

AFTERNOON

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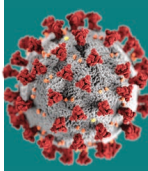
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Wait for the LORD, children a
reward from Him- Psalm 127:3



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farm on the anvil**

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**Southern states continue
reporting high COVID-19
caseloads**

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**710 COVID patients
received plasma
from banks**

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**Three boys drown
in lake near
Mecheri**

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**Coimbatore
Tomorrow**

Day

Mostly cloudy



Night

Low clouds

**Max
31**

**Min.
23**



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Man dies in wall collapse following heavy rains

BANDA, AUG 12 (PTI)
A 60-year-old man died when a wall collapsed on him following heavy rains in this district, police said on Wednesday. Jitendra Singh was injured in the incident in Bhabhua village on Tuesday night, they said.

He was rushed to the community health centre in Baberu, where doctors declared him dead, police said. The body was handed over to his family members after post mortem, police said.

60,963 fresh cases take India's tally to 23,29,638

NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI)
India's COVID-19 tally went past 23 lakh on Wednesday, with a single day increase of 60,963 cases, while the recoveries surged to 16,39,599, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total coronavirus cases in the country have mounted to 23,29,638, while the death toll climbed to 46,091 with 834 new fatalities being reported in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed. India had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7.

There are 6,43,948 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country presently which comprise 27.64 per cent of the total caseload. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 2,60,15,297 samples have been tested up to August 11 with 7,33,449 samples being tested on Tuesday.

3 Dead after violent clashes erupt in Bengaluru CM YEDIYURAPPA ASSURES STRICT ACTION

BENGALURU, AUG 12 (PTI)

At least three people were killed after police opened fire to quell a mob that went on a rampage irked over a social media post allegedly put out by a Congress legislator's relative, as a city locality witnessed arson and violence.

"Three people have died (in police firing)," Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant told PTI. Further, 110 people have been arrested in connection with the incident at Pulakeshi Nagar here. Scores of persons, including around 50 policemen, were injured in the violence that erupted on Tuesday night and continued till the wee hours of Wednesday, apparently prompted by the 'communally sensitive' online post.

The Congress MLA's residence and a police station were among those targeted by the angry mob, prompting the government to issue a stern warning that rioting and law

“ Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Wednesday said that he has ordered the concerned authorities to take strict action against those involved in the incident. CM Yediyurappa noted that all possible steps have been taken by the government to maintain law and order in the city. The Karnataka CM appealed to people to maintain peace and asserted that violence against journalists, police and people was unacceptable.”



and order issues will not be tolerated. Pant said Naveen, who allegedly posted the social media post has been arrested and appealed for peace.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said the "attack on the residence of MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy

and the DJ Halli police station and riot are condemnable."

"Already given directions to initiate stringent action against the criminals (and) the government has initiated all the measures to contain violence," he said. The attack on police, media persons and common citizens



was unpardonable. The government will not tolerate such instigation and mischief, he added. On Tuesday night, irked by the social media post, hundreds of people went on a rampage and set DJ Halli police station on fire.

They torched many police and private vehicles, smashed the belongings of MLA Murthy and those of his sister. An ATM was smashed into pieces. To disperse the mob, police resorted to lathi charge, lobbed tear gas shells

and later opened fire, killing three people. One of the victims has been identified as Yasin Pasha. The victim's father Afzal told reporters that his son was 'innocent.'

"My son operated a meat shop in the area and had gone for dinner when the police opened fire and he died. He is innocent and was not involved in any arson," he said. He claimed that some outsiders, who came in hordes and damaged property, were responsible for the violence.

Meanwhile, curfew has been imposed in the affected areas in and around DJ Halli and KG Halli. Legislator Murthy appealed against violence.

"I appeal to my Muslim brethren that we should not resort to violence for the fault committed by some miscreants. There is no need to fight. We all are brothers. We will get the person punished as per law. We will also be with you. I appeal to the Muslim friends to be

calm," he said in a video message last night.

Congress MLA and former minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan termed the violence as 'unfortunate.'

"I am hopeful police will take action against all those who are responsible for this. I also request everyone to stay calm and maintain peace in the area," Khan tweeted. Shivaji Nagar Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad too appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony.

Five killed as bus catches fire in Karnataka

BENGALURU, AUG 12 (PTI)

At least five people, including Three children, were charred to death and many others sustained burns when a Bengaluru bound bus they were travelling in caught fire on a national highway in Chitradurga district on Wednesday morning.

"Five people have died after a bus caught fire on National Highway 4 at about 3.30 am. The bus was



on the way from Bijapur to Bengaluru," a police officer said. The deceased have not been identified, he said adding a few others have

been hospitalised. He suspected that the vehicle was parked by the road side when it caught fire.

Terrorist gunned down, soldier killed in encounter in J-K's Pulwama

SRINAGAR, AUG 12 (PTI)

An unidentified militant and a soldier were killed, while another jawan was injured in a gunfight in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday, officials said here.

Security forces launched a search operation in an orchard in Kamrazipora

village of Pulwama in the early hours of the day on receiving information about the presence of militants there, they said.

The officials said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants opened fire, injuring two soldiers.

The injured security personnel were rushed to an

Army hospital, where one of them succumbed, they said.

One militant was also killed in the gunfight, the officials said, adding that an AK rifle and a few grenades were recovered from the encounter site.

The identity and affiliation of the slain militant are being ascertained, they added.

"Forget And Forgive"

Ashok Gehlot's call to MLAs as team Pilot returns

NEW DELHI/ JAIPUR: AUG 12

Two days after the Congress declared an end to its Rajasthan rebel crisis with a meeting between Sachin Pilot and the Gandhis, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot signaled a climb-down.

Ashok Gehlot, who met with Congress MLAs staying at a hotel in Jaipur last evening, said they were "naturally upset" after the truce but everyone has to move on. "Forget and forgive, and move on," the Chief Minister declared.

"It is natural for the MLAs to be upset. The manner in which this episode occurred and the way in which they stayed for a month, it was natural. I've explained to

them that sometimes we need to be tolerant if we have to serve the nation, state, people and save the democracy," the Chief Minister told reporters.

"We have to forgive mistakes. It is for the sake of democracy. Democracy is in danger.

More than 100 MLAs stood by me. That in itself is remarkable. This fight is to save democracy and the BJP failed to do in Rajasthan what it did in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. We will be united for the sake of democracy." Sachin Pilot dropped his month-long revolt against the Rajasthan Chief Minister after meeting with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday. Yesterday, as he returned to Jaipur for the

first time since his rebellion, Ashok Gehlot made it a point to be away, in Jaipur.

The two have yet to meet and are unlikely to even see each other before the special session of the Rajasthan assembly on Friday, say sources. That is, unless Mr Gehlot calls a meeting of Congress legislators to set the stage for a formal reconciliation. But the patch-up in Delhi will take more time to sink in.

The unresolved bitterness between the Congress's Rajasthan top two seeped through in their remarks to the media yesterday. Mr Pilot, who was sacked as Mr Gehlot's deputy and publicly excoriated by him, admitted that he was hurt at being called "nikamma (useless)".

PM Modi to launch 'Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest' platform on Thursday

NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday launch a new platform, "Transparent Taxation Honouring the Honest", which will carry forward the journey of direct tax reforms, an official statement said here.

The virtual event will be witnessed by various chambers of commerce, trade associations, chartered accountants' associations and "eminent" taxpayers, the statement issued on Wednesday said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur will also be present, it said. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has carried out several major tax reforms in direct taxes in the recent years, the statement pointed out. Last year, corporate tax rates were reduced from 30 per cent to 22 per cent, and

for new manufacturing units, the rates were reduced to 15 per cent, it said.

Dividend distribution tax was also abolished, it added.

The focus of the tax reforms has been on reduction in tax rates and on simplification of direct tax laws. Several initiatives have been taken by the CBDT for bringing in efficiency and transparency in the functioning of the Income Tax (IT) Department, the statement said.

This includes bringing more transparency in official communication through the newly introduced Document Identification Number (DIN), wherein every communication of the department would carry a computer-generated unique document identification number, the statement said.

Similarly, to increase the ease of compliance for taxpayers, the IT Department has moved forward with prefilling of

income tax returns to make compliance more convenient for individual taxpayers. Compliance norms for startups have also been simplified, it said.

With a view to provide for resolution of pending tax disputes, the IT Department also brought out the Direct Tax "Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020", under which declarations for settling disputes are being filed currently. To effectively reduce taxpayer grievances and litigation, the monetary thresholds for filing of departmental appeals in various appellate courts have been raised.

Several measures have been taken to promote digital transactions and electronic modes of payment, it said. The IT Department has also made

efforts to ease compliances for taxpayers during the COVID-19 pandemic by extending statutory timelines for filing returns, as also releasing refunds expeditiously to increase liquidity in the hands of taxpayers, the statement pointed out.



Sans proper data Russian COVID-19 vaccine's efficacy, safety unknown

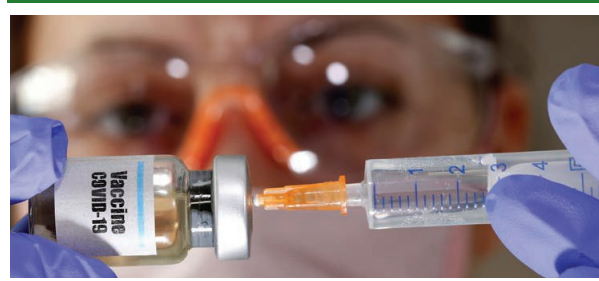
HYDERABAD, AUG 12 (PTI)

The efficacy and safety levels of The vaccine developed by Russia for treating COVID-19 patients is not predictable in the absence of data, a top official of the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology said on Wednesday.

His remarks come in the backdrop of Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement that his country has developed the world's first vaccine against coronavirus. Director of CCMB, Rakesh K Mishra said if people are "lucky" then the Russian vaccine will work. "Both, efficacy and safety of the vaccine is still unknown. They haven't conducted proper trials, which is stage-III trials.

That is when you get to know the efficacy, when it is tested on a large number of people and wait for two months and see whether they get a viral infection or

CCMB Chief Rakesh K Mishra



not. Doesn't look like they have carried out (large scale testings) because if you have done it, then show us the data. You cannot keep it confidential," Mishra told PTI.

He noted that the vaccine ought to be carefully evaluated before it goes to people and any country or company not releasing the data with respect to vaccine was bad. "It (Russian vaccine) is not safe.. Normally in any country this should not be allowed unless the vaccine goes to stage 1, 2 and 3 trials. I think the Russian government passed

a law recently, a couple of months back, that they have to fast track the vaccine preparation," the CCMB official said.

CCMB is India's premier research organisation centre. Asked about the progress of vaccines being developed by Indian pharmaceutical companies, Mishra said the data pertaining to Stage-I and II are yet to be published and it is expected that they may come by the end of August or first half of September.

