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## Kodambakkam Zone has maximum active cases

By Our Staff Reporter

The city reported a total of 11,983 active cases on Aug. 3. The recovery rate has been improving steadily for the past month and stood at 86.2 percent as on Aug. 3.

till date, 88,826 persons have recovered, and 2,176 patients have succumbed to the infection. Kodambakkam zone is the worst-hit among the 15 zones. It has the most number of corona positive patients

seeking treatment while the second most affected zone Royapuram has a higher number of recovered persons than other zones.

The following are the zone-wise active cases in the city:

- Kodambakkam - 1,357
- Ambattur - 1,334
- Anna Nagar - 1,250
- Adyar - 944
- Thiru Vi Ka Nagar - 931
- Teynampet - 900
- Valasaravakkam - 890
- Royapuram - 827
- Tondiarpet - 661
- Madhavaram - 619
- Alandur - 561
- Perungudi - 526
- Thiruvotriyur - 453
- Sholinganallur - 449
- Manali - 113

## Following Beirut tragedy, safety check on seized explosives

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the massive explosion in Beirut on Aug. 4, which is suspected to have been caused by the detonation of tonnes of ammonium nitrate that had been stored in a warehouse at the dock since 2014, authorities in Chennai have commenced safety check of 740 tonnes of similar explosives seized and stored in 37 containers since 2015 in North Chennai.

Sources confirmed that a huge quantity of seized ammonium nitrate was in the custody of the Customs authorities.

The Petroleum, Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO) is also looking into the status of the seized chemical as it could turn lethal if kept unused for a long period.

The ammonium nitrate, stored in 37 container, was imported by a Karur-based firm and was seized because the chemical was brought in without obtaining the required licenses and permission in 2015.

## Burglar held while trying to sell jewels

By Our Staff Reporter

Mehanathan (32), who sold stolen articles to buy jewellery for his girlfriend, was nabbed in a shop in T. Nagar, with the help of the CCTV footage.

A special team was formed after several vehicle thefts and burglaries were reported in Triplicane police district and the suspect's face was caught on a CCTV camera on July 27. His photo was shared over the police network and an alert was also issued to jewellery stores in the city.

When he came to a shop to sell the jewellery, he was identified by the shop manager who alerted the police.

Police said Mehanathan left his wife and children in Vyasarpadi citing lockdown and indulged in thefts.

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குசேலர் வீட்டு ரேஞ்சிற்குக் குழந்தைகள் நீந்தி, தவழ்ந்து, நடந்து, ஓடி, ஆடி, விளையாடிக் கொண்டிருக்கும் குடும்பத்தில் சிறுசிறு சண்டைகள், சச்சரவுகள், பிணக்குகள், கிள்ளல், குத்தல், குட்டல், துரத்துதல் 'வெவ்வெவ்வே' என்று அழகு காட்டுதல் சர்வ சாதாரணமாக நடக்கும். சண்டைகள் முற்றி சில சமயங்களில் கேஸ் பெரியவர் ராமசுப்பிடம் விசாரணைக்கு வரும். ஸ்தலத்தில் சம்மன் இல்லாமல் சீனு ஆஜராகி இருந்திருந்தால் 'நீதிபதி' ராமசுப்புவிற்கு வேலை சுளுவாகிவிடும். 'யாருடா சண்டைக்குக் காரணம்?' என்று சாட்சி சீனுவைக் கேட்டால், 'தாத்தா, என்ன ஆச்சுன்னான்னு பெரிதாக 1000 பக்கக் குற்றப் பத்திரிகையைப் படிக்காமல், மௌனமாக ஒரு வார வெச்ச டிராயரை யோ, சீட்டி பாடி பாவாடையையோ பார்த்துக் கையை நீட்டிவிட்டால் ராமசுப்பு தீர்ப்பை சுளுவாகச் சொல்லிவிடுவார்.

பள்ளியில் ஆசிரியர் கரும்பலகையில் எழுதிக் கொண்டிருக்கும்போது ஒரு விரலையோ அல்லது இரண்டு விரல்களையோ சீனு சிக்னலாக உயர்த்தி உடல் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட ஆக்களுகளை இனி உதாசினம் செய்ய முடியாது என்று நெளிந்து கால்களைக் கத்திக்கொல் போட்டு நிற்பான். இடக்காகப் பேசுவதில் கியாதி பெற்றிருந்த 'கொத்தமல்லி' குப்புசாமி ஸார், 'ஏண்டா சீனு! வாயைத் திறந்து கேக்கமாட்டே? வாயிலே கொழுக்கட்டையா? யாரோட போட்டி போட்டே? பிள்ளையாரோடயா? அவர்கட மோதகத்தைக் கையிலே தானே வெச்சிருக்கார். வாயிலே இல்லையே?'

வாலிப சீனுவிற்குக் கல் யானம் ஆகவேண்டிய பிராப்தம் வந்துவிட்டது. அவனுக்கு ஏற்ற கன்னிகையைத் தேர்வு செய்து மணம் செய்து முடிக்க ஒரு வசந்த ருதுவில் சீனுவின் தாய்மாமன் தம்பு மகிழ்ச்சியுடன் கையில் ஜாதகத்தை எடுத்தார். பொறுமை, நிதானம், சகிப்புத் தன்மை, அடங்கிப் போகும் குணம், செளபாக்யா வெட்டி கிரைண்டரின் குழவிபோல் தலையை ஆட்டுதல், கார்த் தூசியன் துறவிகளைப் போல மௌனம் காத்தல், செய்யாத குற்றத்திற்கு முழுப் பொறுப்பையும் ஏற்றல் போன்ற ஒரு கணவனுக்கு வேண்டிய சில அடிப்படையான நலங்களைப் பெற்ற சீனுவை மணக்கப் போகும் காரிகை ஈரேழு ஜென்மத்தில் அஷ்ட லட்சுமிகளுக்குத் தித்திக்கத் தித்திக்கத் தேனாலும், குளிர் குளிர் பன்னீராலும் அபிஷேகம் செய்திருக்க வேண்டும் என்று நினைத்து சீனுவின் கரிகலம் விட்டேயைத் தயார் செய்துகொண்டார்.

