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Vol. 27, No.10

1454th Issue: July 25 - 31, 2021

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## Slight increase in daily Covid cases

After more than two months, the number of fresh Covid cases in Chennai rose again on July 20, slightly reversing the downward trend since the peak of the second wave. On June 19, the city reported only 137 cases, the lowest since May 2020.

The number of daily new cases came down to less than 200 during the second wave on July 7 when the city reported only 196 cases. Officials said that despite warning from experts on the imminent third wave, city residents continue to flout safety protocols on weekends. On Sundays, meat shops, fish markets as well as biryani shops were seen to be overcrowded. Customers violated social distancing norms despite the Corporation warning of severe action against the public and shop owners if found violating norms.

"We have increased zonal enforcement teams - formed to monitor adherence - in certain shopping hubs like T. Nagar, Purasaiwalkam and other areas. Shop owners and residents should cooperate to prevent transmission," a civic body official said.

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## தமாஷா வரிகள்

ஜே.எஸ். ராகவன்

### உற்சவ பட்சணக் கடை

பூந்தமல்லி பெருமாள் கோவிலில் வருஷா வருஷம் தப்பாமல் ஜமாவுடன் வரதர் உற்சவம் நடைபெறும். தண்ணீர் இல்லாத வறண்ட கோவில் புஷ்கரணியைப் பார்த்தால் கண்களில் நீர் வரும். குளத்தை ஓட்டிய சன்னிதித் தெருவில் முதலில் ரங்க ராட்டினம் பிறகு ஐஸ் பாளத்தை 'சரக்சரக்' என்று தச்சர்போல் தேய்த்து, துகள்களைக் கைகளால் அமுக்கிப் பிடித்து, குச்சியில் பொருத்தி அதன் மேல் ரோஸ், மஞ்சள் கலர் சர்பத்தை தெளித்துத் தரப்படும் ஐஸ் புருட் தள்ளுவண்டிகள் வரும். கண்ணாடி, ரப்பர் வளையல்கள், கலர் கலராக கோலப் பொடிகள், ஓலை, தகர ஊதல்கள், மேளங்கள், கொண்டை ஊசிகள், புருச் என்கிற நானாவித பொருட்கள், பெட்ரமாக்ஸ் ஒளியில் குவிக்கப்பட்டு மக்களை மயக்கும், ஈர்க்கும்.

அந்த வருஷம் சன்னிதித் தெரு மாடி வீட்டில் தாத்தா வரதாச்சாரி தலைமையில் ஒரு கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது. 'இந்த வருஷம் நாம் கட்டாயம் வீட்டு வாசலில் ஒரு பட்சணக் கடையைத் திறக்கிறோம். அட்டகாசம் பண்ணிறோம். மொத்த லாபம் பார்க்கிறோம். சீமா, என்னடா சொல்றே?'

சீமா முந்திய ஆறேழு ஜென்மங்களில் பூம்பூம் மடாக்கப் பிறந்திருப்பான். 'ஆமாம், நானும் அதையே நினைச்சேன்' என்று ஆமோதித்தான். 'அடேய், சம்பத்து நீ என்னடா சொல்றே?' என்கிற பெரிய வரின் இடி முழக்கக் குரலைக் கேட்டவுடன் தூங்கி வழிந்து கொண்டிருந்தவன், 'என்னது பட்சணக் கடையா? ஐய்!' என்றான். 'நானும் வரேன், சொல்லிட்டேன். எனக்குப் பொரு விளங்கா உருண்டை வேணும், ஆமாம்', என்று தன் அபிலாஷையை வெளியிட்டான்.

'அசத்து! தீனிப் பண்டாரம்! பட்சணம் வாங்க இல்லேடா, விற்க' என்று சீமா, தாத்தாவின் வணிகத் திட்டத்தை சொன்னான்.

வரது தாத்தா பட்சணக் கடையின் விவரங்களை எடுத்துரைத்தார். 'முதல்ல என்னென்ன ஸ்வீட்டுகளுக்கு கிராக்கி இருக்கும், காரங்கள் போகும் என்று கணிக்கணும். அதிரசம், லட்டு, மைசூர்பாக், ஜோங்கிரி, பர்பி, பாதுஷா, காரத் தூவ் காராபூந்தி, ஓம்பப்பொடி, மிக்சர், காராசேவ், தேங்குமுல், கை முறுக்கு' என்று நான் ஒரு ஜாபிதா போட்டிருக்கேன். சம்பத்து குரல் கொடுத்தான். 'தாத்தா பொருவிளங்காய் உருண்டையை விட்டே. நேக்கு ரொம்பப் பிடிக்குமே.'

'அட சும்மா இருடா. கண்ணாமல்லே இருக்கு சும்மம் என்று சொல்ற மாதிரி பட்சண வியாபாரத்தில் தயாரிப்புதான் முக்கியம். கவையாகவும் இருக்கணும், சீப்பாகவும் இருக்கணும். நம்ம விருதுநகர் துரைபாண்டி நாடார் மனிகை சாமான்களைக் கடனாகத் தருவார். ஸீபெரும்புதூரிலேயிருந்து நம்ம பெருந்தேவி வந்தால் அமர்க்களமாக பட்சணங்களைச் செய்து கொடுப்பான். நம்மாத்துப் பெண்டுகளுக்குத்தான் சொஜ்ஜியே பதமா கிளற வராத்தே'.

கதவு அருகிலிருந்த மாட்டுப் பெண்கள் கனகவல்லியும், வேத வல்லியும் பெரியவர் வரதுவுக்குத் தெரியாமல் டைமிங்குடன் அழகு காட்டிவிட்டு உள்ளே போனார்கள்.

உற்சவக் கொடி ஏற்றிய நன்னாளில் கடை திறக்கப்பட்டது. சர்க்கரை நோய் காரணமாக கரும் வாய்க் கட்டுப் போடப்பட்ட செல்லப்பாதான் கல்லாவில் உட்கார வைக்கப்பட்டான். பாச்சாவும், பட்டப்பாவும் மடாதிபதிகள் போலக் கழிகளை தண்டனாக ஏந்தி இடது வலமாகப் பட்சணங்களைச் செய்து கொடுப்பான். காக்கைகளை விரட்ட அந்த முன்னேற்பாடு.

முதல் நாள் மணியக்காரர் சுந்தர்ராஜன், சானிடரி இன்ஸ் பெக்டர் ஏழுமலை, ஏட்டு ஏகாம்பரம், வஸ்தாது கோவிந்து போன்ற வி.ஐ.பி.களுக்குப் பார்சல்கள் இலவசமாகத் தரப்பட்டன. 'நைனா, கால் கிலோ லட்டு வேணாம், அதிகம்னு சொல்லிட்டாரு. ஒண்ணு போதுமா' என்று ஒரு சிறுமி சேல்ஸ் ரிட்டர்ன் செய்துவிட்டுப் போனாள். பாச்சாவும், பட்டப்பாவும் உஷாராக இருக்கும்போதே இரண்டு அண்டங் காக்கைகள், கழுக்குள்போல் டைவ் அடித்து தலா ஒரு அதிர்சத்தைக் கவர்ந்து சென்றன. 'தத்தி, தத்தி' என்று தாத்தா சிறினார்.

