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## 13% decline in NEET enrolment from Tamilnadu

The enrolment of students for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) in Tamilnadu has recorded a 13% decline compared to the previous year.

According to the state-wise distribution of candidates released by the National Testing Agency, 1,34,714 candidates enrolled for the test in 2019 while only 1,17,990 enrolled this year from Tamilnadu. The NEET exam will be held on Sept. 13. The Director of a local NEET coaching institute told *Mambalam Times* that the COVID-19 restrictions have disrupted the students' preparation. Losing confidence many would not have applied.

He said that the training is still very costly for a majority of state board students who definitely need extra classes.

The Tamilnadu government recently passed a resolution to reserve 7.5% of all medical seats in the state for government school students who pass the NEET exam.

## COVID-19 patient's house sealed with inmates inside

By Our Staff Reporter

The home of a COVID-19 patient was sealed immediately after the person returned home after treatment in a hospital in Pallavaram.

The 4-member family including a heart patient was left helpless as members got locked inside the house and were not able to come out for emergencies despite protests by neighbours and family members.

The issue came to light after NGO Arappor Iyakkam posted an image of the sealed home on its social media account.

The image showed a worker sealing the door using a vertical metal sheet. Pallavaram Municipality Commissioner Mathivanan had ordered the workers to seal the house, said a member of Arappor Iyakkam. The sheet was removed after it created a storm on social media platforms.

## HC dismisses plea seeking closure of TASMAL outlets

The Madras High Court has said that it cannot pass orders to close TASMAL outlets or bars in Tamilnadu since it is a policy decision of the state government.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Silambarasan, an advocate from Anna Nagar, who sought an order to close the bars across the state.

In his petition, he claimed that the bars run by the state-owned Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAL) are becoming grounds for increasing illegal activities and causing several accidents in their vicinity.

Currently, the bars in Tamilnadu are closed due to the lockdown and only the outlets are open for business.

Dismissing the plea, the justices also granted permission to the petitioner to file a fresh plea against illegal, unlicensed bars operating in Tamilnadu.

The government of Tamil Nadu reopened TASMAL outlets in Chennai on Aug. 18 after they were closed as part of the nationwide shutdown in March last week.

## Daily new cases cross 1000 again

The positivity rate during testing in the city has again been rising beyond 10 percent as the city has been reporting more than 1,100 new COVID-19 cases for the past week. Earlier, the city had managed to reach a positivity rate of 7 percent.

According to Corporation data, of the 12,105 samples tested on Aug. 22, 1294 persons were found to be infected, which is 10.7 percent positivity rate, higher by almost 1% as on Aug. 16 and 2% as on Aug. 8.

"A majority of new cases is being reported from Zones such as Anna Nagar, Ambattur, Kodambakkam, Adyar and Valasaravakkam. Instructions have been issued to intensify containment measures in these zones," a Corporation official said.

Except Ambattur, Manali and Royapuram, all the other Zones have shown positive growth rate, showing an increase in new cases.

## Centre advises States to scrap e-passes

By Our Staff Reporter

The Central Government on Aug. 22 issued a circular to all State governments to rescind the e-pass system. The circular stated that no separate permit or approval was required for inter-state and intra-state travel of people and goods.

Following this circular, Jayakumar (Minister for Fisheries and Personnel and Administrative Reforms) said that the Tamilnadu government will take a decision on revoking e-pass system only after discussing the issue with officials concerned and the medical expert team.

"We implemented the e-pass system to contain the spread of COVID-19. The e-pass, lockdown and relaxation of the lockdown are duties of the state government. So we

implemented e-pass and now we have introduced relaxations," he said.

Since Aug. 17, the state government has relaxed the e-pass norms and declared that it will provide e-pass for everyone submitting aadhaar or ration card details.

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## தமாஷா வரிகள்

ஜே.எஸ். ராகவன்  
காபி மாஸ்டர்

'அடேய் சிவசாமி, 'தூக்குப் போடறதுக்கு முன்னாலே உன்னுடைய கடைசி ஆசை என்ன?'னு புழல் ஜெயிலர் கேட்டால் என்ன கேட்பேன்னு சொல்லு பார்க்கலாம்?'

'தெரியலே அண்ணா. சொன்னால் தெரிஞ்சுக்கறேன்.'  
'சிவசாமி என்ன ஆச்சுடா உனக்கு? இதைக்கூட உன்னாலே கெல் பண்ண முடியலையா? சூடா, நூரை தனும்ப, அரை சக்கரையோட, அப்போதான் இறக்கின பில்டர் டிகாஷனிலே போட்ட முழு ம்ப்ளர் காபியை டபராவோட கொடுங்கோ. அதை நான் அணு, அணுவா ருசிச்சு, குடிச்ச முடிச்ச உடனே என் உடம்பைத் தூக்கிலே போட்டு அரிவாள்மணையிலே அவியலுக்குக் காய் நறுக்கிற மாதிரி நறுக்கிக் காக்காய்க்குப் போட்டுடுங்கோ, கவலை இல்லேன்னு சொல்லிடுவேன்.'

'அண்ணா! மில்டர் வேதாந்தத்திலே இந்த சினாரியோலே காபிக்கு பதில் தவலை வடை கேக்கிறதா தேவன் எழுதிட்டார் அண்ணா.'

'இருந்துட்டுப் போகட்டுமோடா. தவலை வடை சாப்பிட்ட கையோடு காபி சாப்பிடணும் இல்லையா? அதான் கொஞ்ச நாழி கழிச்சு சாப்பிடறேண்டா. அது சரி, என் செல்லம்மா பாட்டி மாதிரி, இல்லே உன்ன மாதிரி ஒரு மாஸ்டர் காபி போடறதைப் பார்த்தால் அதே மாதிரிப் போட வருமாடா?'

