

Department of Music - School of Performing Arts and Fine Arts

VIBRATING STRINGS

E-newsletter Volume - 3, No. 1 (January - June 2021)

Message from the Dean & Head

Vibrating Strings – The biannual E-Newsletter from the Department of Music enters the third year. With the fight against the Pandemic pervades the entire world, the members of the Department of Music have been trying their best to overcome the challenges and excel in various Academic, Research, and Cultural activities. Several online platforms are utilized for Learning & Teaching, Research, and for the Professional development of Faculty, Research Scholars, and Students. This issue speaks about the achievements of all the members of the Department in various spheres. A section in this volume is also dedicated to the experiences and narrations by the members, in fighting against COVID -19 and overcoming the same. Looking forward and wishing for a very bright and sparkling future for the Department, in the days to come ahead.

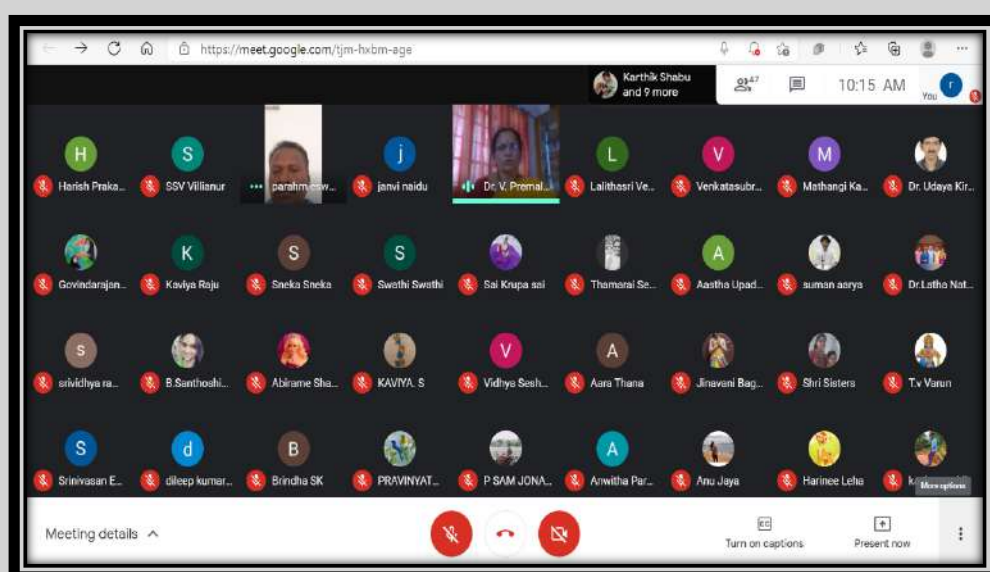
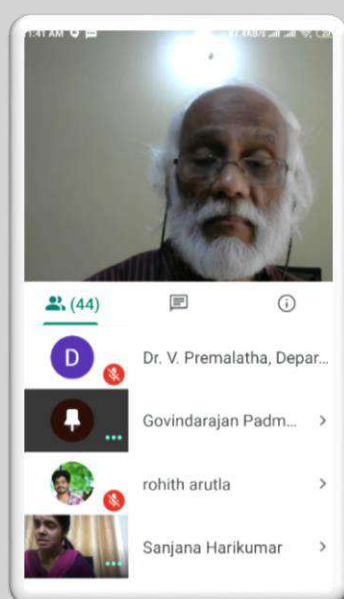
V Premalatha

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174th Thyagaraja Aradhana Celebrations

The 174th Aradhana of Sadguru Sri Tyagaraja Swamy was organized as an Online Music Performance of the Saint Composer's creations, on 13th and 14th February 2021. The event commenced with an invocation by Mr. Nirmal Harish, Ph.D. Research Scholar of the Department. This was followed by a welcome speech and briefing of the event by the Head of the Department, Dr. V Premalatha. The event was inaugurated by Prof. R. Parameswaran, Registrar I/c and Librarian, CUTN. More than 100 participants had registered, participated and gave their tribute to the great Music Composer, Sri Tyagaraja. The Department of Music was blessed with the presence of the Honourable Chancellor of CUTN, Padma Vibhushan Prof. G. Padmanabhan, who also happily rendered a composition of Sri Tyagaraja and wished all the participants on the occasion.



