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Chennai Metro begins soil test on South Usman Road



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Metro started soil testing on South Usman Road, for its Phase 2 project.

There will be two stations in the Corridor 4 in Phase 2 in T. Nagar, one at Natesan Park and the other at Panagal Park.

The Phase 2 project comprises three corridors – Corridor 3 from Madhavaram to SIPCOT, Corridor 4 from Lighthouse to Poonamallee and Corridor 5 from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur.

Metrowater rolls back tax hike

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the furore among the consumers over the hike in water tax despite the revision in property tax rates being put on hold, the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Metrowater) has decided not to issue demand notices.

A senior Metrowater official said consumers who have received the demand notices, need not pay the increased tax amount.

He said the rollback has been updated on the website, and the residents are requested to pay tax as per the old rates.

“For those who have paid as per the demand notice, the extra money will be kept as tax advance and will be adjusted in the future,” he said.

Total lockdown to continue on Sundays in August

By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Government has extended the lockdown in Chennai with some relaxation of rules till Aug. 31.

There will be total lockdown on Sundays (Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30)

All private offices and establishments have been allowed to function with 75% workforce as against 50% in July.

Ban on public transport including buses, suburban trains and metro trains to continue.

Shopping malls, schools, colleges, training and coaching institutions, international air travel, cinema halls, gymnasiums, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars and auditoriums, assembly halls, beaches, zoological parks, museums and similar places will remain closed.

Wearing of masks is mandatory while venturing out of homes.

The e-pass system for inter-district and inter-state travel will continue.

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3BHK VILLA NEAR DEFENCE COLONY @ Ekkaduthangal, Chennai **AG ANMOL GARDEN** CUSTOMISED STERILIZED VILLA 99401 24000 / 99401 23000 sales@anmolproperties.com | www.anmolproperties.com

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ஆலந்தார் பர்மெண்ட் பண்டு நீதி விமலெட் (தலைவர் - 1992) (மத்திய அரசால் அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்ட நிதி நிறுவனம்) புது என். 18, (மழைய என். 107), முதுமேல்வ. தெரு. (MKN மார்க்கட் ரோடு அருகில்) ஆலந்தார், சென்னை - 600 016. போன் : 044 - 2232 1220 / 2232 1221 / 98405 20207 பங்குதாரர்களுக்கு ஒரு நற்செய்தி! வைப்புத்தொகை திட்டம் சேகரிப்பு விழா 12-மாதம் வைப்புத் தொகைக்கு அதிகபட்ச ஆண்டு வட்டியாக 10% 24-மாதம் வைப்புத் தொகைக்கு அதிகபட்ச ஆண்டு வட்டியாக 10.5% ஒரு வருடத்திற்கு மாதம் வட்டி ரூ. 834/- அடிப்படில் ஒரு வருடத்திற்கு மாதம் வட்டி ரூ. 875/- அடிப்படில் கடன் : தங்க நகைகளுக்கு வட்டி 12% (குடியும் 100-க்கு 1-குடியும் மட்டும்) மற்றும் வீட்டின் போளியும் அடுக்கு மாடிக்கட்டிடத்தின் போளிக் கடன் வழங்கப்படும் புதிய உறுப்பினர்களைக் சேர்ந்து பயன் பெறுவீர் ...

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தமாஷா வரிகள்

ஜே.எஸ். ராகவன்

ஆடிப் பலன்களின் மெனு

(சாப்பாட்டுப் பிரியர்களுக்கான ஆடி மாதப் பலன்களை ஜோதிட திலகம் பண்டாரவடை ஸ்ரீராமகேசரி பின்வருமாறு சில ராசிக்காரர்களுக்கு சப்ளை செய்திருக்கிறார்.)

மேஷம்: தவலை வடைக்காகத் தலையையும் அடகு வைக்கத் தயாராக இருக்கும் மேஷ ராசி அன்பர்களே! தலைக்கு ஒரு தவலை வடைதான் என்று ராயர் கஃபேயில் கட்டுப்பாடு உள்ள நிலையில் இலங்கேஸ்வரனாக இன்று போய் நாளை வர வேண்டி அல்லாமல் அன்றே பத்துத் தவலை வடைகள் கிடைத்திருக்குமே என்று ஏங்கலாம். சொத்தை எழுதி வைக்கும் வேளையில் உங்கள் மாமனார் துலாபாரமாக ஒரு தட்டில் தங்க நாணயங்களுக்கும் மற்றொரு தட்டில் சூடான தவலை வடைகளையும் வைத்தாலும் வடைத் தட்டுதான் உங்கள் பக்கம் சாயும்.

ரிஷபம்: அடுக்கு தீபாராதனைபோல் இறக்கிய இடலிகளை அசராமல் உண்டு காட்டும் ரிஷப ராசி அன்பர்களே! 108 இடலிகளை சாப்பிட்டுக் காட்டுகிறேன் என்று விட்ட சவாலில் 'கமான் கமான்' என்று 97, 98யைத் தாண்டிவிட்ட உற்சாகப் படுத்தினாலும் பின்னடைவு ஏற்பட்டு 101வது இடலியின்போது திணறி, உங்கள் மேல் பெட் கட்டியவர்கள் கொலை வெறியுடன் பாய இருக்கும்போது ஒரு மணிக்கு முன்னால் ரிகர்சலாக 108 இடலிகளை அனாயாசமாக சாப்பிட்டேன். இப்போ என்ன ஆச்சு தெரியலையே என்று அப்பாவியாகப் புலம்புவீர்கள்.

