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## Sailing in these COVID times





## **The Sanmar Group**

9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086.

Tel.: + 91 44 2812 8500

[www.sanmargroup.com](http://www.sanmargroup.com)

### **SHL Chemicals**

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals  
(A division of Chemplast Sanmar Ltd)

Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd

TCI Sanmar Chemicals S.A.E.

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Designed and edited by Kalamkriya, 9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086. Ph: + 91 44 2812 8051

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# Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar Limited Relief Valve (POPRV) till date



# manufactures its largest Pilot Operated Pressure



Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar (AGCSL), a joint venture with Emerson, USA, manufactured its first large size Pilot Operated Pressure Relief Valve (POPRV) for its client, Dangote Refinery Project for Crude column overhead application.

Some salient features of this valve include large orifice area with high relieving capacity, full bore, maximum set pressure, and less weight when compared to same size spring operated valves.

All the components of the main valve – body, nozzle, piston, liner and cap – were newly developed along with patterns for casting, tooling for components machining and measuring instruments for inspection. The final valve assembly and testing were successfully completed as per design specifications from the client.

This valve is equipped with accessories such as field test connection, back flow preventer and supply filter for effective functional advantages in service.

In general, POPRVs have certain advantages in high set pressure applications when compared to spring operated valves such as: number of valves required for specific application, lower weight, less initial capital cost, lower installation costs and less space required. The reduction in weight is an advantage specifically in offshore oil and gas platforms.

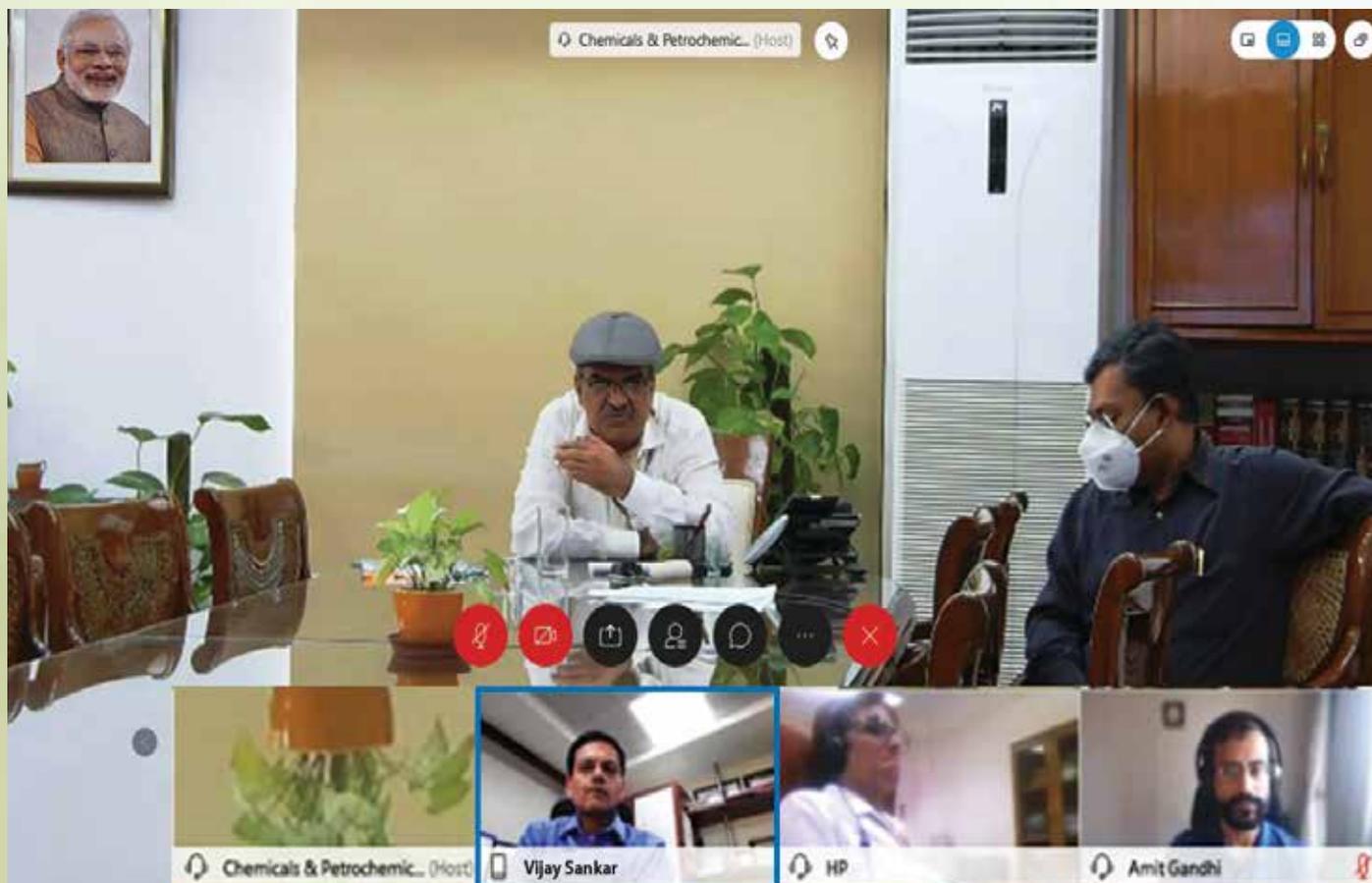
# “Making India a Global Chemicals Powerhouse for Atma Nirbhar Bharat”