'வயலின் வாசிப்பவரைப் பார்த்தால், ஜாங்கிரி சுத்தறவரைப் பார்த்தால், ரங்கோலி போடறவரைப் பார்த்தால், இளநி வெட்டறவரைப் பார்த்தால் அதே மாதிரி செய்ய வருமா அண்ணா?'

பஞ்சாமிக்கு சுருக்கென்றது. சிறிது நேரம் மோவாயைத் தடவி விட்டுக் கொண்டார்.

'அடேய் சிவசாமி, இன்னிக்கு சாயரட்சை ஊருக்குப் போயிட்டு நாளைக்கு ராத்திரி தானே வரப்போறேன். ஹோட்டலிலேயிருந்து காபியை வரவழைக்காமல் நானே காபி போட்டுக் குடிக்கிறேன் பாரு.'

மறுநாள் காலை கண் விழித்த பஞ்சாமி, 'அடே சிவசாமி', என்று உரக்கக் கூப்பிட்டார். பம்மாமல் உடனே சிவசாமி தேய்த்த விளக்கிலேயிருந்து வரும் பூதம்போலத் தோன்றிவிடுவான். ஆனால் அதிசயம். ஆளைக் காணும்.

'சிவசாமி! சிவசாமி!'ன்னு எழுமபூர் மெட்ரோபாலிடன் மாஜிஸ்டிரேட் கோர்ட் பியூன்போலக் கூப்பிட்டுப் பார்த்தார். சிவசாமி ஆஜராகவில்லை.

'என்னது? நம்ம வீட்டு சமையல் உள் ளா இது?' என்று உள்ளே நுழைந்தவர் வியந்தார். ஒரு கரப்பு இல்லை, ஒரு பல்லி இல்லை. ஈ, எறும்பு, தும்பு, தூசி, ஓட்டை எதுவும் இல்லை. பின் என்ன சமையல் கட்டு இது? என்று கேலியுடன் கேட்டுக் கொண்டாலும் பராமரிப்பு அவரை வியக்க வைத்தது.

சி.எம்.டி.ஏ அனுமதி இல்லாமல் கட்டின கட்டிடத்தைப் பேவ்மென்ட் பிரேக்கரால் உடைப்பது போலத் தலை விண் விண் என்று வலி எடுக்க ஆரம்பித்தது. டைகர் பாம், ஜண்டு பாம், பங்கஜகஸ்தாரி, தென்னமரக்குடி எண்ணெய், அமிர் தாஞ்சன் போன்றவைகளில் ஒன்றைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்துத் தேய்க்க வேண்டிய நிலை ஏற்படுமோ என்று அஞ்சினார்.

'சீ, கையில் அருமருந்தான காபி எனும் கனி இருக்கும்போது கனிம்பு எனும் காயைக் கவர்வதா?' என்று தன்னைத் தானே கடிந்துகொண்டு காபி நினைவுடன் சமையல் கட்டிற்குள் பீடு நடை போட்டார்.

அங்கே (அல்லது ஆங்கே) காபி எனும் அமுதத்தைத் தயாரித்து வழங்கப் பொன்போன்று பளபளத்த பித்தளை பில்டர் (சிறியது), சோபன் அறையில், எட்டு எண்ணைப் போல நாணிக் கோணி நிற்கும் புதுப்பெண்போல் மின்னுவது பஞ்சாமியின் கண்களுக்குத் தோற்றமளித்தது.

செயலில் இறங்கிய பஞ்சாமி திகைத்தார். துணுக்குற்றார். என்ன இது? அரை மணி நேரம் ஆயிடுத்தே. இத்தனை நேரம் டிகாக்ஷன் அடிப்பாத்திரத்தில் இறங்கியிருக்க வேண்டாமா? பாத்திரத்தில் டிகாக்ஷன் துளிக்கூட இல்லாததைக் கண்டு மிரண்டார். இதில் அந்நிய நாட்டு, குறிப்பாக பாகிஸ்தான் அல்லது சீனச் சதி ஏதேனும் இருக்குமோ? ஒளிந்துகொள்ளச் சொன்ன கூடையில் தேடி, 'இட்டேச்சு' என்ற குதூகலத்துடன் காணவேண்டிய குழந்தையைக் காணாத இளம் தாயாரைப் போலப் பரிதவித்தார்.

'அண்ணா!' என்ற அபயக் குரல் கேட்டது. பதறிய பஞ்சாமி, நின்ற இடத்திலேயே இரண்டு அடி மூன்று அங்குலம் ஹிவ்வென்று மேலே போய்ப் பின் தரையைத் தொட்டு, பாலே நடன சுந்தரிபோல் நின்ற இடத்திலேயே நாற்பத்து ஐந்து டிகிரி திரும்பி சிவசாமியைப் பார்த்து, வார்த்தை வராமல், வளர்ப்பு மீன்போல் வாயை சரியாக பத்து தடவைகள் திறந்து திறந்து முடினார்.

கௌதம புத்தரின் அமைதியுடன், 'உங்க காபி அண்ணா' என்று சிவசாமி டபரா செட்டில் மணக்கும் காபியை நீட்டினான். 'சி...சி... சிவ...நீ... இங்க... எங்க... கா...கா...' என்று வாய் குழறினார்.

'அண்ணா, முதல்வே காபியைக் குடியுங்கோ அப்புறம் பேசலாம்.'

கூடையில் தேடிய குழந்தை எதிர்பாராமல் பின்னாடியிலேயிருந்து 'இதோ...' என்று கட்டிக்கொண்ட மாதிரி பஞ்சாமி புளகாங்கிதம் அடைந்தார்.

