

# Agencies to swing into action to enforce plastic ban

Special squads constituted to check violations in Vellore & Tiruvannamalai; blanket ban didn't go down well with manufacturers, sellers



A hotel holding an instruction to customers to bring cloth bags or stainless steel boxes for takeaway foods in Vellore on Tuesday | DINESH S



Most of the shops remained closed, as plastic manufacturers and traders association called for a shutdown, in Vellore on Tuesday | DINESH S



A customer with his takeaway food packed in a stainless steel box after shunning the use of plastic carry bags at a hotel in Vellore on Tuesday | DINESH S

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 @ Vellore/Tiruvannamalai

EVEN as the enforcement agencies are gearing up to crack the whip from today (Wednesday) against usage of throwaway plastic goods mainly used for packaging food items, the traders are contemplating to hold massive protest against the blanket ban.

Since Tuesday is a government holiday, no activity was there from the side of the government departments and agencies concerned. They are expected to go full steam from today.

"We have already set up special squads for monitoring the implementation of the plastic ban. Will go full steam from Wednesday," J Venkatesan, Designated Officer (DO), Food Safety, Vellore, told *Express*.

He noted that the special teams headed by 13 Food Safety Officers were formed to monitor the implementation of ban

in the district.

In Tiruvannamalai, four squads comprising of 11 members have been set up to swoop down on violators in 18 blocks and three municipalities.

According to Tiruvannamalai district Food Safety DO V Senthilkumar, "We have constituted four teams with eleven members. They will monitor the implementation of the ban in 18 blocks and three municipalities in the district."

He recalled that a comprehensive awareness drive was carried out across the district already to enlighten the stakeholders on the importance of complying with the ban and the penal action that would be initiated against violators.

**Traders sound the war bugle**

Meanwhile, plastic manufacturers, sellers and general traders have warned that they are going to organise vehement protests against the blanket ban that also restrains them from using plastic for stuffing food items/masala products into small packets.

"Plastic use for primary packing was exempted from the ban. But the government officials now tell us that plastic use cannot be allowed in primary packing too. This is against the government order issued earlier," rued RB Gnanavel, a Vellore-based traders' leader.

He said the Vanigar Sankangalin Permaippu led by AM Vikramaraja will soon announce a three-day shutdown to protest against the blanket ban on throwaway plastic.

District president of Plastic Manufacturers Association K Vinothkumar said all the manufacturing units and plastic goods shops remained closed on Tuesday as part of the indefinite shutdown.

He warned that the manufacturers would intensify the stir if their just demand was not met by the government authorities.

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**EXPRESS READ**

**Youth held on charges of raping minor girl**

Vellore: A 23-year-old youth was arrested on Tuesday under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on charges of raping a 17-year-old girl at Velapadi. Police said, T Vijay (alias) Damodaran from Velapadi, was staying alone after his wife left him three months ago after frequent quarrels. Meanwhile, he developed a relationship with the minor girl, police said. Last week, he had taken the girl to his house and allegedly raped her. On Tuesday, the police arrested Vijay under IPC sections 294 b and 506 (1) and section 6 of the POCSO Act. **ENS**

**T'malai govt college guest lecturers claim payment delay**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 @ Chennai

GUEST lecturers teaching at Tiruvannamalai Government Arts and Science College say they haven't received payments since November.

"There are over 100 guest lecturers in the college and none have received their salaries," says Venkatesan Thangaraj, who also works at the college and is part of a guest lecturers association. "We always get our salaries only on the 15th of the next month. It's already January, and we still haven't gotten our salaries due in November," he said.

Payments for guest faculty are processed based on 'claim forms' submitted by them to the college. "Even though we submit our claim forms by the first week of each month, we get our salary only after the third week," said K Thirumalai, a chemistry guest lecturer from the college.

A senior administrative officer from the college explained that the process is delayed as a few guest lecturers fail to submit their forms on time. "The college will not process the claim form until all guest lecturers have submitted them. Salaries will be credited within a week from the date the claim forms have been submitted," she said.

## Body of man killed in Poland brought home, buried after final rites



**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 @ Vellore

**Dead in Warsaw**

Venkatesan went to Poland on November 4, 2018, to join at a private company. He was allegedly stabbed by one of his roommates at his residence in Warsaw, the capital city

FAMILY members of a 25-year-old man, who was allegedly killed in Poland last week, received his body at the Chennai airport on Monday.