மிதுனம்: மகாகவி பாரதி பாடிய மங்கியதோர் நிலவின் வசீகரத்தில் இருக்கும் போளியின் மிதுன ராசிக் காதலர்களே! விருந்துகளில் தலைக்கு (அல்லது இலைக்கு) ஒன்று என்கிற கறார் கணக்கில் பரிமாறப்படும் திருவாளர் போளி வழங்கி தீ மிதிப்பவர் போல அவசர அவசரமாகப் போட்டுக் கொண்டு போன கையோடு, லைனில் வரும் அடுத்தவர் அதி வேகமாக நெய்யை ஊற்றி வருவது கண்கூடு. அன்னாரை நிறுத்தி மற்றொரு போளி போட வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டால் அவர் அபிநயிக்கும் ருத்ரபாவம் போளி (போலி) அல்ல நிஜம்.

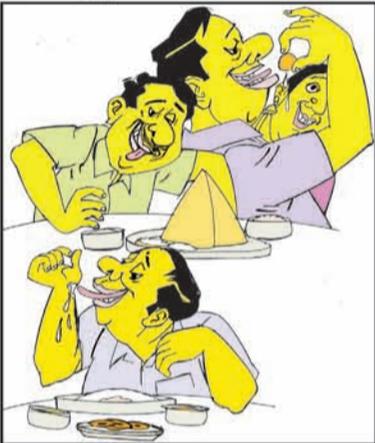
கடகம்: சொத சொத என்று ஊறிய தயிர் வடைக்கு ஏங்கும் கடக ராசி அன்பர்களே! முந்திய இலைவரை வந்தது தீர்ந்து போனதால் மீண்டும் கொண்டு வருபவர் உங்கள் இலையை உதாசீனப் படுத்திவிடும் துர்ப்பாக்கியம் தொடரலாம். பாவாடைக் கத்திரிக்காயை எண்ணெயில் வதக்கி, காம்புடன் பரிமாறப்படும் ஸ்டார் ஐட்டம் உங்கள் பக்கமே தலை எடுத்து வைக்காது. நுனி இலையில் விடப்படும் சூடான மைசூர் ரசம் இடுக்கி, கபினி, மேட்டூர், முல்லைப் பெரியாறிலிருந்து திறந்துவிடப்பட்ட உபரி நீராக உங்கள் மடிமேல் பாயும் அபாயம் நிகழலாம்.

சிம்மம்: தோசை பெஸ்டிவல்களின் தாசர்களான சிம்ம ராசிக்காரர்களே! டேபிளுக்கு வந்த பேப்பர் ரோஸ்ட்டு, ஜெமினி சர்க்கஸ் கோமாளியின் தொப்பி வடிவில் வழங்கப்படும் தோசையை உடைத்து உண்ணும் ஜோலியில் இறங்கும்போது தோசை உதிர்ந்து, தமிழ்த் தாத்தா உ.வே.சா அவர்கள் கடும் வெயிலில் பத்து மைல்கள் நடந்து ஒரு இஷ்டரிடமிருந்து கிடைக்கப் பெற்ற சுவையை மிகுந்த கவனத்துடன் தொடர்போதிலும் பொலபொலவென்று உதிர்ந்து அன்னாரை விசனப்பட வைத்து விட்டதுபோலப் பேப்பர் ரோஸ்ட்டு உங்களைப் பதற வைக்கும். இவைகள் மேல் லித்தோ, ஆர்ட் பேப்பர்களால் தயாரிக்கப்படுபவை அல்ல. ஆகவே சாப்பிடுவதில் கவனம் தேவை.

கன்னி: நுனி இலை விரும்பி கன்னி ராசி அன்பர்களே! முதல் சொட்டுப் பாயசத்தை விடுத்துத் தொடர்ந்து வரும் தயிர் பச்சடி, கோசு மல்லி, அவியல், கூட்டு வகையறாக்கள் ஒவ்வொன்றும் ஸ்தலத்தில் விழுந்தவுடன் பாம்பு நர்த்திபோல் உடலை வளைத்து, ஐட்டத்தின் மிக அருகில் நெருங்கிப் பூண்டு வாசனை வருகிறதா என்று மோப்பம் பிடித்து சோதித்து உண்ணுவீர்கள். 'ஏமாந்தா பூண்டு பாயசம், பூண்டு ஐஸ்கிரீம்' ஏன் பூண்டு பீடாகூட வந்து சேரும் என்று பக்கத்து இலைக் காரரிடம் கேலியாக சொல்லாதீர்கள். அவர் கூண்டோடு கைலாசம் போனாலும் பூண்டோடு போகிறவராக இருக்கலாம்.

துலாம்: உறிஞ்சி உண்பது என் பிறப்புரிமை என்று திலகர் ரேஞ்சில் கர்ஜிக்கும் துலா ராசி அன்பர்களே! இரைச்சலான டைனிங் ஹால்களில் உங்கள் உறியும் சத்தம் அடங்கிப் போகலாம். கோகுலத்தில் 'எங்கும் நிறை பரப்பிரம்மம்' அம்மா என்று அழைக்கும் பாக்கியம் பெற்ற யசோதா போன்றோர் தயிர் கடையும்போது 'சர்-சர்' என்று ஒலிக்கும் ரேஞ்சில் 'உர்-உர்' என்று உறிஞ்சி சாப்பிடும் உங்களுக்கு ஏற்படும் துர்ப்பாக்கியம், ரசம் தாண்டியவுடன் இலையில் பாயசம் பரவலாகப் பரிமாறப் படுவது நிறுத்தப்பட்டு, அந்த 'உறிதல் ஊக்கியை அல்பாயசான காகிதக் கோப்பையில் கொடுக்கப்படுவதுதான். பாயசத்தில் அப்பளத்தை நொறுக்கி, முழங்கை முனை சொட்டச் சாப்பிட்ட 'அந்த நாளும் வந்திடாதோ?' என்று பக்த மீராவின தாபத்துடன் நீங்கள் ஏங்கலாம்.