நாலைந்து நாட்களுக்கு விற்பனை படு மந்தமாக இருந்தது. 'வாங்கம்மா, வாங்க. லட்டு, ஜாங்கிரி, பாதுஷா, காராபூந்தி வாங்கம்மா வாங்க' என்று கூவி விற்கணுமா? என்று நினைத்த வரது தாத்தாவிற்கு அது கௌரவமாகப் பட்டவில்லை. மிகவும் எதிர் பார்த்த கருட்சேவை, தேர் பிறகு சாத்துமுறை விசேஷ தினங்களிலும் வியாபாரம் சூடு பிடிக்கவில்லை. விற்றுத் தீர்ந்த பண்டங்களை உடனுக்கு உடனே தயாரிக்க ரெடியாக இருந்த பெருந்தேவி, தன் பேத்தியுடன் பழக்கடை வராந்தாவில் புரண்டு புரண்டு தூங்கிக் கொண்டிருந்தான்.

சாத்துமுறைக்கு மறுநாள் மற்ற கடை வியாபாரிகள் காலி பண்ணிக் கொண்டிருக்கும்போது 'இனிமே விற்கும் பாரு' என்று வரது தாத்தா ஆருடம் சொன்னார். கனகவல்லி, 'அழகுதான்' என்று முணுமுணுத்துவிட்டுத் தலையில் அடித்துக் கொண்டாள்.

'மீந்த இவ்வளவு பட்சணங்களை என்ன செய்வது?' என்று திகைத்த வரதாச்சாரிக்குத் திருப்பதி பெருமாள் வழிகாட்டினார். தன் எட்டுப் பிரஜைகளுடன் திருப்பதி போய் முடி இறக்கி, உற்சவத்தின் அடுத்த நாள் லேட்டாக அவருடைய தம்பி ராமானுஜம் வந்து சேர்ந்தார். பசி வயிறறைக் கிள்ள வீட்டின் பெரிய கூடத்தில் கொத்து கொத்தாக உட்கார்ந்து மீந்த லட்டுகள், அதிர்சங்கள், காராபூந்தி, முறுக்குகளை அந்தக் குடும்பம் தின்று தீர்த்தது.

'சேல்ஸ்லே குளறுபடி பண்ணிட்டோம். அடுத்த உற்சவத்தில் நஷ்டத்தை ஈட்டுக் காமிக்கிறேன் பாரு' என்று தாத்தா சீமாவிடம் குளுரைத்தார்.

முகத்தை இடது தோளில் விலுக்கென்று இடித்துக் கொண்டு 'யாராவது இதைக் கேட்டால் வெறுமே சிரிக்கமாட்டா. வேஷ்டியை...' என்று கனகவல்லி முழுவதும் சொல்லி முடிக்காமல் அடக்கி வாசித்து சிரித்தபோது வேதவல்லியும் சேர்ந்து கொண்டாள். jsraghavan@gmail.com

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## Four booked for taking Rs. 50 lakhs, promising BJP ticket

By Our Staff Reporter

Teynampet police have registered a case against four men including two residents of T. Nagar for cheating a person of Rs. 50 lakhs by promising the latter a ticket to contest on behalf of the BJP in the recent Assembly election in Tamilnadu.

The complainant, Bhuvanesh Kumar (from Arani), was a local functionary of the BJP. The accused are Narothaman, who claimed to be an assistant of G. Kishan Reddy (Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region of India), Narothaman's father Chitti Babu from Hyderabad, and Vijayaraman and his son Siva Balaji (residents of T. Nagar).

Bhuvanesh alleged that Vijayaraman introduced him to Narothaman after learning that he wanted to contest the polls.

"The men demanded Rs. 1 crore to contest from Arani. I paid Rs. 50 lakhs in cash as advance in a hotel in T. Nagar on March 12," Bhuvanesh said. When Bhuvanesh found his name was not on the list announced, he demanded the money back.

But the four accused refused to pay back forcing the victim to file a police complaint.

## Teynampet Zone has 175 active cases

By Our Staff Reporter

Even as there is a 4% increase in growth rate since July 10, six of the 15 Zones of Chennai Corporation have less than 100 active cases.

According to Corporation data, of the 1,657 active cases in the city as on July 20, Thiruvottiyur, Manali, Madhavaram, Royapuram, Alandur, and Sholinganallur have less than 100 active cases.

Teynampet Zone has the highest number of cases at 175, followed by Kodambakkam (168), Thiru Vi Ka Nagar (159) and Anna Nagar (158). Perungudi, Ambattur and Valasaravakkam have 100, 101 and 103 cases respectively.

Since the outbreak, the city has reported more than 5.34 lakh cases of which 5.24 lakh (98%) have recovered.

8,223 persons (1.54%) have succumbed to the infection.

## MTC adds 17 buses on 12 routes

By Our Staff Reporter

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation recently introduced 17 buses on 12 routes including T. Nagar.

The buses were recently flagged off by Transport Minister R. S. Raja Kannappan. Rural Industries Minister T. M. Anbarasan was present.

Services on several old routes that had been stopped since last year were also resumed.

The routes are 52K (Nanganallur-Broadway), 70N (Nanganallur-CMBT), M18C (Kilkattalai-T. Nagar), 166 (Iyyapanthangal-Tambaram), 88C (Thandalam-Broadway), 188C (Kundrathur-Broadway) and 566 (Kundrathur-Thiruporur).

The newly introduced routes are 576 (Mount Metro-T Nagar), S40 (Kavul Bazaar-Indra Nagar-Pallavaram), S165 (Kovur EB-Pallavaram), S166 (Porur-Manimedu) and 188A (Kundrathur-T. Nagar).

Speaking to reporters, Kannappan said that about 1.42 crore women travelled free in women special ordinary buses between July 12 and 17. 1.1 lakh persons with disabilities and 17,500 transpersons also availed of free travel.

**Child Helpline 1098**

## Damaged manhole cover replaced after report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Storm water drain cover damaged' published in *Mambalam Times* (July 4-10 issue), the damaged cover of the storm water drain at the junction of Thirumurthy Street and Arulambal Street (T. Nagar) was replaced last week. But the new cover is a foot above road level posing a danger for motorists.

## Workshop on 'Covid awareness for children'

By Our Staff Reporter

Aura Holistic Wellness Center (40 Feet Scheme Road, Nungambakkam, near North Usman Road flyover) and MGM Health Care have jointly organized a workshop on 'Covid awareness for children' from 9 a.m to 12 p.m on Saturday, July 31 in its premises. It will also be streamed online. The workshop will cover topics including Covid care, prevention, symptoms control, importance of psychological intervention, handling immunocompromised children and holistic wellbeing.