குடான காபியை ஆற்றி மடக் மடக்கென்று, தொண்டைக் குழி ஏறி இறங்கக் குடித்து உயிர் திரும்பிய நிலையில் பஞ்சாமி சிவசாமியை வாஞ்சையுடன் பார்த்தார். 'சிவசாமி, என்னடா இது? என்ன ஆச்சு. நான் போட்ட டிகாக்ஷன் எங்கேடா? மின்னலாய் மறஞ்சுடுத்தா? கள்ளர்கள் கவர்ந்து கொண்டு போயிட்டாங்களா?'

'அண்ணா, நீங்க காபி குடிக்கும்போது பில்டரை செக் பண்ணினேன். நீங்க பொடி போட்டதும், விட்ட தண்ணீர் அளவும் சரிதான். ஆனால் அடி பாகத்தில் துவாரங்கள் இருக்கும் சேம் பர்தான் மேலே இருக்கணும், மற்றது டிகாக்ஷன் வாங்கி. அந்த சேம்பர் கீழே இருக்கணும். அப்போதான் டிகாக்ஷன் கீழே இறங்கும். நீங்க மாதிக் வெச்சுட்டேன். 'நானே காபி போட்ட போறேன்னு நீங்க போட்ட சேலஞ்சிலே ஏதானும் ஏடாகூடம் ஆயிடுத்துன்னா அவஸ்தைப் படுவேளென்னு முன்னேற்பாடா பாலாஜி பவனிலேயிருந்து பிளாஸ்க்கிலே காபி வாங்கிண்டு வந்தேன். நல்லதாப் போச்சு.'

'டேய் சிவசாமி! ஜாங்கிரி, ஜிலேபி, கை முறுக்கை ஒரு வித்தகர் சுத்தறதைப் பார்த்தால் நமக்கும் சுத்த வராதுடா' என்று பஞ்சாமி சொன்னார்.

சிவசாமியின் சொக்காயில் காலர் கிடையாது. இருந்திருந்தாலும் அதைப் பெருமையுடன் தூக்கிவிட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்க மாட்டான்.

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 stump, trunk parts not cleared



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### Garbage cleared following report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter  
Following the report 'Garbage piles up at street junction' published in *Mambalam Times* (August 15-21 issue), it was cleared from the junction of Muthukrishnan Street and Sivasailam Street junction in T. Nagar.

### Tree branch resting on playground wall



By Our Staff Reporter

The branch of a tree has been resting for several days on the wall of the Corporation playground and across the pavement on Somasundaram Street, T. Nagar making it difficult for pedestrians to use the pavement.

### Depressed octogenarian keeps wife's dead body for a week

In a heart-wrenching story of solitude and love, an 80-year-old man who stayed with the body of his deceased wife in his house for over a week, not wanting to let go of her, was rescued by the police in Kodungaiyur (Perambur Taluk). The elderly couple, A. N. Ponnunani and P. P. Komala (70), had been staying in the house on 97th Street in Muthamizh Nagar since 1991 and did not have children. Ponnunani had retired from Chennai Corporation and was living on the pension amount. While neighbours did not see Ponnunani for over a week, they sensed a foul odour emanating from the house and alerted the police control room. A team led by inspector C. Velu broke open the main door to gain entry into the house. They found the bloated body of Komala and Ponnunani lying motionless next to it. After realizing Ponnunani was still alive, he was taken to Government Stanley Hospital. Komala's body was sent for post-mortem to Kilpauk Government Hospital. According to the doctors, Ponnunani is stable and is under medical supervision.

## Port-Maduravoyal elevated road only for freight movement

By Our Staff Reporter

The revised alignment of the 20-km long four-lane elevated road from Chennai Port to Maduravoyal has obtained the Coastal Regulation Zone clearance from the Union Environment Ministry after the State government objected to the earlier alignment, bringing the construction to a halt in 2012.

According to Pawan Kumar (Officer, National Highways Authority), the elevated road will in all likelihood be off track for regular traffic and only freight vehicles bound to or leaving Chennai Port will be allowed on the road.

To ensure this, as per the new alignment, the elevated road will have only entry and exit ramps within the Chennai Port premises and the end of the corridor.

He said that as most of the freight containers will use the elevated road, traffic will ease on the main roads carrying regular traffic.

He further added that as the elevated road is not wide enough, it could lead to traffic congestion of regular traffic is also allowed on it.

The project cost has shot up to Rs. 3,087 crores from the original estimated cost of Rs. 1,345 crores prepared in 2010.

NHAI will bear the entire cost of construction while the Chennai Port Trust and the State government will share the cost of land acquisition and resettlement equally.

## 3 buses destroyed in fire in Koyambedu terminus

Five omnibuses parked in Koyambedu Omnibus terminus caught fire on Aug. 23 at around 2 p.m.

While no injuries or fatalities were reported, three of the buses were totally burnt in the accident. According to eyewitnesses, thick dark smoke engulfed the area.

Five water tankers were used to douse the fire.

"The whole operation lasted about an hour. Fire engines from Koyambedu, JJ Nagar and Ambattur areas were brought and deployed", said a fire service officer.

The omnibus terminus had about 50 vehicles parked.

Since the lockdown began on March 24, inter-district and inter-state travel has been prohibited in Tamilnadu with some relaxations last month. The cause of the fire is unknown.

CMBT police are investigating the incident.

## CB-CID to probe encounter killing of history-sheeter

Tamilnadu CB-CID will probe the encounter killing of 49-year-old ganja peddler 'Market' Shankar, who was shot dead in Ayanavaram on Aug. 21.

He was a history-sheeter, and had three murder cases and five non-bailable warrants pending against him.

City police had claimed that the encounter killing was an act of self-defence by a police team led by Inspector Natarajan (Ayanavaram police station) after 'Market' Shankar attacked one of the constables in the team with a sickle.