விருச்சிகம்: தித்திக்கும் பட்சணங்களின் மேல் ஏறும்பின் ஈர்ப்புடைய விருச்சிக ராசி அன்பர்களே! அந்தக் காலங்களில் கல்யாணம் என்றால் மைசூர்பாகு ('கு' என்று முடிபவை. 'பா' என்று முடிபவை அல்ல), லட்டு (அல்லது பூந்தி) மற்றும் லாமினேட் செய்யப்பட்டது போலத் தோன்றும் பாதுஷா வகையறாக்கள் இடம்பெறும். காலப்போக்கில் இவைகள் வட இந்நிய, மால்புவா, சிரோட்டி, சம்சங்களால் விரட்டப்பட்டு விட்டதால் திகைப்படைவீர்கள். சிரோட்டியைப் பாலாபிஷேகம் பண்ணி அளிப்பார்கள். கடைகளிலும், உணவு விடுதிகளிலும் முத்து, முருகன், மூக்காண்டி போன்றவர்கள் காணாமல் போய் வட இந்நிய வந்தேரிகளின் பிரணாப், பகதூர், பிரமாணிக்கர்கள் செய்தவரும் ஆக்கிரமிப்பின் முன்னோடியாகத் தோன்றலாம். 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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Tree cut, stump left on road margin



By Our Staff Reporter

A dead avenue tree on Hanumanthan Street, T. Nagar opposite Corporation Playground was cut and removed a year back.

Its stump, which was left behind, is blocking the road margin and also the entrance to an apartment adjacent to it.

The portion of the pavement which got damaged by the roots has still not been re-laid.

2nd 'plasma' bank in India for COVID-19 opens in Govt. General Hospital

By Our Staff Reporter

Considering the success of plasma therapy, the Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation has set up an advanced 'plasma' bank in Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital.

It was inaugurated on July 21 by Dr. Vijaybaskar (Health Minister). It is the second plasma bank for COVID-19 patients in India the 1st being in Delhi.

This facility will help 7 persons to donate plasma at a specific time. Those in the age group of 8-65 years and who have recovered from COVID-19 can donate plasma 14 days after the onset of the infection.

The Tamilnadu government had earlier announced plans to introduce plasma therapy in Stanley Medical College hospital, Government Medical College in Omandurar and Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University in Chennai, besides medical colleges in the districts of Trichy, Salem, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore.

Due date for filing IT Returns extended

By Our Staff Reporter

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on July 29 extended the deadline for filing of original and revised income tax (IT) returns for financial year 2018-19 (Assessment year 2019-2020) till September 30.

Earlier in March, the date was extended to June 30 from March 31, and in June till July 31.

In order to provide relief to small and middle class taxpayers, the date for payment of self-assessment tax in the case of a taxpayer whose self-assessment tax liability is upto Rs. 1 lakh has also been extended to November 30.

TNEA: Over 65,000 apply in two days

Hardly two days after the launch of online admission for students seeking engineering seats in the State more than 65,000 applications have been received so far.

According to a senior official from the Directorate of Technical Education (DOTE), on the first day a total of 23,583 applications were received from and 41,877 students registered on the second day.

Claiming that around 1 lakh applications would be registered in the next couple of days, the official said that the last date for registration is Aug. 16.

"Last year on the first day, only around 15,000 candidates had registered through the online portal," he said, adding that 1.33 lakh applications were received last year.

According to him, soon after the registration of applications, uploading of original certificates will begin on July 31 and end on Aug. 20. Assigning of random numbers will be done on Aug. 21 and verification of original certificates will begin on Aug. 24 and conclude on Sept. 1. 1.47 lakh seats are available in about 500 engineering colleges in the State.

"Last year only 70,000 candidates participated in the counselling," the official said, adding that this year about one lakh are expected to attend the counselling.

Enough water in reservoirs to last till December

By Our Staff Reporter

On July 27, Red Hills and Chembarambakkam reservoirs had 2,575 mcft and 1,888 mcft of water storage respectively, forming 48% of their combined capacity.

According to Metrowater sources, this is the largest storage at the end of July since 2003, and had been caused by good rains during the last two months and steady inflows from Krishna river and Veeranam lake.

The storage on July 25 last year was a mere 1% of the combined capacity.

With Veeranam lake having 1,433 mcft of water, which is 99% of its full capacity, Metrowater officials are confident that they will be able to maintain the average daily supply of 700 million liters to the city consumers till the end of December.

Online meet conducted for 100 women entrepreneurs

By Our Staff Reporter

Tamiladu Arya Vysya Mahila Sabha (T. Nagar) conducted a zoom session for more than 100 women entrepreneurs on July 26.

Each participant was given 5 minutes to promote their products/services online.

They were provided guidance on how to use digital platforms to market their products and services.

The Sabha also announced a cash award of Rs. 13,500 to a participant Roja who had scored 540 out of 600 in the Std. 12 board exam held this year while working part time to support her family.

In the previous years, the annual program was held at a large venue with more number of participants, but had to be restricted to 100 on the digital platform due to lockdown restrictions.

Local youth ends life after losing money in online card game

A college student residing in Aminjikarai committed suicide at his home after losing money in an online card game.

The deceased has been identified as Nitish. According to the police, they found a suicide note which stated that he had stolen Rs.20,000 from a store where he was working part time, and spent it on the game.

His body was sent to Govt. Kilpauk Medical Hospital for postmortem. Persons under depression and emotional stress can contact the following 24-hour helpline numbers for counseling.