"I will not be surprised if this first stage and second

stage results are encouraging, because many vaccines have passed it. The real test is in stage-III," he pointed out. The first dose of the vaccine-Sputnik-V, developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Healthcare Ministry was administered to Putin's daughter and she is stated to be 'feeling well.'

Putin has claimed that the vaccine has proven efficient during tests, offering a lasting immunity from the coronavirus.

12-yr-old boy dies of electrocution in UP's

MUZAFFARNAGAR, AUG 12 (PTI)

A 12-year-old boy has died of electrocution after coming in contact with a high tension wire here, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place in Jansath town of the district on Tuesday evening, they added. The body has been sent for an autopsy, the police said.

Man arrested in Sikkim for killing woman

GANGTOK, AUG 12 (PTI)

Police on Tuesday arrested an 18-year-old man for allegedly killing a woman in West Sikkim district. The woman had come to Geyzing in West Sikkim to fill up her online forms for college admission when the man stabbed her to death, they said. The police said on investigation it was found that the man and woman were in a relationship earlier. But the woman was no longer interested in the relationship which had angered the man.

Meghalaya Police busts interstate drug racket

SHILLONG, AUG 12 (PTI)

Meghalaya Police busted an interstate drug racket by arresting four persons including a woman and seized heroin from two places, an officer said on Tuesday. East Khasi Hills SP Sylvester Nongtnger said the Anti Narcotic Task Force under DSP (City) B Jyrwa busted the racket after receiving inputs that a drug consignment was to be bought from Guwahati to Shillong. Acting on a tip-off, a police team intercepted a vehicle at Umiam Lake viewpoint on Monday, the SP said.

Govt horticulture farm on the anvil

NAMAKKAL, AUG 12

Namakkal Collector K Meharaj inspected the government arts college area at Uthirakidikaval and Belukurichi areas of Senthamangalam taluk to establish government horticulture farm in 20 acre land. He said that the farm would help produce many saplings of fruit bearing trees and nurseries for vegetable plants and distribute them to the ryots and people. In the farm, many hibreed saplings of horticulture crops would be produced with the help of experts in the field. The government has already sanctioned the project, he added. Horticulture deputy director S Kannan, assistant director Yoganayaki and tahsildar Janaki accompanied him. SFDS: The collector said that the government is going to give Rs 520 worth several kinds of seeds free of cost to ryots to raise green fodder in their 10 cent of land under the State Fodder Development Scheme (SFDS). In the district, the aid would be given to cover 205 acres and a ryot can get the aid for a maximum 1 acre land and he should maintain the crop for next 3 years. Similarly, the ryots owning



Namakkal Collector K Meharaj inspecting a site at Belukurichi for establishing govt horticulture farm.

wet lands, Rs 373 worth seeds and fertilizers would be given free of cost and thus it is targeted to cover 400 acre in the district. A ryot can get the aid for a maximum 1 acre and maintain the green fodder for 3 years. For dry lands, Rs 756 worth seeds of cholam, cow pea, would be given to the ryots and it is targeted to cover 3000 acre this year under that method. Besides, 150 grass cutter machines

would be given at 75 percent subsidy to the ryots having a minimum 2 milch animals and green fodder crops in 0.50 acre land. The aid would be given to SHG women having 1 milch animal and 0.25 acre land. Besides, it was planned to buy green fodder at a cost of Rs 3.50 per kg from 30 acre land of ryots who got fodder seeds and fertilizers at subsidized price. Priority would be given to

the ryots having at least 2 milch animals and those who got free milch animals under the government scheme and those who already registered under the scheme.

Of the total benefit, 30 percent would be given to SC/STs. Those who already got the benefit could not avail the benefit again. Interested can apply in nearby veterinary hospital to register their names, he added.

Pilot of Kerala plane crash cremated with state honours in Mumbai

MUMBAI, AUG 12

Wing Commander (Retd.) Deepak Sathe, pilot-in-command of the Air India Express plane that crashed in Kerala last week, was cremated in Mumbai today with state honours. Several mourners lined up along the road as the funeral procession started from his residence in Mumbai's Chandivli.

The last rites were performed at a suburban electric crematorium in the presence of some of his relatives. The number of people allowed to attend the last rites was restricted due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Relatives, friends and others, including Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar, paid floral tributes at his residence before the final procession began. Slogans of "amar rahe" were raised when his body was being taken to the crematorium from the residence.

Earlier in the day, Maharashtra Government decided to accord a state funeral to the pilot, saying, his life will inspire young pilots. The Air India Express flight from Dubai with 190 people, including a six-member



crew, overshot the tabletop runway during landing at the Kozhikode airport amid heavy rain on Friday, killing 18 people, including both the pilots.

Wing Commander (Retd.) Deepak Sathe's body was flown to Mumbai on Sunday and was kept at the Air India facility near Terminal 2 of the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport for some time before being taken to Bhabha Hospital in Bandra.

Today morning, the body was brought from the hospital to the family home in Chandivli.

Residents of the housing complex paid tributes to

the pilot. Some were seen saluting him from their balconies.

The pilot's father, Colonel Vasant Sathe (Retd.), 87 and mother Neela, 83, reached the Chandivli residence from Nagpur, where they live.

The pilot's US-based elder son Shantanu also reached Mumbai on Monday for the last rites.

He, along with his mother Sushma and younger brother Dhananjay, were in tears as the last rites were performed shortly after noon. A wreath was placed on behalf of the Indian Air Force, where the retired Wing Commander was a test pilot before joining Air India.

Delhi Metro to reach its highest point at Haiderpur Badli Mor

NEW DELHI, AUG 12

The Delhi Metro is all set to scale new heights in Phase 4 as its viaduct at Haiderpur Badli Mor will be the highest ever in its network. In this project, while the height of the rail level will be 28 metres, the pier supporting the viaduct will be 25 metres, the highest till date. This will be much higher than Delhi Metro's present highest position at Dhaula Kuan, where the Pink Line passes at a height of 23.6 metres. The height has been necessitated as at this location, the viaduct will cross the presently

operational Yellow Line viaduct. The height of the new Metro line will be more than the height of an eight-storey building. The Phase 4 platform at Haiderpur Badli Mor, which will come above the Phase 3 station, will also be the highest ever platform in Delhi Metro at a height of 23.5 metres. The Mayur Vihar Phase 1 metro station on Pink Line is at a height of 22 metres while the Karkardooma station is at a height of 20 metres. DMRC engineers are planning a detailed construction plan to execute



this meticulous project. Construction of the pier and the subsequent launching of the spans will be done without impacting operations on the Yellow Line, one of Delhi Metro's busiest corridors. CCTV cameras and other monitoring equipment will be installed to keep round the clock checks on operations. A dedicated team of engineers will be employed 24x7 to monitor the progress. The 28.92 km long Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg corridor is an extension of Magenta Line and will come up with 22 stations. Construction work on this particular section started in December 2019.

India could have been in top 3 economies in 7-8 years: Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI, AUG 12

India's economy was growing at a good pace, had it not been hit by COVID-19-induced crisis the country could have been among the top three world economies in the next seven-eight years, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

While speaking during the book launch Connecting, Communicating and Changing: The Vice President of India's three years in office Rajnath Singh said:

"Venkaiah Naidu is blessed that he is vice-president of the country at a time when India is becoming strong and able to present a

strong image to the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

"The country was growing with a good economic pace, if this COVID-19 pandemic had not hit the country then in 7-8 years we would have been in the top three world economies.

But we are hopeful that we will be able to do so as we are fighting against COVID-19 strongly," he said. Rajnath Singh released a book chronicling the Vice President M.

Venkaiah Naidu's third year in office

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar launched the electronic version of the book.

Commenting upon the book, Rajnath Singh said: "Book title Connecting, Communicating and Changing represents what Venkaiah Naidu follows in his life.

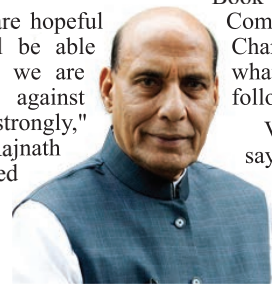
Venkaiah Naidu says nation first, the party next and self last. There are many speeches of Naidu in

this book. It will give a new perspective of knowledge to readers. We had the most productive session of parliament under his tenure." "Venkaiah Naidu is very emotional.

He is a great orator and expresses his feelings in speeches. People will be interested to read this book.

Good books are the best gift one generation can give to another.

I have heard his speeches on different occasions and I can say that there is great enthusiasm among the audience when he speaks," Rajnath Singh added.



The Benefits of Music Therapy

If you like music, you probably already know it can affect your mood. Maybe you put on your favorite song to pump yourself up for an important meeting or listen to soothing music when you're relaxing at home before bed.

Research has demonstrated the benefits of music therapy for people with depression and anxiety. While music therapy is often used to promote mental and emotional health, it may also improve the quality of life for people with physical health problems.

What Is Music Therapy?

A music therapy session may incorporate different elements, such as making music, writing songs, or listening to music. Music therapists are trained in more than music; their education often covers a wide range of clinical skills, including communication, cognitive neuroscience, psychological disorders, as well as chronic illness and pain management.

When you begin working with a music therapist, you will start by identifying what your goals are. For example, if you have depression and feel "down and out" most days, you may hope to use music to naturally lift your mood. You may also want to try applying music therapy to other symptoms of depression like anxiety, insomnia, or trouble focusing.

After discussing your needs, a music therapist's goals for your treatment might include:

- Improving your mood
- Enhancing your quality of life
- Strengthening your coping skills

- Encouraging emotional expression
- Relieving stress and symptoms of anxiety
- What Happens During a Session

Depending on your goals, a typical music therapy session lasts between



30 minutes to one hour. Much like you would plan sessions with a psychotherapist, you may choose to have a set schedule for music therapy say, once a week. Or, you may choose to work with a music therapist on a more casual "as-needed" basis.

Music therapy is often one-on-one, but you may also choose to participate in group sessions if they are available. Sessions with a music therapist take place wherever they practice, which might be a private office, clinic, or community health center. Wherever it happens to be, the room you work in together will be a calm environment with no outside distractions.

Each music therapist will have their own routine for sessions. For example, some therapists like to start and end sessions the same way each time, perhaps with a particular song. Therapists can use many different styles and techniques depending on their education, interests, and strengths.

Music Therapy vs. Sound Therapy

Music and sound therapy have several subtle but important differences. Each type has its own goals, protocols, tools, and settings. Music therapy is also a relatively new discipline compared

to the concept of sound healing, which is based on ancient Tibetan cultural practices.

Rather than making or listening to music to address symptoms like stress and pain, sound therapy is more focused on using tools to achieve specific sound frequencies. Drums, flutes, chimes, bells, tuning forks, and natural

sounds such as running water are used to produce tones, vibrations, and pitches that reach a specific frequency.

It's also important to note that those who practice and offer sound healing don't necessarily have the same education, training, and credentialing as music therapists. The training and certifications that exist for sound therapy are not as standardized as those for music therapists.