## ICC and BCG develop white paper

The Indian Chemical Council (ICC) jointly with Boston Consulting Group (BCG) is developing a white paper on “Making India a Global Chemicals Powerhouse for Atma Nirbhar Bharat.” Vijay Sankar, President, ICC, made a virtual presentation on the subject to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, on 6 August 2020 in the presence of RK Chaturvedi, Secretary, Samir Kumar Biswas, Joint Secretary, KN Jha, Joint Secretary, DK Madan, Director and Jasbir Singh, Consultant, Dept of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India.

Reiterating the points discussed in the ICCs introductory interaction with Secretary on 8 June 2020, Vijay Sankar briefed on various topics including customised tariff policy, reducing import dependence, C&PC industry norms on environment compliance, incentives, logistics and

R&D for accelerated growth of the Chemical industry. An industry update was also given to the gathering. Stressing on safe restart of C&PC industry, Vijay Sankar highlighted the significance of the Responsible Care programme of ICC, which focuses on improving the Environment, Health, Safety and Security performance of companies. He also spoke on developing a white paper, “Making India a Global Chemicals Powerhouse for Atma Nirbhar Bharat.”



*Seated: RK Chaturvedi, Secretary, Samir Kumar Biswas, Joint Secretary, Dept of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India.*

# Sailing in these COVID times

The Shipping world has been hit by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as much as it has affected industries and normal life ashore.

To minimise the impact of infections, at Sanmar Shipping, we took a few preventive measures in early March, assuming that it could take a minimum of three months, before we were able to set procedures for navigating the contingency or until normality was restored. Some of these measures included disembarking a few of the officers and crew who asked for prompt relief. We were grateful to obtain the consent of many of our officers and crew who were willing to commit to the call of duty for the period of the lockdowns, as travel restrictions all over the world prevented crew changes with little notice for an escape route. As the government managed to get a grip on the logistics and was able to

formulate protocols, we commenced crew changes in phases from May.

We have managed to relieve most of the officers and crew across the fleet by July in line with the protocols laid down by the Directorate General of Shipping and the Ports' health authorities. Most of the crew transfers to and fro ship have been by road, as airlines commenced operations much later and that too with minimal flights in the initial phase. Crew changes include the mandatory isolation at home and the Covid test prior boarding, apart from the standard medical examination. We even diverted a few vessels to ports of convenience, such as Tuticorin, as many other ports took time to comply with the government protocols.