The speakers are Dr. Binu Ninan (Paediatrics and Neonatology), Dr. Venkateshwaran (Pediatrics Psychiatrist), Dr. Shafika Banoo (Apollo Cancer Speciality) and Dr. Mathangi (Lifestyle and wellness coach).

More details can be had in 4863 8555.

## Car abandoned under Usman Road flyover



By Our Staff Reporter

A black Skoda car (TN01AE2847), with flat tyres and covered with dust, has been abandoned under the North Usman Road flyover at its junction with Porur Somasundaram Street, T. Nagar.

A nearby shop owner told this reporter that the car has been lying there for several months.

He has appealed to traffic police to remove the car from the spot as it is blocking the way for motorists.

## Krishnammachari donates Rs. 38.5 lakhs to two NGOs

By Our Staff Reporter

R. P. Krishnammachari (Managing Director, Tex Biosciences Pvt. Ltd.) has donated Rs. 28.50 lakhs to National Heart Foundation, Chennai and Rs. 10 lakhs to Amar Seva Sangam, Ayakudi.

The cheques were handed over to the NGOs on the occasion of 12th Cabinet Installation of District Governor and District Officials of Lions



District 324 L on July 18.

Krishnammachari has been donating to these institutions for the past 15 years. National Heart Foundation conducts heart surgeries for poor patients and Amar Seva Sangam rehabilitates spinal cord injured patients. Krishnammachari has also been bearing the expenses of spinal cord injured patients for the past 15 years.

## Tour of Navagraha temples on Wednesday

By Our Staff Reporter

Vedhavalli Srinivasan (Founder of Ambujammal Public Charitable Trust, Appasamy Street, West Mambalam) has organised a 1-day religious tour of Navagraha temples in Chennai on Wednesday, July 28.

The fare is Rs. 1,500 per person including breakfast and lunch.

For more details, contact Vedhavalli in 96771 87787 or 99403 71245.

She has been distributing free food among needy persons every Dwadashi for several months.



## Velammal student council members take oath

Velammal Main School, Mogappair ampus, organised the swearing-in ceremony of the Prefectorial Board 'VOICE' - Velammal's Online Investiture Ceremony Event on July 18 on Velammal Nexus

YouTube channel. Loganathan (Additional Commissioner of Police) was the chief guest. The council members were elected through online voting. A documentary on the 35-year journey of Velammal was screened.

Student council members were sworn in and presented badges and sashes by K. S. Ponmathi (Senior Principal).

Vel's Natyalaya students presented western and classical dances. For details, contact 80560 63519.

## IOC sponsors courses conducted by Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya



By Our Staff Reporter

On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya Samithi (58, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar) signed an MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. on July 23 for sponsoring its job-oriented 'Electrician and Wireman' course for underprivileged persons. IOC will be sponsoring the course under its Corporate Social Responsibility scheme.

P. K. Kailashnath (DGM, HR-CSR, IOC) signed the MOA.

For more details about the course, contact P. Maruthi (Secretary) in 91766 24283.

## 500 MLD more sewage to be recycled

By Our Staff Reporter

The state government announced on July 21 that the capacity to recycle the city's sewage would be doubled from the present 500 million liters a day.

An official said that the target will be achieved by stopping the direct discharge of sewage into the city's main water bodies including Buckingham canal, Mambalam canal, Cooum and Adyar rivers at 330 places in the city.

Separate pipes will be laid to ensure sewage that is being discharged directly into the canals reaches the underground drainage channel from where facilities will be made to pump it to recycling plants.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Storm water drains clogged in Jawaharlal Nehru Street



Sir, As the storm water drains are blocked, water stagnates outside our house no. 4 on Jawaharlal Nehru Street (T. Nagar) even after light showers.

I appeal to officials of Chennai Corporation to desilt the storm water drains. **Kalyanaraman**

## Rid city of encroachments under Singara Chennai project

Sir, The new DMK government is giving a push to its 'Singara Chennai' project which includes building flyovers and other infrastructure.

While anything good done with good intentions and with public interest should be welcomed, mere scaling up infrastructure like flyovers does not make Chennai a beautiful city.

A well-designed city should be bereft of encroachments, have good roads, a garbage and pollution-free environment and pedestrian-friendly footpaths.

It should have zero-tolerance for violations of any kind, including building rule violations.

T. Nagar is a classic example of all these violations and the new government should also address these problems on a priority basis and include it Singara Chennai project. **K. Harihar, T. Nagar**

## MTC must issue free bus tokens with ID cards

Sir, MTC has issued ID cards based on Aadhaar cards to senior citizens for availing of free quarterly bus tokens which allow them to travel free on all MTC buses except air-conditioned services.

Though these cards are valid for one year, the staff at some MTC counters including the one at T. Nagar Bus Terminus insist that card holders submit copies of Aadhaar and ration cards every quarter to avail of the tokens.

More than 1.93 lakh beneficiaries avail of these coupons every year and, in the absence of any clear-cut guidelines, every depot follows different procedures, causing hardship to senior citizens.

The Supreme Court verdict on Aadhaar clearly states that furnishing/submission of the copy even to banks is not mandatory but voluntary.

In such a situation, copy of the Aadhaar cannot be sought for any kind of transaction, least of all for issuing free travel coupons to senior citizens. We suggest that MTC issue a permanent photo ID card based on ration card or Aadhaar card and then ask only for the ID card to issue the tokens.

For the present, we request the MTC to instruct all its depots to issue free travel coupons without insisting on the submission of copies of Ration/Aadhaar Card but on the production of the Identity Card already issued and which is valid till the end of 2021. **T. Nagar Residents' Welfare Association, Rangan Street, T. Nagar**

## Tree branch falls on bike, one dies, another hurt

By Our Staff Reporter

47-year-old G. Badrinarayanan (resident of Jankiraman Street, West Mambalam), who was riding a two-wheeler with his friend Ramanujam (60), died after a tree branch fell on them near



Nandambakkam on July 20.

In the impact, both of them suffered severe injuries. Passersby informed the police and called the ambulance. Badrinarayanan was declared dead on the spot and Ramanujam was admitted to hospital.

Police said that both of them had come from West Mambalam to inspect a plot in Nandambakkam. Badrinarayanan was a realtor and social worker. He is survived by his parents.



## Low lying branch blocks carriageway



By Our Staff Reporter

The low-lying branch of an avenue tree is blocking 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the carriageway on Lakshmanan Street, T. Nagar, causing hindrance to motorists and pedestrians.

Nearby residents have appealed to officials of Chennai Corporation to cut and remove the low-lying branch.

## Potholes filled after report in Mambalam Times



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Potholes in Mannar Street' published in *Mambalam Times* (June 27-July 3 issue), the potholes outside Plot No. 132, Mannar Street, T. Nagar, were temporarily filled with debris last week by Chennai Corporation workers. The residents of the street have appealed to Corporation officials to blacktop the damaged surface.

## 27 Velammal students eligible for Central scholarship

By Our Staff Reporter

Twentyseven Std. 10 students from Velammal Nexus Schools have qualified in the National Talent Search Examination (NTSE 2020) Stage 2 instituted by NCERT conducted on Feb. 14. The results were declared on July 16.