## Vinayaga idols left outside temple



By Our Staff Reporter

Idols of Vinayaga used for West Mambalam, have not been removed (photo was taken on Aug. 26).

In the past, residents used to hand over the clay idols to the organisers of processions to the Marina for immersion in the sea, but they were banned by the Government this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## HC asks govt to regulate online classes

The Madras High Court, on Aug. 24, expressed concern over the cases of suicide among school students in the state due to the inability to obtain necessary devices and directed the state government to regulate online education.

The court also asked the government to ensure that there is fair play between private schools and government schools when it comes to online education.

According to reports, the court was hearing a batch of petitions which wanted the government to establish guidelines before starting online classes.

A bench consisting of Justice M. M. Sundresh and Justice R. Hemalatha asked the state government if it had conducted any assessment on the availability of gadgets among the students before announcing online classes and raised questions on how students in tribal and hilly areas will access the classes due to the poor network connectivity in those regions.

The court directed the state government to file a comprehensive report on the status of online education in Tamilnadu and the steps taken by it to ensure that the schools are following the guidelines issued by the state government on online classes.

The judges also observed that the online mode of classes has widened the inequality among the students due to various reasons. They also asked the state government whether it had any mechanism to track and check if all the students attain the learning goals and graduate through online education.

## CMDA's Rs 1.61lakh crore mobility plan approved

The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA)

has released the final report of a comprehensive mobility plan (CMP) for Chennai Metropolitan Area that proposes a major boost to the public transportation system before 2048.

The investment will be made for short term, medium and long term projects. According to the final report, public transport will constitute 57 percent of the transportation by 2048 if all aspects of the program are implemented on time.

To attain these goals, CMP has proposed several projects for a total cost of Rs 1.61 lakh crores, which would be implemented by various agencies like Metropolitan Transportation Corporation (MTC) and Chennai Corporation by generating funds from government schemes as well as from private partnership. According to a study, since 2008, bus transport in the city has come down by 3.8% and car and two-wheeler transport has gone up by almost 2%.

The project envisaged 23 new rail overbridges and rail underbridges for improved connectivity in the city and 18 other locations.

## Positivity rate in fever camps continues to fall

Even as the city continues to witness a rise in COVID-19 cases, the positivity rate reported in the fever camps conducted by the Corporation has been witnessing a steady fall. The positivity rate in fever camps has come down from 31 percent in the first week of July to 19 percent in the first week of August and touched 17 percent on Aug. 24.

According to Corporation data, Ambattur zone has the highest positivity rate of 43 percent with 1,025 persons testing positive out of the symptomatic cases of 2,379.

Out of the 15 zones in the city, seven zones have a positivity rate of 17 percent or less.

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R. Sayeeram has been appointed as President of THAMBRAASS - Rangarajapuram unit by Smt. Sundari Renganathan (Chennai district president) on Aug. 15. Sayeeram was born and brought up in West Mambalam and has been a Mutual Fund Advisor for about 15 years. To retain our culture and tradition, we recently conducted the Upakarma for Saama vedham at MSV hall, Pappathy Ammal Street, Kodambakkam, which was a grand success. We have plans to carry on more such activities. Best of all good wishes.  
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## Integrated care can lower depression, heart disease in diabetics

By Dr. Vishwanathan Mohan

According to a recent study by Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (Conran Smith Road, Gopalapuram), patients with diabetes have a higher risk of depression, which worsens diabetes management and can result in heart attacks and other complications.

To address this possible condition, an integrated low cost care model can be delivered by diabetologists to lower depressive symptoms and improve cardiometabolic health in diabetics.

The field study done by Madras Diabetes Research Foundation of which I am a Director was published in Journal of the American Medical Association.

It compared an integrated collaborative care model with usual care among 404 patients with diabetes and moderate-to-severe depressive symptoms.

These patients were attending four diverse diabetes clinics, one government and three private hospitals over a two-year period and found major improvements in the group receiving the integrated approach.

Improvements in cardiometabolic parameters were seen after the active one-year period which thereby suggested the need for continued support for blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol levels. (Dr. Vishwanathan is a leading diabetologist and a resident of Anna Nagar)



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Cover on drain poses danger during night' in North Usman Road Service Lane, T. Nagar published in *Mambalam Times* (July 18-24 issue) it has been replaced with a new cover.

## Retailers, public want Sunday lockdown lifted

By Our Staff Reporter

With 45% of a week's business done on Saturdays and Sundays, the Retailers Association of India has said it has become a struggle to get back to its feet with constant roadblocks being faced at the state and local levels amid weekend curfews and partial lockdowns.

These lockdowns continue to hurt retail business and dampen consumer sentiment.

Over 10 states continue to impose 'irrational weekend lockdowns', including Tamilnadu, where it is worse with malls still shut.

"Partial closures and keeping shops closed during weekends are detrimental to social distancing as customers have no choice but to throng stores during restricted hours," Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO of Retailers Association of India

said. "Weekend and partial lockdowns continue despite orders from the ministry of home affairs (MHA) to keep retail shops open on all days, suggesting a lack of coordination between the Centre and states", he added.

After facing losses for over four months due to the lockdown, it is also grossly inconvenient for customers who, after a busy workweek, wait for the weekend to do their shopping, especially in homes where both partners are working.

"These are knee jerk reactions that are crippling the sector and gravely affecting the

economy. We have urged the Centre and the states governments to collaboratively work towards supporting the revival of the retail industry," said Kumar.

"I live in T. Nagar and given the Sunday lockdowns, shops are jam-packed on Saturdays, making movement difficult," said Lakshmi Natesan.

"Weekdays, it's a battle to get work completed and whatever we need to buy, it has to happen on Saturday. We tried online, but either we don't get what we want or we end up buying larger packs as smaller packs are not available always," she added.