One Month Free Online Coaching for UGC-NET in Music

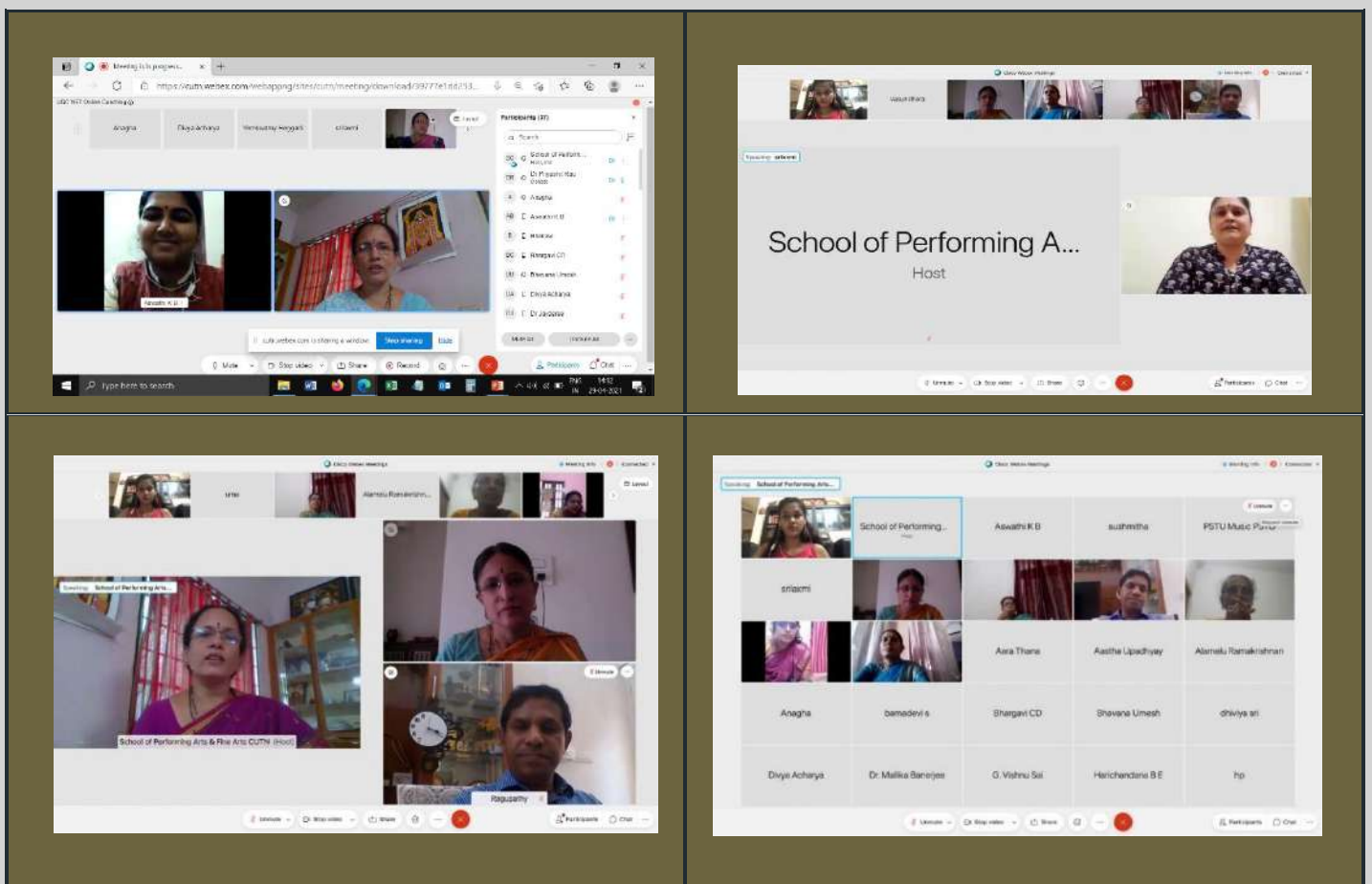
The Department of Music conducted a free online coaching for the NET exam in Music. A four-week schedule was designed to be organized in the month of April 2021. Online Lectures and Coaching was held for two hours on each working day. Dr. V Premalatha, Head of the Department, initiated the programme assisted by Dr. S Seethalakshmi, Assistant Professor and Ms. Bhairavi M, Research Scholar (UGC-JRF).