மாட்டரிமோனியல் எக்ஸ்சேஞ்சுகள் இன்னும் வராத அந்தக் கால வழக்கப்படி சொஜ்ஜி, பஜ்ஜி, டிகிரி காபி சாட்சியாக மூன்று பெண்களை சீனு பார்த்தான். உடனிருந்த தம்பு வளவளவென்று மழைக் காலத் தவளைபோல் விடாமல் பேசிக் கொண்டிருந்த தாலும் சீனு மேற்படி சொஜ்ஜி, பஜ்ஜி, டிகிரி காபியை உள்ளே தள்ளுவதற்கு மட்டும் வாயை மீன்போல் அளவோடு திறந்து முடிக்க கொண்டார்.

அடுத்த பிரதமரைத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்க வேண்டியிருந்த கர்ம வீர, கிங் மேக்கர் காமராஜ் வாய் பேசாமல் மொரார்ஜி தேசாய், இந்திராகாந்தி படங்களைக் காட்டி, 'உங்கள் சாய்ஸ் யாரு?' என்று பேசாமல் எம்.பிக்களிமிருந்து கேட்டுத் தெரிந்து கொண்டது போல ராமசுப்பு மூன்று போட்டோக்களைக் காட்டி, சீனுவின் விருப்பத்தைத் தெரிந்து கொண்டார். அப்படி தேர்வு ஆன வர்தான் லலிதா.

லலிதா, ஜாடிக்கு ஏற்ற முடி என்கிற உண்மை பின்னர் தெரிய வந்தது. இரண்டு பக்கத் தாய்மாமாக்கள் சிவன் கோயிலில் பிற விஷயங்களைப் பேசி முடிக்க சந்தித்த போதுதான் வாய்க்கு எப்போதும் அலிகார் பூட்டைப் போட்டிருக்கும் லலிதாவிடமிருந்து வார்த்தையைப் பிடுங்குவது கஷ்டம். அதனாலே பெண் பார்க்கும் படலத்தின்போது பெண் பாடவேண்டும் என்கிற நியதி இருந்ததால் ஏற்கெனவே பேசி வைத்திருந்த தியாகையர் கீர்த்தனையில் இருக்கும் மூன்றாவது சரணத்தை விடாமல் பாடினால் அவளுக்கு பையனைப் பிடித்துவிட்டது என்றும், பாடாமல் இரண்டோடு விட்டுவிட்டால் பிடிக்கவில்லை என்றும் கொள்ள வேண்டும் என்பதுதான்.

மூன்று சரணங்களையும் பாடி சீனுவின் கைப்பிடித்த லலிதா சீனுவைக்குப் போட்டியாக வார்த்தைகளை விரயமாக்காமல் மௌனம் காத்து வீட்டில் வளைய வந்தது 'டாக்கி' வராத காலத்து சாப்பின் சினிமாவைப் பார்ப்பது மாதிரி வந்த விருந்தினர்களுக்குத் தோன்றி இருக்கும்.

'சம்மதமா? நான் உன்கட வர சம்மதமா?' என்று பாணுமதி பாடும் காட்சி ஒன்று சினிமாவில் வரும். அந்த விதமான கேள்வியை லலிதா கேட்டிருந்தால் சீனு தலையை அசைத்து, ஒரு விரலை உதடுகள் மேல் வைத்து, 'உஷ்' என்று சொல்லி, பேசாமல் வருவதாக இருந்தால் சம்மதம் என்று தெரிவித்திருப்பானோ என்னவோ.

அவர்கள் வீட்டு விசேஷத்துக்கு வரும் ஆஸ்தான மேளக்காரர் கூட கெட்டி மேளத்தை அடக்கிதான் வாசிப்பார். கார்ப்பென்டர் லோகு ஆணியை 'தட் தட்' என்று மெல்லத்தான் அடிப்பார். அரிசி குக்கர் சன்னமாகத்தான் விசிலடிக்கும். மின்சார மணியும் அப்படியே.

தனியாக வாழ்க்கையை அனுபவித்திருந்த இருவரும் சொல்லி வைத்த மாதிரி ஒரே சமயத்தில் சாப்பிட வருவார்கள். எப்படி? சீனுவின் வயிற்றில் அடிக்கும் மணி லலிதாவுக்கும், லலிதா வயிற்றில் அடிக்கும் மணி சீனுவைக்கும் ஒரே சமயத்தில் சன்னமாகக் கேட்டிருக்கும். இன்னும் சொல்லிக் கொண்டே போகலாம். இடம் இல்லையே!

ஆனால் ஒன்று. இவர்களைப் பாராட்டும் வகையில் சப்தமாகக் கை தட்டி மகிழாமல் இரண்டு ஆள்காட்டி விரல்களையும் நுனியோடு நுனியாக சன்னமாக, சப்தம் வராமல் தட்டித் தான் அங்கீகரிப்பார்கள் இல்லையா? jsraghavan@yahoo.com

## T. NAGAR & MAMBALAM BAZAAR

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## Neelam Foundation fights COVID-19 in neighbourhood slums

By Our Staff Reporter

26-year-old R. Ponneswari (a resident of T.P Chatram) is a part of a 24-woman team of Neelam Foundation, an NGO that works in the development sector, that has tied up with Chennai Corporation to help in its fight against COVID-19 in the city's slum areas.

It has been allocated three divisions in Anna Nagar Zone-8 with eight slums containing around 3,500 households with a population of around 17,500.

Its team has been trained to record health parameters of the residents and alerts the health officials in case of symptoms, to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

"The women in my team are all residents of the slums which they visit and have fought the odds to stand up and work for the society," said Muthamizh Kalai Vizhi (Founder). They get an update on the health status of the residents on a daily basis, she said.

