individuals who are continuing Dr. Kalam's vision.

Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai, eminent scientist and close associate of Dr. Abdul Kalam, and Dr. Arjun Malhota (Co-founder of HCL Technologies and Industrialist) will be the guests of honour.

Those interested in watching the event may contact Srinivasan (Founder & Chairman of Prime Point Foundation) in www.primepointfoundation.in

K. K. Nagar resident is President of Innerwheel Club of Esplanade

By Our Staff Reporter

Poornima Kumar (Founder of Virgo Fitness Centre and Virgo Events, K. K. Nagar) has been elected as the President of Innerwheel Club of Esplanade for 2020-21.

As a member of the Club, she has promoted a number of environment-friendly projects, and has conducted awareness campaigns about obesity (especially for adolescents) and conducted psychological counseling for youths to keep them away from immoral activities. Her contact number is 99410 18210.



Contest on 'Ideas to promote terrace gardening'

Urban Horticulture Department (UHD) is conducting a contest on 'Ideas to promote terrace gardening' which is open to all.

Those who want to participate can send an email to patchaimadi@resilientchennai.com with the subject line: 'Green Roof Project'.

The Department will send a brief on how to generate ideas to meet the project objective. The first 10 winning entries will get a starter vegetable garden kit.

The last date for receiving entries is Monday, July 27. The winners will be notified by email on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Containment zones down to 81, with 13,941 active cases

By Our Staff Reporter

As on July 22, the city reported a total of 89,561 positive cases, of which 73,681 patients have recovered so far. As many as 13,941 cases are still under treatment.

Since last week, containment zones have come down from 188 to 81.

Anna Nagar Zone has the most number of Covid patients seeking treatment with 27 containment zones.

Royapuram Zone, which was earlier the worst hit, has no containment areas.

Free course on refrigeration, airconditioning

By Our Staff Reporter

Rotary Club of Madras Marina and Chennapuri Annadana Samajam have invited applications by Aug. 31 for the free residential and day-scholar course on refrigeration and air-conditioning (SCVT-Govt Approved) for underprivileged students in Chennakudi Annadhanam Samajam Technical Industrial School, 2, Sundaram Salai, R. A. Puram.

The one-year course is open to those in the 17-20 years age group (Plus 2/SSLC passed or failed) who are assured placement after completion of the course.

The classes will start after the lockdown ends.

There will be two batches of

25 students each.

More details can be had in 2435 0956, 98419 27219 and 80560 12478.

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