Sneha Suicide Prevention Helpline - 2464 0000

State Suicide Prevention Helpline - 104

Local NGO undertakes community hygiene program in villages

By Our Staff Reporter

As part of community hygiene program in villages, Single Teacher Schools (Unit of Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society, Govindan Road, West Mambalam) has built and inaugurated over 30 toilets and bathrooms in three tribal villages in Kancheepuram district.

The project was funded by Sundaram Finance Limited.

Face masks, sanitizers, dry rations and books were also distributed to all the schools run by it.

Temple tanks were also



cleaned and de-silted in seven villages in Ranipet and Thiruvallur districts in May and June.

R. P. Krishnamachari (Honorary Secretary) told *Mambalam Times* that STS was started in 2006 in vil-

lages in Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts to empower poor students with extra classes after regular school.

Since its inception, such schools have been opened in more than 900 villages in Tamilnadu, educating more than 27,000 students from lower income groups and down-trodden families.

It costs around Rs. 36,000 per year to run a Single Teacher School.

For contributions to the cause, contact the office in 4350 8290 / 4350 8281 / 94440 35615.

Water stagnates in Somasundaram Street playground



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the heavy rains, rainwater stagnated in the Corporation Playground on Somasundaram Street, T. Nagar.

The wet playground with the greenery surrounding it gave a pleasant view. All the playgrounds in the neighbourhood are closed to public since the lockdown on account of Covid-19.

The photo was snapped on July 29.

Deputy Commissioners to hear grievances on video call

By Our Staff Reporter

The initiative of City Police Commissioner Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal to address grievances of the public through WhatsApp video calls has been expanded with all 12 Deputy Commissioners in Greater Chennai Police including T. Nagar, launching exclusive phone numbers for the residents in their jurisdiction.

They will hear the grievances of the public through video call on Tuesdays and Fridays for an hour between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.

T. Nagar and Mambalam residents can send their names and the number they want to be called on to the WhatsApp number 90030 84100, and they would get a callback.

Also, changes have been made to the Commissioner's meeting with the public over video calls.

"Public are requested to give a brief of their grievances through WhatsApp message on the mobile number 63691 00100. After scrutiny, the video call will be arranged with the Commissioner of Police in relevant matters.

All other matters will be referred to the Deputy Commissioner of the jurisdiction concerned," said the release.

Two arrested for hoarding ganja

By Our Staff Reporter

I. Sarathkumar of Padi and R. Ravi of Valasaravakkam were arrested on July 27 on the charge of hoarding 30 kgs of ganja in a house in Padi.

Based on a tip-off, Inspector S. Sankaranarayanan sent a decoy to buy ganja from the two accused, and secured them red-handed.

Koyambedu market likely to reopen in October

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has started work to revamp the Koyambedu wholesale fruit, vegetable and flower market, which was shut down in May after it turned into a major Covid-19 hotspot.

The market is temporarily functioning from Thirumazhisai.

According to a CMDA official, work orders have been issued for Rs. 2 crores and more tenders will be floated to revamp the market which is expected to reopen in October.

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Special wards in govt. hospitals for symptomatic emergency cases

By Our Staff Reporter

In an attempt to bring down the mortality rate due to Covid-19, special wards have been setup in all the government hospitals to treat emergency cases with symptoms of Covid-19, even before the tests are conducted.

According to a Corporation official, during the daily door-to-door checking, if the field workers find anyone with complaints of breathlessness, the person would be immediately taken to the ward level doctor and then to these special COVID-19 wards without waiting for the tests.

"We have started this procedure a week back," he said,

The positivity rate has come down from 37 per cent in June to about 11 per cent with the multi-fold increase in the testing.

Around 13,000 persons are tested daily in the city.

City receives 284 mm rainfall this month

By Our Staff Reporter

With the south-west monsoon nearing record-breaking numbers in over 200 years, weather experts say that the rain in July has already surpassed expectations.

On July 29, the city saw significant rains, increasing and decreasing in intensity over the day. The maximum temperature recorded at Nungambakkam was 28.1 degrees and 28 degrees Celsius at Meenambakkam, while the minimum temperature recorded stood at 25 and 23.3 degrees respectively.

These stations recorded 19.3 mm and 24.6 mm rainfall respectively.

Meenambakkam was just 9 mm away from beating the 200-year record of 300 mm as on the morning on July 29.

According to weather blogger Pradeep John, the highest rainfall in the area stands at 299 mm, which was recorded in 1888.

Though Nungambakkam recorded only 7 mm of rainfall, areas like Valasaravakkam, K.K. Nagar, Koyambedu and Anna Nagar recorded over 50 mm of rainfall.

Some areas suffered powercuts for short periods.

According to the weather bureau, mild to moderate rainfall is expected to continue for another week.

All residents on streets with three +ve cases to be tested

By Our Staff Reporter

Since July 25, Corporation has started testing and quarantining every resident of a street that reports more than three Covid-19 positive cases. The testing is done at the resident's premises to curb spread of the infection.

Samples are collected from everyone, including children.

Two teams are deployed for every such street.

In Kodambakkam Zone, Dr. Arundhati (Zonal Health Officer) said they have started testing every resident in such hotspot streets. We are also having problems in convincing some residents (especially those who are employed) to remain under quarantine or undergo tests as they show no symptoms, she said.

Colleges to begin online classes from August 3

With the reopening of colleges delayed, the state higher education department on July 29 asked universities to begin online classes for students from August 3.

This is to ensure that students are taught for the mandatory academic hours for the next semester.

The government has promoted all students, except those in the final year, to the next academic year without exams.

70% weightage for internal exams and 30% weightage for previous semester exams will be given while deciding marks for the college students for exams cancelled due to Covid-19.

For allied and optional subjects, 100% weightage will be given to internal assessment.

Students have to appear separately for arrear exams.