Another difference is where you're most likely to encounter each type. While sound healing is often a component of complementary or alternative medicine, a music therapist is more likely to work in a hospital, substance abuse treatment center, or have a private practice.

Who Can Use Music Therapy?

If you don't consider yourself musical, that's OK. You don't need any musical ability or previous experience to benefit from music therapy. Music therapy can be highly personalized, making it suitable for people of any age.

Even very young children can benefit from music therapy. In fact, you'd likely recognize the foundations and techniques in most preschool classrooms. Children and young adults who have developmental and/or learning disabilities can use music therapy to strengthen motor skills and

learn to communicate more effectively. Adults may find music therapy useful for everything from simple stress management to treating mental and physical illness.

Older adults may have much to gain from music therapy in a group setting where it can fulfill social needs as well as promote physical and mental well-being. Research has also shown that music can have a powerful effect on people with dementia and other memory-related disorders.

What Research Says

The uses and benefits of music therapy have been researched for decades. Key findings from clinical studies have shown that music therapy may be helpful for people with depression and anxiety, sleep disorders, and even cancer.

1. Depression

A systemic review published in 2017 found that studies have shown music therapy can be an effective component of depression treatment. According to the research cited, the use of music therapy was most beneficial to people with depression when it was combined with the usual treatments (such as antidepressants and psychotherapy).

A small study published in the Journal of Affective Disorders in 2015 indicated that when used in combination with other forms of treatment, music therapy may help reduce obsessive thoughts, depression, and anxiety in people with obsessive-compulsive disorder.

2. Insomnia

Many people find that music, or even white noise, helps them fall asleep. Research has shown that music therapy may be helpful for people with sleep disorders or insomnia as a symptom of depression. Compared to pharmaceutical and other commonly prescribed treatments for sleep disorders, music is less invasive, more affordable, and something a person can do on their own to self-manage.

Specific techniques like music-assisted relaxation therapy have been shown to benefit people with sleep

difficulties by creating a relaxing "pre-sleep" state. It can also be used in a non-home setting: Studies have shown that music can be a nonpharmacological treatment for insomnia in hospitalized patients.

3. Pain Management

Music has been explored as a potential strategy for acute and chronic pain management in all age groups. Research has shown that listening to music when healing from surgery or an injury, for example, may help both kids and adults cope with physical pain.

4. Post-Surgical Pain

A 2015 study published in the journal Complementary Therapies in Medicine found that when paired with standard post-operative hospital care, music therapy was an effective way to lower pain levels, anxiety, heart rate, and blood pressure readings in patients who were recovering from thoracic surgery.

Non-pharmacological distraction techniques are often preferred methods of treating pain in children. Many studies have indicated that music therapy can be a valuable tool within this arsenal of treatments. In fact, some research has even shown music may affect children's behavior even if they aren't consciously aware of it.

A Scandinavian study published in 2017 found that children and teens who listened to music with headphones during minor surgical procedures showed fewer post-surgical maladaptive behaviors (which are scored using a special questionnaire) for up to a week after surgery.

5. Labor, Childbirth, and Newborn Testing

Music has also long been a popular pain management strategy during labor and childbirth. A 2019 review of literature conducted by Sydney Mohr at Lesley University found that even though the research is limited, music therapy assisted childbirth

appears to be a positive, accessible, non-pharmacological option for pain management with benefits for laboring mothers and newborns. Newborns might also benefit from music therapy, especially during the common tests performed after birth. One study found that when music was added to standard neonatal pain management during heel prick blood tests, the premature infants' facial expressions and vitals (taken to be indicators of pain) were noticeably different. The premature babies who were exposed to music had lower heart rates and different facial expressions (believed to be indicative of pain).

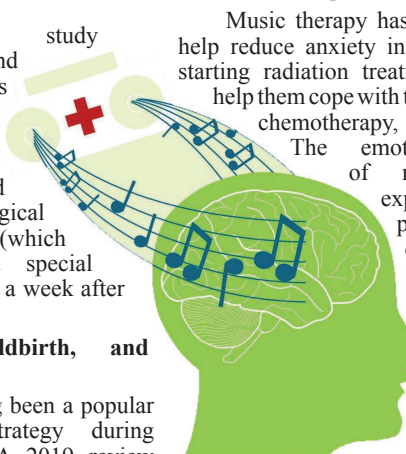
These changes were monitored during the test as well as for five minutes after it was complete. The researchers concluded that music could be a valuable addition to pain management in neonatal intensive care units, similar to how it can be used with older children and adults.

6. Cancer

Coping with a cancer diagnosis as well as going through treatment is as much an emotional experience as a physical one. In the same way cancer patients often need more than one type of treatment to address their complex medical needs, they also need different sources of support to take care of their emotional and spiritual well-being.

Music therapy has been shown to help reduce anxiety in cancer patients starting radiation treatments and may help them cope with the side effects of chemotherapy, such as nausea.

The emotional benefits of music therapy experienced by people with depression often apply to people with cancer as well, many of whom may experience symptoms of depression at some point after receiving a diagnosis, while they are undergoing treatment, or even once they are in remission.



Commissioner reviews Kurichi lake development work

COIMBATORE, AUG 12:

Coimbatore Corporation Commissioner Sravankumar consulted engineers on the development works being taken up under the Smart City Scheme in various tanks including a lake at Kurichi in the town and its safety aspects.

He said that works were going on to modernize 9 tanks including linking of Kurichi lake, located between Pollachi and Kuniamuthur road, with Noyyal river.

The aim of the works was to beautify the tanks, renovate them, restructure them naturally without affecting environment so that more focus was given for environment than modernization. As per the PWD norms, full tank level would be maintained under the work.



Corporation Commissioner Sravankumar consulting officials on Kurichi lake development project at the civic body's office on Monday.

Under the scheme, Kurichi lake was 9th in the list. Its total plinth area is 334 acre.

After removal of encroachments, the bunds would be strengthened with creating cycling, pedestrian paths, toilets in every 500 m length, boat house, eateries,

yoga, karate, training centres, community centres, gardens, floating floors, island like facilities for birds stay.

Due to urbanization, the water inlets were changed. So, only the tank protection committees alone were empowered to protect the

tanks, he added.

Corporation engineer A Lakshmanan, assistant executive engineer Buvaneshwari and Kurichi lake protection movement functionary SN Saminathan and many social activists attended the meeting.

Remote voting should inspire trust of all, assure integrity of electoral process

NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI)

Stressing on the importance of ensuring greater "inclusiveness" in elections, Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said remote voting should be such that it inspires trust of all stakeholders and assures integrity of electoral process and secrecy.

Delivering the keynote address on a webinar on "Technology aspects of remote voting: Exploring Blockchain" on Monday, he also made it clear that the commission is not envisioning Internet-based voting from home.

The remote voting project aspires for allowing voters residing in remote locations, away from their designated polling stations, to cast ballot in a secured fashion at a pre-designated place, an official statement said. He underlined the importance of ensuring greater "inclusiveness in elections" while noting that a large number of voters are unable to exercise their franchise due to



geographical barriers. By virtue of occupation, education, medical treatment or other reasons, there have been instances of current residence of such electors being different from the place of registration in electoral rolls, he observed.

Chandra, however, emphasised that in designing a technology-based solution, the primary consideration should be the ability to "inspire trust of all stakeholders, assure integrity of electoral process and secrecy and inviolability of ballot." Political parties, he felt, need to be reassured that the system is tamper-proof and secure. Remote voting, Chandra said, marks a departure from

a conventional polling station which was tied to a geographical location.

He expressed optimism that deliberations among experts will help the commission in designing a robust remote voting model which is more inclusive and empowering.

The initial idea for using blockchain-based voting solution emerged from an initial discussion of Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora during a visit to Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in October 2019.

The event was organised by the EC, in partnership with Tamil Nadu e-governance agency. The webinar brought together technologists, academicians, policy practitioners, cyber security experts from India and around the world.

The Election Commission has collaborated with IIT Madras to work on a new technology which will allow electors to vote from far away cities without going to the designated polling station of their respective constituencies.

16 new corona cases reported

ERODE, AUG 12:

With 16 new corona cases being reported, the total number of affected persons in the district rose to 1116.

A 40 year old SI, getting training in the Surampatti police station, Erode, was one among affected so that he was admitted to Erode GH. It is stated that he met an SI in Erode North police station who was afflicted with corona.

So, disinfectants were sprayed in the Surampatti station and people were temporarily barred to visit it. Similar safety aspects were made in the teachers colony, Erode, where he was staying.

Of 1116 affected persons, one person's name was shifted to other district. So, of 1115 persons, 709 cured after treatment, 17 died and 389 were under treatment, health officials here said.

2000 tons of rice arrived

ERODE, AUG 12:

Around 2000 tons of paddy came through train to Erode from N e e d a m a n g a l a m , Thiruvavur district.

The paddy came in 42 bogies and sent by many lorries to the TNCSC godowns. The officials planned to send it to the rice mills and then distribute the rice to the people through PDS shops.

product as the profits were high, the SP told reporters in Ongole, adding that Md Dawood and Md Hazi Sab of Jeedimetla in Hyderabad supplied the methanol and other material for sanitiser manufacturing to Srinivas.

"Our SIT arrested these five persons.

Later, owners of five medical shops in Kurichedu were also arrested for selling the spurious sanitiser, exhibiting culpable negligence," Kaushal said.

In fact, eight brands of sanitiser were consumed by rickshaw pullers, some beggars and other poor people in Kurichedu who were otherwise addicted to liquor.

The SP said seven other brands were also tested during the course of the investigation and they were found to be "okay."

Spurious sanitiser laced with methanol caused death of 16 people:AP police, ten held

AMARAVATI, AUG 12 (PTI):

Spurious sanitiser blended with methanol caused the death of at least 16 people who consumed it in lieu of liquor in Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh late last month, and ten people involved in its illicit distribution have been arrested, police said on Tuesday.

The victims, who were habitual tipplers, consumed hand sanitiser as an alternative to liquor, as regular shops were closed due to Covid-19-imposed lockdown, in Kurichedu in Prakasam district on different dates last month and died.

A special investigation team of the district police found that a particular sanitiser named Perfect Gold caused the deaths as it was made of toxic methanol instead of ethanol,



Prakasam Superintendent of Police Siddharth Kaushal said on Tuesday.

A person named Sale Srinivas alias Jajula of Vikarabad district in Telangana made the sanitiser illegally, along with his brother Siva Kumar, from a rented room in Hyderabad city and started selling it through various channels, he said. Another person Kesav Agarwal took up distribution of the spurious

KEC signs MoU with NHAI



KEC and NHAI officials at the MoU signing ceremony

ERODE, AUG 12:

Department of Civil Engineering, Kongu Engineering College (KEC) Perundurai, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The objective of the MoU is to enhance social Responsibility and Adopting a portion of National Highway

Stretches under Regional Office, Chennai. The Scope, of this MoU are facilitating the faculty, researcher and student to familiarize in the latest trends of highway and transportation sector.