They are now eligible for merit scholarship from the Central Government.

The following are details of students from each school:

Velammal Main School, Mogappair 6, Velammal Vidyalaya, Mel Aynambakam 11, Velammal Vidyalaya (Annexure), Mel Aynambakam 5, Velammal Vidyalaya, Karur 3 and Velammal Vidyalaya, Paruthipattu 2.

The NTSE Stage 1 exams were conducted by the Tamilnadu Government. 60 students from Velammal Nexus were shortlisted in the first stage qualifying them to appear for NTSE Stage 2. For details, contact 80560 63519.

## Restaurants open with 50 percent capacity

By Our Staff Reporter

A few restaurants in the city have reopened with 50 percent capacity, following all the safety protocols.

Japtej Ahluwalia, who runs a number of restaurants including one in T. Nagar, said that all his employees had been vaccinated.

Ashwin Ninan, the co-owner of That Mallu Joint, has also opened his restaurant in T. Nagar.

"Rather than preferring a take-away, most people like to eat food from our restaurant because Kerala food is a more of a dine-in experience. Dishes like appam and stew taste better when eaten soon after preparation. After reopening the restaurant, we have seen many ordering our vegetarian meals. Our new chaayakada menu is also getting good response," Ashwin said.

Owing to the increase in footfall of shoppers on Sundays in T. Nagar, several restaurants reported brisk business, but maintained dine-in at 50% capacity.

## Children take part in tree survey

By Our Staff Reporter

A number of children and their including residents of T. Nagar, West Mambalam and K. K. Nagar are participating in the city-wide tree survey organised by the NGO Nizhal.

The survey focuses on tree conservation in the city.

Shobha Menon (Founder Trustee of Nizhal) said that

the initiative aims at making an inventory of trees through local surveys that will help find the extent of tree diversity in the city and the status of their

health. "The survey will also help to identify the default location of heritage trees, including rare, endangered and bio-geographically significant trees," Shobha said.

Mahitha (a resident of West Mambalam) volunteered for the survey along with her friends Sujith and Santosh last week.

They surveyed and identified several trees on the roads near their houses and in the parks in the neighbourhood including Gulmohur, Coppe-

rod, Golden Shower, Rain-tree, Indian Almond, Neem, Mango, Poongai and bamboo trees.

Speaking to *Mambalam Times*, Sujith said that they enjoyed the outing and also recorded videos to encourage more children to get involved.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for us to go on evening walks and bond with the trees," he said.

They identified the trees, recorded their age, height, circumference, overall health

and also photographed abuses like posters nailed to the trunks and branches stressed by wires hanging on them.

Shobha has appealed for more residents to participate in the survey.

Interested persons can contact Avni (Program Coordinator) in 97909 88990.

**42,000 copies of this edition are delivered FREE every Sunday!**

## Avenue tree infested with termites

By Our Staff Reporter

The avenue tree outside 38, Venkatesan Street, T. Nagar is infested with termites.

Its trunk, near the base, and several branches are infested.

The residents of the house told *Mambalam Times* that the tree is likely to topple over if not treated soon.

They have appealed to Chennai Corporation to either remove the termites or axe the tree.



## Phones with restricted access donated to students

By Our Staff Reporter

R. Raghunathan (Founder, Kalpavriksha Free Tuition Centre, West Mambalam) donated 10 new 'Moto G 10'smart phones to students from poor families to help them attend online classes.

Raghunathan told *Mambalam Times* that the phones have 'Gurukula App', developed by Sriram Raghavan of USA, installed in them which restricts usage.

The students will be able to use the phones only for online classes for one hour on WhatsApp and YouTube. They cannot play any games on the phone and the download options are also



restricted. The usage is completely blocked between schools. 10 a.m and 7 a.m.

His contact number is 97908 Raghunathan is ready to offer these phones to more completely blocked between schools. 10 a.m and 7 a.m. His contact number is 97908 56066.

## Udavum Karangal cares for destitute rescued from Haryana



Jayakumar at time of rescue



Jayakumar now

By S. Vidyaaakar

On July 7, while sipping my morning coffee, I got a call from one Kush Barghava from Haryana about a psychiatric person from Tamilnadu housed in a destitute home in Fatehabad (Haryana). They said that he could only speak in Tamil and was rescued from the streets in an emaciated condition.

When I spoke to the man, he was incoherent, but said his name was Jayakumar and gave me the contact number of one of his two sisters living in Namakkal.

His sister Chandra confirmed his identity but refused to take him back stating that he was unmanageable due to his mental condition and would only give them trouble and run away again. His parents were no more and his other sister also refused to take his responsibility.

I then decided to take care of him which meant bringing him down to our home in Thiruverkadu.

One of our social workers Srinivasa Rao traveled to Fatehabad on July 16 and managed to bring him back after a sleepless 30-hour train journey during which he had to keep a constant vigil to ensure that Jayakumar did not run away during the travel as he was schizophrenic and also displayed streaks of violent behaviour.

Out of the 5500 rescues of destitute people done by Udavum Karangal so far in the last 37 years, this was from the furthest place (nearly 2500 km) and also one of the most challenging.

After two days of treatment, Jayakumar calmed down and said that he had been working as a cleaner and his wife Nithya had separated from him due to his mental condition. His psychiatric condition worsened after he suffered head injuries in an accident in 2017.

We will take care of him until he becomes normal and then counsel his sisters to accept him back.

Vidyaaakar is the Founder of the NGO Udavum Karangal which has an office in Kannadasan Street, T. Nagar

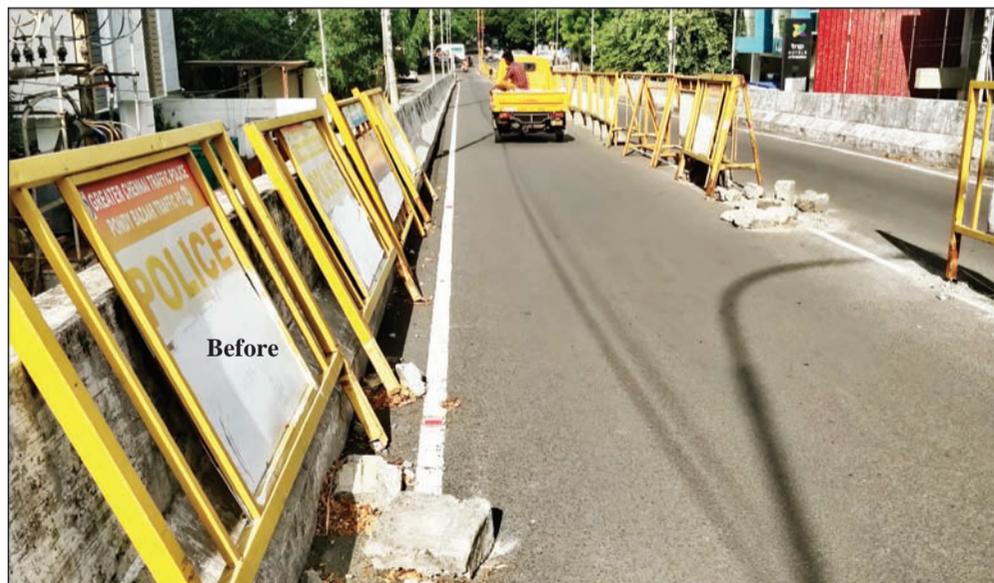
## Udavum Karangal gifts medical equipment to Peripheral Hospital



By Our Staff Reporter

S. Vidyaaakar (Founder, Udavum Karangal) gifted medical equipment and aids like BP machines, infrared thermometers, hot water dispensers, room conditioners and wheelchairs costing Rs. 3.35 lakhs to Government Peripheral Hospital (3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, East Anna Nagar) on July 22. Dr. Kani Shaik Mohamed (Superintendent) was present.