Project to support underprivileged children

By Our Staff Reporter

A group of volunteers have launched the 'Natpu Project' to guide and mentor underprivileged children studying in government schools.

It is an entirely volunteer-driven initiative.

In the initial phase, it will be started in all the Bala Mandir schools in the city.

Persons interested in volunteering, may sign up at <https://forms.gle/pHMJvozvYXnqtWS29>

Local residents distribute lungis to leprosy patients

By Our Staff Reporter

Murali Sethumadhavan and Prasanna Murali (residents of T. Nagar) donated lungis to more than 30 the leprosy outpatients in Government Hospital, Saidapet on July 29.

It was organised by Ramakrishna Mutt (Mylapore).



Local resident donates essentials to Govt. hospital



By Our Staff Reporter

Usha Bothra (a resident of Vasan Street, T. Nagar) donated essential equipment to Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine (Tambaram Sanatorium) on July 28.

It included a fridge, steel sofas, hot/cold water dispenser, RO water system, examination table and light fittings. He is a member of Rotary Club of Chennai Noble Hearts, and heads its Muskan Project to help underprivileged families.

Total lockdowns helped increase doubling time

By Our Staff Reporter

As per the 7-day CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate), doubling time in the city started to improve immediately after the government imposed complete lockdown 2.1 for four days from April 26 to April 29.

The data shows that the doubling time witnessed a steep fall from around 21 days on April 16, to 8 days on April 19, forcing the State to impose a complete lockdown. The data also suggest that the complete lockdown helped the civic body to maintain the doubling time curve stable for the next one week, after which the doubling time started to improve again to reach 15 days on May 30.

However, data shows the civic body could not further improve the doubling time beyond 20 days for several days, whereas the city reported more than 1,000 new cases each day.

At this juncture, the State government announced another complete lockdown 5.1 from June 19 to June 30. It was further extended to July 5. Despite the daily number of new cases crossing 2,000 during the period, the civic body could manage to keep the doubling time curve stable until June 30. On July 1, the curve started to move upwards and reached a doubling time of around 49 as on July 24.

Of the 1,969 COVID-19 deaths reported in the city up to July 24, 1,009 persons were in the +60 age group, which is nearly 52 per cent.

Damaged cables removed after report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

Following the report 'Bunch of discarded cables blocks way' published in *Mambalam Times* (July 25-31 issue) the cables blocking the way for motorists and pedestrians were removed by the workers of TNEB from North Usman Road service lane (T. Nagar) on July 29.

Covid-19: Recovery rate improves to 85%

By Our Staff Reporter

The recovery rate of persons infected with COVID-19 in the city touched 85% on July 29, according to data of the Chennai Corporation.

A fortnight back, the recovery rate was around 77%. Of the total 96,438 people who tested positive in the city so far, 81,530 people have recovered, the data said. While 2056 people have died so far, there are 12,852 active COVID-19 cases across all 15 zones in the city.

Corporation workers cut low lying branches of roadside trees in many areas including 2nd Avenue, Ashok Nagar on July 21.

Low lying tree branches axed



The importance of breastfeeding

By Ramya Ramachandran, Dietician

Every year, 'World Breastfeeding Week' is celebrated from August 1 to August 7.

Breastfeeding is the best and the most natural form to nurture babies.

Exclusive breastfeeding for upto 6 months is very much essential and thereafter continued breastfeeding for 2 years or beyond with safe, adequate, appropriate foods and liquids are essential for the nutritional needs of a growing child.

It has been scientifically proved that breastfed children have a better IQ as it provides optimum nutrition for the growth and development.

Early initiation is crucial for a baby's survival as colostrum, the first milk, is extremely rich in nutrients and antibodies that protect the baby against infection.

Statistics have shown that breastfeeding within one hour of birth, can reduce the neonatal deaths by 22.3%.

Mother's milk contains 65 calories, 1.1gram of protein, 7.4 grams of carbohydrates and 3.4 grams of fat per 100ml.

It also contains essential fatty acids which are essential for brain development, healthy vision and blood vessels.

So I advice all expectant and lactating mothers to breastfeed their child.

Ramya Ramachandran is a resident of Postal Colony (West Mambalam). She is a dietician and lactation counsellor.

Sri Madhwa Samaj felicitates State topper in Std. 12 exams

By Our Staff Reporter

On July 26, Sri Madhwa Samaj (West Mambalam) felicitated R. Harini of Tiruvallur who stood first in the State Board Std. 12 board exams held in March this year, the results of which were declared recently.

Dignitaries including M. Bhagavantha Rao (President, SMSO Nidhi Limited), Dr. Krishnamoorthy (Professor, SRM University) and Dr. R. Narasimhan (Chairman, Respiratory Foundation of India, Lake View Road, West Mambalam) participated in the function which was held on digital platform and later uploaded on the Samaj's youtube channel.

According to Ranga Rao (President, Madhwa Sabha) a cash award will also be presented to Harini.



Stage actors take to online rehearsals

By S. Shivprasadh

Due to the lockdowns and total ban on holding stage shows, many artistes have taken to online platforms like Zoom and Google Meet to rehearse and practice.

In the same way, I have also resorted to online platforms with artistes from across the world to rehearse the popular play 'Maalikafoor' enacted originally by my uncle and renowned thespian R.S. Manohar.

The drama which was to be staged to celebrate Manohar's 96th birth anniversary in Brahma Gana Sabha (Mylapore) has been indefinitely postponed.

The event is co-sponsored by Kartik Fine Arts, Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha and Narada Gana Sabha.