There was an overwhelming response from the participants representing 22 states of India and from more than 45 Universities across the country. Aspirants belonged to different domains like, Vocal, Instrumental, Dance,

Hindustani and Karnataka Music systems. The academic sessions were handled by Dr. V Premalatha, along with eminent scholars from different Universities of India, like, like Prof. Ritha Rajan, Dr. Mallika Banerjee, Dr. R N S Saileswari, Dr. Alamelu Ramakrishna, Dr. S Umamaheshwari, Dr Priyashri V Rao and Dr. S Seethalakshmi.

This online Coaching also included, Quiz, Test, Discussion and Presentation from the Scholars. On the concluding day, the Controller of Examinations I/c, Prof S Nagarajan delivered the valedictory address and commended the Department, Resource persons and all the Participants for this enterprising academic activity. Click here for the Brochure that was released on the occasion.

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Seminars / Conferences by Faculty members

- Dr. V Premalatha, as a Resource Person, gave a talk on “Handling Data in Music Research” for the UGC STRIDE sponsored 5 day Online Training Programme, organised by the Department of Music, at the Avinashilingam Institute of Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, on 4th February 2021.

- Dr. V Premalatha, served as a **Resource Person** to chair a session at the International Webinar on Music, organised by the Department of Indian Music, University of Madras, Chennai on 3rd March 2021.
- Dr. V Premalatha, presented a Paper titled, “**Studies on Music Manuscripts**” at the National Seminar on Music and Dance treatises, organised by the Department of Indian Music, University of Madras, Chennai, on 16th March 2021.
- Dr. Udaya Kiran K T has presented a paper on “**Playing techniques and technology behind presenting carnatic classical phrases on keyboard**” in the International Webinar series in Music on various phases on the Transition and Tradition in South Indian Music, conducted by Department of Music of the University of Kerala, 21st January 2021.
- Dr. Udaya Kiran K.T has presented a paper on “**Finding Rhythmic Aspects in Carnatic Classical Compositions**” in the International Conference on South Indian Music and Dance organised by the Department of Music, Avinashilingam Institute of Home Science and Higher Education, Coimbatore on 25th May 2021.
- Dr. S. Seethalakshmi presented a lecture on the Topic “**Music and Meditation**” organized by “Pyramid Meditation Channel” on 21st Mar 2021.
- Dr. S. Seethalakshmi gave a lecture on the Topic “**Law of Karma**” organized by Pyramid Meditation Channel on 30th January 2021.

Performances by Faculty members

- Dr.S.Seethalakshmi was invited to present Tiruppavai Paasuram Online daily from 16th Dec 2020 to 14th January 2021 in PMC Pyramid Meditation Channel.



- Dr. S Seethalakshmi was invited to perform concert for Enjoyment Science Academy – Aanandha Brahma in collaboration with SuDarshini- Academy of Music & Soul Science on 5th June 2021.

Publications by Faculty members

- Dr. V Premalatha - Published an article titled, “Telugu Commentaries on Samskrta Musical treatises” in SASTRA, International Journal of the University of Silicon Andhra, CA, vol -3, pp. 23-36, 2021. ISSN 2694-0965.
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/r2yrgmc6vytsskx/AE-PremalathaV-Telugu-Commentaries-on-Samskrta-Musical-Treatises-0760.pdf?dl=0>
- Dr. Udaya Kiran KT - Published article titled, “**Forming Advanced Practice Exercises in Carnatic Classical Music**” in Swar Sindhu, UGC CARE listed, National Peer reviewed/Refereed Journal of Music, ISSN 2320-7175, Volume 9, Issue 01, June 2021, pp.163-170.
<v09i01a26.pdf> (pratibha-spandan.org)
- Dr. S Seethalakshmi published article titled, “**Emerging technologies and Music education**” in Swar Sindhu, UGC CARE listed, National Peer reviewed/Refereed Journal of Music, ISSN 2320-7175, Volume 9, Issue 01, June 2021, pp.138-142
<v09i01a22.pdf> (pratibha-spandan.org)

FDP / FIP by Faculty members

- Dr. S Seethalakshmi completed Faculty Induction Programme organized by the University of Madras through online mode from 1st February 2021 to 2nd March 2021.
- Dr. Udaya Kiran K.T successfully completed one-month online Faculty Induction Programme II organized by the Human Resource Development Centre, University of Hyderabad from 22nd February to 23rd March 2021.