## Barricades on carriageway go after report in Mambalam Times



By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Damaged barricades block carriageway' published in *Mambalam Times* (June 13-19 issue), the damaged barricades removed from the median and kept on the carriageway of the Y-shaped flyover in Bazullah Road (T. Nagar), were removed. The gaps in the median were replaced with new barricades.

## Post-Covid cardiac consultancy today afternoon

By Our Staff Reporter

RMD Nursing Home (13, Raghaviah Road, T. Nagar) has organised cardiac consultation' from 4 p.m to 6 p.m on Sunday, July 25 in its premises.

Dr. L. Srichandran (Senior Cardiologist, MGM Health-care) will be available for consultation.

Persons suffering from cardiac problems and cardiac patients who had recently recovered from Covid can come for consultation.

There will also be general health check-up, BP and sugar tests, and ECG and Echo cardiograph tests.

The consultation fee including tests is Rs. 1000 per person.

For appointments, call 2815 7373 or 83769 18128.

## Corporation offers free job-oriented courses

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation conducts free job-oriented vocational courses in its Industrial Training Center in Square Block (Lloyds Colony, Ice House).

It offers Computer Operator, Fitter, Plumber and Electrician courses.

The duration of the courses is 1 to 2 years and the minimum qualification for selection is a pass in Std. 10.

Preference will be given to students who have passed out of Corporation schools. Selected candidates will be provided with free bus pass and a monthly stipend of Rs. 500.

On successful completion of the courses, placement opportunities will be provided.

Application forms can be downloaded from the websites [www.chennaicorporation.gov.in](http://www.chennaicorporation.gov.in) or [www.gccapp.chennaicorporation.gov.in/cciti](http://www.gccapp.chennaicorporation.gov.in/cciti). For more details, call 2847 3117.

## Registrations open for padayatra to Tirumala temple

By Our Staff Reporter

Tirumala Tirupathi Padayathirai Trust (4/13, Balakrishna Street, Aparana Apartments, West Mambalam) has organised 6-day padayatra from West Mambalam to Tirumala temple (Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh) on Oct. 22.

Devotees will be provided food and lodging along the way.

The last date for registration is July 31.

Special pooja will held for the yattris from 8 a.m to 1 p.m on Sunday, Sept. 19 at Sankara Mutt (Goshala, K. V. Koil Street, West Mambalam).

For more details and registration, call 9940096168, 94441 45574 or 98412 41811.

## Highest 48-hour rainfall in July in 200 years

In the 48-hour period from July 17 to 18, Chennai received 137.7 mm rainfall which is the highest for the month of July in the last 200 years. In the 72-hour period ending July 19, the city received a total of 220.5 mm of rain, the highest in the month of July in 13 years.

The previous highest was 243.9 mm in July 2007.

Weathermen have predicted a dry spell followed by light to heavy rains next week. It mostly rained in the late evening, leading to flooding of roads in many parts of the city including this neighbourhood.

Two-wheeler riders and pedestrians were put to hardship and were forced to wade through knee deep water.

Since June 1, Nungambakkam has registered 275.2 mm rainfall which is 78% above the average for the season.

The previous highest was 269.8 mm in 2001.

If anything interesting is happening in your neighbourhood please inform *Mambalam Times*.

## Damaged manhole cover replaced after report in *Mambalam Times*



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Manhole cover damaged' published in *Mambalam Times* (July 11-17 issue), the newly placed manhole cover in Postal Colony 4th Street (West Mambalam, near JGHV School), which had sunk, was replaced on July 21.

## Students quit studies to support families

By Our Staff Reporter

Between 9 a.m and 8 p.m every day, a 16-year-old boy (Std. 10 student) can be seen selling ice cream on Ranganathan Street (T. Nagar) to help his family eke out a living.

"My father is a daily wage worker and nowadays gets work only for 2 days in a week and my mother lost her job as a domestic servant following the lockdown. I have no choice but to earn something to help my family, so I have temporarily quit school," the boy said.

Another boy was seen helping his father sell readymade clothes on the pavement near Usman Road flyover.

He was seen shouting and wooing customers.

Many such adolescent boys and girls doing some work or the other on Ranganathan Street and other commercial areas in T. Nagar to help their families.

## Major fire put out in 5-storey building on Anna Salai

By Our Staff Reporter

A major fire which broke out in the office of Devaraj Computers Private Limited on the third floor of the 5-storey GG Complex, near Shanthi Theater, on Anna Salai at around 11 a.m on July 22 was put out after a 5-hour operation.

No casualties were reported.

Ten fire tenders from six fire stations including Teynampet were pressed into service to put out the fire along with 25 Metrowater tankers and private water tankers. 70 fire personnel were deployed in the operation.

Thirtyeight persons who were trapped on the third floor were evacuated.

Eight of them, including a baby, were evacuated with the help of a skylift. 30 others including 12 women were rescued after breaking open a door at the north corner of the building.

The employees in other offices left the building before the fire spread and blocked the stairways.

Police assisted the fire personnel by controlling the crowd which had gathered to look at the rescue operations.

Fire and rescue services personnel reached the spot within 10 minutes of receiving the distress call.

As the building is located just a few meters away from the main road, several two-wheelers and cars were parked there.

The police, with the help of members of the public, pushed the cars away from the spot and hand-lifted the 2-wheelers to the main road to make way for the fire tenders.

## Coats Road-Usman Road junction in bad condition

By Our Staff Reporter

The junction of Coats Road and Usman Road on the service lane under the flyover is in bad condition.

Following the recent spell of rains, the tarred surface has been washed away away over a large area covering nearly a half of the road width.

Motorists are facing hardship while driving over the battered surface.

They are also put to risk while taking a turn into the service lane from Coats Road.



## CSR funds to cover free vaccination in private hospitals

By Our Staff Reporter

Health Minister Ma Subramanian has announced that CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds will be used to offer free vaccine in private hospitals.

Currently, the maximum price for Covaxin has been capped at Rs. 1,410 per dose and Covishield at Rs. 780 per dose in private hospitals.

Russia's Sputnik V is being sold at Rs. 1,145 per dose.