Keeping in view the factor of fatigue and MLC (Maritime Labour Convention) guidelines, we have ensured that rest hours on board

*We were grateful to obtain the consent of many of our officers and crew who were willing to commit to the call of duty for the period of the lockdowns, as travel restrictions all over the world prevented crew changes with little notice for an escape route.*



*Crew change - by boat at Kandla.*



*Sanitisation on board at Kandla.*



*Sanmar Sangeet - temperature monitoring on board.*



*Disinfection in the Engine Control Room.*

*All the ships are being regularly disinfected with approved shore support.*

have not been violated. In spite of the restrictions, we ensured that management level officers did not spend more than 6 months, operational level officers not more than 7-8 months and ratings not more than 9 months on duty, barring the odd exception arising out of exigencies.

Meanwhile, on board the ships, in line with the industry protocols we ensured that all ships were provided with an unlimited supply of approved PPE, such as face masks, sanitisers, face shields and protective suits. Ship entry procedures for shore personnel in ports and terminals were beefed up and modified to ensure that

visitors such as agents, terminal representatives, pilots, surveyors, etc., too followed the protocols, including social distancing, from the time they step on board until they leave the ship.

All the ships are being regularly disinfected with approved shore support. The ships' hygiene, especially the accommodation, galley and the hospital is given top priority to ensure that they remain as bio-secure as possible to prevent any infections on board.

Ship visits by the superintendents remain restricted as the virus is yet to abate. However, constant

*Sanitisation of communication equipment.*



*Social distance maintained at the Ship's office.*





*Sanitisation of the deck and walkways.*



*Disinfection of accomodation.*

communication from shore to office and also photographic reviews helped to an extent. In spite of the trying circumstances, the drydockings of the ships are being completed so that the maintenance and safe operations of the ships remain unaffected and that our customers' cargo is transported safely and on time.

The Management sanctioned a special allowance to all the officers and crew effective April 1st as a token of recognition to the call of duty in these difficult times, which has kept the ships' crew confined to the ship, without any opportunity of going ashore in ports.



*Sanmar Royal - crew change at Tuticorin.*

*Road transportation for crew change to Tuticorin.*



*Social distance maintained during pilotage on the Hooghly.*



# Jolly Rovers stay fit during the lockdown

With the coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent lockdown forcing the Jolly Rovers players to stay put indoors, The Sanmar Group cricket team, under the mentorship of Bharath Reddy, ensured that the players continued to maintain the kind of fitness their game demands.

Several indoor activities for physical and mental skill training were facilitated by the core team consisting of Ajay Kudua, G Jayakumar, J Shyamsunder and U Dhanasekarapandian under guidance from Bharath Reddy.