"Of around 40 people I had sent for swab test, around 15 have turned out to be positive. Thus their outlook towards us also changes that way. We also conduct awareness programs and engage the community in activities like stitching masks and teaching art forms," said Ponneswari.

The Foundation will soon be inaugurating centers in all the eight slums it has been working in for the past two months and setting up study centres there.

## 12,000 samples collected for sero survey, testing to begin

By Our Staff Reporter

The Corporation has completed collecting samples for sero survey which involves testing the blood samples of the subjects for antigens and antibodies developed against COVID-19 virus.

According to a Corporation official, blood samples from 12,000 persons in the city were taken during the survey from various sections of the population.

The samples have been sent to the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis. The results will be released in a week, the official said.

The survey result will help the health department assess the exact number of people exposed to the virus and develop immunity against it.

Due to several asymptomatic cases, the government could not get the exact data about the prevalence of the virus.

Recently, the civic body conducted sero survey among its employees and found that 15 to 20 percent of the samples had antigens against the virus, suggesting exposure to the virus.

## 100 streets removed from containment zones in 15 days

While the number of active cases in the city is coming down, the number of streets with new cases has also decreased to less than 500 from more than 600 in the past 15 days.

According to Corporation data, the 1,042 new cases reported in the city on Aug. 3 were from 493 streets.

Of the 493 streets with new cases, Ambattur Zone has the highest number with 91 streets. Anna Nagar Zones and Teynampet reported new cases from 52 and 57 streets respectively.

43 streets in Kodambakkam reported new cases. The number of streets with new cases has come down from 613 on July 23 to 493 currently.

As of now, around 4,000 streets in the city have active cases. During the period, the total number of active cases has come down to 11,856 from 17,331.

There are 39,537 streets in the city.

Meanwhile, the number of containment zones in the city has also come down by half in three days from Aug. 2.

As on Aug. 2, the city had 46 containment zones, whereas, on Aug. 5, the city had only 24 containment zones.

## State records 77.8 percent recovery rate

By Our Staff Reporter

The COVID-19 recovery rate stood at 77.8 percent in Tamilnadu and the doubling time in Chennai improved to 65 days on Aug. 3.

The active number of cases stood at 55,152 and 6,501 patients had been discharged.

In all, Tamilnadu had reported 2,68,285 positive cases till Aug. 3

The death toll has risen to 4,349.

From July 27, there has been a dip in daily cases in the state.

A total of 28,92,395 samples have been tested till date and the state has a total of 125 labs (60 government and 65 private).

## Bicycles not available under 'Smart Bike' scheme



Sivagnanam Road



G. N. Chetty Road

10 to 15 bicycles were usually parked in the allocated 'Smart Bike Zones' in the neighbourhood before the lockdown. But since then, not a single bicycle can be seen at these zones. The scheme was launched with much fanfare last year. The photos show the smart bike zones in Sivagnanam Road and G. N. Chetty Road in T. Nagar giving an empty look.

## Visually impaired from West Mambalam passes civil services exam

By Our Staff Reporter

D. Balanagendran, a visually impaired person residing in West Mambalam, bagged the 659<sup>th</sup> rank in the civil services exam, the results of which were declared on Aug. 5.

"I did not lose hope and got through in my 9th attempt by perseverance", he said.

The first generation graduate says he got a computer when he was 18 and finally got access to the reading material using JAWS software, a computer screen reader program for Windows that allows blind and those with limited sight to read the screen either with a text-to-speech output or a refreshable Braille display.

His father K. Devadoss is a retired soldier, and his mother Sundari passed away last year. He has been helping his brother manage his interior decoration business.

In 2016, though he cleared the exam and got 923rd rank, he did not join service as he could not get into IAS, which has been his dream from his school days. His other interests include creative writing, reading and chess.

He started his schooling in LFC Convent, then studied in St. Louis Institute for Blind and Deaf and later joined Ramakrishna Mission School (T. Nagar). He completed B. Com from Loyola College.

## Kites, manja thread sold via Facebook

By Our Staff Reporter

Though shops are no longer selling kites, they are easily available and are delivered at doorstep, thanks to the marketplace on Facebook.

A simple search for kites on Facebook throws results of hundreds of kite sellers in the city.

Most of the accounts are active and responsive, and are ready to deliver at home with cash-on-delivery option.

Kites and manja thread are available on Amazon too, and the city police had written to the firm asking it not to sell them to those ordering from city and its neighbourhood.

## Police booth lying at road junction

By Our Staff Reporter

An unused traffic police booth in broken condition is lying on the margin of the road near Venkatanarayana Road-Sivagnanam Road junction in T. Nagar.



## Vitamin D supplements necessary for those stuck indoors

Dr. Veera Kumar

By Our Staff Reporter  
The continuing lockdown restriction that have forced people to remain indoors can lead to vitamin D deficiency, uncontrolled sugar levels and obesity.

The elderly are bound to face lifestyle-related health problems due to restricted movement.

Vitamin D deficiency due to lack of exposure to sunlight and lower intake of calcium is particularly risky for senior citizens who are highly vulnerable to COVID-19.

Intake of vitamin D supplements is a must, especially for the elderly, as they will also be prone to fractures due to falls and other small injuries.

Foods rich in vitamin D such as cod liver oil from fish like salmon, tuna and sardine, egg yolk, mushroom, fortified foods, cow's milk and soya milk, oatmeal, cereals and cheese can be helpful to address this.

Vitamin D is also an essential daily nutrient that offers protection against diabetes, heart diseases and certain types of cancer by boosting the immunity.

Being restricted to the confines of their homes has also given rise to problems for those with comorbidities like diabetes, hypertension and obesity.

Those with diabetes and hypertension should keep them under control by doing basic exercises at home. (Dr. Veera Kumar is a Senior Orthopaedician in Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital)

## Live streaming of Janmashtami celebrations in ISCKON temple

By Our Staff Reporter

ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) has organised virtual programs to celebrate Sri Krishna Janmashtami on Wednesday, Aug. 12.