This understandings bridges the gap between industry institution and familiarize the faculty and student in practicing the research tools adopted

in NHAI. NHAI project Director & Deputy General Manager Mr.V.Varadharajan, Prof.V.Balusamy, Principal, Kongu Engineering College ,Dr.P.S.Sathyamoorthy, IIPC Chief Co-ordinator, Dr.P.S.kothai, Head, Department of Civil Engineering and Assistant Professors along with NHAI director participated during signing of MoU.

Ker govt hands over Rs 1.30 crore compensation to ex-ISRO scientist

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG 12(PTI)

The Kerala Government on Tuesday handed over Rs 1.30 crore compensation to former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan, who was falsely implicated in the 1994 espionage case. The compensation has been given for settling the case filed by 78-year-old Narayanan against the government in a sub-court here seeking enhanced damages for his illegal arrest and harassment. Sources in the Chief Minister's office confirmed to PTI about the payment of the amount. The government had earlier handed over Rs 50 lakh to Narayanan three weeks after the Supreme Court ordered the relief holding that he was "arrested unnecessarily, harassed and subjected to mental cruelty", besides the Rs 10 lakh recommended by the National Human Rights Commission. The

espionage case, which hit headlines in 1994, pertained to allegations of transfer of certain confidential documents on India's Space programme to foreign countries by two scientists and four others, including two Maldivian women. The former scientist had to spend two months in prison before the CBI concluded that the allegations against him were false. The case was first probed by state police and later handed over to the central agency which found the charges to be false.

Narayanan had moved the apex court challenging the Kerala high court order which said no action was required to be taken against former DGP Siby Mathews and two retired Superintendents of Police-- K K Joshua and S Vijayan, who were later held responsible by the CBI for his illegal arrest.

AIADMK leader junks colleague's 'MLAs will pick CM' after 2021 polls line, roots for Palaniswami

CHENNAI, AUG 12 (PTI)

AIADMK leader and Tamil Nadu Minister K T Rajenthra Bhalaji on Tuesday strongly pitched for projecting incumbent K Palaniswami as the party's chief ministerial candidate in the 2021 assembly elections, contradicting the stand of a cabinet colleague.

Madurai-based party leader and Minister for Cooperation Sellur K Raju had on Monday said elected MLAs would choose the Chief Minister following the assembly elections next year if the ruling party was voted to power. Minister for Milk and Dairy Development, Bhalaji, from Virudhunagar district neighbouring Madurai and known for his sharp remarks on many issues, threw his weight behind Palaniswami.

"Edappadiyar (a reverential reference to the Chief Minister, addressing him by the name of his native) Endrum Mudalvar (is the Chief Minister for ever),"



he said. On his twitter handle, Bhalaji asked party leaders and workers to face the poll battle after fixing the target. "Let us face the elections by projecting Edappadiyar (as Chief Minister)," he said and also wanted to build the campaign around the persona of the incumbent.

"Let us succeed. 2021 is ours," he said. Raju had said AIADMK was being led by both Coordinator and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam and Co-ordinator and Chief Minister K Palaniswami.



Suzuki India launches I-Day campaign #ParkForFreedom

CHENNAI, AUG 12:

Saluting the spirit of India's frontline Pandemic warriors, Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd. (SMIPL), the two wheeler subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan today launched Independence Day campaign, #ParkForFreedom. The campaign consists of a digital film featuring Indian citizens revving their stationery vehicles and requesting people not to step outside their homes on 15th August unless it is absolutely essential.

The heartwarming campaign where the sound of accelerating engines is rhyming with the melody of 'Sare Jahan Se Acha' song, conveys a public interest message to curb the spread of Covid-19 by staying at home this 'Independence Day'. The move is expected to directly support our frontline warriors as by staying at home, we will save ourselves from the contagion and control the increasing number of cases. The 5-day long initiative is targeted at two-wheeler riders across the nation. Mr. Koichiro Hirao, Managing Director, Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd., said, "The objective of the campaign is to relieve some burden from the shoulders of our frontline warriors, who have been responsibly fighting the battle with Covid-19. This is the best return gift we can offer them considering the current pandemic situation. The essential service providers and healthcare professionals have been source of strength and stability in these unprecedented times", he praised.

"Both are our leaders and they are leading the party. As regards our policy, only the person chosen by the party MLAs can be the chief minister," he said.

"There is no second opinion about this," Raju, whose remarks on several matters had led to criticism told reporters at Madurai. Asserting that "no confusion can be created in AIADMK," on any such matter, the Cooperation Minister said the party continued to be "very robust and the achievements of the government" has been reaching the people.

Party sources, seeking to downplay the episode,said both Raju and Bhalaji wereknown for airing their views without inhibitions. While Raju,one of the party district secretaries in Madurai region in southern Tamil Nadu, is relatively high on the pecking order in the party, Bhalaji is also influential. Bhalaji was relieved of the post of Virudhunagar district secretary in March but made a

comeback last month getting back the key post. The action against him was taken earlier after his remark that "if DMK continues its support to Islamic terrorism, nobody can stop Hindu terrorism".

The factions led by Palaniswami and Panneerselvam joined hands in 2017 August after ousting V K Sasikala, aide of late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa and her kin including TTV Dinakaran from the party. Panneerelvam holds the numero uno position of coordinator in the party and Palaniswami is the co-coordinator, the second in command and all party decisions are taken jointly by them.

The government is led by Palaniswami as Chief Minister and Panneerselvam comes next as his deputy.

The AIADMK, after the death of Jayalalithaa in December 2016 was in a disarray till the two feuding factions came together.

11 children engaged as labourers rescued in T'gana; three held for trafficking

HYDERABAD, AUG 12 (PTI):

Three persons were arrested Here for allegedly trafficking 11 children from Uttar Pradesh and engaging them in work, police said on Tuesday. Acting on credible information that some children were detained and

exploited for work in two POP units at Hayathnagar on the city outskirts, police teams on Monday conducted raids and rescued 11 child labourers, they said. All the 11 children were trafficked by the owners of the two companies and detained in sheds located within

the premises of the units, Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Mahesh MBhagwat said.

In both companies, the accused persons manufacture the interior Plaster of Paris (POP) sheets which are used for ceiling in the construction of all buildings, police said.

The accused after paying an informal amount to their parents brought the children from Uttar Pradesh and got them engaged in the units where they were allegedly forced to work for 14 hours daily besides they were served rotten and stinky food, police added.

Southern states continue reporting high COVID-19 caseloads

CHENNAI, AUG 12 (PTI)

Southern states continued reporting High COVID-19 caseloads on Wednesday, the numbers being close to 25,000, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi took stock of the situation with four of the most affected ones from the region Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana.

While the PM reviewed the situation with 10 Chief Ministers, four of these southern states presented him their respective report cards and also made pleas on the finance and health fronts to effectively handle the pandemic.

The cumulative tally of COVID-19 cases from the five southern states and union territory of Puducherry stood at 24,704, with Andhra Pradesh topping the list with 9,024 new cases, while 87 more deaths pushed the overall toll to 2,203 in that state. According to the latest bulletin, 9,113 patients were discharged from hospitals in the state after recovering from the disease.

Andhra Pradesh now has 87,597 active COVID-19 cases after 1,54,749 people recovered. In Karnataka, 6,257 new cases pushed the total infections beyond 1.88 lakh but over one lakh persons have been discharged



following recovery, the government said.

The state witnessed 6,257 new positive cases and 86 related fatalities on Tuesday. Total deaths stood at 3,398.

As of August 11 evening, cumulatively 1,88,611 COVID-19 positive cases have been confirmed in the state, which includes 3,398 deaths and 1,05,599 discharges, the health department said.

Kerala, which is continuing to witness a spike in COVID-19 infections, Tuesday reported 1417 cases, including 36 health workers, as the toll has climbed to 120 with five deaths.

As many as 1,426 people have recovered from the infection today, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said. With positive cases rising in Malappuram, District Collector K Gopalakrishnan decided to impose complete lockdown on Sundays in the district.

Weddings, funerals, medical emergencies and petrol pumps have been exempted from the lockdown, a district administration

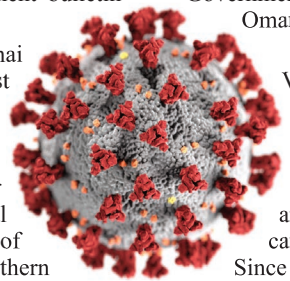
TN logs 5,834 fresh COVID infections, govt says treatment for non-virus cases unaffected

Tamil Nadu on Tuesday reported 5,834 fresh COVID cases taking the tally to 3,08,649, while 118 fatalities pushed the death toll to 5,159. Active cases stood at 52,810 with 6,005 discharges from various hospitals and in total 2,50,680 patients have recovered, a health department bulletin said.

Of the fresh cases, Chennai city reported 986, the highest in the state and the three neighbouring districts of Chengelpet, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram together outnumbered the state capital with a combined tally of 1,080 infections. Other northern districts, Ranipet, Tirupattur, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Kallakurichi in total recorded 877 cases. Southern districts Madurai, Sivaganga, Virudhunagar, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Theni, Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari

logged 1,232 cases. Chennai's share was 1,11,054 in the state tally of three lakh plus cases. As many as 107 had co-morbidities among the dead and the deceased include a 28-year-old woman, a 95-year-old man and a 42-year-old man who was brought dead to Government Medical College Hospital at Omandurar Government Estate here.

Health Minister C Vijayabaskar, meanwhile, said despite the pandemic, treatment for patients suffering from other illnesses was being provided in government hospitals without any break. "Emergency medical care is being provided 24 x 7. Since March and till date, 5.09 crore outpatients and 27.30 lakh inpatients have been treated in government hospitals in Tamil Nadu," he said in a statement, adding 1.80 lakh deliveries and 68,479 caesarean section deliveries have been done during the same period.



press release said. Telangana reported 1,896 new COVID-19 cases, pushing the total infection tally to 82,647, while the death toll mounted to 645 with eight more fatalities.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) saw yet another day of dip in cases, with only 338 new infections being recorded, according

to a state government bulletin on Tuesday. The bulletin provided data as of 8 PM on August 10. The districts of Rangareddy (147), Karimnagar (121) and Medchal-Malkajgiri (119), Warangal Urban (95) were at the top in positive cases.

The total number of people who recovered from the infectious disease so far was 59,374, while 22,628

were under treatment.

In Puducherry, two more people succumbed to COVID-19 and 276 fresh cases were reported on Tuesday, where the aggregate touched 5,900.

With the two deaths, the toll rose to 91. Health Minister Malladi Krishna Rao said the overall active cases including 874 patients in home quarantine are 2,277.



Champions League

'Final eight' kicks off as PSG and Atalanta clash in Lisbon

LISBON, AUG 12

Four months behind schedule because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Champions League has reached the quarter-final stage with Paris Saint-Germain taking on outsiders Atalanta in Lisbon on Wednesday in the first game of the 'Final Eight'.

A straight knockout final tournament held in one place, akin to a World Cup or European Championship, was the only solution available to UEFA in order to complete its most lucrative club competition, suspended for five months from March until last weekend.