## Photo exhibition on 'Madras Nalla Madras' till Aug. 31

By Our Staff Reporter

A photo exhibition by Vennba Studio depicting the history of Madras titled 'Madras Nalla Madras' and its important buildings and historical locations, which opened in its premises in G.N. Chetty Road (T. Nagar) on Aug. 24, will conclude on Aug. 31.

According to Siddharth Chandrasekhar (Founder) the exhibition features limited edition digital prints by artists Sunil Raghavendher and Varshini Ramakrishnan, who celebrate the city through its motifs, colours, architecture and people.

All are welcome, but only by prior intimation due to limited space.

The exhibition maybe extended based on the response.

## Water tank lying on pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

The stump and parts of the trunk of an avenue tree that got uprooted on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ashok Nagar a few months back have still not been removed.

## Damaged auto lying on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue



By Our Staff Reporter

An autorickshaw in broken down condition has been lying on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ashok Nagar near Circle Library for several days.

## Dr. Cherian files PIL against govt for not supporting medical research

By Our Staff Reporter

Noted heart surgeon Dr. Cherian (Founder, Frontier Life Line Hospital, Mogappair) has filed a Public Litigation Petition in the Madras High Court accusing regulatory authorities of redtapism and general apathy resulting in the abysmal state of medical research in the country.

In his petition, he sought a court order to consider medical research as the need of the hour and take necessary steps to establish a framework and revive scientific research in the country to benefit the public.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had in 2019 ordered the liquidation of the Frontier Lifeline Hospital after it had defaulted on the payment of over Rs 150 crores in dues as of November 2017.

In his petition, Dr. Cherian pointed out that the institution was pushed to financial distress after bank loans were treated as manufacturing/industrial loans. As a result, research had to be suspended. He wanted the High Court to direct the Centre to create a framework which allows repayment schedule of loans to begin after at least 8-10 years from the disbursement of loans.

Pointing out that several patents in the field of cardiothoracic surgery are pending with the authorities for several years, Dr. Cherian said that there is a complete lack of support from the government and from the statutory bodies.

Pointing out that developing indigenous capability to produce the latest medical devices and drugs assumes significance at the time of a global pandemics like COVID-19, Dr. Cherian added that it can happen only where there is an established framework for medical research in terms of funding and operation.

## Vitamin-A camps for kids till Sept. 4

Vitamin-A camps organised from 8 a.m to 3 p.m in Urban Primary Health Care Centers and maternity hospitals by Corporation will continue till Sept. 4. Vitamin-A is being administered to the children between six months and five years of age. Children should be given Vitamin-A once in every six months and Corporation conduct the camps twice a year.

## Goat rests on 2-wheeler



By Our Staff Reporter

A goat was seen resting on a two-wheeler on Jothiramalingam Street, West Mambalam on Aug. 26.

## Following e-pass relaxation, travel quarantine doubles

With thousands of persons entering the city after the State government relaxed e-pass norms, Chennai Corporation has increased the number of travel quarantines under home quarantine and isolation management system (HQIMS).

According to Chennai Corporation data, 12,763 persons, who had returned to the city on a single day on Aug. 23, were put under home quarantine.

On Aug. 18, the first day of e-pass relaxation, 11,142 persons were put under home quarantine.

Overall, 1.24 lakh persons were put under travel quarantine between Aug. 1 and 23.

## Debris goes following report in Mambalam Times



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Debris not cleared on Valmiki Street' published in *Mambalam Times* last week, the debris has been removed.

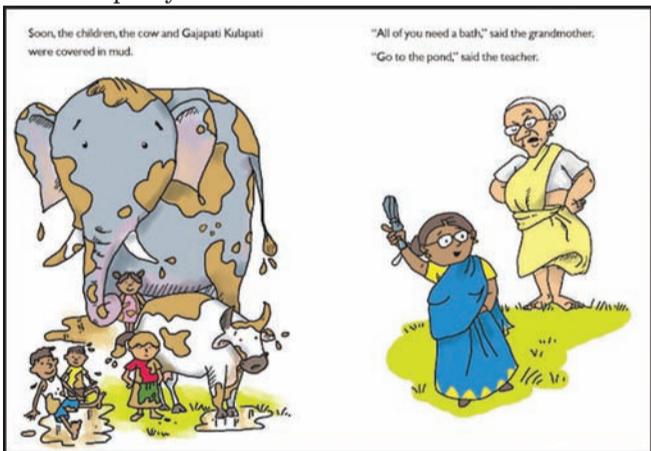
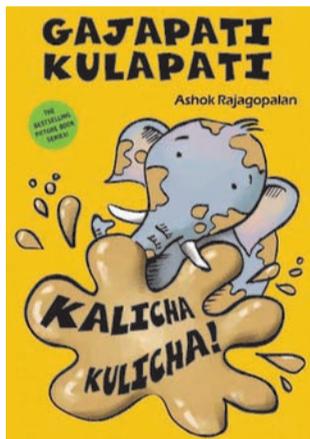
## Local writer releases 4th edition of cartoon book

By Our Staff Reporter

The fourth book in the popular cartoon series 'Gajapati Kulapati Kalicha Kulicha', produced by Ashok Rajagopalan (a resident of Ashok Nagar) was released last week.

Ashok has illustrated over 300 books including magazines and has written over 10 children's books since 1989.

"My love for elephants was imbibed from my mother who used to tell me lots of stories based on pachyderms when I



was a child. It was at the Madras Zoo, which was then located behind Central Railway Station, that I first saw one. There's a photograph of me, almost cringing, standing next to the elephant while the mahout tries to get me closer," he said.