As its temple in Sholinganallur (ECR Road, Akkarai) will remain closed due to the lockdown restrictions imposed by Tamilnadu government, devotees can have darshan and participate in the abhishekam through live streaming on the youtube channel of ISKCON (Chennai).

From August 8 to 12, there will be webcast of discourses in English (from 7 p.m to 8 p.m) and Hindi (from 9 p.m to 10 p.m) on both Facebook and YouTube channels of ISKCON, Chennai.

On Aug. 12, devotees can watch the poojas and have darshan of the presiding deity live on YouTube.

On Thursday, Aug. 13, there will be live streaming of the celebration of Nandotsav and the Vyasa pooja of ISKCON founder A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from 11 a.m to 2 p.m.

For children there will be fancy dress (dressed up as Radhe or Krishna), drawing and painting, craft, storytelling, bhajan and sloka contests.

Adults can participate in photography, videography,

storytelling, kolam and mandapam decoration contests.

The contestants need to upload the photos and videos, the details of which will be made available on the website <http://www.iskconchennai.org>.

For registration and more details, visit [www.studygita.com/yatra](http://www.studygita.com/yatra) or send a WhatsApp message to 98402 29226.

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### Anna University to conduct final year engineering exams online

By Our Staff Reporter

Anna University has decided to conduct end-semester exams for final year students online amid the crisis due to COVID-19.

Students without the facility to take exams online will be given a choice to take exams offline later.

The tests will be for an hour for each subject and will have multiple-choice questions. The students will be monitored using an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool, which will record the movements of the students and other parameters like screen-time and audio usage to detect malpractices.

The university has floated a tender inviting bids to facilitate the tool.

The grading will be done 30% based on the online test and 70% weightage for internal assessment and project work.

### Employee who fled with 1kg gold arrested

By Our Staff Reporter

An employee of a goldsmith who escaped with 1 kg gold jewellery in Vadapalani was nabbed at Bengaluru airport by Customs officials while trying to board a flight for West Bengal.

The accusedm Aziz Ur Rahman, had been employed by Sula Desh Kumar Majhi of Gangai Amman Koil Street, a goldsmith, six months back as he was from his native state of West Bengal.

While Aziz stayed on the terrace of the complainant's house, he escaped with 39 gold chains weighing about 945 grams on July 31.

While Sula Desh informed his relatives to alert him if Aziz showed up in his native place and did not lodge a complaint, he was informed by the Customs officials in Bengaluru airport that Aziz was arrested since he was found in possession of the jewellery without papers.

To get the gold back, Sula Desh Kumar lodged a complaint in Vadapalani police station on Aug. 1 and an FIR was registered.

### Governor tests positive for COVID-19

By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit tested positive for COVID-19 on Aug. 1 and was admitted in a private hospital in Alwarpet. He is asymptomatic and clinically stable, according to a hospital statement.

This comes in the wake of 84 staff members in Raj Bhavan testing positive for COVID-19 last week.

## Practice resumed on basketball court



By Our Staff Reporter

The basketball court in Corporation Playground on Venkatanarayana Road in T. Nagar is being used by players for practice after a long gap. The playground is being used for unloading vegetables. Photo was taken on Aug. 6.

### Sewage water enters flat complex

By Our Staff Reporter

Sewage water has been overflowing from a manhole in Duraisamy Road, T. Nagar and stagnating in BBC Manor Complex for several days.

The stagnant water is emitting a foul smell and is a health hazards for residents.



### Walkers prefer Thyagaraya Road



By Our Staff Reporter

A number of early morning walkers and joggers are using the pavement of Thyagaraya Road in T. Nagar (Smart City project road) as Corporation Park has remained since the imposition of lockdown. This road is preferred as there are fewer vehicles on the road which is lined by a number of avenue trees.

### Velammal student wins online art contest

By Our Staff Reporter

M.L. Pranav (Std. 5 student in Velammal Main School, East Mogappair) got a cash prize of Rs.3,000 for winning the online State-Level Art Competition on the topic 'To Be Safe From Corona' conducted by the Tamil Nadu Fire Service last month.



### Enjoy a 3-D virtual tour of '7 Wonders of the World'

By Our Staff Reporter

The students of Velammal School have created a 360-degree 3-D virtual tour of the 'Seven Wonders of the World'.

It can be viewed on the website [www.velammal-nexus.com](http://www.velammal-nexus.com).

Initiated as part of experiential learning, the virtual tour will provide a real life experience of visiting these places from the comfort of your homes, and for free!

### Animal activist raising funds to buy a fully equipped ambulance

Realising that the biggest obstacle in rescuing lives of injured animals was the delay and cost involved in getting them to a veterinarian in time, animal activist P. Ashwath (a resident of Kodambakkam) is on a mission of raising funds to buy a full-fledged ambulance-cum-birth control vehicle at a cost of Rs. 26 lakhs for those involved in animal rescue.

Though there are NGOs specifically working for the welfare of stray animals in the city, Ashwath says that only a few of them have ambulances, which are not put to use properly, and adds that it is difficult for individual rescuers like him to have access to such ambulances.

The only Amma Animal Ambulance for the city is lying idle in the government veterinary hospital, according to him.

Ashwath says that the ambulance should be equipped with a small operation theater to carry out birth control surgery for strays. "That is another important area in which I want to concentrate since culling of dogs is rampant in suburbs due to absence of birth control measures," he said. The vehicle should also have the equipment for a blood test and oxygen cylinders, he added.

When the ambulance is ready, rescuers like him can make use of the vehicle to rescue animals if they accept responsibility for the vehicle and fuel cost.

While he has already raised about Rs 1 lakh, he has been meeting animal lovers and celebrities, hoping to complete his mission soon. His contact number is 95001 49181.

### Trench drained following report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

Following the report 'Trench filled with rainwater on Ranganathan Street' published in *Mambalam Times* (August 1-7 issue), the water was drained out and work on the storm water drain was resumed.