Rehearsals are now taking place over Zoom on Saturdays and Sundays with artistes joining from Dubai, Gudiyatham and other places. (Shivprasadh is a resident of 44/21, Bagirathi Ammal Street, T. Nagar, and is the Founder of the drama troupe R.S. Manohar Nxxg, Ph: 2834 4876, 73586 96613)

Online cultural contests for school students

Velammal School (East Mogappair) is conducting the 35th year Vallal Pandithurai Memorial Cultural Competition for school students in August.

As the submission is online this year, students in the age group of 5-18 years from all over the globe are welcome to participate in the competitions to be held in the Oratorical, Bharathantyam and Carnatic Music (both vocal and instrument) categories.

The last date for registration is Friday, August 21.

The last dates for submission of the video recording of the performances by the participants are Wednesday, Aug. 26 for Oratory; Thursday, Aug. 27 for Bharathanatyam and Friday, Aug. 28 for the Music competitions.

Cash awards amounting to Rs. 4 lakhs will be distributed among the winners. Consolation prizes will also be given to 10 meritorious performers.

For more information, visit the website www.velammalnexus.com, or call +91-44-73583 90401 or send email to onlineevents@velammalnexus.com

Gang arrested for hoarding, selling liquor

By Our Staff Reporter

A 6-member gang was arrested by Ashok Nagar police on July 27 for hoarding and selling liquor from a housing board flat near Brindavan Street, West Mambalam.

On a tip-off, a police team led by Inspector M.G. Sundar raided the premises and arrested the six persons from the flat. More than 100 bottles of liquor were seized from them.

All Tasmac shops in the city are closed due to the Covid-19 situation and sale of liquor is presently banned in the city.



Madley Road service lane unsafe for pedestrians



By Our Staff Reporter

As the compound wall along the service lane of Madley Subway was demolished on July 29, it now poses a danger to motorists and pedestrians. With the recent spell of rains,

the road has also become slippery.

The wall was demolished to facilitate the work for the ongoing Skywalk project connecting Mambalam Station with the T. Nagar bus terminus.

A supervisor at the site told Mambalam Times temporary barricades will be placed on the open side of the service lane to make the commute safe for road users.

New central median on Thanikachalam Road



By Our Staff Reporter

A new central median using barricades fixed to concrete base has been constructed on Thanikachalam Road, near its junction with Venkatnarayana Road (T. Nagar).

The foot-tall old median was demolished to make way for the new median.

Washermenpet - Wimco Nagar metro corridor to open by year end

By Our Staff Reporter

The 9 kms metro rail corridor between Washermenpet and Wimco Nagar is likely to open by the end of the year.

The corridor which was slated to be opened in June has got delayed due to the multiple lockdowns.

An official said work on the stretch has resumed with 50% workers, and if there are no further lockdowns, the section should become functional by the end of the year.

He said that due to import restrictions and movement of international cargo on account of the pandemic, a lot of critical equipment could not be received and some manufacturers had also stalled the production in March and April.

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Online talent contests for students

By Our Staff Reporter

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON, Chennai) is conducting online talent contests for school students titled 'Kalaa-yukta Utsav' themed on Janmashtami.

The students can take part in fancy dress, drawing, craft making, story telling, kolam, videography and photography competitions.

The last date for registration is Sunday, August 9.

The last date for submission of the audio, video or photos related to the chosen topic in Thursday, Aug. 14.

Find registration and more details, visit the website www.iskconchennai.org/competitions.

Lister Metropolis opens in North Boag Road

By Our Staff Reporter

Lister Metropolis recently opened a new franchise at Mandhira Apartments (112, North Boag Road, T. Nagar).

The well-known diagnostic center has a number of branches in the city with its HO in Numgambakkam.

The T. Nagar branch offers all diagnostic tests including Covid-19 test.

Other facilities include ECG and pathology tests.

Jithendhra (Franchisee owner) told *Mambalam Times* that the lab is well-equipped with latest instruments that produce accurate results.

For more details, call 90032 21111.

Absentees write Std. 12 board exam

519 students appeared for the Std. 12 re-exam conducted for absentees on July 27.

The exam was again conducted as these students could not appear for the last exam held on March 24 as they were residing in containment zones or could not travel to the exam center due to the total lockdown.

The students wrote Chemistry, Accountancy and Geography exams.

Office of Karuppar Kootam in T. Nagar sealed

By Our Staff Reporter

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) on July 26 sealed 'Karuppar Kootam' office premises in South Boag Road, T. Nagar.

It was running a Tamil Youtube channel operated by Periyarist activists, which released an allegedly derogatory video on the religious hymn Kandha Shasti Kavassam.

The sealing comes close on the heels of its two prominent members being arrested.

'Kabasura Kudineer' distributed daily in Subba Reddy Street



Since the past 2 months, the members of Sri Narayana Kaingaraya Sabha (West Mambalam) are distributing 'Kabasura Kudineer' to the public from 4 p.m to 5 p.m daily on Subba Reddy Street (West Mambalam).

Those who want to support the program may contact in 90251 11829.

Essentials distributed to auto drivers, civic workers and policemen

By Our Staff Reporter

The members of Inner Wheel Club of Chennai Gemini distributed provisions, reusable face masks, soap and sanitizers to auto drivers, Corporation workers and policemen as part of their Covid-19 relief work.

Malathi Santhosh (President) told *Mambalam Times* that dispenser stands were also given government hospitals, health care centres, temples and goshalas in and around the neighbourhood.



National rower from T. Nagar helps underprivileged students

By Our Staff Reporter

Rohith Maradapa (a resident of T. Nagar) is a National-level rowing champion.

The 25-year-old has now started the NGO 'Just Play India' to help needy children.

He said the project is seeded by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

"The aim is to train economically-challenged children in life skills. We have chosen 50 children, 25 each from Chennai (MCN Higher Secondary School, T. Nagar) and from Mumbai who are studying in Stds. 8 and 9. 18 mentors have been roped in to impart sessions ranging from fitness, communication, critical thinking and so on", he said.