"Venkatesan's body reached the airport at 8 am. We brought the body to his native Sambasivapuram village in Walajapet and final rites were performed at 4 pm, before the burial," Pichandi, a relative of the deceased, told *Express*.

Last week, the family members grew anxious after neither receiving any phone call nor any response from Venkatesan for over two days. Later, they came to know about the death through a Chennai-based private consultancy on December 24. Seeking help to bring Venkatesan's body to his native village for funeral, the family members petitioned the Vellore Collector and also sought assistance from the government.

A diploma holder, Venkatesan, went to Poland on November 4, 2018, to join as a maintenance worker at a private company. It is said that he was allegedly stabbed by one of his roommates at his residence in Warsaw, Poland. His body was brought here after a postmortem.

Venkatesan's body reached the airport at 8 am. We brought the body to his native village and final rites were performed at 4 pm, before the burial

Pichandi, a relative

## SHG VOLUNTEERS SHOW THE WAY TO PLASTIC-ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

**R SIVAKUMAR**  
 @ Tiruvannamalai

WHILE Tamil Nadu government is taking effective measures to wipe out throwaway plastic products which inflict irreparable harm to the environment, volunteers of self-help groups (SHGs) show the way in propagating and making available alternatives products.

A wide range of non-plastic containers, vessels, bags, plates and other packing materials and carry bags made of decomposable materials are available at a shop opened on the new year's eve in the temple town.

Collector K S Kandasamy launched the shop located at Asaliyammann Koil street.

Ten SHGs manage the business and the administration of the shop, while as many as 100 volunteers keep supplying the alternative products, with active encouragement and support from the Tiruvannamalai municipality.

"We have trained a batch of 100 volunteers of SHGs in manufacturing the alternative



Following the plastic ban, Collector KS Kandasamy taking a look at the alternative products kept at the SHGs-run shop in the temple town | EXPRESS

plastic products. They are supplying the food packaging their products which range from alternative hotel food packaging materials to earthen dustbins.

Small boxes made of sugarcane waste for packaging hotel food items at the shop grab the attention of the visitors, while plates shaped out of areca nut leaves present an ideal foil to the plastic plates.

The municipality has provided 25x20 feet space free of rent to the SHGs for displaying their products which range from alternative hotel food packaging materials to earthen dustbins.

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### Daily Starscope

**PETER VIDAL**

02<sup>nd</sup> January: Deep in the background of all current planetary patterns, is an intense and contradictory relationship between two great planets, Saturn and Neptune. This brings everything that's safe and secure into a direct collision with all that's dreamy and imaginative. If you're confused, don't worry. So are many other people.

- ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr 20)  
If you think about it, you'll see that this time of year is often significant for your financial affairs. Now that fantastic planetary activity offers you a chance to make important strides forward, you must delay no longer. But if you don't reach a successful conclusion this time, you'll have another chance within about three months.
- TAURUS** (Apr 21 - May 21)  
After many trials and tribulations, Venus is on your side. More than that, the planets are determined to set you back on top. In addition, a dispute over who owns what should now be settled to your deep satisfaction. You'll probably soon discover that in one important respect, you were wrong. But there's no need to tell anyone - yet!
- GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21)  
At the moment you are both teaching, and being taught, a number of tough and useful lessons. There are both givers and takers in this world and right now you must decide which side you are on. Just for now you'd probably do best to let partners take the lead.
- CANCER** (June 22 - July 23)  
Happily, you have the power to lighten your load and you are only a breath away from a life which is happier, more contented and relaxed. Live for today and put long-term questions on the back-burner. Put a little thought into your health and find ways to get rid of some of that nervous energy.
- LEO** (July 24 - Aug. 23)  
There is a build-up of planetary activity in the region of your solar chart symbolising your prestige and public achievements. It is important that you now feel you are making your mark in a worthwhile and permanent manner. You need that sense of long-range purpose.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)  
You must expect the field of ideas to become something of a battleground, perhaps because neither you nor your partners are prepared to reach a compromise. By all means stand your ground, but not at the expense of a valued relationship. You're still bothered about your financial prospects, but your worries will be resolved this time next month.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)  
Loved ones may imagine that you can be manipulated, but how wrong they are. Like everyone else, when pushed too far you react with surprising power, obliging friends and associates to take you seriously. Isn't it about time you stopped worrying and learned to get on and work with what you have?
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)  
There is no final reason why it should be you who climbs down or eats humble pie, but you must realise that there is little chance that you will win the day through force. Turn on the charm if you want to get your own way. You'll be surprised how willingly certain people respond.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)  
You are now poised to implement some quite remarkable changes at work, or in your routine affairs. One thing is certain, though: the consent and assistance of friends and partners is absolutely essential. And I don't think you'll have any trouble persuading them.
- CAPRICORN** (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)  
These are stirring times and it does not seem that all your willingness to meet others halfway is about to pay off handsomely. Your prospects are excellent and your life is now becoming more fulfilled, both in the personal and professional spheres.
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)  
Precautionary measures taken now will help keep you on the right path and ensure that you cope well with exciting possibilities in the coming weeks. Tact and diplomacy must be your most important and necessary qualities. I know they won't come easily, but do try!
- PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)  
This simply has to be an exciting period for you, though not one which is necessarily destined to have a great impact on your future. Instead, you will soon be concentrating on activities which you enjoy - and which will open up new contacts.