"Though I am good at illustration, somehow, drawing an elephant has been a challenge for me. I have difficulty drawing their mouths and their comic expressions. Maybe that's also a reason why Gajapati comes off as looking adorable," he added. Though he created the character Gajapati Kulapati in the early 2000s for a storytelling session, the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the book with a children's story based on the character was released by him in 2010.

It became a popular character and he has since followed it up with three editions.

Ashok, who is working on a space adventure series in addition to other books, disclosed that his style of writing for children has always been instinctive. "I don't recall my childhood consciously while writing but feel sentimental sometimes. I think subconsciously I write books for that child," he concluded.

## Metal sheet falls across pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

A metal sheet installed along a construction site has fallen across the pavement at the junction of Venkatanarayana Road and Burkit Road in T. Nagar. The sheet, which fell several days ago, is a hindrance to pedestrians.

## Damaged pushcart lying outside school

By Our Staff Reporter

A damaged pushcart has been lying outside B V S N Murthy Special School on Thambaiyah Road, West Mambalam for several days.

The spot is being used for dumping garbage and as a place to urinate.



## 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.

## Rs. 21.26 crores fine collected from lockdown violators

By Our Staff Reporter

The Tamil Police has collected Rs 21.26 crores as fine for violating the lockdown regulations in the state as of Aug. 23.

Around 6.88-lakh vehicles have also been seized since the lockdown began on March 24 after its owners were found violating the lockdown rules.

## Total lockdown on Sundays may continue

By Our Staff Reporter

While the complete lockdown on Sundays was applied to other districts from July, Chennai has been observing it from June 21.

Lockdown restrictions have been relaxed since July 12 except on Sundays.

Though further relaxation is expected on weekdays from Sept. 1, the total lockdown on Sundays and ban on public transport are likely to continue for another month.

## 9 youths held for peddling ganja

By Our Staff Reporter

Four persons under the age of 22 were arrested on Arcot Road on Aug. 23, on the charge of processing and peddling ganja. After interrogation, five of their accomplices were arrested the next day.

They were identified as Abdul Razaq, Ezhilarasan, Hari Ganesh, Prasanth, Prithvi, Rahul, Sai Sudan, Yuvaraj and Vijay. 9 kg. of ganja valued at Rs. 1.5 lakhs were seized from them.

According to a police official, on a tipoff, a team from Virugambakkam police station arrested four youths near Vadapalani bus stand and seized 4 kg. of ganja from them.

A constable in mufti approached the youths posing as a buyer. When they took money in exchange for a packet of ganja, the culprits were caught by the team. Interrogation revealed that they were friends from school and often met to smoke the weed. They are all graduates and currently unemployed. Police also seized nine mobile phones, two motorbikes and Rs 6,000 in cash from the group.

## Arrear exams for colleges cancelled

Tamil Nadu government has announced that examinations for college students, except those in their final semesters, stands cancelled.

The latest announcement will be applicable to students who have to write arrear exams. However, students who have arrears from the final semesters will still have to write exams.

The government had already issued an order exempting students pursuing Bachelors and Masters programmes in arts, sciences and engineering from writing their semester exams.

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## Local resident heads Rangarajan unit of Thambraass

By Our Staff Reporter

R. Sayeeram (resident of S2, Madhu Ranga Nivas, 23/10, Rajagopalan street, West mambalam) has been appointed as the President of Thambraass (Rangarajapuram unit)

Sayeeram was born in West Mambalam and is a Mutual Fund Advisor.

He can be contacted in 76676 77899 or thamb.rangarajapuram@gmail.com



## Active COVID-19 cases rise after 40-day downtrend

By Our Staff Reporter

Causing worries to the authorities who are working to contain COVID-19, the active cases in the city have recorded a steady increase after a 40-day downtrend.

The following is the chart showing the trend of active cases as per Corporation data:

Dates	Increase by:
May 3: 1007	—
May 13: 4012	3.98 times
May 23: 5461	1.36 times
June 3: 7805	1.43 times
June 24: 18673	2.41 times
July 14: 15814	Negative trend
Aug. 3: 11983	Negative trend
Aug. 23: 13223	1.1 times

The positivity rate though has shown a declining trend for the last 40 days.

While 22404 people tested positive in last 20 days, 23323 positive cases were reported in the previous 20 days

Zones including Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar, Anna Nagar, Kodambakkam, Teynampet, Royapuram, and Tondiarpet accounted over 60 percent of the deaths while Teynampet remained the worst hit with 371 deaths.

According to the data, the Health department has conducted 42,06,617 sample tests.

## Kalvi TV video lessons garner over 1 million views

By Our Staff Reporter

In a major boost to the efforts of the School Education Department, video lectures uploaded by Kalvi TV, an exclusive educational channel run by the state, have garnered more than a million views in a matter of weeks.

The videos of Std. 10 lessons are particularly popular among students and these also include sign language.

The lessons, packaged as 30-minute episodes, imitate a classroom lecture.

"More than 95% of our viewers are locals. But, people from Sri Lanka, Singapore, US and the Middle East also access our lectures," said P. A. Naresh (Special Officer for Kalvi TV).

After the lectures are broadcast on Kalvi TV, they are uploaded on YouTube the following day.

More than 8,500 teachers, lecturers from District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) and subject experts from State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) are involved in content creation. They prepare videos based on the learning outcome for each topic in the textbook, mapping competency and micro-competency skills.

Once the video is recorded, it is verified by subject experts and then edited before going on air.

Kalvi TV also telecasts special sessions for clearing students' doubts on Saturdays and music, dance and fine arts programs on Sundays.

It is also broadcasting lessons for NEET and JEE exams every day for six hours which will continue till the end of August.

## Velammal students excel in NEET mock exam

By Our Staff Reporter

Students of Velammal School excelled in the All India NEET mock exam conducted recently by the State Institute of Educational Technology (SIET), Kerala.