The T. Nagar - Mambalam edition of **Mambalam Times** can be accessed in [www.mambalamtimes.in](http://www.mambalamtimes.in)

## Mini bus blocks pavement on North Boag Road



By Our Staff Reporter

A mini bus has been parked on the pavement outside Bala Vinayagar Square (North Boag Road, T. Nagar). It blocks the way for pedestrians. The photo was taken on Aug. 5.

## Cable drum left outside park



By Our Staff Reporter

An EB cable drum left outside the Corporation Park on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ashok Nagar has been hindering road users for several days.

## Offer from Eswaran Coffee

Eswaran Coffee (Station Road, opp. Lingam Coffee, West Mambalam) is offering extra 50 gm. on purchase of 500 gm. and extra 100 gm. on purchase of 1 kg. of coffee powder.

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

The proprietor said that he sources export quality coffee seeds from Chickmagalur, Karnataka.

He said that free home delivery is available for orders of 500 gm or more. It also sells Thanjavur Iyer special homemade vathal, vadam, pickle and appalam.

Its phone numbers are 89397 48053 / 54.

## Corporation warns of fine for water stagnation

With dengue cases on the rise amid the COVID-19 battle, the Corporation has stepped up its vector control measures and reiterated that it would impose fine for water stagnation leading to mosquito breeding.

According to a Corporation official, the dengue-related activities have started at full pace. Apart from regular field activities, the cooperation from the public is of paramount importance, particularly in large establishments and construction sites. In order to enforce discipline and to ensure the safety of citizens, particularly children who are more vulnerable to dengue, the fine has been reinstated, he said.

The fine varies from Rs. 100 to Rs. 10 lakhs depending on the type of premises and repeated offence.

For individual houses, a notice will first be issued and then a fine of Rs. 100 and Rs. 200 would be slapped for subsequent offence.

In case of apartment complexes, the first offence would attract Rs. 500 fine and a second and third offence would lead levy of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 15,000.

Two-star and above hotels, hospitals with over 50 beds and construction sites measuring 5000 square feet and above would attract a fine of Rs. 1 lakh for the first offence while the second and the third offence will lead to fine of Rs. 5 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs.

3,400 workers have been shifted from COVID-19 duty to vector prevention work across the city.

The Corporation has also ordered its zonal officers to identify owners of vacant plots and buildings, and issue them notices as mosquitoes may breed in such places. It would also begin fogging and spraying larvicide in vulnerable places.

# Report in Mambalam Times prompts removal of poles from subway



Before

By Our Staff Reporter

After

Following the report 'Slanting poles hinder 2-wheeler riders' published in Mambalam Times (July 25-31 issue), the poles were removed from the entrance of Rangarajapuram two-wheeler subway.



## Local activist rescues dog blinded by mentally-unstable man

By Our Staff Reporter

A female stray dog in Arumbakkam lost both her eyes after a mentally unstable man attacked her with stones.

The doctors surgically removed both her eyes, following which animal welfare activists and police have taken efforts to get the man admitted to a home for mentally challenged.

The incident took place last month in MMDA Colony when a resident who regularly fed the dog alerted the Animal Welfare Board.

When P. Ashwath (a volunteer with the Board and a resident of Kodambakkam) came to know of the incident, he took the dog to a private veterinary hospital in Choolaimedu and both its eyes were removed in a five-hour surgical procedure.

Ashwath said that the dog is said to be doing fine and is up for adoption. Anyone willing to adopt the dog can contact him in 95001 49181.

## Sign removed to help pavement laying not reinstated



By Our Staff Reporter

A sign removed to facilitate pavement laying work on Bashyam Road in T. Nagar has been left resting on a tree for several days.

## Portions of fence outside TNHB housed being stolen



By Our Staff Reporter

Portions of the fence installed around the vacant dilapidated houses built earlier by Tamil Nadu Housing Board on Model Hutment Road in West C.I.T. Nagar are being removed by miscreants at regular intervals.

TNHB had fenced the area to prevent trespassers and dumping of waste.

The gaps in the fence facilitate easy entry for urinating and indulging in nefarious activities.

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# An adventurous road trip to remember for a lifetime!

By B. R. Shivaji

I and my wife, accompanied by our son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter, had an exciting, fun-filled 3-day 1300 km road trip two weeks ago from Siliguri (North Bengal) to NCR (National Capital Region).

We thoroughly enjoyed the exciting trip, our longest one together, with a scary incident on the second day of the trip.

The heroine of the long trip was Princess Manasvini, our 5-year-old granddaughter, whose happy-go-lucky, childish banter and cheerfulness helped raise our spirits, especially when they flagged. Her non-stop chatter and countless questions (a million, her favourite number) and comments like 'awesome', 'amazing', 'too good' and 'crazy' kept us in good humour. In her opinion, tummy ache was caused by 'hunger', 'allergy' or 'indigestion'. In another context, her sagely advice was to 'adjust'. When caught on the wrong foot, she would disarm us saying, 'I was only kidding'. Even on the second day, when we were forced to go without lunch and had to depend on 'yummy' biscuits, chocolates and milk shakes, she enjoyed herself being given carte blanche to eat whatever and however much she wanted. Not once did she ask for her tablet or dolls. Her favourite dishes are pizza (she pronounces it the correct Italian way as 'pizta') and pasta. She displays intelligence, maturity, knowledge and vocabulary far beyond her years. For example, when we passed by several multi-storied towers and wondered aloud how many flats were occupied, she wowed us with her instant and nonchalant answer, 'the ones with clothes in the balconies of course' uttered in a tone which said it was quite obvious. She is also quite quick with childish mischief. She was terribly excited about the big-screen computer she was to get for her on-line lessons. All credit to her doting parents.



The following is what we went through:

**Day 1: An exciting start:** We left Siliguri at 7.30 a.m on a Sunday, with breakfast packed. We crossed freely into Bihar across the unmarked border with not even perfunctory questions or a demand for the dreaded e-pass.