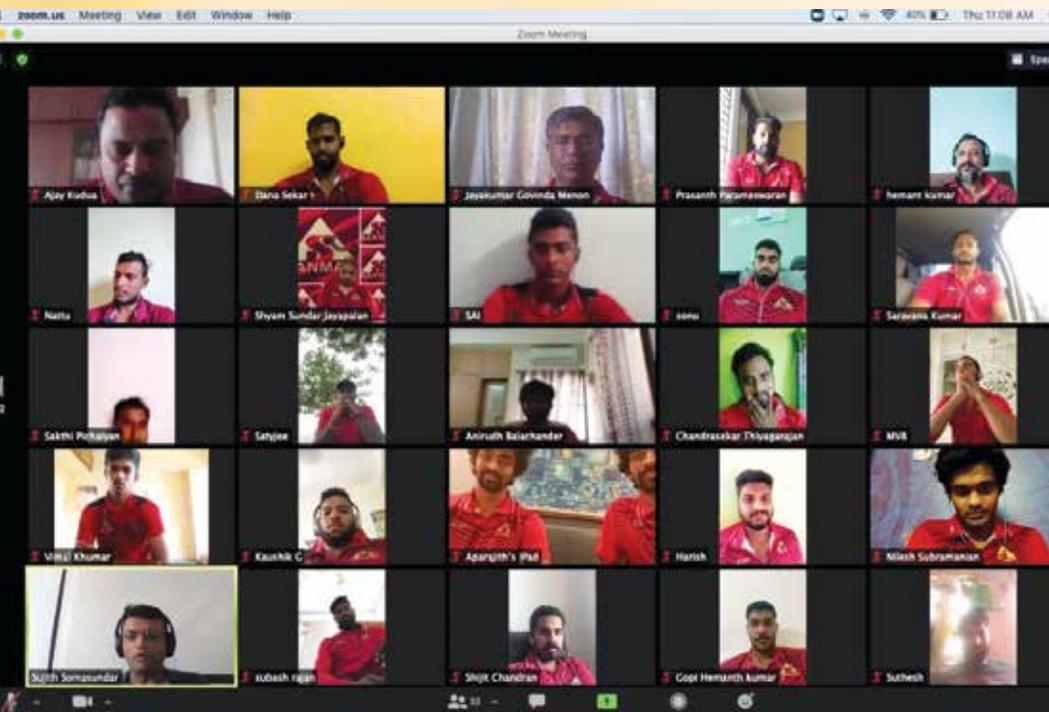
A weekly training programme was charted out for the players with Zoom sessions for strength training and yoga for three days, and individual schedules drawn by the physio and trainer for three days. The interesting aspect was that the players had to adapt and use one household item, could be watercan, chair etc., for strength training.

The core team ensured that the batting and bowling videos of players were monitored by coach Jayakumar on a daily basis.

Three different mental skill development sessions were conducted for Jolly Rovers players by Team India bowling coach, B Arun, Team India fielding coach R Sridhar and Sujith Somasundar, head of education at National Cricket Academy and life skills coach.

Some of the topics covered in these mental skill development sessions were: work ethics, mindset, perfect practice, confidence building, consistency, resilience, social adaptability, self awareness, mutual trust, focus, and commitment.

It was a mutually engaging experience for the last five months with the Sanmar core team striving hard to keep the players' spirit high and the players responding with equal gusto.





2 MONTHS OF HARD WORK  
BEFORE LOCKDOWN  
&  
AFTER LOCKDOWN



# Zoological parks in India

## Call of the Wild

*Visiting the zoo excites people of all ages. With India being a homeland to over 47000 species of flora and 81,000 species of fauna, there are several magnificent zoological parks spread across the country. And zoos in India house more than just animals. They are also accompanied by snake parks and bird sanctuaries among other things. While there are over fifty zoos in India, let us take a peek at a few prominent ones in these Matrix pages.*

*The first public zoo dates back to 1855, established in British India with the support of the Nawab of the Carnatic is the Vandalur zoo at Chennai, later named as the Arignar Anna Zoological Park.*

### **Arignar Anna Zoological Park**

This is one of the biggest zoos in South Asia, and India's biggest too.

Home to some 1500 species including many endangered ones, Vandalur zoo is spread across 1490 acres. There are totally 81 enclosures. There is a 'student zoo club', whose members are imparted training and education about wildlife.

With dry deciduous and dry evergreen scrub vegetation, the park is home to many different animals like baboons, lion-tailed macaques, barking deers, etc. A few exotic species like the Emu and Cassowary, which are flightless birds from Australia, attract attention. Nocturnal animal house, Safari Park, a walk-through aviary, butterfly house, pre-historic animal park, reptile section, prey-predator, enclosures, aquarium and a not-to-miss manmade waterfall are other attractions in this zoo.



*Arignar Anna Zoological Park*

## Nandankanan Zoological Park

Being the second biggest zoological parks in the country, Nandankanan is located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. 'Nandankanan' in mythology means "Garden of Heaven," delineating the ecstatic but imaginary beauty of the celestial gardens. Nandankanan has many a first to its credit. It is the first zoo in the world to breed White tiger and Melanistic tiger. It is the first zoo in India where endangered Ratel (honey badger) was born in captivity. It is also the only zoo in India that is home to the Patas monkey, Eastern Rosella and Open-billed Stork. Besides, it has Orangutan, Indian Pangolin, Spotted Munia, Burmese Python, which are rare in other zoos, but can be seen here. It also has Green-winged Macaws and Cinereous Vulture. Nandankanan has created its unique place for successful captive breeding of endangered Gharials in 1980.