G. Swetha, S. Gurunathan and T. Boomika were among the top 50 All India Rank (AIR) winners. Other AIR rankings achieved by Velammal students: Below 100 – 7, below 250 – 12 and below 1000 – 33.

For more details call 80560 63519.

## Farmer dedicates half an acre to feed birds

By Our Staff Reporter

An organic farmer in Kulathupalayam (Coimbatore) has reserved half an acre of land to cultivate pearl millet and sorghum, exclusively to feed birds and another 3/4th of an acre to grow feed for his cows.

His name is Muthu Murugan and he is 62 years old.

After avid wildlife photographer Varun Surendran made an Instagram post with photos about Murugan and his dedication to conserve the native and the rare bird population, he has become an internet sensation.

His post has received more than 5 lakh hits in 2 months.

This year, when the lockdown began, he guessed sowing crops would be difficult, so he just grew millets for birds and feed for cows.

He also did not remove the dried-up trees to enable birds to build nests in them.

A wide variety of birds including parrots, waterfowl, peacocks,



woodpeckers, kingfishers, spotted owl, sparrows, mynahs, lapwings, pigeons, partridges and munias have made his farm their home.

If his small piece of land can accommodate so many species of birds, one could well imagine how the world would look like if everyone were to grow more conscious of their surroundings, wrote Varun in his post.

Varun wrote that Muthu has extensive knowledge of the birds and their habitat and even during the severe drought, he ensured that the birds did not go without food.

## Rotary Club donates 5 dialysis machines

By Our Staff Reporter

As part of Independence Day celebrations, Rotary Club of Chennai Kodambakkam handed over five dialysis machines worth Rs. 30 lakhs to Shree Jain Medical Relief Society.

The machines were sponsored by the Club under the Rotary Foundation – Global Grant program partnerships with Rotary Club of The Hills Kellyville and Rotary Club of Chatswood Sunrise (Clubs from Rotary International District 9685 – New South Wales, Australia).

At present, seven dialysis machines are already in service.

These additional five units will enable dialysis for 500 more patients every month.

## Co-optex launches Handloom Café in its Egmore showroom



By Our Staff Reporter Co-optex has launched the first Handloom-themed cafe in the country inside its showroom complex located in Egmore where traditional

weaving equipment is on display.

The cafe which was inaugurated to mark National Handloom Day on August 7 is an initiative by the state-run handloom cooperative to entice the younger generation to look at the concept of handloom with more understanding.

According to T.N. Venkatesh (Managing Director, Co-optex) the cafe is the result of the innovative branding exercise done as part of Tamil Nadu government's handloom support programme.

"Rs. 70 lakhs has been spent on the cafe's construction that began in January this year, but was interrupted by the lockdown", he said.

## House under demolition being misused

By Our Staff Reporter

A house on Nandhi Loop Street in T. Nagar belonging to the TNHB, which is in the process of being demolished, is being used as a garbage dumping spot and for nefarious activities.



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WEST MAMBALAM, near Mambalam Station Road, 2nd floor, 641 sq.ft, UDS 250 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 2 attached bath, copious water, recently renovated, golden granite flooring, wood work, 3 phase EB. Ph: 94443 67839.

RAMAPURAM, near Indian Bank, 640 sq.ft, UDS 389 sq.ft (60%), 1st floor, lift, covered car park, wood work, prime area, price Rs. 35 lakhs (negotiable). Ph: 94442 15263.

K.K. NAGAR, 15th Sector, 94th Street, near Nagathamman Koil, new flat, 3 bedrooms, 1479 sq.ft, lift, covered car park, CCTV, possession October 2020. Ph: 98414 34471, 95662 43335.

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WEST MAMBALAM, near Srinivasa theatre, Kothandaramar Koil Street, 1 year old, customizable apartment, 2 bedrooms, and 1 small bedroom, hall, kitchen, balcony, 1st floor, 1030 sq.ft, lift, covered car park, price Rs. 89 lakhs negotiable. Ph: 87545 69205.

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T. NAGAR, 13/8, Tanjore Road, near Muppathamman Temple, 780 sq.ft, prime location, all amenities, Brahmins only. Ph: 98406 78158.

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

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ASHOKNAGAR, H10B, Kripa Colony, 1st Avenue, 3 bedrooms apartment, hall, kitchen, ground floor, 1450 sq.ft, open car park, 2 bathrooms, both western, rent Rs. 25000 (including maintenance), inspection from 3rd September. Ph: 94444 76966.

WEST MAMBALAM, Anjali Apartment, 150, Lake View Road, spacious, 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, recently renovated, 2/4 wheeler parking. Ph: 96770 66636.

WEST MAMBALAM, Gokul Flats, 9/15, Ram Colony, near Hindu Vidyalaya School, Postal Colony 4th Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, balcony, first floor, 3 phase connection, provision for inverter, south facing, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 15,000, brokers. excuse. Ph: 94440 09235/94444 42776.

WEST MAMBALAM, New No. 7, Old No. 4, KV Colony 6th Street, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, independent house, covered car park, Brahmins only, rent Rs. 20000. Ph: 94441 16009.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 2, Main Road, Srinivasakanna Apartment, Subramanianagar, 850 sq.ft, 1st floor, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, good water, rent Rs. 16000, vegetarians only. Ph: 98845 43985, 98841 84004.

K.K. NAGAR, AP Plot, 10, 1st Sector, near K.K. Nagar Bus Depot, opp. EB Office, 750 sq.ft, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, 1 hall, side room, kitchen, all feasibility, rent Rs. 13000, small Brahmins family, no brokers. Ph: 80560 75044, 2489 5893.

WEST MAMBALAM, 5, Vivekanandapuram 1st Street, near Ayodhya Mandapam, 1 bedroom apartment, hall, kitchen, ground floor, bath attached, rent Rs. 10000, advance 5 months. Ph: 89394 99735, 98403 60785.