The ride was pleasant with trees lining the road and green paddy fields on both sides. We halted briefly for breakfast. We then drove on and were blocked by a village cattle fair. We had to carefully weave through the animals standing close together on both sides of the road for more than a kilometer. Groups of buyers were examining the animals. There was no social distancing or wearing of masks. It was as if coronavirus, the scary pandemic sweeping the world, did not exist and we were watching the flashback of a normal village scene from the distant past.

All the dwellings in the villages had cylinder-shaped hay storage bins with conical roofs.

We spent the night in a rest house in a remote village in Muzzafarpur in Bihar which did not show up on GPS. Surprisingly, our rooms were luxuriously spick and span with a lounge and gym.

**Day 2: A nightmarish one!** We started at 7 a.m with breakfast packed. We hit the first hurdle when we could not take the national highway as a bridge had collapsed in floods and all traffic had been diverted. Confronted by a 30-km long line of lorries and cars with no signs of movement, we took a detour. After passing through several villages with flooded paddy fields on both sides, we came on a swollen stream. We mistakenly thought the water was not very deep and we could cross over safely. 30 meters from the bank, the water came to axle level. The fast flowing and swirling water appeared to get deeper. Deciding quickly to turn back, my son, without losing his nerve, managed to turn the car around. With hearts in our mouths and prayers on our lips, we slogged through the stretch with the water parting in waves. Had the water entered the tail-pipe and the engine had stalled we would have been goners. When we regained solid ground, we snatched a few minutes to thank the gods and recoup our shattered nerves. Luckily, the weather held throughout the trip though dark clouds hovered overhead. A few days later the very areas we had passed through were flooded.

Though my son is a veteran of long road trips, the previous one being last year, 6413 km, 5 states, an up and down solo

trip to Kochi via Chennai with his pet dog, he had never faced such a scary situation in the past. He vowed not to take such chances again. Moral of the story: never test unknown depths. After doubling back, we luckily bumped into some Bihar cops who directed us to a water-free but patchy road which led to Gorakhpur where we had planned a pit-stop for lunch and rest but this was not to be as we were way behind schedule. We phoned ahead to say that we were caught in traffic and would stay overnight instead.

**Day 3: The final leg.** Our day started at 7 a.m, with packed breakfast, and we geared up for the 800 km home stretch. We made the same free-for-all entry into UP and made a pit stop in Faizabad for refreshments and takeaway lunch for the long drive ahead. We drove to Lucknow and then crossed famous landmark places like Ayodhya and Mathura. Driving on we saw a troop of monkeys scampering across the road. All vehicles halted to give free passage to the monkeys, which are revered in UP, except for one driver who was going too fast to stop in time and hit a monkey. In fact, there is a famous centuries-old Durga Temple, also called Monkey Temple (because of the presence of a large number of monkeys), in UP.

We halted briefly to have lunch and took the 302-km Lucknow-Agra 6-lane (expandable to 8 lanes) expressway (including a 62-km Greenfield stretch), the longest expressway in India, which was opened on Nov. 21, 2016, and on which speeds touch 100+kmph. There is a 3.3-km stretch called 'emergency runway' on which Mirage 2000 and Sukhoi-30MKI fighters of the Indian Air Force made touchdowns in a drill conducted on Oct. 24, 2017.

We tackled the expressway in record time and drove on to Ghaziabad. Thus ended our once-in-a-lifetime, never-to-be-forgotten, eventful trip.

(B. R. Shivaji was earlier Associate Editor of Mambalam Times and continues to assist the paper online)

## Houses with COVID-19 positive cases marked



Thambiah Road, West Mambalam



Subba Street, West Mambalam

When new coronavirus cases are confirmed positive, corporation workers put up notices outside the premises.

Such notices can be spotted on Thambiah Road and Subba Reddy Street in West Mambalam.

## School celebrates laying of foundation stone for Ram Temple

By Our Staff Reporter

The teachers and staff of Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School (Postal Colony, West Mambalam) performed special pooja



and lighted earthen lamps to celebrate the laying of the foundation stone for the Ram Temple in Hanumangarhi Temple in Ayodhya by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Aug. 5. Girija Seshadri (Correspondent) led the pooja.

## Learn hip-hop dance for free!

By Our Staff Reporter

Popular western dance exponent Sathish has joined hands with Velammal Nexus to stream live sessions of the western dance form 'Hip-Hop' from 5 p.m to 6 p.m daily on the Velammal Nexus YouTube channel.

In the previous batch which concluded on Aug. 8, the sessions had attracted more than 25,000 viewers.

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NERKUNDRAM (MR School backside), Gajalakshmi Street, Kadambadi Amman Nagar, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 563 sq.ft, UDS 450 sq.ft, 2-wheeler parking, price Rs. 27 lakhs. Ph: 94458 45162, 73583 67897.

KODAMBAKKAM, Trustpuram, vacant land, North facing, 2700 sq.ft, 40 feet road, reasonable price, good location. Ph: 99406 62650.

WEST MAMBALAM, K.V.Colony 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 2nd floor, 550 sq.ft, UDS 370 sq.ft, flat for resale, single bedroom (approved plan). no lift. Immediate registration. Price Rs. 38 lakhs negotiable. Ph: 93804 34605, 4266 8412.

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K.K. NAGAR, 15<sup>th</sup> Sector, 94<sup>th</sup> Street, near Nagathamman Koil, new flat, 3 bedrooms, 1479 sq.ft, lift, covered car park, possession October 2020. Ph: 9841434471, 95662 43335.

K.K. NAGAR, near PSBB School/Vani Vidyalaya School, 30 feet Road, 755 sq.ft, 2 master bedrooms, 1 big hall, specious kitchen, pooja, wood work, 11 years old, UDS 477 sq.ft. (60%), metro/bore water, price Rs. 43 lakhs negotiable. Ph: 9941999191, 98419 27338.