- Dr. Udaya Kiran, Dr. Seethalakshmi & Dr. Dileep Kumar attended the 1 day International Faculty Development Programme organised by CUTN on 30th March 2021.
- Dr. Udaya Kiran attended One week online short term program on Soft Skills for Effective Teaching organized by UGC-HRDC, University of Hyderabad from 31st May 2021 to 5th June 2021.

Achievements/ Awards

- Dr. Udaya Kiran K.T has won the Best Paper Award in the International Conference on South Indian Music and Dance on the topic ‘Finding Rhythmic Aspects in Carnatic Classical Compositions’ organised by the Department of Music, Avinashilingam Institute of Home Science and Higher Education, Coimbatore on 25th May 2021.
- Dr. S. Seethalakshmi was nominated as one of the Members of Editorial-cum-Advisory Board of Research Journal – Swar Sindhu, A National Peer Reviewed Journal of Music, approved by UGC CARE - ISSN 2320-7175 (online) and ISSN 2348-9197 <http://www.swarsindhu.pratibha-spandan.org/>

Extra-curricular/ Extension activities

- Dr. S. Seethalakshmi participated in the Drawing Competition conducted by NSS and ICC for Women’s Day on 8th March 2021.
- Dr. S. Seethalakshmi participated in the essay and slogan competition organized by NSS Units for Vigilance Awareness week, 2020 on 31st May 2021.

Seminars / Conferences presentation by Research scholars

- P. Nirmal Harish presented a paper, titled, ‘**The study of the raga Mangalakaisiki from the textual sources and the available notations**’ in the International Webinar series in Music on various phases

on the Transition and Tradition in South Indian Music, conducted by the Department of Music University of Kerala on 27th January 2021.

- Mr. Manoj N, presented a paper for the seminar in the theme “**Composition rendered in concert**”, in the International Webinar Series in Music on various phases on the Transition and Tradition in South Indian Music, conducted by the Department of Music University of Kerala on 27th January 2021.
- Bhairavi M, Research scholar presented a paper titled “**Accompanying Violinists - then and now**” at the International Webinar series in Music on various phases on the Transition and Tradition in South Indian Music, conducted by Department of Music of the University of Kerala on 1st February 2021.

Other Academic Activities by Research scholars

- An online discussion was arranged by the Discussion Forum for Online Teaching, (PD11- Classes Online, Learning Offline: The Students Speak) under eminent Panelists, Prof. Ram Ramaswamy and Prof. V Madhurima. **Mr. Manoj, N** was invited to join online for this panel discussion as a Student/ Researcher representative to voice the views of students with disabilities in undertaking online classes and training, on 31st of January 2021.
- Bhairavi M hosted (Master of Ceremonies) Nrithya Kala Kendra, Smt. Seetha Srinivasan’s disciple Selvi. Priyadharshini’s Bharathanatya Arangetram along with a few others held in Chamber of Commerce Auditorium, Madurai on 18th April, 2021.



Performances by Research scholars

- Mr. Manoj rendered kriti of Thyagaraja in the raga Pantuvarali for the ‘**Online musical offering of Sri Tyagaraja Aradhana**’, on 13th February 2021, organized by the Department of Music, CUTN.

- Ms. Bhairavi M. presented Thevaram and Thirupugazh concert along with Selvi. Abirami at Bodi, on 14th February 2021.