Due to the lockdown, the sessions are being held via Zoom calls with the help of the NGO 'Teach for India'.

Parents of a majority of these children are daily wage laborers.

He told *Mambalam Times* that many schools in and around the city has expressed their keenness to be part of the initiative.

Drop in demand for used 2-wheelers

By Our Staff Reporter

After witnessing a spurt in the demand for used two-wheelers following the first lockdown, the dealers of second-hand vehicles say the demand has come down due to lack of availability of vehicles and finance.

"There was a huge demand for pre-owned vehicles immediately after the first lockdown. Many office-goers who depended on the MTC buses and the suburban or metro trains for their daily commute wanted to purchase used bikes or scooters. But the demand has come down subsequently," said K. Saravanan, a dealer in T. Nagar.

He said that the availability of used vehicles has also come down as many owners are not buying new vehicles due to lack of finance and also due to the increase in the down payment by 20 to 30 per cent.

Surveillance cameras to be installed in MTC buses,

By Our Staff Reporter

Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses, depots and terminals would have surveillance systems with IP-based security cameras to ensure the safety of passengers, especially women and children.

The Rs. 72-crore project is part of the Nirbhaya Safe City Project.

According to a MTC official, the surveillance system involves setting up of IP-based security cameras installed in at least 2,800 MTC buses, and 66 depots and terminals. The system will have the ability to monitor, detect, alert and record any attempt of violence and abuse against women and children," he said.

Apart a command and control center to monitor, the project also proposes an app-based access via mobile devices.

Damaged bins dumped on road margin



By Our Staff Reporter

Damaged garbage bins and tricycles are dumped on the road margin on Haumantha Street, T. Nagar for the past several days.

The sharp edges of the rusted bins which are protruding towards the carriageway pose a danger to passers-by.

Salient features of new National Education Policy

By Our Staff Reporter

The Union Cabinet on July 29 approved National Education Policy 2020.

With regards to the language policy, the Centre has already clarified that Hindi would not be mandatory, and that the State governments can pick the three languages it wants to include in the syllabus.

School Education

In the new policy, the medium of instruction till grade 5 and preferably till 8 will be in the local language. However it is unclear if this will be imposed on private English-medium schools as well.

The 10+2 system will be divided into 5+3+3+4 format. This means the first five years of the school will comprise the foundation stage including three years of pre-primary school and Stds. 1 and 2.

The next three years will be divided into a preparatory stage from Stds. 3 to 5. Later three years of middle stage (Stds. 6 to 8), and four years of secondary stage (Stds. 9 to 12).

Schools will not have any rigid formation of streams of arts, commerce, science, and students can take up whichever courses they want.

Report cards will be a comprehensive report on skills and capabilities, instead of just marks and statements.

Vocational courses shall be introduced from Class 6 onwards. Board exams which be held for Std. 10 and Std. 12 students.

Higher Education

4-year multidisciplinary bachelor's program to be preferred.

There will be a common entrance exam conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to universities and higher education institutions.

All higher education institutions, except legal and medical colleges, will be governed by a single regulator with a proposal to cap fee charged by private educational institutions.

Percentage of active cases sees a drop

Of the total reported cases of 96,438 as on July 29, only 12,852 are active, which is just 156 active Covid-19 cases per lakh population. According to data from the Corporation, it was 167 active cases per lakh population on July 24. The city's population is around 82.16 lakhs.

Except for Ambattur Zone that has 21 per cent active cases, all the other zones have less than 20 per cent active cases.

Kodambakkam Zone with a population of 8.78 lakhs has the second highest 16% active cases among all the 15 zones, while in Teynampet Zone (9.06 lakhs population) it is 10 per cent.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Food delivery apps levy 'bad weather charge'

Sir, For the past couple of weeks, the online food aggregators are collecting, alongside regular delivery and distance charges, 'bad weather' fees from users.

On July 27, I ordered food for Rs. 600 from a local restaurant, and had to pay Rs. 50 instead of the normal delivery charge of Rs. 20.

When I enquired, the delivery person said that it included 'bad weather' charges.

I have learnt that both Swiggy and Zomato are collecting this new charge.

Though I understand that the delivery is made under tough conditions due to the heavy rains, but the levy of Rs. 25 is on a very high side. **S. Viswanathan, West Mambalam**

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K.K. NAGAR, Apartment 1B, Door No. 100 "Fairdeal", Sowbhagya Colony, Anna Main Road, nearby amenities, CGHS, schools, shops, modern spacious 3 bedrooms, hall, modular kitchen, 1st floor flat, semi furnished, wardrobes, fittings, facilities include lift, covered car parking, generator. Flat available from Sept. 15, 2020. Preference vegetarians, no pets. Ph: 94980 29165, 97412 73900.

ASHOK NAGAR, 5, 12th Avenue, near Chennai Dharpar Hotel, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 900 sq.ft, 1st floor, semi furnished, 24 hours water, rent Rs. 12000, family/bachelors, office. Ph: 73053 44555.

WEST MAMBALAM, 23/11 Ramakrishnapuram 2nd Street, near Postal Colony Bus Stop, 700 sq.ft, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, rent Rs. 13000, vegetarian only. Contact person P.S Subramanian, Ph: 99866 43321.

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INCOME Tax Return for AY 19-20 (FY 18-19) extended upto 30th Sept. 2020 and AY 20-21 (FY 19-20) extended upto 30.11.2020. Return filling through online for salaried people/pensioners. Call: 99401 7524.

Tree topples over during rains



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the heavy rains, a 3-decade-old tree came crashing down on 11th Avenue, Ashok Nagar at around 4 p.m on July 28. No one was injured in the incident.