It is the only conservation breeding centre of Indian Pangolins in the world. It is the only zoological park in India to become an institutional member of World Association of Zoos

*Ranthambore National Park*



and Aquarium (WAZA). It is the only zoo in India after which an express train Puri-New Delhi express has been named as "Nandankanan Express".

## Indira Gandhi Zoological Park

The third biggest zoological park in India, the Indira Gandhi zoological park, is located amidst Seethakonda Reserve forest, covering an area of 625 acres in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. Surrounded by scenic hills of Eastern Ghats on three sides and Bay of Bengal on the fourth, this zoo houses 843 animals including mammals, carnivores, lesser carnivores, ungulates, reptiles, birds and butterflies belonging to 123 species in a natural ambience. This place is also home to many free ranging animals and birds owing to its existence in a forest area close to Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Nocturnal Animal House with Owls, Porcupines, and Civets is a special attraction in this zoo.

## Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park

Being the largest zoo in India, spread over 5500 acres, Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, has been developed on a mythological theme, depicting the various animal forms of Lord Vishnu - Matsya, Kurma,



*Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens*



*Thiruvananthapuram Zoo*

Varaha, Narasimha avatars. Named after “Sri Venkateswara” the Lord of Seven Hills in Tirupati, the enclosures for most of the native faunal species have been given mythological names according to their role/ relation described in any of the ancient scripts.

The zoo had an exceptionally heavy leopard called ‘Balaji’, which weighed 139–143 kg against the normal weight of 70 kg of its class.

### **Sakkarbaug Zoological Garden**

The oldest Zoological Garden in India, the sprawling Sakkarbaug is

located in Gujarat, over an area of 200 hectares. Opened to the public in 1853, Sakkarbaug is popular for the pure bred Asiatic lions, which roam freely in their natural habitat. Some of the other fauna includes panther, deer, antelope, wild boar, blue bull, black buck, and spotted deer. In 2009, this zoo became the only one in India to hold African cheetahs when it traded three of its lions with a Singapore zoo for two pairs of cheetahs.

### **Thiruvananthapuram Zoo**

Built by the Maharaja of Travancore, Thiruvananthapuram zoo is yet another of the oldest zoos in India. Although, Swathi Thirunal Maharaja (1816-1846) is said to be the visionary behind, it was his brother Uthram Thirunal Marthanda Varma and the then British Resident General Cullen who established the museum and zoo in Thiruvananthapuram. Spread across 55 acres, lofty trees, towering bamboos, lush green landscapes give this zoo a rare distinction of being one of the most beautiful ones in South East Asia.

Among other animals, the zoo houses reptiles including the green Anaconda, one of the largest snakes in the world, a butterfly garden which has more than a hundred species of butterflies and an aquarium with a huge variety of fishes.

### **Ranthambore National Park**

A royal home for the tigers, this park is one of the biggest and most renowned in Northern India. Being the best animal safari zoo, especially of tigers, the Ranthambore National Park spans over 1334 square kilometres. Located in the Sawai Madhopur district of south-eastern Rajasthan, this park was once considered a famous hunting



*Nandankanan Zoological Park*



ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur. Today, the Ranthambore National Park terrain is a major wildlife tourist attraction that has drawn the attention of many wildlife photographers.

Ranthambore National Park was home to Machali, India's celebrity tigress. Other fauna include the Indian leopard, nilgai, wild boar, sambar, striped hyena, sloth bear, southern plains gray langur, rhesus macaque, mugger crocodile and chital.

### **Himalayan Zoological Park**

Well known for its red pandas, the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, also known as Darjeeling Zoo, is the largest high altitude zoo in India, perched at an elevation of 7000 ft.