T. NAGAR, Anandan Street, Sri Mathy Apartment, opp. Murugan Idly Shop, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor flat, 1100 sq.ft, 2 bedroom, hall, kitchen, east south road facing, open car parking, copious water, no lift, Brahmins/vegetarians, visit on Sunday 9.08.2020 on appointment. Ph: 2814 2474, 94444 18596.

K.K. NAGAR, Pillaiyar Koil street, near C.C. Bank, ground floor, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 690 sq.ft, UDS 110 sq.ft, west facing, price Rs. 29 lakhs, no brokers. Contact: Guru Ph: 99628 88830.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 7&8, Weste Hills Appasamy Apartment, Reddy Kuppam Road, adjacent Aranganathan Subway, 2 bedrooms, drawing/dining, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, lift, open car park, gate community. Ph: 94440 18114.

T. NAGAR, 90, Burkit Road, near Bus Terminus, 1 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, bath attached, rent Rs. 12500, family/bachelors/office. Ph: 94441 16320, 89394 99735.

WEST K.K. Nagar, Parkavi Apts Phase IV, 770 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, vegetarians only, no brokers, Rs. 15000. 93821 54423, 97908 01445.

WEST MAMBALAM, 26/48, Subramanian Street, 2 bedrooms, ground floor, 2-wheeler parking, no water problem, maximum 3 persons, vegetarian/Brahmins only. 97898 15972.

WEST MAMBALAM, 18/12, Murthy Street, 2 bedrooms, 550 sq.ft, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, A/c & inverter available, Brahmins only. Ph: 99401 35701.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 41/49, Umapathy Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 1100 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 3 balconies, utility area, lift, wood work, open car park, excellent ventilation, vegetarians only, rent Rs. 24000 (negotiable), maintenance Rs. 1300. Ph: 99629 84862, 9960 0486

T. NAGAR, 24, Ramakrishna Street, 850 sq.ft, modern, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, covered car parking, 24 hours water, 3-phase EB, vegetarians only, residential only, no Bachelors & brokers. Ph: 94441 35795.

**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, 1<sup>st</sup> floor flat, semi furnished, wardrobes, fittings, facilities include lift, covered car parking, generator. Flat available from Sept. 15, 2020. Preference vegetarians, no pets. 94980 29165, 97412 73900.**

WEST MAMBALAM, 38A/46, Raju Street, ground floor, independent house, 1200 sq.ft, with spacious hall, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, (one attached), dining, kitchen, 2-wheeler parking, Brahmins only. Ph: 98400 13493, 99406 52328.

WEST MAMBALAM, 30, Velu Street, Rams flats, ground floor, 1 bedroom flat, hall, kitchen, small Brahmin family, recently renovated, 2-wheeler parking, ready of occupation. Ph: 94443 14065.

WEST MAMBALAM, 41/22, Kuppaiah Street, 1 bedroom apartment, hall, kitchen, 505 sq.ft, for rent. Contact: Lalitha 95661 22788 or Kalyani 90030 22858.

T. NAGAR, 6/20, Periyar Salai, S.S. Apartments, 890 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, car park, no brokers. Ph: 96005 60555.

ASHOK NAGAR, 10, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, near Krishna Sweets, 1000 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, semi furnished, lift, CCTV, 24 hours water/security, car park, rent Rs. 20000, family/bachelors/office. Ph: 73053 44555.

T. NAGAR, 28, Shivaji Street, near Bus Terminus, independent 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 1600 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, spacious hall, kitchen, attached bath rooms, semi furnished, covered car park, no lift. Ph: 98840 53908.

T. NAGAR, 15, Thyagaraja Gramani Street off North Usman Road, 2 bedroom, hall, kitchen, study room, closed wardrobes in both bedrooms, recently built, covered car park, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, rent Rs. 25000 plus maintenance, no lift. Ph: 93428 67755.

WEST MAMBALAM, 68, Balakrishna Naicker Street, near Ayodhya Mandapam, prime location, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 24 hours water, 650 sq.ft, rent Rs. 15000, 2 & 4 wheeler parking, no brokers. Ph: 96770 15801, 99622 47316.

K.K. NAGAR, 5, Munu Swamy Salai, near PSBB/Vani Vidyalaya School, 30 feet Road, 1000 sq.ft, 2 master bedrooms, 1 big hall, modular kitchen, wood work, covered car park, bore/metro water, rent Rs. 16000, lease Rs. 7 lakhs, or office rent Rs. 20000, family/bachelors/office. Ph: 99419 99191.

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**TAX SERVICES**

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 75241.

**Ram pooja held outside Ayodhya Mandapam**

By Our Staff Reporter

The members of Bharthiya Janatha Party performed special pooja to Lord Ramar outside Ayodhya Mandapam (Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam) on Aug.6 to mark the foundation stone laying ceremony for Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Senior BJP leader L. Ganesan inaugurated the pooja and gave a special talk on the occasion. K. Ramanathan (President, Division 135, BJP) also participated in the pooja.

Ramanathan told *Mambalam Times* that prior permission was obtained, social distancing norms were followed and only restricted number of members were allowed to participate in the poojas.

**Stand-alone gyms can reopen on Aug. 10**

By Our Staff Reporter

The Tamilnadu government has given stand-alone gyms in the state permission to reopen on Aug. 10.

The government has directed that only persons below the age of 50 should be permitted to use the facilities.

It will issue a standard operating procedure (SOP) to ensure that uniform rules are followed across the state.

Gyms attached to hotels or clubs shall remain closed. The order stated that the gyms have to follow social distancing norms by introducing slot-based workouts and temperature checking is mandatory for those entering the gym.

**E-pass issuance eased, work-related permits to be introduced**

By Our Staff Reporter

The government has announced that the process of travelling in and out of Chennai would be eased with the addition of a new category of 'work-related' e-pass.

The issuance of e-pass to the public with valid reasons, including travel to attend a marriage, funeral or medical emergency has already been liberalised. According to G. Prakash (Corporation Commissioner) 1.7 lakh e-passes have been issued so far in the city.

He said persons applying for the e-pass must upload their Aadhaar details and necessary documents for the pass to be approved.