Departmental Seminar by Students

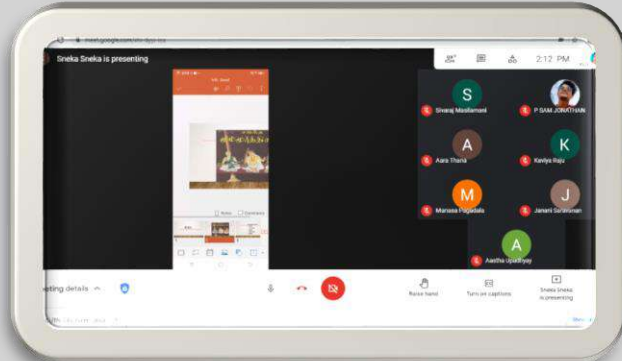
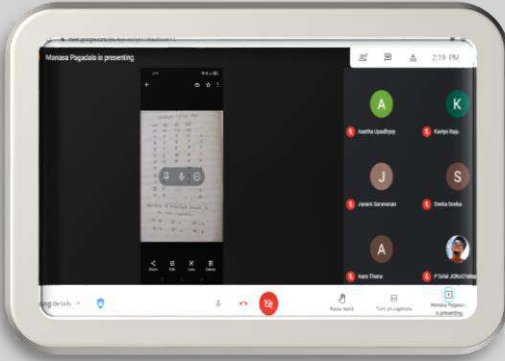
Seminar session was organized for 3rd year students of BPA Music on the course ‘**Sanskrit and Dravidian Scripts and basics**’ by Dr. S. Seethalakshmi with respect to writing of scripts related to specific languages during March 2021. The students presented on specific topics:

- Amaldeep . P – Vowels and consonants of Malayalam Language
- Arutla Rohith – Vowels and consonants of Kannada Language
- Khethavath Suman – Vowels, consonants and Matras of Telugu Script
- Kaviya. S – Vowels of Tamil Language
- Venkadesh. S – Matras of Tamil Language
- Kaviyarasi. C – The script of Gitam ‘Sri Gananatha’
- Santhoshini. B – Vowels, consonants and Matras, and the script of Gitam ‘Sri Gananatha’ in Devanagari Script
- Kavin Mughil. V and Kumaraselvan M – Consonants of Tamil Language

Seminar session was organized for 1st year students of BPA Music on the course ‘**Theory of Music -2 on the Units Musical Forms and 72 Melakarta Scheme**’, organised by Dr.S.Seethalakshmi. Presentations were done by the students on the following topics:

- Aarathana M P – Melakarta Ragas
- Aastha Upadhyay – Javali and Thillana
- Janani S – Kirtana
- Karthik Shabu – Padam
- Kaviya R – Ragamalika
- Pagadala Manasa – Katapayadi Sutra and its applications

- Penubadi Sam Jonathan Raju –The classification of Raga
- Sivaraj M – Classification of Tala
- Sneka A – Kriti



Student's Achievements

- Sneka, 1st year student participated in the Sri Thyagaraja Aaradhana festival held in Sri Natarajar Sabha in Mannargudi on 3rd January, 2021.
- R.T. Saikrupa, 2nd year student participated in Tyagabramha Aaradhana festival in Sri Natarajar Sabha, Mannargudi on 3rd January, 2021.



- Sneka (1st year) and Kamalasri V (4th year) participated in Tyagabramha 254th Jayanti Festival, Thiruvarur on 20th April, 2021



- Sneka participated in the 131st Bharatidasans's birthday festival, through online mode on 29th April, 2021

• R.T. Saikrupa participated in the my favorite **Nayanmar essay competition**, she was awarded with a book about the history of 63 nayanmars and a cash prize for her work on 5th July, 2021

- Pagadala Manasa, I year student had participated in "**Choose to challenge**" drawing competition conducted by NSS on 6th March, 2021.
- Pagadala Manasa had participated in "**Women empowerment slogan writing competition**" conducted by NSS and won the **2nd prize**.



- V. Suvitha, 2nd year student, participated in NCC women's day drawing competition and she was awarded second prize as well as cash prize for her work on 8th march, 2021
- S. Kaviya, 3rd year student held an NSS webinar series, where she was selected as one of the student coordinators for the webinar, on 18th February, 2021.

- Students of 3rd year, Devishree, Kavin Mughil, Kaviya, Kaviyarasi, Kumaraselvan, Priyadarshini, Santhoshini, Venkadesh & Vetrivel had given their musical rendering at Shri Narthagapureshvar Swami temple, Thiruthalayalangadu, Thiruvarur district during Shivaratri festival on 11-03-2021.
- S. KAVIYA participated in The Road Safety Awareness to Common People competition held by NSS-CUTN on 17th February, 2021.