Apart from red pandas, the zoo houses quite a few endangered animals, such as Siberian tigers, mountain goats among others. The zoo is a birdwatcher's delight since it attracts birds of many different species, such as rose ringed parakeets and hill mynas to name a few.

### **Jim Corbett national park**

Established in the year 1936 as Hailey National Park, the Jim Corbett National Park lies in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. Named after Jim Corbett, a well known hunter and naturalist, this has the glory of being India's oldest and most prestigious National Park. Project Tiger was first launched here in 1973.

Elephant Safari in Jim Corbett National Park is a special treat to the travellers. Corbett is among the few tiger reserves in India that allows overnight stay. This is also a shelter for rare species like otters and the endemic fish eating crocodile.

### **Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens**

Mysore zoo originally called the Palace Zoo and later as Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, was created from the private menagerie of Maharaja Sri Chamaraja Wodeyar in 1892, on 10 acres of the summer palace. Now it is spread over 157 acres with the acquisition of the Karanji Tank. Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur engaged GH Krumbeigal, a German landscaper and a horticulturist to create beautiful and attractive landscape for the zoo. The zoo has carved a niche for successfully exhibiting some of the rarest animals like Californian Sea lions, American Bison, Guanaco, Secretary Bird, Polar Bear, Penguin, Kangaroo and even White Elephant in the past.

As the coronavirus lockdown continues across the country, various zoos are implementing different methods in order to keep the animals safe. The preventive disease management protocol is being followed. And, zoos across the country are getting used to a new normal – with birds and animals thriving in this solitude, except some like the elephant which seem to miss the visitors.

# Online schools – The New Normal

## Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar

Since the onset of the pandemic, teachers have constantly been reinventing themselves to deal with the unprecedented situation and what is now called the new normal.

The greatest responsibility is ensuring that learning never stops. So, our teachers are using Microsoft Teams to take online classes from V to XII, and study materials are sent through pre-recorded videos, PowerPoint presentation and worksheets for classes till IV.

One learning that has been derived from this situation is that we now can never totally revert to physical classroom only. We find that the road ahead is blended learning.

Rather than use of technology as a main tool for teaching, it should be used as an enabler to reinforce and revise the concepts taught by the teachers, and to supplement the entire teaching process.

Of course, online classes or blended learning comes with its own set of challenges - challenge like adaptation of teachers to an entirely different system, problems of connectivity and so forth.

Surprisingly the education system as a whole and many schools like ours in particular, have been coping extremely well with this set of challenges using innovative ways of teaching even using jugaad occasionally.

This is a major step towards digitalisation, which is the aim of our school which has also been incorporated in the new education policy as a prerequisite.

**Mita Venkatesh**

*Principal*

Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School,  
Adyar.



## Sri Sankara Vidyashramam, Thiruvanmiyur

It is widely believed that online learning can increase retention of information and as such may remain as the new paradigm of teaching for some time to come. There are however challenges to overcome and hurdles to be removed. Some students without reliable Internet access struggle to participate in digital learning. In the current situation, where time is the essence, it will be critical to develop simple but effective technologies to make the transition smoother and comfortable for both students and teachers alike.

Teachers - The Fulcrum in the New Wheel of Education.

Evidently teachers have a pivotal role to play. Teacher-student relationship can go a long way in the success of e-learning.

At the Sankara Vidyashramam, many teachers have reached out offline to children who are slow learners and infused in them a sense of confidence to become active learners. In fact, they periodically talk to them in order to allay their fears and ensure they give them moral support in trying times triggered by corona virus.

Our teachers have undergone extensive training to conduct classes via Zoom / Microsoft Teams. Classes 5,6,7 have online lessons via Zoom and classes 8

to 12 via Teams. For the primary children, classes are conducted by WhatsApp. Here the videos are fewer and have more of audio content, in order to reduce mobile / laptop usage. Worksheets are given out to enhance learning. Our teachers demonstrate simple science experiments to make the classes interesting. Resources from TATA Class Edge Interactive Boards are used by the teachers for classes 1 to 10 to reinforce learning.