According to a health official, private hospitals in the city are seeing vaccine wastage and it is to make full use of the vaccine that the state government has devised the CSR strategy to offer free vaccine. He said that CSR funds from private firms which are being utilised to improve facilities in hospitals will be diverted towards covering vaccination costs in private hospitals.

As per a recent report, at least 2.60 crore vaccine doses are lying unutilized in private hospitals across the country.

## Penalty for buying Metrowater without booking

By Our Staff Reporter

Residents who buy Metrowater through tankers without prior online booking are liable to be penalised.

Metrowater has added a new clause in its contract stating that the consumer who buys water without prior booking will face action along with the owner and driver of the vehicle that delivered the water.

It has announced that if any water tanker is found engaged in such unauthorised supply, a minimum fine of Rs. 20,000 will be levied and all trips for that day by the vehicle will be cancelled.

The consumer who buys the water without prior booking will be charged with theft of water.

P. S. Sundaram (President, Chennai Metrowater Tanker Lorry Contractors' Association) told *Mambalam Times* that the Association has warned its members against indulging in malpractice and has also cautioned the drivers.

## Corporation intensifies scanning in commercial areas

By Our Staff Reporter

A static surveillance team of Chennai Corporation has been screening shoppers in T. Nagar to contain the spread of Covid.

Teams of senior officials, including police officers, increased inspection to enforce Covid protocols.

An official told this reporter that the teams are carrying out surprise inspections in commercial areas, shopping malls, markets and crowded places, to make the traders and shoppers follow wearing of masks and maintain social distancing to prevent the spread.

He said that the officials visit shops to check the compliance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the State government including allowing only 50% occupancy and advising traders to compulsorily have thermal scanners and sanitisers at the entrances of their establishments.

The special team, headed by Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Vishu Mahajan, along with Regional Deputy Commissioner (Central) Sharanya Ari and Deputy Commissioner of Police (T. Nagar) Hari Kiran Prasad visited T. Nagar and interacted with the office-bearers of traders' associations. The senior team inspected the textile and jewellery shops. During the inspection, the senior officials advised the traders to strictly follow the SOPs.

8 teams were deployed on Sunday, July 18 to keep vigil on Ranganathan Street.

## Hit by fuel cost, Covid, auto drivers quit

By Our Staff Reporter

It is estimated that since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Covid wave, more than 15 percent of the auto drivers in the city have quit and sold their autos. Already impacted by loss in earning due to Covid since last year, the steep rise in fuel cost has made it even more difficult for them.

Mohammed Shabeer, an autorickshaw driver in T. Nagar, told this reporter that he sold his auto last week and is looking for a job to support his family.

"Since the last one month, the money I earn from fares is not enough to even meet the fuel cost and I have been forced to borrow money from friends and family members for sustenance. I have not paid my EMI for the past four months. Hence, I thought that it is better to quit rather than move on with huge losses," Shabeer said.

Like him, a number of autorickshaw drivers are not in a position to carry on their day-to-day activities after the spiraling fuel cost and reduction in business. Free travel for women in MTC buses has also impacted their earnings.

## Fresh tax assessment for buildings rented for cell phone towers

Chennai Corporation passed a resolution last week to collect additional property tax from building owners who have allowed cell phone towers on their properties.

A resolution was passed in 2009 to calculate property tax from the building owners who have allowed cell phone towers, based on the rent collected by the owners from the telecom firms. Later, another resolution was passed fixing Rs. 15,000 (half-yearly) as property tax for all the buildings. As per records, cell phone towers have been erected on 1,739 properties in core city zones. However, property owners and telecom firms went to court demanding quashing of the resolutions. In April, the Madras High Court ordered Chennai Corporation not to fix uniform (Rs. 15,000) property tax and calculate the tax based on the monthly rent collected by the property owners.

Following the order, its officials will assess the property tax rates of the buildings where cell phone towers are erected, based on the monthly rent and issue orders to the property owners demanding tax.

The tax will be collected with arrears accrued from 2009.

## Corporation to vaccinate workers in malls, markets

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has devised a plan to vaccinate around 60,000 persons who work in big malls and commercial areas like T. Nagar in the city. Shoppers can also get themselves vaccinated if they happen to visit the malls/markets when the vaccination drive is taking place.

In a concentrated effort, Corporation will complete this drive within a month.

It has identified 10 major malls and 38 markets including Ranganathan Street (T. Nagar), Vendors Commercial Complex in Pondy Bazaar and other crowded spots to prioritize the vaccination.

This is being done to prevent hotspots and contain the spread of Covid to prevent the 3rd wave.

The vaccination will be conducted in large malls and community centers and Corporation schools in the localities.

Since July 1, Covid vaccine is being administered in Pitty Thyagaraya Hall (T. Nagar).

## Free online yoga classes for elders on Tuesdays

By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. V. S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation (Anna Nagar) and The Hindu Tamil Thisai are jointly conducting free online yoga classes on Tuesdays from 11 a.m to 12 noon.

The classes are conducted by yoga master Dr. Nandhini who has more than 20 years of teaching experience.

For registration, contact Rajasekaran in 99949 02173 or send email to rm@drvsngeriatricfoundation.com.

According to Nandhini, regular practise of asanas will keep the mind and body in good shape.

## Sculptures of sea creatures adorn park off Marina

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation has adorned its park along Kamarajar Salai (off Marina Beach) with sculptures of sea creatures like sharks made out of scrap metal and automobile scrap.

Titled 'The Junk Art', the move is aimed at creating awareness on waste recycling along with beautification of public places.

They have been made by P. Srinivasa Rao, a sculptor from Hyderabad.

He procures automobile scrap from local mechanics and then converts it into art.

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**REAL ESTATE (SELLING)**  
 VADAPALANI, near Ambika Empire, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, road side balcony, 670 sq.ft. UDS 281 sq.ft. 2nd floor, car park, price Rs. 38 lakhs. Ph: 73584 15014.

T. NAGAR, Burkit Road, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, ground floor, 521 sq.ft, 2-wheeler parking, price Rs. 47 lakhs (negotiable). Ph: 9176392117, 23714602.

WEST MAMBALAM, Chakrapani Street, near 5 Lights, 2 bedrooms, 1000 sq.ft, new flat, 50% UDS, car park, lift, balcony, price Rs. 1.20 crores (including registration). Ph: 7358357499.

WEST MAMBALAM, Jubilee Road, near Railway Station, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, 415 sq.ft, single bedroom, well maintained, highly ventilated flat, car park. Ph: 9884278775.

WEST MAMBALAM, 19B, Postal Colony 3rd Street, house for sale, land area 1080 sq.ft, built-up area 1400 sq.ft (ground + first floor). Price Rs. 2.50 crores, negotiable P. Meenakshi, Ph: 96985 87427, 2485 3669, 9444663849.

KODAMBAKKAM, Ganga Nagar, near Telephone exchange, 1006 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, 1st floor flat, lift, wood work, car park, UDS 600 sq.ft, 20 years old, price Rs. 90 lakhs, clear tile. Ph: 9841406777.