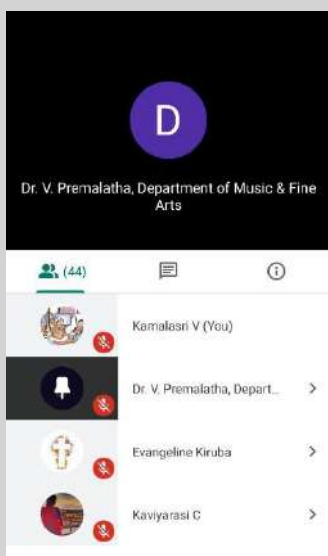
Online Farewell Meeting to Final Year Students

THE EMOTIONAL MEDLEY OF GRADUATION on 5th May 2021



Farewell and graduation can be both, the happiest and the saddest moment of life. A moment every person cherishes the most. The students of the Department, with a sense of pride arranged an online farewell meet for the beloved seniors. Here is a write up by the hosting team:

“Due to the unprecedented times brought by covid-19, we had to arrange the farewell through online platform. We set up one of the best and evergreen farewell experience for our seniors. We organised games as a fun element and awarded funny titles to each one of them. As the fun element came to an end our seniors sincerely shared their heartfelt memories with the Department teachers and their experiences through their 4 year campus / college life. Later, our beloved Head of the Department, Dr. Premalatha mam showed her support through a well-versed speech - full of encouragement, inspiration while bidding adieu with lots of well wishes to the first graduating batch of our



dept. Our other teachers at the Department also shared their well wishes and encouraged the outgoing stars, on their future adventures. Even the juniors expressed their feelings to the graduating seniors, sharing tales through fits of laughter and unshed tears, expressing the moments they shared from the very first day to this very moment, they said it all with heavy voices. With utmost respect they thanked the seniors who understood them best and catered for them in all the difficult situations.

As a parting gifts, sang songs dedicating it to them and some pre planned a medley of songs and played it for them. Lastly the seniors expressed their appreciation for the juniors; who put such efforts and thanked them for such a beautiful farewell”.

Brave Warriors of Covid

Ms. Suganya P, Computer Operator - She narrates:

“In the beginning though our family was not affected in the first wave of COVID-19, we were highly stressed seeing some of our neighbours, who were affected and hospitalized. All our family members were carefully following the safety measures like wearing mask, staying safe at home, steam inhalation and taking herbal immunity-boosting Kashayam etc.

But unfortunately, during the second wave, suddenly, we noticed that, my father who is 58 years started coughing heavily, had fever and severe body pain. I was much worried when my mother too was feeling down, since she was taking care of my father. I immediately took both of them to the Primary Health Center at Athikadai for testing. Both of them turned out to be positive, with infection obstructing the lungs too. We were highly depressed, since my father's health condition became pathetic, day by day. He was not able to speak continuously due to heavy dry cough.



Next day I and my cousins who stay together were advised to undergo test. One of us tested positive and was under observation and medication at GH, Thiruvarur. After a week I lost my sense of smell and taste and I was also tested positive. I was allowed to stay in home quarantine. After 15 days of observation, my parents and my cousin recovered and were tested negative.

The real 'after effect' of the infection was known after arriving home. Parents had gone down and were very weak. They could not eat properly, since they did not feel hunger and their taste had gone bad. I was depressed to see them in such a worst condition. I didn't know how to bring them back to normal, since their intake was very poor. I managed to take over cooking and all household chores, letting my mother to take rest. Neighbours were also scared to reach us and there were positive cases all around. We felt isolated from the rest of world, restricted to our home totally. At this juncture, it was my HOD madam, who gave me full moral support. She used to motivate me and counsel me morally to be brave. She instructed me step by step, how to plan my daily work at home, nursing my parents, alternate nutritional foods and snacks, easy cooking methods (I was not used to cooking at home daily!!), tips to improve my physical health and mind and so on. She also enquired and guided me how to keep track of the condition of my parent's health. A word of thanks cannot be enough for her. I felt that Goddess had been guiding me in disguise.

Dear friends, please follow the advice given by our Doctors, WHO and Government. All precautionary instructions are only for our well-being and we should never ignore them. It's not easy to reach Mukti, in this world, and Covid has taught us to follow a disciplined and traditional life style”.

Arutla Rohith, Final year BPA Music

I live in Telangana. First, my elder brother was positive for Covid in the first wave and we were all scared. It was too painful for my family to make him and see him stay isolated, at home. Immediately, I transformed my mind and started knowing about the Covid virus, curiously. I gathered plenty of information from my friends, who were also medical students, through Phone calls and social media. I watched media for information related to covid. Started guiding my brother accordingly and fortunately it worked out. This is how I earned my confidence.