We have taken care to ensure that the supportive study materials given to the children are crisp and simple, to facilitate better writing and learning. Objective type tests are given periodically to assess the learning levels of children.

In accordance with the latest GO, a specific teacher is designated as a Counsellor at each level to deal with multitude of issues faced by children, ranging from emotional aspects to academic or connectivity issues due to lockdown.

In the meanwhile, Schools must formulate comprehensive post pandemic recovery plans like compensating for the disruption of the academic calendar, completion of lessons, adjustment of exams/vacations, co-curricular activities and the revival of physical class room environment so that children don't miss out on the cherishable aspects of learning.

**Kalpalatha Mohan**

*Principal*

Sri Sankara Vidyashramam  
Matriculation Higher  
Secondary School,  
Thiruvanmiyur.



# COVID-19 Mock drill

## Emergency response plan at Sanmar Speciality Chemicals, Berigai



*Symptomatic person identified.*



*Disinfection of work area.*

As part of an emergency response plan to tackle COVID-19 at the plant, a mock drill was conceptualised and executed at the Sanmar Speciality Chemicals, Berigai.

The drill involved identification of the symptomatic person, contact tracing, medical examination of patient with COVID symptoms, and shifting him to a quarantine area.

In addition, plant personnel were trained in aspects such as disinfection of work area, use of safety equipment, PPEs, face masks, sanitisers, and on the importance of hand washing.



*Contact tracing.*



*Medical examination.*

*Communication with plant employees.*

*Debriefing session.*



# Staying safe, staying healthy

## Covid Preventive measures

@ Mettur



### COVID-19: Protective face shields

To enhance protection and as a COVID preventive measure at Sanmar plants across locations, face shields have been provided to employees exposed to the risk of cluster operations, close maintenance and security interactions and in DCS control rooms.



@ Cuddalore

As a COVID preventive measure, UV disinfection system for inward stationeries (letters and small parcels, etc.) was installed at Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd.



## CSR activities

@ Mettur



Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur, distributed bed sheets for COVID patients undergoing institutional quarantine, as requested by the sub collector, Mettur.

As requested by the District Collector, Salem, Chemplast provided 6000 face masks to the Joint Director Industrial Safety and Health, Salem for distribution to various offices.



@ Berigai

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals, Berigai facilitated sanitisation of rural areas including Singiripalli, Seekanapalli and Kurubarapalli near Berigai. Masks were distributed in the villages and the rural folks were briefed on the importance of wearing a mask, sanitisation and maintaining social distance.



## @ Karaikal



On request from the Public Works Department, Chemplast, Karaikal, provided over 20 litres of sanitiser.

Disinfection activities at rural areas in and around Karaikal - Mudali Medu and Vadaku Vanjore Villages - were carried out by Chemplast Karaikal.

Financial contribution was made to conduct a temple function at Vadaku Vanjore, Karaikal.

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## @ Cuddalore

Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd provided Vitamin C tablets for distribution to COVID infected persons. These were handed over to the Deputy Director of Health, Cuddalore, Dr M Geetha on 11 July 2020.



# Legends from the South:

## Cho Ramaswamy (1934 –2016)

Born into a family of lawyers, Srinivasa Iyer Ramaswamy, better known as 'Cho' Ramaswamy, was a man of many parts and among them certainly, part Vidushak, part Chanakya, and both equally engaging.

Better known as the editor of '*Thuglak*,' the periodical, Cho was a writer with a huge repertoire ranging from an actor, a political satirist, playwright, film director and a lawyer.

The name 'Cho' that the world knows so well, was the name of the character he played in a Tamil play in 1957, written by Koothapiran, titled '*Thenmozhiyaal*.'

Few like minded youngsters along with Cho's brother Rajagopal, started an amateur drama artist troupe, named Viveka Fine Arts, which Cho joined later to become its main playwright. Over a period of time, there was a dearth of a director, and Cho adorned that hat too, and led the troupe to its fame.