Two-legged quarter-finals and semi-finals have been done away with, and all eight teams have come to Lisbon, where they are following strict health guidelines including regular testing. No spectators are allowed inside stadiums.

PSG will therefore meet Atalanta at an empty Estadio da Luz on Wednesday at 1900 GMT, with the winners advancing to a semi-final against either Atletico Madrid or RB Leipzig, who play on Thursday.

The other quarter-finals are Barcelona against Bayern Munich the only clubs still in the competition to have won it before and Manchester City against Lyon.

The final will be on August 23, and UEFA can only hope there is no widespread outbreak of COVID-19 among any of the teams which could threaten the tournament.

European football's governing body has said that as long as a team has 13



healthy players including a goalkeeper, matches must go ahead, otherwise teams risk forfeiting matches.

There was a scare at the weekend when it was revealed two Atletico players had tested positive, but their squad has travelled to Portugal and their game is set to go ahead.

Before that match, PSG will look to reach the semi-finals for the first time since the Qatari takeover almost a decade ago and they were given a boost on the eve of their match against Atalanta as Kylian Mbappe was declared fit enough to play a part by coach Thomas Tuchel.

"If he trains well on Tuesday evening and nothing extraordinary happens, he will be in the team on Wednesday," Tuchel said.

Mbappe was left in a race against time to be fit for the start of the 'Final Eight' after suffering a sprained ankle in PSG's French Cup final win over Saint-Etienne on July 24.

Opponents Atalanta with an annual wage bill for their

entire squad believed to be equivalent to Neymar's salary for the year at PSG are in the Champions League for the first time.

The Italians are fresh from finishing third in Serie A and are spurred on by the terrible suffering of their home city of Bergamo at the peak of the pandemic earlier this year. "There is extra motivation for us after what has happened. We have to represent our city in the best possible way and give the people something to smile about," said the Atalanta coach, Gian Piero Gasperini, on Tuesday.

The final of this season's Champions League was initially due to be played in Istanbul in late May before it was postponed and this new format introduced.

Usually such an event would see a huge influx of foreign fans but the atmosphere in Lisbon this time is rather different, even if some supporters have travelled and one study has estimated 16,000 will come in total over the next 10 days.

Chennai super kings, Kolkata knight riders to take 10 exclusive net bowlers to UAE

NEW DELHI, AUG 12

The Indian Premier League shifting its base to the United Arab Emirates for the 2020 edition may prove to be a blessing in disguise for at least 50 unheralded cricketers, who are set to travel with the eight teams as "exclusive" net bowlers.

At least three franchises, Chennai Super Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals confirmed that they are preparing a roster of net bowlers.

The list comprises mostly first-class, U-19 and U-23 state level cricketers who will get to bowl to the likes of MS Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Rishabh Pant for close to a month.

The convention all these years has been using local bowlers for nets apart from

the junior fringe players but the strict bio-security measures for the tournament means that all franchise will have to arrange for quality bowlers during practice sessions.

While BCCI has capped the squad strength (players) to 24, the franchises have not been specified contingent volume which will vary from team to team but it could be safely assumed that most of the eight sides will not avail any local net bowlers.

"If all goes well, we are planning to take around 10 bowlers exclusively to

UAE for the practice sessions. They will be accompanying the team and will remain till the tournament starts," Chennai Super Kings CEO Kashi Vishwanathan told PTI on Tuesday.

The Kolkata Knight Riders also confirmed that they will also have 10 net bowlers in their roster, likely to be handpicked by former Mumbai captain and their academy coach Abhishek Nayar.

"It will be a blend of players

of who have played Ranji Trophy while some of have played U-23 and U-19 national level tournaments," someone who is privy to developments in the KKR camp informed.

The Delhi Capitals are also taking around six net bowlers who will be a part of the team's "bio bubble".

"They will be staying with the squad and will travel with the team for the net sessions," a franchise source said.

The Rajasthan Royals are also on course to finalise the number of net bowlers they will carry. Royals as well as Royal



Ross Taylor "not sure" if he will play 2021 T20 World Cup

NEW ZEALAND, AUG 12

New Zealand's middle-order batsman Ross Taylor has said that he is not sure whether he will be able to play the T20 World Cup 2021 in India. The T20 World Cup was slated to be played this year in Australia, but it has been postponed to 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The 2021 edition will be played in India, while the 2022 edition will be hosted by Australia. "Oh! Not sure. As you get older, things slow down a little bit, but your training and experience and your mind become even more important," ESPN Cricinfo quoted Taylor as saying.

Earlier this year, Taylor had become the first Kiwi men's player to feature in 100 T20Is. He batted in the middle-order in New Zealand's most recent T20I series at home against India. The right-handed batsman registered 166 runs in five innings at an average of 41.50 and a strike rate of 131.74. Taylor would next be seen in action for Guyana Amazon Warriors in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), slated to begin from August 18 in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Yeah, it has been a strange time all around. I haven't gone this long without playing any cricket since I was in high school. So, yeah obviously isolation and all those other things are a little bit strange, but it is what it is," Taylor said.



Prague Open:

Simona Halep grinds out win on return to court

PARIS, AUG 12

Simona Halep won her opening match of the WTA Prague Open on Tuesday, defeating Polona Hercog 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (7/3) to relaunch a season disrupted for nearly six months by the coronavirus pandemic.

Top seed Halep needed two and a half hours to overcome Slovenian world number 46 Hercog on clay in the Czech capital, blowing six match points in the decider before prevailing in a tie-break.

The second-ranked Simona Halep will meet Barbora Krejickova in the round of 16.

The reigning Wimbledon and former French Open

champion was appearing in her first match on tour since securing her 20th career title at the Dubai Championships in February.

She pulled out of the first post-lockdown WTA tournament in Palermo last week over virus concerns, and is yet to make a final decision whether to play at the US Open later this month. The tournament in Prague is

Halep's first trip abroad since February, having spent the lockdown in her native Romania.

Organisers of the Czech event have put all players and staff in a single eight-storey hotel reserved for the occasion to reduce the risk of COVID-19 contagion.

Regular temperature checks are a must, just like face masks which the players have to wear unless they are playing, training or eating.



Simona Halep



Sri Lanka Easter attack probe panel summons ex-PM Wickremesinghe

COLOMBO, AUG 12 (PTI)

Sri Lanka's former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who suffered a crushing defeat in the parliamentary polls, has been summoned by a presidential probe panel on August 18 to record his statement on the deadly Easter Sunday attacks, officials said on Tuesday. Nine suicide

bombers belonging to local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels on the Easter Sunday last year, killing 258 people, including 11 Indians.

The previous government headed by President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime

Minister Wickremesinghe was blamed for its inability to prevent the attacks despite the prior intelligence made available on the impending attack. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who pledged an independent probe in the incident during his election campaign in November last year, continued with the same panel appointed by Sirisena after assuming office.

Worldwide virus cases top 20 million, doubling in six weeks

WASHINGTON, AUG 12

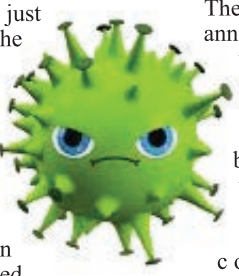
It took six months for the world to reach 10 million confirmed cases of the coronavirus. It took just over six weeks for that number to double.

The worldwide count of known COVID-19 infections climbed past 20 million on Monday, with more than half of them from just three countries: the US, India and Brazil, according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University.

The average number of new cases per day in the US has declined in recent weeks but is still running high at over 54,000, versus almost 59,000 in India and nearly 44,000 in Brazil. Russia became the

first country to approve a vaccine against the virus. While a proven coronavirus vaccine would be an epic medical breakthrough, the move raised alarms among scientists because the shots have not been subjected to large-scale testing in humans. They have only been studied in dozens of people, not the thousands typically involved.

The Big Ten announced it won't play football this fall because of the virus, becoming the first of college sports' powerhouse conferences to cancel. The Big Ten includes Ohio State, Michigan, Nebraska and Penn State. The severe and sustained crisis in the US over 5 million cases and



163,000 deaths, easily the highest totals of any country has dismayed and surprised many around the world, given the nation's vaunted scientific ingenuity and the head start it had over Europe and Asia to prepare.

South Africa, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Russia and the Philippines round out the list of the top 10 countries contributing the most new cases to the global tally since July 22, according to an Associated Press analysis of Johns Hopkins data through Monday. The real number of people infected by the virus around the world is believed to be much higher perhaps 10 times higher in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention given testing limitations and the many mild cases that have gone unreported or unrecognised.

Kamala Harris is Joe Biden's pick for US vice presidential candidate

WASHINGTON, AUG 12

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden on Tuesday picked Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., as his running mate, a historic decision that elevates the first Black woman and first Asian American woman to run for vice president at a moment when the country is grappling with its racial past and future.

Biden's announcement, made in a text and tweet, aligns him with a former presidential rival whose most electric campaign performance came when she criticized his record on school integration during a debate.

The decision is the most consequential of Biden's presidential campaign and has major implications not only for the November election but for the future of the Democratic Party. Biden, 78 years old by Inauguration Day, would be the oldest president ever and has said he considers himself "a transition candidate." The

choice places Harris, who was a more vibrant and energetic presence on the campaign trail but was also at times unsteady, at the forefront of the party's future as, potentially, the first woman vice president.

Harris will now become a vessel for Democratic hopes for a diverse party empowered by women, as well as for Republican attempts to funnel a barrage of attacks that have so far been largely unsuccessful when waged against Biden alone.

Harris, 55, is the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants. The first-term senator previously served as San Francisco district attorney and California attorney general. She developed a close friendship with Biden's late son Beau, a relationship that Biden said he reflected upon in making his decision.

The move puts Biden, who served as vice president to the nation's first Black president, in a history-making role in

naming Harris as the first woman of color nominated for the position. He also has pledged, if elected, to name a Black woman to the Supreme Court.

While Harris, who dropped out of the Democratic presidential primary in December, was an early front-runner in the vice-presidential sweepstakes, there were still lingering concerns about the sting of the debate moment on her chances - until Tuesday afternoon.

"Joe Biden here. Big news: I've chosen Kamala Harris as my running mate," Biden wrote in an email to supporters. "Together, with you, we're going to beat Trump."

The pick followed a final public push from Black activists, athletes and actors who urged Biden to pick a Black woman - and threatened that his candidacy would be doomed if he didn't. "My advice was sought," said Rep.



James Clyburn, D-S.C., a top Biden ally who had urged him to pick a Black woman and said that Biden called him Tuesday morning to inform him of the decision.

"I talked to him [Biden] over the past several days more than I talked to him all year," he said.

The months-long process before the decision included vetting nearly a dozen women as potential nominees. Biden on Tuesday informed some of the others that they were not

chosen.

Former Obama national security adviser Susan Rice, who was among the finalists, quickly put out a statement congratulating Harris.