There during the second wave, a very close family friend had come from US after a very long period (8 years). He and his wife suffered from fever. Initially, we thought it was a common fever, but it turned out to be Covid. There was no one else to take care of them. My mother and I used to carry food and helped them. My uncle's condition became worse and it was arduous to get a bed in the hospitals, around. Somehow, we admitted him and we were hoping, him come back soon but, a couple of weeks later, he failed to recover and was dead. We couldn't even had the fortune of seeing him last, but only his ashes.

That was so hard to digest and subsequently, my grandmother at home tested positive to Covid. Somehow, we took great efforts and she too cooperated with great courage and thus recovered from the infection. In spite of all, we managed to provide possible service by all our family members to the neighborhood. We served food to the children in the families, where elders were affected. This service gave us a lot of confidence and satisfaction.

I sincerely, suggest whoever reading this, not to ignore even a mild symptom and feel responsible, and stay safe, following all the precautionary measures prescribed by the Health Department and Doctors.

P. Nirmal Harish, Research scholar

Covid-19, a pandemic turned the world upside-down, many were affected by unemployment and mental trauma, and studies became stressful. Apart from this, people risked their own lives for survival. One such experience was that, when many of our neighbours in our apartment at Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai were affected and quarantined themselves with their families, at home. This included a new born and elderly people with lots of health issues. Since we came to know about that, we provided them with food, medicine and monitored their health condition over the telephone. There was some satisfaction in us in praying and helping at least a few. They felt it as a timely help and it gave them a moral support.



Things went on good, but after few weeks we all had few symptoms and we quarantined ourselves. The real effects and sufferings caused by the virus were experienced by us at that moment. Really we realized how gifted we are in some way ,as we have at least a place to stay, food to eat and good friends and family for moral support, that many people lack. It is easy to say that, Covid can be cured at home, but the sufferings undergone by individuals were huge.

Khethavath Suman, Final year BPA Music

I tested positive to COVID19 early this year. I am from Telangana and my area was under containment zone. I was the only one in my family who tested COVID positive. Before few days of taking Corona test, I got symptoms like fever, body pain, ageusia (loss of taste), hyposmia (partial loss of smell) and headache. Once I realised that I have similar symptoms to COVID, I quarantined myself from rest of the family members. The next day immediately I went to give my test to both rapid and RTPCR test. I got positive report in both. Doctors suggested me to quarantine myself in home since I was in very early stages only. I was separated from

other family members. Tiredness was the major issue during that period of time. I completely took rest. I was given a set of tablets to take all three times a day.

My family's support and the support from my Department, at CUTN, played a major role in bringing back myself to normal. My healthy diet which was taken care by my parents helped me and gave me lot of energy and immunity to fight back Covid. My diet plan for each day was to take as much as fruits, vegetables, nuts, eggs, as much possible daily. This diet gave me a lot of energy and immunity. Healthy drink at a particular interval was like a boost shot to my immune system. It was the time of my internal exams, considering my health condition, my Department supported me by adjusting and rescheduling my exam dates. With all this support I got recovered from Covid within two and a half weeks. And I got tested again for both rapid and RTPCR, in which it was negative.



Covid is more like a mental disease than a physical one. Mentally if we are weak, it would be very tough to overcome. To be mentally healthy, family and surrounding support is very important. My family and surrounding gave me hope that "we are there for you, you are going to overcome this", which was the best medicine I got to overcome Covid.

Bhairavi, Research Scholar

During the second week of June, I fell ill with fever and intense cold suddenly and proving my doubts, it was Covid-19, tested positive, on swab test. I had to immediately home quarantine myself for 14 days. It was a different experience of taking care of the self without any help.



Though I was connected to my family and my friend who is a doctor over the phone, it only got harder day by day to stay alone and be unproductive on top of the illness. This experience taught me to focus on happier things and neglect negative thoughts even though it was tough to be done than said. I am happy that there were not many complications and I am recovering well and good! "

*Editorial Team:
Dr. V Premalatha, Mr. Ratheesh P R, Mr. N Manoj, Ms. Jahanavi*