Retired bureaucrats to get Rs. 10,000 per month to pay their aides

By Our Staff Reporter

Soon, retired Chief Secretaries and Additional Chief Secretaries of Tamil Nadu cadre can engage an aide for whom the government would pay Rs 10,000 every month.

The fund-starved Tamil Nadu government issued an order on July 23 giving effect to the gesture.

The order has also been sent to the Tamilnadu IAS Officers Association and Tamilnadu Retired IAS Officers Association, with a request to circulate to the members who retired in apex scale.

The retired chief secretaries and retired additional chief secretaries, who are appointed on re-employment in a government sector or in statutory commission, can claim the sum from the organisation they are re-employed with, the order said.

Rs. 100 fine for violating social distancing norms

By Our Staff Reporter

Corporation had imposed a fine of Rs.100 against persons not wearing masks.

But the fine amount was left to the discretion of the enforcer if a commercial establishment was found not following social distancing norms and allowing customers not wearing masks to enter the shop.

According to an official, as it led to administrative hassles, confusion and protests from the shopkeepers, Corporation has passed orders to impose Rs. 100 fine on the owners of commercial establishments also on violating the norms.

On July 24, Corporation also issued an order forcing the huge commercial establishments, which are selling multiple goods, to shut down until further order.

Tokens for face masks to be distributed to ration card holders

By Our Staff Reporter

The ration shop employees have been directed to distribute tokens at the doorsteps of ration card holders from August 1 to 4 for issuing free face masks.

The tokens will contain the date and time for getting the face masks from the designated shops from Aug. 5, in an effort to prevent crowding.

Man killed for courting a widow

By Our Staff Reporter

A 46-year-old man was chased and hacked to death as he refused to end his relationship with a widow living in Saidapet and the accused, son of the woman, has been arrested.

The incident happened around 8.30 pm when the deceased, Muniyandi of Porur, who worked as a security guard, was walking towards the house of one Selvi on Jones Road (Saidapet).

The accused Velayutham and a few of his friends surrounded him and attacked him. When Muniyandi tried to escape, Velayutham chased and hacked him to death.

After passers-by alerted Kumaran Nagar police, they came to the spot and retrieved the body of the victim for post-mortem.

Police are searching for Velayutham's friends involved in the murder.

Local youth helps the poor with food kits

By Our Staff Reporter

For the past 3 months, T.J. Prejo (a resident of K.K Nagar) has been providing free food to scores of migrant workers, homeless people and destitute who have been badly affected by the lockdown.

From the first lockdown to the recent one, he has been delivering food and dry provisions for the needy, homeless and even stray dogs after obtaining permission from Corporation.

The youngster spend 14 hours a day in relief work and has so far helped around 1,75,000 people in the city.

He has raised close to Rs. 14 lakhs with the help of his friends and well-wishers to help the poor.

Corporation cracks the whip on field staff for shirking work

By Our Staff Reporter

After receiving several complaints that the door-to-door survey to detect symptomatic patients is not being done regularly, Corporation has decided take stringent action against the erring workers.

Corporation Commissioner G. Prakash, in his statement, directed the zonal health officers to monitor the door-to-door survey workers and field workers whether they are entering the correct details of the residents or not.

He has also directed the officials to identify such erring workers and terminate them or cut their pay.

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Trench filled with rainwater on Ranganathan Street

By Our Staff Reporter

After the heavy rains in the past few days, the 2-foot-wide trench dug on the middle of the road in Ranganathan Street (T. Nagar) is filled with rainwater.

With 2-wheelers also parked on both sides of the road, it is causing inconvenience to pedestrians as only a 2-foot width on either side of the trench is usable.

As barricades are not placed in front of the trench, it is also posing a danger to the pedestrians.

Sakthivel (a mobile shop owner) told this reporter that due to the Covid-19 situation, the business has been dull.

Now with the road also in such a bad condition, many shoppers are avoiding Ranganathan Street, which has further impacted the business, he said. He has appealed to the Corporation officials to close the trench and relay the road at the earliest.



Free Gita classes from today

By Our Staff Reporter

ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) is starting a free 7-day course on Bhagavad Gita in English, Tamil and Telugu from Saturday, Aug. 1 to Friday, Aug. 7.

It will be held daily from 8 p.m and 8.45 p.m.

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

For registration send WhatsApp message to 82200 17695.

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Online contest for amateur photographers

By Our Staff Reporter

A photography contest for young and amateur photographers has been organised by Travel Unbounded World Pvt. Ltd.

Anyone under 21 years of age can participate in six genres — African Wildlife, Wildlife, Portrait and Fashion, Street, Candid and Wedding and Travel and Landscape. Pictures clicked using mobile phones are also accepted.

The last date for submission of the photographs for the contest is Wednesday, Aug. 5.

The entry fee is Rs. 750 per participant per category, and they can submit upto 3 images in each category in high resolution.

Every category has 6 awards, and the winners would get an opportunity to compete for the 'The RIGHTXPOSURE Photographer of The Year 2020' award.

The contest is co-sponsored

21-day online program to cultivate reading habit

By Our Staff Reporter

To improve book reading habits, Akarmaa Foundation (Adyar) has introduced an initiative called 'Dead Poets Society' for college students.

In the 21-day online program to start from August 1, a popular book will be discussed each day. The video will also be uploaded on youtube.

According to Founder Kaushik Kumar, the books will be non-political, non-religious and very short reads.

A pdf copy of the book will be sent in advance to all interested participants by email the previous day.

For registration and other details, visit the Facebook page of Akarmaa Foundation.

by Discovery Channel (India) and Sanctuary Asia Nature Foundation.

For registration and more details, visit the website <https://events.travelunbounded.com/rightxposure-photo-contest/>.

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