"Senator Harris is a tenacious and trailblazing leader who will make a great partner on the campaign trail," Rice wrote. "I am confident that Biden-Harris will prove to be a winning ticket." Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., who was also under serious consideration, reflected on the

historic nature of the pick.

"To see a Black woman nominated for the first time reaffirms my faith that in America, there is a place for every person to succeed no matter who they are or where they come from," she said.

Top party leaders, including the 2016 nominee Hillary Clinton and former president Barack Obama, publicly rallied around the new Biden-Harris ticket - Obama with a seeming dig at President Donald Trump.

"Joe Biden nailed this decision," Obama said in a statement. "By choosing Senator Kamala Harris as America's next vice president, he's underscored his own judgment and character. Reality shows us that these attributes are not optional in a president."

Harris's prosecutorial record has drawn attacks from party liberals, who have criticized her past stances

as too harsh and contend that her record does not meet a moment when police misconduct has rocketed into the national conversation.

But Harris also has built a reputation in Washington as a sharp questioner in Senate hearings, particularly of Trump administration nominees.

She has been a forceful advocate for Black families during the novel coronavirus pandemic, and she helped draft a bill ending qualified immunity for police. Some of those who were skeptical of her during her campaign have softened their views of her in recent months.

Harris kicked off her presidential campaign little more than two years after joining the Senate, with an electrifying Oakland, Calif., rally that drew more than 22,000 supporters.

But she struggled to define herself to voters, shifting from

one message to the next. She failed to take off in the polls and dropped out in early December, citing financial problems.

Harris and Biden have known each other for several years, and as the former vice president noted in his announcement, Harris worked closely with Beau Biden when both served as attorneys general. That made it all the more shocking to Biden and his team when, at the first Democratic primary debate last year, Harris went after Biden for his nostalgic talk about working with two segregationist senators.

"It was hurtful to hear you talk about the reputations of two United States senators who built their reputations and career on the segregation of race in this country," Harris said during the debate. She also took Biden to task for his opposition to mandatory busing.

MLAs distribute tractor to women SHGs



Erode MLAs KV Ramalingam and KS Thennarasu handing over tractor to women SHGs.

ERODE, AUG 12:

Erode West and East MLAs KV Ramalingam (former PWD Minister) and KS Thennarasu handed over tractors and farm implements to the women SHGs under the agriculture department scheme at the Erode panchayat union office on Tuesday.

They said that the implements were given to rent them out to the ryots and earn money. Under the TN Rural Transformation Project

and Agriculture Engineering department, Rs 10 lakh worth tractor and farm implements were given to the SHGs of Kadirampatti, Perodu, Elavamalai, Mettunasuvampalayam panchayats in the union.

The implements were given at subsidized price to them, they added. Party functionaries Kesavamurthy, Jagadesh, Thangamuthu and district panchayat member Palanisamy attended the function.

"Proposed Rayalseema Lift Irrigation Scheme not new project"

AMARAVATI, AUG 12 (PTI)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday clarified that the proposed Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme was not a new project, but a "more better means to draw our allocated share of water" by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal.

The RLIS would only supplement the existing projects through the same existing canal system without adding any additional ayacut or canal or storage, he said in a letter to Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

He requested the Union Minister to lift the embargo and facilitate the state to go ahead with all the preliminary

"I am very much concerned to note that there is a mention, in your letter, of certain projects being taken up by our state which are not new but a more better means to draw our allocated share of water in the KWDT-1.



steps related to RLIS.

Reddy asserted that the project would not have any adverse impact on Telanganas share of Krishna water as being claimed by the neighbouring state.

The AP Chief Minister was replying to a letter by Shekhawat in which the latter referred to the "serious objections" raised by the

Telangana government on May 12 to the administrative approval to draw six to eight tmc ft of water from Srisailem reservoir on river Krishna "in violation of the relevant provisions of AP Reorganisation Act, 2014."

The project has not been sanctioned by the Apex Council and the KRMB conveyed that taking it up

is in violation of Section 84 (8) (d) and para-7 of the XI Schedule of APRA," the Union Minister said in the August 7 letter.

"I am very much concerned to note that there is a mention, in your letter, of certain projects being taken up by our state which are not new but a more better means to draw our allocated share of water in the KWDT-1.

Andhra's Pothireddypadu head regulator on Srisailem reservoir is not a separate project, but only facilitates supply of water to KC Canal, SRBC, TGP, GNSS besides drinking water to Chennai city," the Chief Minister pointed out. He said Telangana was constructing four new irrigation schemes with a withdrawal capacity

of about three tmc ft per day at a sill level of 800 feet to utilise about 200 tmc ft from the foreshore of Srisailem reservoir.

Besides, there was a facility for power generation on the left side of Srisailem from a level of 796 feet with a discharge capacity of 42,000 cusecs on the Telangana side that they "often operate unilaterally", ignoring the directions of the Krishna River Management Board. "If all Telangana projects are at 800 feet, then how is it fair that Andhra projects continue to operate only at above 854 feet and that too, drawing only a meagre discharge at that level? It is only at 881 feet that AP gets to draw its potential share," the Chief Minister noted.



Namakkal Collector K Meharaj and DRO Durgamurthy holding a meeting at the collectorate on the preparations to be made for the upcoming 1-Day celebration.

I-T dept raids Chinese individuals, Indian contacts in Rs 1,000-crore money laundering case

NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI)

The Income Tax Department has conducted raids against some Chinese individuals and their local associates for allegedly running an estimated Rs 1,000 crore worth money laundering racket using shell or dubious firms, the CBDT said Tuesday.

The department raided at least two dozen premises in Delhi, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad as part of the action under which it covered the Chinese, some of their Indian associates and bank officials, the Central Board of Direct Taxes said in a statement issued here late night.

The CBDT is the policy-making body for the tax department. It said

the "subsidiary of Chinese company and its related concerns have taken over Rs 100 crore bogus advances from shell entities for opening businesses of retail showrooms in India".

The CBDT said the searches were launched based on "credible inputs that a few Chinese individuals and their Indian associates were involved in money laundering and hawala transactions through a series of shell entities."

A Chinese man, who allegedly holds a fake Indian passport, is alleged to be the kingpin of the racket apart from few other nationals of that country. They said the Chinese man had got prepared the fake Indian passport

from Manipur and has been detained by the department as searches are continuing.

The tax officials have shared the information of alleged possession of fake Indian passport with police authorities who are expected to book him for violation of the Passport Act.

The police many later arrest him and even the Enforcement Directorate may take over the case for investigation under the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, they said.

"Search action revealed that at the behest of Chinese individuals, more than 40 bank accounts were created in various dummy entities, entering into credits of more

than Rs 1,000 crore over the period," the CBDT said in a statement without identifying the entities involved.

"Incriminating documents of hawala transactions and money laundering with active involvement of bank employees and Chartered Accountants have been found as a result of the search action," it said.

Evidences of foreign hawala transactions involving Hong Kong and US dollars have also been unearthed, the CBDT said.

India recently banned 59 Chinese apps (Internet based mobile applications) in the aftermath of a continuing standoff between the militaries of the two countries in Ladakh.

Fake call centre busted, 7 held for duping 500 people of over Rs 2.5 cr

NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI)

The Cyber Cell of the Delhi Police has busted a fake call centre and arrested seven men who allegedly duped more than 500 people of over Rs 2.5 crore by promising them to provide loans from reputed companies offering financial services, officials said on Tuesday.

Three among the seven are pursuing Bachelor of Arts (BA) from the School of Open Learning, they said.

The fake call centre was running from Vikas Nagar in west Delhi's Ranhola. The accused used fake SIM cards issued in the name of foreigners to dupe people, they said.

A probe was initiated after receiving a complaint from a man who told the police that while trying to avail a personal loan, he came across a contact number of a reputed firm offering financial services online. When he called the number, the person who received the call promised to get him a loan at a low interest rate and asked him to deposit over Rs 2 lakh in various bank accounts on some pretext or the other.

Using technical surveillance and details provided by the service providers about the alleged contact number, one of the accused Pawan Mittal (28), who works as a sales promoter with a telecom company, was arrested. This led to the arrest of his associates Mohammad Irfan Saifi (28), Vishal Tiwari (21), Vidhata (21), Amit Kumar (23), Gyan Singh (39) and Rishabh Mohammad (25), police said.

Irfan, who earlier worked as a telecaller in an insurance firm, was



the mastermind who has been running the fake call centre from Vikas Nagar for the past two years. His associate Mittal used fake documents and photographs of foreigners and got fake SIM cards activated which were used by them, according to police.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell) Anyesh Roy said, "Irfan

and his associates would post advertisements on various platforms offering a loan in the name of reputed companies and when contacted, they would ask the victim to first deposit money in the name of processing fees. "Later to win their trust, they would even send them mails from a mail ID that looked deceptively similar to that reputed company."

The officer said once the victim deposited the money, they would block his number or switch off their number and start using another SIM.

The accused Vishal, Vidhata and Amit have all been working with Irfan for several months. They are all second and third year BA students from School of Open Learning and used to get a fixed salary along with a commission from the cheated amount, the DCP said. Gyan and Rishabh are associates of Mittal who helped him in selling the fake SIM cards for a substantial profit, he said.

Several mobile phones and fake SIM cards used in the crime have been recovered from the fake call centre, police said, adding that efforts are being made to identify the others.

Himachal govt to appoint over 2,300 workers in Jal Shakti dept

SHIMLA, AUG 12 (PTI)

The Himachal Pradesh government on Tuesday decided to appoint 2,322 workers in the Jal Shakti department. The decision was taken at a state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, an official spokesperson said.

The appointments which will be made include 718 para pump operators, 162 para fitters and 1,442 multipurpose workers under the Departmental Para Workers Policy to manage 486 drinking water and 31 irrigation schemes, he added.

The cabinet also gave its nod to constitute Shahpur nagar panchayat in Kangra district

along with the creation of seven posts of different categories to manage it.

The cabinet decided to upgrade Sarkaghat nagar panchayat in Mandi district to the municipal council for better planning of the town, he added. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown has resulted in a cumulative loss of about Rs 15.77 crore to floriculturists of the state from March to May, the spokesperson said.

In order to provide succour to floriculturists, the cabinet approved the guidelines for providing financial assistance worth Rs 4 crore to those affected by the pandemic.

710 COVID patients received plasma from banks, 921 donated: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI)

Over 700 COVID-19 patients in Delhi have received plasma from designated banks enabling their recovery from coronavirus infection, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday. He asserted that the system of plasma bank has been a "crucial element" in the 'Delhi Model' of COVID response and is being adopted by other states too. "Until now, around 710 units of convalescent plasma have been provided, enabling recovery of patients across hospitals in Delhi," he was quoted as saying in a statement released by the Delhi government.

The youngest patient to receive plasma is 18, and the oldest patient is 94 years old. Around 522 males and 188 female patients have been administered plasma therapy, the statement said.