WEST MAMBALAM, Moovendar Colony, Muthalamman Koil Street, TNHB, 1st floor flat, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 680 sq.ft (380 sq.ft original + 300 sq.ft extended), price Rs. 54 lakhs. Vaideeswaran, Ph: 94444 13245.

K.K. NAGAR, 15th Sector, 94th Street, near Nagathamman Koil, new flat, 2 bedrooms, 948 sq.ft, lift, covered car park, ready to occupy. Ph: 97666 00419.

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 WEST MAMBALAM, 1, Shyamalavadana Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, vegetarians only, 2-wheeler parking, no brokers. Ph: 94443 57544.

T. NAGAR, 24, Venkatnarayana Road, 3 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, lift, car park, rent Rs. 35000. Ph: 90801 64510.

T. NAGAR, Sivaprakasam Road, behind Natesan Park, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, no lift, 2-wheeler parking only, rent Rs. 20000. Ph: 97908 59921, 9444895849.

ASHOK NAGAR, 42nd Street, 1000 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, vegetarians only. Ph: 89398 00455.

WEST MAMBALAM, Brindavan Street extension, 1200 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms flat, 1st floor, wood work, car park, vegetarians only, rent Rs. 27000 (negotiable). Ph: 98414 06777.

WEST MAMBALAM, 13/23, Vasudevapuram Street, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, pooja, semi-furnished, electrical fittings, small family, Brahmins only, no brokers, one 2-wheeler parking. Ph: 2481 7447, 9445862886.

WEST MAMBALAM, Kailash Flat, Balakrishna Mudali Street, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1 bath, ground floor, 660 sq.ft, rent Rs. 15000 (negotiable), Brahmins only, no brokers. Ph: 96202 02330.

ASHOK NAGAR, 10th Avenue, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, 2nd floor, pure vegetarians, no brokers. Ph: 86681 74004.

T. NAGAR, Mahalakshmi Street, very near to T. Nagar Bus Terminus/Ranganathan Street, 750 sq.ft. 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, ground floor flat, with spacious open place, wood work, Brahmins only. Ph: 94441 05177.

WEST MAMBALAM, Postal colony, 1st floor, independent house, 1400 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, spacious hall, kitchen, separate pooja & service, Vasthu, designer wood work, North facing, Private entrance, covered car park, 24 hours water, CCTV, vegetarian only, Rent Rs. 33000, negotiable. occupation on 1.9.21. Ph: 86108 22367.

ASHOK NAAR, 6, 42nd Street, near Pillar, SBI, Canara Bank, 1st floor, independent portion, 700 sq.ft, large balcony, rent Rs. 15000, Brahmins only, no car park, no brokers. Ph: 88254 25003.

**VIRUGAMBAKKAM, 6C, Primrose Block, Ceebros Gardens, 950 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, partly furnished, open car park, 2 A/c's, 2 geyser, inverter, rent Rs. 20000. Ph: 98406 96906.**

T. NAGAR, Parthasarathipuram, end of North Usman Road, 700 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1st floor, for family/bachelors, rent Rs. 17000. Ph: 98847 82442.

T. NAGAR, 10 Mangesh Street, easily accessible, 700 sq.ft, first floor, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, dining, verandah, 2-wheeler parking, vegetarian family only. Ph: 2434 9699, 9841025478.

WEST MAMBALAM, Jothi Ramalingam Street, independent house upstairs, 2 bedrooms, poojaroom, 3 phase electricity, 24 hours metro/bore water, covered car park, vegetarians only. Ph: 99623 60799.

WEST MAMBALAM, Sampangangi Reddy Street, near Saidai Kittu Park, 1 bedroom, hall, kitchen, vegetarians only. Ph: 9789026130.

T. NAGAR, South West Boag Road, single bedroom flat, 400 sq.ft, 2nd floor, 24 hours water supply, rent Rs. 8500 negotiable, 2-wheeler parking, no brokers. Ph: 90031 24135, 9840475347.

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Vice President of Anna Nagar Senior Citizens' Association. He has resolved several long-standing civic issues in his locality through active interaction with government and civic officials. After retirement from Southern Railway, Chockalingam joined as Reporter in Anna Nagar Times in 1995 and retired as Chief Reporter in February this year. He was an active member of Southern Railway Traders' Union. His contact number is 99520 05779.

**Online Maths quiz for school students**

**By Our Staff Reporter**  
 Persi Amitkumar (Teacher and resident of AF Block, Anna Nagar) has organised online quiz on Vedic Maths for Stds. 6, 7 and 8 students from 11 a.m to 12 noon on Friday, July 30 and Sunday, August 1.

He told Anna Nagar Times that the questions are designed to be fun-filled and will enhance the knowledge on the subject and also help the students to improve their focus. For more details and registration, contact Persi in 91762 18763.

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**Support group offers inclusive homes for the differently-abled**

**By Our Staff Reporter**  
 Chennai-based NGO Special Child Assistance Network (SCAN) has tied up with real estate developer Akshaya Private Ltd to start an inclusive housing project for persons with disabilities including the differently-abled in Kelambakkam (OMR).

Gopinath Ramakrishnan (Managing Trustee, SCAN) said that the biggest concern for parents is about the welfare of their disabled children after their passing away. Also, as the parents start getting older, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to care for their differently-abled children on their own.

The project is aimed at addressing this problem by offering a range of amenities such as a club house, swimming pool, as well as several disability-friendly features such as railings, ramps, audio announcements and braille-text on elevators.

It is slated for completion by March 2022. There will be shared accommodation for adults with special needs and caregivers on full-time or part-time basis depending on the needs of the person. SCAN will also have a vocational centre with a range of self-employment and supported employment options, and a therapy centre to provide required therapy for persons with special needs.

A single-bedroom flat will cost approximately Rs. 26 lakhs, two-bedroom flat Rs. 44 lakhs and three-bedroom flat around Rs. 55 lakhs with options to share accommodation. For more details, call 4200 8811/ 2496 8811

**Idly batter too from Vijayalakshmi**

**By Our Staff Reporter**  
 S. Vijayalakshmi (resident of LIG flats, 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar), who has been selling millet health mix for 5 years, has introduced idly/dosa batter. "Our customers who buy millet health mix want idly/dosa batter also," she told Mambalam Times. "The batter is prepared with good quality rice and urad dhal," she explained. It is available in 1 kg packs. She can be contacted in 97907 72370.

**Online workshop on Digital Literacy for senior citizens**

**By Our Staff Reporter**  
 Tamilnadu Senior Citizens' Association (TANSECA) (V 95, Anna Nagar) and Help Age India (Kilpauk) have jointly organised a workshop on 'Digital Literacy' for senior citizens over Zoom application from 11 a.m to 1 p.m on Thursday, July 29.

R. Muthukrishnan (Senior Manager, Help Age India) will conduct the workshop. The participants will be taught how to open mobile wallet accounts like 'Google Pay' and use them to perform online transactions. They will also be taught the safety measures to be followed while doing online payments through mobile wallets and bank accounts, and educated about online frauds. The Zoom link for the meet is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82663934168. For more details, call 2621 3908.