**THE PHANTOM**  
 "WELL ON YOUR MARCH! LEAVING!"

**HI AND LOIS**  
 "I'M GOING TO BE A FAMOUS ACTRESS SOMEDAY!"  
 "WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ACTING?"  
 "AREN'T YOU THE ONE THAT SAYS I ACT LIKE A BRAT?"  
 "THAT ISN'T ACTING."

**BEETLE BAILEY**  
 "WHY ARE ALL OUR GLOBES OF THE WORLD ROUND?"

**BLONDIE**  
 "WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?"  
 "MY GOLF BALL."  
 "HOW ABOUT YOU?"  
 "I'M LOOKING FOR A POKEMON."

**LOCKHORNS**  
 "LEROY AND I HAVE BEEN MARRIED ALL THESE YEARS, AND I STILL DON'T HAVE A DATE FOR SATURDAY NIGHT."

**DENNIS THE MENACE**  
 "YOU SHOULD JUST HAVE YOUR WESTERN PICTURES UP HERE... THEY'D GO WELL WITH ALL YOUR 'GILFUP'."

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

### SU DO KU

5		6			
1	4	2		3	
3	6		5	1	
	3	7	8	1	
		4	5	2	8
	1	6		4	8
3			1	5	7
		5			2

**MEDIUM** Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

■ Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

■ Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knauer

Unscramble these four anagrams, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZIREP  
 TROIB  
 DRTONE  
 UUFNSG

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's  
 Answer: LUNGE, TIGER, PORCH, CHANGE  
 Because of a drought, the porcupine farmers were going through a - ROLLSH PITCH.

### CROSS WORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				8		
9						
				10		
11						
				12		13
				14		
15						17
20						
22						
				23		

**ACROSS**

- To be without an escort is incautious (9)
- Scent the beginning of a romance (5)
- Commanding officer tried new explosive (7)
- Place free of corruption (6)
- A character in literature? (6)
- Made rare excursion to find the river (8)
- He remains detached, in the main (8)
- A sound to disturb (6)
- Things said about fifty planets (6)
- Defames a large number and gets into a row (7)
- She's in dire need (5)
- He may investigate an insect and its changing form (9)

**DOWN**

- Ring in the nose as a halter (5)
- Latest version of a quiet duet perhaps (6)
- Held back free trade when in the red (8)
- Blue Viennese flower (6)
- Down-trodden shoe-cleaner (7)
- Furniture dealers are familiar with it (4,5)
- Be prone to ambush (3,2,4)
- 19 Down: Authorisation needed by new union members (8,5)
- Rejoiced in godlier fashion (7)
- Gives someone a sharp reminder? (6)
- Some restrictions are severe (6)
- See 13 Down

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

Across: 1 Premium, 4 Peach, 7 Need, 8 Grasping, 10 Spirit lamp, 13 Beheld, 13 Ostend, 15 Impoverish, 18 Consumes, 19 Limb, 20 Range, 21 Raiment.  
 Down: 1 Pants, 2 Eyesight, 3 Myrtle, 4 Past master, 5 Aria, 6 Haggard, 9 Field mouse, 11 Definite, 12 Bouncer, 14 Co-heir, 16 Habit, 17 Anon.