A total of 921 patients



who have recovered from COVID-19 have donated plasma at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) plasma bank, Kejriwal added. These include, 86 healthcare workers, 209 entrepreneurs, eight media personnel, 28 police officials, 50 students, 32 government officials, and 508 recovered people including servicemen, self-employed professionals, non-residents of Delhi, the statement said. Around 14 recovered patients have donated plasma more than once, Kejriwal said. The first plasma bank in the country was started at the ILBS by the

Delhi government on July 2 with the objective to provide free of cost convalescent plasma to patients.

Subsequently, another plasma bank was launched at the LNJP Hospital in Delhi. Both are run by the city government. The chief minister asserted that the initiative of plasma bank in Delhi is proving to be a boon for COVID patients.

"Along with various steps taken by the Delhi government to combat coronavirus, plasma therapy has streamlined the recovery of critically-ill COVID-19 patients across Delhi-NCR," he said. Kejriwal said plasma banks established by the city government at ILBS and LNJP hospitals are providing free of cost convalescent plasma to all hospitals, including those run by the central government and state government as well as private and civic-run hospitals in Delhi.

All's well that ends well

Cong says Rajasthan crisis a closed chapter

NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI)

The Congress said Tuesday that the crisis in Rajasthan is a "closed chapter" and all legislators supporting its government will work towards strengthening Rajasthan and fighting COVID-19 and other economic calamities. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala credited former party chief Rahul Gandhi for his vision in helping resolve the crisis in Rajasthan, after he intervened and assured rebel Sachin Pilot and MLAs close to him of redressal of their grievances.

"It is a close chapter and I would not like to comment further on the same. I would only say, we will all work together including Pilot and all the 18 MLAs who have

gone, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

"All our legislators as also those who were supporting our Government will work in strengthening Rajasthan and in fighting COVID and other economic calamities and as they say - 'All's well that ends well,'" he told reporters.

Surjewala said after yesterday's meeting of Pilot with Gandhi, in whose leadership he reposed complete and total faith, he has resolved to work with the Congress government in Rajasthan and for strengthening the party in the state, along with all the MLAs who were temporarily annoyed. The Congress leader said the entire country witnessed as to how after 30 days the political events

of Rajasthan have come to a close. This, he said, is indeed a victory for the 8 crore Rajasthanis as also all the Congress legislators and well-wishers.

He said this was made possible by the vision and belief of Gandhi in carrying all Congress leaders together bereft of any differences of opinion that they may have. The resolution of the crisis was also helped by the cooperation and assistance given by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the Congress leader said, thanking Gehlot for showing maturity.

"This is also a befitting reply to BJP and its conspirators who despite having been rejected by the people of Rajasthan, were seeking to form a BJP government despite being in minority," he said.

Surjewala said the BJP is "badly divided" into various groups that they could not call a meeting of the legislature party and finally called three chartered planes to take their MLAs away.

On the exchange of language during the crisis, Surjewala admitted that some "hot words" were exchanged and some bitterness was caused. The political crisis in Rajasthan Congress ended on Monday after a meeting of Pilot with Gandhi and later the MLAs met top Congress leaders and were assured that their grievances would be redressed in a time-bound manner.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi also announced the formation of a three-member Committee that would hear the grievances of rebel leaders.

Medtronic to invest Rs 1,200 cr to expand Hyderabad R&D center into its largest facility outside US

NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI)

Global medical technology major Medtronic plc on Tuesday said it will invest Rs 1,200 crore to scale up and expand its current R&D facility in Hyderabad into a state-of-the-art engineering and innovation center.

Medtronic Engineering and Innovation Center (MEIC) will be its largest global research and development center outside the US, it said in a statement. "This investment planned over 5 years will provide a boost to Telangana's



MedTech plans and cement Hyderabad's position as the medical devices hub in India," it added. The Government of Telangana and Medtronic have been in discussions for the last two years regarding the modalities of investment, the

statement said. "Research and development leads to innovation and innovation is crucial to our growth strategy. Medtronic's investment in India is a testament to our commitment to the region and we are proud to be collaborating

with the Government of Telangana on this major investment in the country," Medtronic Chairman of the Board and Executive Chairman Omar Ishrak said. Telangana Industries and IT Minister K T Rama Rao said, "We are delighted that Medtronic has chosen Hyderabad as its largest R&D base outside the US with hopes that it will create numerous jobs in the next few years." The Telangana government is committed to the growth of medical technology in the state and sees this partnership with Medtronic as a pivotal one, he added.

Rs 50 lakh check dam project sanctioned

ERODE, AUG 12:

The district administration sanctioned a Rs 50 lakh check dam project to conserve rain water near Aruvaimalai, Perumugai village, Gobi. The rain water of the Aruvaimalai being wasted into the Bavani river so that the Tadapalli-Arakkankottai ayacut ryots association and Olirum Erode Foundation joined together to construct the check dam to save water by digging and deepening a tank there.

The association president lawyer Subi Thalabathi said that if the dam is constructed 5 million cusecs of water could be conserved in a year which could improve the ground water in the area, helping wild animals also to get drinking water. Now the association and the foundation planned to spend its fund to build the dam and the district administration approved the project a few days back. The dam would help save the water in nearly 15 acre land and the water conserved there would check wild animals to visit the villages for their drinking water needs, he added.

Tasmac staff told to follow corona safety norms

ERODE, AUG 12:

The Tasmac regional manager issued a circular warning the staff working in the Tasmac shops with stern action if they do not wear masks, gloves and use sanitizer to wash their hands frequently to protect them from covid 19. They should also ask the customers to maintain social distancing and give disinfectants to them to wash their hands.

They should not throw the empty cartons outside the shops and keep it in ideal manner outside the shops and keep the environment neat and tidy by spraying bleaching powder. Meanwhile the Tasmac workers union wanted the Tasmac management to supply N95 masks, sanitizers and bleaching powders to all shops. Now the workers were purchasing them by spending Rs 500 every week for each shop. The local bodies should also be directed to cleanse the area around the shops by spraying bleaching powders. They were now fearing contact of corona while handling broken bottles, so that the Tasmac management should take necessary steps to cleanse them also, the union pleaded.

59 cases registered

ERODE, AUG 12:

Erode district police registered 59 cases and seized 47 vehicles for violating the total curfew norms on Sunday. They conducted intensive search in border areas and took action on many who came without e-pass on that day. They also booked cases on many for moving in vehicles without adhering to curfew norms, police said

ETMONEY launches fixed deposits, assuring 7.35% returns

COIMBATORE, AUG 12

Online wealth management app, ETMONEY has partnered with Bajaj Finance to offer hassle-free, online fixed deposits. The latest offering will allow investors an easy investment opportunity with assured returns of up to 7.35 percent, according to the company's statement.

"Despite their high preference for FD, with rates offered by Banks falling over the last couple of years, most Indians are now earning returns that barely beat inflation. With ETMONEY's FD offering, Indian investors now have an option to earn higher returns compared to many bank FDs" said, ETMONEY Founder-CEO Mukesh Kalra.

The offering also comes with a host of features such as, flexible interest payouts, tenures ranging from 12 to 60 months, and higher interest rates for senior citizens. The convenience of investing using ETMONEY in a seamless & 100% paperless manner along with the safety of this investment instrument can help millions of Indian investors plan their short-term financial goals with confidence.

FSSAI urged to check sales of adulterate gur

ERODE, AUG 12

KMDK state general secretary ER Eswaran appealed to the FSSAI authorities to check production and sales adulterated gur in many parts of the state.

In a release he said that due to the chemical content in the sugar produced in the mills, many started buying gur though its price was nearly Rs 140 per kg, while the sugar price is Rs 40 per kg. Many believed that the gur was being produced without mixing any chemicals so that it was good for health. But, the Namakkal MP Chinraj (KMDK) recently detected some gur producers buy sugar from the mills and produce gur. Such adulterated gur was being sold in many areas and people also, without knowing that it was an adulterated one, were buying it.

On the other, the sugar cane producers who raised cane for the purpose of producing jaggery and gur in natural manner without using any chemicals face much problem to sell their goods. Even if they sell pure quality of goods, people would buy adulterated one only due to its low price.

So, they cannot face the competition from the producers of adulterated gur. So, the FSSAI authorities should conduct raid in many places and check production and sales of adulterated gurs not only for the benefit of people but also for the producers of unadulterated gur, he pleaded.

Textile trade picks up in Gani market

ERODE, AUG 12

As many small traders of the district started arriving to the Gani textile market, a largest one in the state, trade was picking up there after a gap of over 4 months. In the market, weekly shandy trade would be held on every Monday night to Tuesday night.

Hundreds of wholesale traders would assemble in the market and sell many goods of handloom, powerloom, mill made and hosiery products like lungi, dhoti, sarce, nighties, gowns, children's wears, banian, T shirt, bedsheets etc. The traders association president Selvaraj said that due to the curfew imposed from March 24 to June, no trade was held and only after relaxation of the curfew, the market was opened from July.

But due to lack of bus, train facility, trade did not pick up. The e-pass system also hit the traders and people of other districts and state to visit the market.

PM's virtual meet on COVID-19: TN CM urges Centre to share 50 per cent RT-PCR test cost

CHENNAI, AUG 12 (PTI)

The Centre should fund 50 per cent of the cost of RT-PCR tests done for detecting COVID-19 and also finance the procurement of high-end ventilators, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Tuesday.

Raising the demand with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a virtual meet he (Modi) held with chief ministers of ten states on COVID-19, Palaniswami also said a proactive strategy has led to a slide in new positive cases in Chennai and the model was being replicated in other parts of the state.

Pointing to aggressive, targeted testing, a key component of the strategy, he said Tamil Nadu was conducting the maximum number of RT-PCR (Reverse transcriptase- Polymerase chain reaction) tests, the gold standard for COVID-19 screening, in the country.

"Tamil Nadu presently has 130 labs for COVID testing with 61 government and 69 private labs, with an average testing capacity of



65,000 tests per day. These tests cost nearly five crore rupees a day. I request the government of India to fund 50 per cent of the cost of the PCR tests from the PM CARES fund," he said.

The chief minister said over 32.92 lakh samples have been tested so far in the state.

The recovery rate was 80.8 per cent, one of the highest in the country and death rate of 1.6 per cent among the lowest, he said.

"Experts treating critically ill COVID patients have requested for a higher degree of ventilatory care," he said and urged the Centre to "provide funds to Tamil Nadu for procuring high-end

ventilators."

Outlining the strategy in the state capital, he referred to door-to-door surveys, fever camps, mobile and 'fixed' sample collection centres and the screening of about 17 lakh people.

Palaniswami said "So far eight lakh RT-PCR tests have been done. With the help of 10,000 field workers, 93 NGOs and 2,700 volunteers, symptomatic cases are being identified and vulnerable people are being provided necessary support."

Welcoming the Centre's announcement on free supply of rice and whole chana dhal to priority households, he, however, said the latter was

not part of the staple diet of the people in the state.

"Based on my earlier letter to you in this regard, I request you to release 55,637 MT (Metric Tonnes) of toor dhal to the state for distribution till November."