**Chockalingam presented Vocational Excellence award**

**By Our Staff Reporter**  
 In appreciation of his social service activities, 89-year-old A. Chockalingam (resident of W 128, 4th Street, B Sector, Anna Nagar Western Extension) was presented the 'Vocational Excellence' award by Rotary Club of Chennai Green City (Mogappair) last week. He is the Secretary of Anna Nagar Western Extension B Sector Association and Vice President of Anna Nagar Senior Citizens' Association. He has resolved several long-standing civic issues in his locality through active interaction with government and civic officials. After retirement from Southern Railway, Chockalingam joined as Reporter in Anna Nagar Times in 1995 and retired as Chief Reporter in February this year. He was an active member of Southern Railway Traders' Union. His contact number is 99520 05779.



**Woman Constable assaulted in Aminjikarai**

**By Our Staff Reporter**  
 Three men in an inebriated condition misbehaved with a woman Constable on Poonamalle High Road, near Anna Arch at night on July 20. She filed a complaint in Aminjikarai police station the same night. She told the police that the incident happened when she had stepped out of the house to buy dinner.

Three men approached her asking for direction to a local address. When she avoided them realizing they were drunk, the men misbehaved with her and also slapped her when she told them that she was a police constable. Aminjikarai police have obtained CCTV footages to identify the suspects.

**Arrested for selling LSD drugs**

**By Our Staff Reporter**  
 M. P. K. Kumar (25) (resident of Gujji Main Road, East Anna Nagar) and his accomplice Thomas Daniel (23) were arrested by Anna Nagar police on July 21 on the charge of selling banned LSD (Lysergic Acid Diethylamide) tablets and capsules. According to the police, the accused had purchased the drug online and sold it to their customers at a high price. They had formed a WhatsApp group to communicate with their customers.

**The T. Nagar - Mambalam edition of Mambalam Times can be accessed in www.mambalamtimes.in**

### Student strength in Corporation schools crosses 1 lakh

By Our Staff Reporter

With close to 20,000 new students joining this year, the total number of students studying in all the 281 Corporation schools in the city has crossed 1 lakh for the first time in 10 years to reach 1,01,757 as on July 19.

According to Chennai Corporation data, 19,038 students (98%) have joined its schools from private and government-aided schools of which 2,306 joined in Std. 6 and 1,948 in Std. 11. 4,023 students joined in LKG and 1,614 students joined in UKG. Admission is open till Aug. 31.

Of the 281 schools, 32 are higher secondary schools.

### Aadi sale begins on dull note

Though there has been an increase in footfall in the commercial hubs in the city including T. Nagar, the Aadi sale is expected to be a low key affair for the 2nd consecutive year as many retailers say customers have cut down on spending. Retailers expected that, like last year, sales during this Aadi would be down by 40%-60% depending on the Covid situation.

"Most of my friends who run businesses have stayed away from Aadi sale this year. I have put up a sale because we have been doing it for over two decades and don't want to break the tradition," said a retailer on Ranganathan Street, T. Nagar, who has branches across the state.

"Cities like Madurai have reported better business than Chennai so far this Aadi," he said.

The manager of a leading multilevel textile showroom told Mambalam Times, "walk-ins are far less when compared to pre-Covid levels. The lockdown has had a severe impact on business. Though we have stocks left from the previous year, new supplies have also been affected as a number of weavers and tailors have shifted to other professions."

Shops on Usman Road and in Pondy Bazaar which used to be sport large Aadi sale boards present a bland look.

Popular showrooms have also shifted focus to e-commerce platform to augment sales by offering special discounts. Many traders said that after visuals of overcrowding in T. Nagar went viral on social media, the authorities have increased vigil and are conducting surprise checks and penalizing shops which do not follow Covid protocols and allow overcrowding in their premises.

A retailer said that it was impossible to keep a tab on the number of customers walking in and the government had said 50% occupancy was permitted.

## Krishnammachari donates Rs. 10 lakhs to trust

By Our Staff Reporter

R. P. Krishnammachari (Managing Director, Tex Biosciences Pvt. Ltd.) has donated Rs.10 lakhs to Rama Kamalam Trust, Mylapore which pays school fees for poor students and also provides other needs.

R. Nataraj (Former DGP) is the Managing Trustee.

Krishnammachari has been donating Rs.10 lakhs every year for the past four years



## Free NEET/JEE coaching for RKM School students



By Our Staff Reporter

Guindy1975 Trust (T. Nagar) and Maithri Educational & Charitable Trust (T. Nagar) are jointly conducting free NEET/JEE coaching classes for 60 Std. 11 students of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Group of Schools in T. Nagar and West Mambalam.

R. Narasimhan (Trustee of Guindy 1975 Trust) told Mambalam Times that the classes, which were conducted in Sri RKM Boys Higher

Secondary School (Bashyam Road, T. Nagar) in March, are being conducted online since April due to the Covid restrictions.

According to Narasimhan, the students will be given intensive coaching for two years to prepare them for the NEET/JEE examinations in 2023.

The cost of the 2-year project is estimated at Rs.12 lakhs including study material and faculty fees.

Guindy 1975 Trust, founded by engineering professionals, provides educational support for needy students pursuing or aspiring to pursue professional and graduate courses.

Its members also mentor the students and help them to improve their communication skills and prepare them to attend interviews.

For more details, call 4233 7999 or send email to guindy1975@gmail.com

## Cash assistance for family of teacher



By Our Staff Reporter

Tamilnadu Physical Teachers & Physical Directors Association (T. Nagar) provided cash assistance of Rs. 1,42,000 for the family of J. Su. Rathinam (Physical teacher) who died of Corona infection.

It also presented provision kits to 40 private school teachers in a function in Government Model School, Saidapet on July 22.

The aid was distributed by G. Anitha (Chief Educational Officer, Chennai District).

Muniyan (Additional Education Officer), Shanmugavadivel (DEO, Central Chennai), T. Devi Selvam (State President, Tamilnadu Physical Teachers & Physical Directors Association), Valliappan (Secretary) and others participated in the program.

## Pragnandha qualifies for 3rd round in Chess World Cup

Grandmaster R. Pragnandha (Std. 11 student in Velammal Main School, Mogappair) won 2-game mini match in the second round of the FIDE Chess World Cup in Sochi (Russia) on July 16 by defeating Gabriel Sargissian from Armenia.

He has now qualified to enter the 3rd round of the competition.



## T. Nagar MLA meets Stalin



By Our Staff Reporter

J. Karunanidhi (T. Nagar MLA) met Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on July 22 to hand over a petition listing what needs to be done in the constituency. He visits residents regularly and accepts petitions on various issues.

## Resettlement of families along water bodies to resume

Chennai Corporation, the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust and the Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board will resume resettlement of families along Mambalam canal, Cooum and Adyar river and other water bodies from next week.

At least 2,000 families in 10 settlements along the Cooum and 5,000 settlements along the Adyar are expected to be evicted shortly.

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