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T. NAGAR, 3, Arcot Street, 250 sq.ft, 2nd floor, single bedroom, bath, A/C, geyser, rent Rs. 12000. Contact: Natarajan, Ph: 98403 16842.

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WEST MAMBALAM, Ram colony, 9, Gokul flats, near Postal Colony 4th Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 655 sq.ft, 1st floor, rent Rs. 13000, maintenance Rs. 1000, water as per usage. Ph: 96002 57188, 79041 05262.

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**Cop pulled up for celebrating birthday with history-sheeters**

By Our Staff Reporter

A head constable, who was already on the radar for alleged collusion with history-sheeters, is in the dock for celebrating his birthday with two known criminals, cutting the cake right in the middle of the road which

was blocked by parking a car. After the photos of the celebration went viral, senior officials said that action would be taken against him.

The constable was identified as Boopathy (a resident of Police Quarters, East Anna Nagar) who was earlier part of a special team of Vepery police station.

Following allegations that he was colluding with history-sheeters, he was moved to police control room. After COVID-19 outbreak, Boopathy was put on pandemic duty in north Chennai in May.

On June 4, Boopathy celebrated his birthday in 'style' in the middle of the road, blocking it with a car, and in the presence of history-sheeters. In the photos of the celebration, which went viral on the social media on Aug. 25, the criminals are seen feeding him cake.

**Man held for cheating friend of Rs 2.75 lakhs**

Vepery police arrested Dileep of Vepery for allegedly cheating his friend B. Praveen of Kilpauk of Rs. 2.75 lakhs.

The accused and victim have been friends for years and their families know each other. Police said that Dileep recently took Rs. 2.5 lakhs from Praveen claiming that he had received a consignment of brand new phones worth several lakhs and they could share the profit. Dileep also took another Rs. 25,000 towards miscellaneous expenses.

However, after Dileep remained unreachable, Praveen did a background check of Dileep and found that he had been arrested once for cheating and that his modus operandi is to befriend rich women on Facebook and cheat them of valuables.

Based on his complaint, Vepery police registered a case and arrested Dileep.

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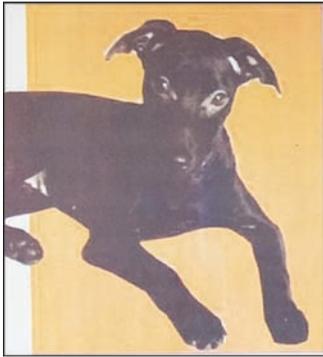


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**Rs. 10000 reward for finder of missing mongrel**



*By Our Staff Reporter*

Posters about a missing dog announcing a reward of Rs. 10000 for the finder are attracting the attention of passersby.

Named Lilly, the mongrel, female, black dog is 6 months old and was last seen at the junction of Venkatanarayana Road and Dhandapani Street in T. Nagar on July 24.

The owner may be contacted in 90030 11963 and 99306 71489.

**COVID-19 care centers to be phased out**

The Corporation had set up more than 100 COVID-19 care centers in the city in government hospitals, schools, colleges, marriage halls, slum clearance board tenements and in buildings sealed for violation of rules by providing beds and other facilities.

But a number of these centers were initially used for housing migrant workers during the total lockdown period or have been lying unused due to drop in the daily number of cases. School and college managements have also been appealing to the government to remove these facilities to accelerate the opening of the institutions.

According to a health official, since only 30 centers are now in active use, instructions have been issued to phase out the centers which are not in use, especially in educational institutions.

As per its revised policy, only aged persons and those with severe symptoms are admitted to COVID-19 care centers and the rest including asymptomatic patients are put under home quarantine.

In the last 60 days, less than 30 percent of patients who tested positive have been admitted to COVID-19 care centers.

**MTC workers oppose hiring of private buses**



*By Our Staff Reporter*

MTC workers owing allegiance to various labour organizations staged a demonstration at T. Nagar terminus on Aug. 24 demanding a halt to hiring of private buses for MTC.

They said that hiring of privates buses will lead to privatisation of MTC in the future. They also demanded settlement of various other issues.

**Silver 'kavacham' presented to Vinayaga temple**

*By Our Staff Reporter*

G. Santhanalakshmi (flower seller, Station Road, West Mambalam) donated a silver 'kavacham' weighing 1.5 kg. to adorn the idol of Lord Vinayaga in the small temple in the shopping complex on the occasion of Chathurthi on Aug. 22.



She said that she used to jninstall huge Vinaga idols every year during Chathurthi celebrations but could not do it this year due to the ban imposed by the Government in view of the coronavirus pandemic. Instead, she decided to use the money collected to donate a silver 'kavacham' to the temple. Santhanalakshmi said that the 'kavacham' will be used on special occasions.

**Garbage dumped on Muthukrishnan Street**



*By Our Staff Reporter*

Garbage collected from several streets is being dumped on Muthukrishnan Street, West Mambalam outside Kaveri Apartments much to the annoyance of residents.

**Gap in railway station wall misused**

*By Our Staff Reporter*

People are mis-using a gap in the wall of Mambalam Railway Station on Railway Border Road in West Mambalam near the Y-shaped flyover to dump garbage, urinate and cross the tracks.



**Free online English speaking course**

Velammal Nexus has organised a free virtual English speaking course at 4 p.m on Tuesdays and Fridays which began on Aug. 25. The live spoken session can be witnessed on YouTube channel ChetChat and is conducted by Chetna Vasishth (Founder, ChetChat). It is a good platform to improve one's communicative skills in English. Virtual learning is preferred these days and this course helps students improve core skills in communication essential for becoming a fluent English speaker. For details contact 80567 71790 or visit www.velammal nexus.com

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