Tamil Nadu received Rs 512.64 crore from Centre in two tranches under the Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness package out of an envelope of Rs 712.64 crore allotted to the state.

The Chief Minister wanted this package to be stepped up to Rs 3,000 crore.

"Both Central and State tax revenue will fall short of the budget estimates. To

make up for the shortfall, Tamil Nadu may be allocated Rs 9,000 crore special grant to combat COVID-19 and its after effects on the states economy," he said.

Palaniswami also informed Modi that the state has fully exhausted the State Disaster Response and Mitigation Fund, and urged an ad-hoc grant of Rs 1,000 crore from the National Disaster Response Force fund.

The GST compensation for April-June, 2020, and a request to instruct SIDBI to provide "at least Rs 1,000 crore as refinance facility," to Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited from the RBI special packages to help revive the MSME industries was among the other priorities the Chief Minister flagged during the meeting.

Modi held consultations with chief ministers of states, including Tamil Nadu, on the coronavirus situation, the seventh such exercise since the outbreak of the pandemic and the first during the 'unlock 3' phase.

Three boys drown in lake near Mecheri

SALEM, AUG 12

In a tragic incident at Pukampatti village near Mecheri on Tuesday afternoon. According to sources de-silting under the Kudimaramathu scheme was being undertaken in the ten acre lake named Nagiredipatti lake. Large pits had been dug on the water spread. Recent rains had filled these pits. Three boys from Ambedkar Nagar, Harish (17) his brother Rathish (16) sons of Srinivasan and Dharshan (15) son of Ayanar went to the lake for a swim on Tuesday afternoon. Water filling the lake after a long time had attracted them. The boys bathed and played in the water according to locals. Suddenly all the three were pulled into the muddy part of the water. The boys cried for help. People nearby rushed to help but before they could reach the boys drowned. The Mettur Police went to the spot and arranged rescue but only the dead bodies could be brought out said police sources. A case was booked and further investigation is on said the police. While Harish had passed the 10th class, Rathish and Dharshan were in the 9th. standard said sources. A pal of gloom filled the village by the tragedy of the deaths of the three boys.

Goa tops in number of COVID-19 tests per million

PANAJI, AUG 12 (PTI)

Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane has said the state topped in the country in terms of the number of COVID-19 tests conducted per million people. Till Tuesday evening, 1,53,792 tests were conducted in Goa. So far, 9,444 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the coastal state, as per official figures. "In our constant endeavour to test maximum people in the state for COVID-19, we are happy to announce that Goa has yet again topped amongst all states in the country for the number of tests per million population with 94,773 tests per million population," Rane tweeted on Tuesday night.

SMB's dominate Amazon's Prime Day marketing event

COIMBATORE AUG 12

Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) and Prime members on Amazon. In discovered joy like never before on Prime Day making it the biggest 48-hours for SMB sellers, for new member sign-ups, and for engagement with Prime benefits.

With the highest ever SMB participation, over 91,000 SMBs, artisans, weavers and women entrepreneurs from over 5,900 pin codes participated in Amazon's Prime Day 2020 a 48 hours special sales event said company sources. According to the company's statement, more than 62,000 sellers were from non-metro

and tier 2/3 cities across India. 31,000 SMB sellers witnessed their highest sales ever with over 4,000 SMB sellers each registering sales of Rs. 10 lakhs or more, and 209 SMB sellers becoming crorepatris during the 48 hours. Artisans and weavers who sell their unique handmade collection through Amazon Karigar store witnessed a growth of 6.7X, and women entrepreneurs from the Saheli program witnessed a growth of 2.6X over average day sales. Similarly, startup brands under the Launchpad program grew by 2.1X over their average day sales. Over a thousand Local Shops from over 100 cities made their

Prime Day debut, growing by 2X over average day sales. Over 1 million Prime members shopped from small businesses in the 14-day lead up to Prime Day, further helping them with their business revival. Over 65% were new members from outside of the top 10 cities including towns like Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, Leh in Ladakh, Dholpur and Sirohi in Rajasthan, Koraput in Odisha, Mokochung in Nagaland, Garo hills in Meghalaya, Gadag in Karnataka, Nagappattinam in Tamil Nadu and Panna in Madhya Pradesh said company company



Perundurai MLA and former environment minister ND Venkatachalam inaugurating a Rs 41 lakh road project at Karukkupalayampudhur in Pethampalayam town panchayat in his segment. The fund was received under the 14th finance commission grant, he said. Many officials and party functionaries attended the function.

Admissions for classes 1, 6 and 9 from August 17

►► Minister Sengottaiyan

CHENNAI, AUG 12

Admissions for the 2020-21 academic year for Classes 1, 6 and 9 will begin in schools from August 17, the School Education Department announced on Tuesday.

Minister for School Education K.A. Sengottaiyan said that the guidelines issued by the State government, which include physical distancing and other safety measures, should be strictly adhered to.

"The Directorate of Matric Schools will also take steps to initiate the online admission process for entry-level classes through the Right to Education (RTE) Act in private schools from August 17," he said.

Keeping in mind the need to follow physical distancing and other safety norms, the department has announced a staggered schedule for admissions. With the Class 10 results having been announced on Monday, admission for students



joining Plus One would begin on August 24 across schools. These students are expected to receive their provisional marksheets from August 17 to 21 from their respective schools.

The School Education Minister said that government schools can also distribute free textbooks to students on the day they come for admissions. Government school students who wish to change schools and need to get admission into classes 2 to 10 can begin their admission

procedure from August 17. When asked if a decision

had been taken regarding the reopening of schools in the State, Mr. Sengottaiyan said that a call would be taken on this only after the number of COVID-19 cases decreased.

"When the impact of COVID-19 reduces, a decision will be taken by the Chief Minister only after considering the views of parents, teachers, academicians and other stakeholders," he said.

"The Directorate of Matric Schools will also take steps to initiate the online admission process for entry-level classes through the Right to Education (RTE) Act in private schools from August 17," he said.

EDITORIAL

SINCE 1977

AFTERNOON

Local language will be the part of interaction

The focus on mother tongue in the National Education Policy 2020 has been widely discussed and welcomed too. Home language/mother tongue or the local language will remain the medium of instruction for students up to Grade 5 wherever possible, preferably beyond it till Grade 8 and even going forward, and the policy says that it may continue to be taught as a language after that too. While the three-language formula and the place of English as a medium of instruction continue to be debated, the NEP does lend primacy to education in tribal-dominated areas of the country. Every year, millions of very young students from the indigenous populations are introduced to academics but through a system and curriculum that is almost alien as they do not factor in, or at least make light of their need for, their native language.

According to the mother tongue data provided by the Language Census 2011, there are at least 121 languages in India of which 22 are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution while 99 are not. The NEP rightly notes that young children grasp nontrivial concepts more quickly in their home language. It is not as if mother tongue-based education is being discussed for the first time. In 2013, the Women and Child Development Ministry had formulated the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy under which a curriculum framework was adopted so that the mother tongue or local language will be the part of interaction for children.

Several states with a substantial tribal population have had multilingual education programmes based on mother tongue for the primary classes. But there still exists a gulf because availability of tribal language teachers, training and curriculum development have not been dealt with. According to a World Bank assessment, at least 55% of Indian children are not proficient in reading. That India must remain firm in its focus on improving the quality of education in its tribal heartlands needs no emphasis. The NEP 2020 brings more focus to early childhood education but both the Centre and states must chart out the course through strong intent backed by public investment.

'Robo' Shankar on TN tour to de-stress COVID patients

THIRUCHIRAPALLI, AUG 12

To help relieve the stress faced by COVID-19 patients who have been undergoing treatment



at various centres, comedian 'Robo' Shankar entertained them as a part of his State tour that commenced from Thanjavur on Tuesday. Shankar along with Dindigul Saravanan arrived at Pattukkottai quarantine centre and performed mimicry and a series of standup comedies that left the patients in splits. He also spoke encouraging words to boost their confidence. "Many patients are under stress as they are left alone in the centre and are not allowed to see even their family members. I felt that such an interaction, interspersed with jokes, would comfort them at least to a small extent. So I sought the support of my friend Dindigul Saravanan," Shankar said after the show.

CSI to hold free orientation programme on TNEA on August 16

COIMBATORE, AUG 12

Computer Society of India (CSI), a largest body of computer professionals in the country, is organizing many programmes throughout the year for the benefit of the community. Now, it is going to organize a free orientation programme on "Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA

2020 Online Counselling Guidelines", for the 16th consecutive year between 10 am and 12 noon on Aug 16 through Webinar(online). So, anyone can attend it from across the world. The key note speakers are: Dr. P. Narayanasamy, Former Dean - College of Engineering, Anna University, Chennai, Dean (Networking) - PSG College

of Technology, Coimbatore, Dr. T. Purushothaman, Secretary, TNEA 2020. It is a rare opportunity for parents and students to clear their doubts through online from the people who have played critical role in conceptualizing and implementing the TNEA counseling and it is the only programme to focus on the process of counselling. It

would help students and parents to gain a lot of confidence to attend the online counseling. In the past it has helped many students and parents to plan and take critical decisions. Meeting link would be shared to the registered participants. The registration link is <https://forms.gle/HcEnAZc55goJdX56>, a release said.

Two held for theft of four vehicles in Navi Mumbai

THANE, AUG 12 (PTI)

Navi Mumbai Police here in Maharashtra claimed to have solved four cases of vehicle theft in the township with the arrest of two persons.

During a probe in various complaints of vehicle theft in Navi Mumbai, the police analysed the pattern of the crime, timing and location, and zeroed-in on the two accused, Rabale police station's senior inspector Yogesh Gawade said on Wednesday. One of the accused, Rakesh Pawar (25), was nabbed from Murbad in Thane district.

Tata Sky celebrates its 14th Anniversary

CHENNAI, AUG 12

August 8th marked the 14th anniversary of Tata Sky, a brand that has grown into a successful and innovation-led organization with a deep-rooted commitment to customer satisfaction through hard work and living up to its ideals of delivering value through strategic planning, technical innovation and embodying passion for all their endeavors.

To commemorate the 14th anniversary milestone, Tata Sky, India's leading content distribution and Pay TV platform in collaboration with Chimp&z

Inc. created a nostalgic #14YearsOfJingaladigital campaign honoring the allegiance of 14 of its patrons who have been the earliest customers of Tata Sky. Commenting on honoring this landmark anniversary, Anurag Kumar, Chief Communication Officer, Tata Sky said, "Our history of putting the customer first is evident through our network of long-term customers, many of which have been with us for over ten years. This anniversary, we wanted to relive the connections we have forged with our consumers through genuine

and authentic testimonials that gave an overview of their journey with us."

On the success of the campaign, Angad Singh Manchanda, CEO and Co-founder, Chimp&z Inc said, "We went by the thought that a significant milestone like the 14th anniversary of Tata Sky needed to be upheld with a campaign that brought out the real essence of the brand. And what better way to do that than to reach out to those people who have experienced the service and quality of the product first hand. Campaign video link: <https://youtu.be/vf0UKGLCgXg>