**Private hospitals to declare COVID-19 treatment charges**

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palanisamy has directed the private hospitals to declare their treatment charges for COVID-19, for public access.

This follows several complaints regarding the charges levied by private hospitals for treatment. It was said that the private players are cashing in on the pandemic situation and charging lakhs. Recently, the government had temporarily revoked the COVID-19 treatment license of a Kilpauk based hospital 'Bewell' for charging a COVID patient Rs. 12.20 lakhs for 19 days of treatment.

According to the government order passed few weeks back, Grade 1 and 2 hospitals can charge a maximum of Rs. 7,500 in general ward per day while grade 3 and 4 hospitals can charge Rs. 5,000.

**OBITUARY**

**Dr. V. RAVICHANDRAN**

Dr.V. Ravichandran (resident of 1, Bank of India Colony, Ashok Nagar) passed away on Aug.6. He was 53, and had been a resident of Ashok Nagar since birth.

He was social activist and the Founder of Citizens Guardians. With coordination with the Corporation officials, he has resolved a number of longstanding civics issues in Ashok Nagar. He filed a PIL and was instrumental in the clearing of the decades-long encroachment in an area of 14 grounds on 4th Avenue that had been earmarked for a public park. He is survived by his mother Jayalakshmi (Ph: 97909 04574), wife Aruna, brothers Thyagarajan and Ramesh, and sister Geetha Suresh.

**R. JAYAM**

R. Jayam (a resident of Velu Street, West Mambalam) passed away on July 29.

She was 84, and had been resident of West Mambalam for more than 50 years.

She was housewife. She is survived by her husband N. Rajamani (Retd. Teacher of RKM School (Main), T. Nagar), two daughters and grandchildren.

Her family can be contacted in Ph: 98415 87408.



**Dogs available for adoption**

Four 8-month-old crossbreed dogs are available for adoption. Two of them are male and the other two are female.

They were rescued at birth and are now under the care of Dr. Vishnu Priya (an animal activist) who lives in Chetpet.

Dr. Priya said that the dogs are neutered, properly vaccinated, and are healthy and well-groomed. She said they are harmless and playful by nature.

Anyone interested in adopting the dogs, may call Dr. Priya in 98400 35316.



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## Part of G. N. Chetty Road flyover in bad condition



By Our Staff Reporter

A portion of G. N. Chetty flyover in T. Nagar is in a bad condition which is hazardous for motorists and other road users.

## Barricade on trench poses danger



By Our Staff Reporter

A steel barricade covering a trench dug for laying cables near Kavingar Kannadasan statue on G. N. Chetty Road in T. Nagar poses a danger for motorists and pedestrians.

## Street name board slanting



By Our Staff Reporter

A huge name board of Crescent Street, T. Nagar, slanting and resting on the compound wall of a house, is not visible in the dark.

## Many cops care for strays during lockdown

## Many cops care for strays during lockdown

From feeding strays to attending to injured dogs, a number of police personnel have taken to caring for the animals during the pandemic.

G. Subbulakshmi (Deputy Commissioner, Washermenpet) is busy all day handling police work in one of the hotspots of north Chennai.

But her day does not end without feeding strays near Anna Nagar which has done for the past four months. "After the lockdown, the strays did not get enough food and that is how I started feeding them. Now, they wait for me and run towards the car when I park near my house in Anna Nagar," the officer said.

Buying bread packets and biscuits has also become part of her routine.

Inspector Ravikumar from K. K. Nagar has rescued 35 stray dogs who were either injured or had been infected, with help from his colleagues and volunteers during the lockdown. "In every police station, two strays are taken care of by the police, so it is natural for us to be compassionate towards them. They are permanent members of the station," the inspector said.

Thanks to his timely intervention, most of the dogs have recovered completely.

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## Kodambakkam has most containment zones

By Our Staff Reporter

According to Corporation data, there were only 50 containment zones in the city as on Aug. 4 and all are part of the five zones falling under the central region.

Of them, 16 are in Kodambakkam that has 1,357 active cases while Ambattur and Anna Nagar have 13 and 10 containment zones respectively.

These zones have 1,334 and 1,250 active cases.

During the initial days of the spread, a large number of cases were reported from north Chennai and several streets had been converted into con-

tainment zones.

Of the 12,436 active cases in the city, 6,050 cases are from central Chennai zone.

The Corporation is converting those areas and streets, where a large number of cases are reported, as a part of the cluster containment plan.

Earlier, it was sealing en-

tire streets from where just one or two cases were reported. The strategy has been modified so that just the houses or buildings are sealed if a fewer number of cases are reported. Restrictions in containment zones are removed if the streets stop reporting fresh cases for 14 days.

## Lockdown delays installation of smart power meters

By Our Staff Reporter

The COVID-19 lockdown has delayed the installation of smart meters in T. Nagar under the Chennai Smart City project.

According to a Tangedco official, about 1.41 lakh smart meters have been procured from Venus Power Ventures India Ltd. at a cost of Rs. 137 crores.

The smart meters would eliminate human intervention for fetching of meter data and facilitate disconnection or reconnection by remotely making use of the meters with radio frequency-based communication technology.

He said that the installation is likely to start in October.

## Senior couple shares passion for motorbike customisation

By Our Staff Reporter

John Sudhakar (68) and his wife Sulekha Sudhakar (66) bought their first motorcycle in 1981. It was a Royal Enfield Bullet 350 sold in an army auction and the duo completely overhauled and customised it.

They now run a repair and customisation facility called 'The Bullet Factory' in Pallikaranai. In the past five years, they have successfully modified over 200 motorcycles.

"After the lockdown, we were flooded with a lot of inquiries. Some motorcycle enthusiasts are using free time to leverage their passions and create whole new versions of their bikes," said John.

Sudhakar, a photographer by profession, has planned a ride from Chennai to Rajasthan after the easing of lockdown restrictions.

Those wishing to modify their bikes can contact Sudhakar in 89399 72020.

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