Most of the then film actors came from drama troupes, which gave them the experience they needed, and Cho was no exception. In the play '*Petralthan Pillaiya*,' he acted as a bike mechanic which became a huge success. When the play was later adapted into a film by director Bhimsingh, Sivaji Ganesan persuaded Cho to play the same role in the film too, leading to Cho's entry into the film world. Thus, Cho made his debut in 1963 with '*Paar Magale Paar*' as a comedian.

His unique way of talking in the Madras dialect raised his popularity very soon. He not only acted but also wrote screenplays for movies. The film '*Bommalattam*' with the immortal song '*Vaa Vadhyare Voottanda*,' for which he wrote screenplay, was a runaway success.

Cho successfully managed to carve a niche for himself in the film industry and worked alongside many super stars. He is remembered for his roles with MGR in the films *Adimai Penn*, *Oli Vilakku*, *Neerum Neruppum* and *En Annan*. With Sivaji it was *Thanga Padhakkam*, *Galatta Kalyanam* and *Gauravam*. He did a number of films with Jaishankar and Sivakumar too. In the 1980s and 90s he acted in films with the popular heroes, Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth.

From 1963 to 2005 he acted in 180 Tamil films and directed 5 films. He also wrote and directed 20 plays, wrote and acted in 27 Television serials. He wrote 10 books. Apart from being an actor, he was both the screenplay and story writer of films such as *Thenmazhai*, *Ninaivil*

*Nindraval*, *Bommalattam*, *Aayiram Poi* and *Panam Paththum Seyyum*, all of which were box office hits.

Though he scripted several dramas and super hit films, he is known even today for the 1968 satirical play *Muhammad bin Tughlaq*, in which he played the title character. The script was so novel that it is relevant even after four decades of its release, not just for its humour, but also for its content. This laid a foundation for Cho to step into Journalism as a political satirist.

Cho started the magazine '*Thuglak*' in the year 1970, as a political weekly magazine. He conveyed his message to people through political satire. Cho was the only person from the southern region of India to oppose the emergency, when Indira Gandhi was in power. He had strongly opposed it and even brought out his magazine with a black cover, to show his opposition.

When asked if he was not scared of opposing political and highly influential people in the society, he said that he was a fatalist, and strongly believed that when his time came, nobody could do anything to make him live longer or shorter. He was forthright in his opinion on people and was relentless in exposing them.

He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the then President of India, KR Narayanan, where he served as



an MP from November 1999 to November 2005.

Many politicians including late chief minister of Tamil Nadu J Jayalalitha, considered him as a well-wisher and a 'Chanakya' of politics.

His basic nature of fearlessness and the determination not to seek favours, made him address the then Gujarat Chief minister and present Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the Merchant of Death, in a positive way. This showed the feisty Cho's way of poking fun at power. He never missed an opportunity to make fun of politicians and their faux-pas.

Cho's other writings covered a wide variety of subjects. Well-versed in the Indian epics, Vedas and Puranas, he wrote copiously on religion and culture. His fluency in Sanskrit was vehemently displayed in his writings in *Thuglak*. 'Vande Mataram,' an article that Cho wrote in *Thuglak* (later released as a book by Alliance), had a Sanskrit verse, sourced from the Upanishad or Kautinya. At the end of the final chapter, after 50 weeks, Cho confessed that the verses were his own. "You wouldn't have given it a second look if I had told you that. Now the purpose is served," he wrote.

This fearless, multitalented personality died of a cardiac arrest on 7 December 2016, aged 82. He is survived by his wife, Soundara Ramaswamy, son Sriram, and daughter Sindhu.

He died a day after his close confidant and friend, the late chief minister J Jayalalitha, passed away. Actor Rajinikanth disclosed later that Jayalalitha had always wished that Cho should live as long as she lived. He quoted: "As it turns out, he was alive till then and even few hours after that."

On 25 January 2017, the Government of India announced the Padma Bhushan award, posthumously for his contribution towards Literature and Journalism.

