





DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
VISAKHAPATNAM | MONDAY | 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER

 **Max:** 34.6°C
Min: 27.2°C
RH: 88%
Rainfall: Trace
Forecast: Drizzle.
Max/Min temp.
34/27°C

COVID-19 CUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+90,890)	(+990)
42,00,366	71,663
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+2,574)	(+9)
TS: 1,40,969	886
(+10,794)	(+70)
AP: 4,98,125	4,417
CASES AROUND THE WORLD	
 2,72,15,198	
DEATHS	
 8,85,932	
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES	
 213	
worldometers.info/coronavirus	

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula
Panchami till 9.38 pm
Star: Bharani full day
Varjyam: 4.11 pm to 5.59 pm
Durmuhurtam: 12.38 pm to 1.27 pm; 3.05 pm to 3.54 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Muharram 18, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.50 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 4.45 pm
Maghrib: 6.15 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.06 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.44 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 9.27 PM
MOONSET TODAY 9.37 AM

COUNTER POINT



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BRIEF

Full refund for lockdown tickets

New Delhi: Full refund shall be provided by airlines immediately for tickets booked during the Covid-19 lockdown for domestic or international travel within the lockdown period, civil aviation regulator DGCA has proposed in the Supreme Court. For all other cases, the airlines shall make all endeavors to refund the collected amount within 15 days, the Director General of Civil Aviation said in an affidavit. The DGCA said that after various rounds of deliberations between the stakeholders including the airlines, they have arrived at a proposed workable solution.

STATUTE | CHECK

Judgment gave permanence to Indian Constitution

Seer behind defining verdict dead

Kasaragod (Kerala), Sept. 6: Kesavananda Bharati, 79, on whose petition the Supreme Court delivered the landmark judgement on the celebrated doctrine of basic structure of the Constitution, died here on Sunday.

Police said Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalvaru died at the Edaneer Mutt here due to age related ailments. “As per the information with us, he passed away at around 3.30 am on Sunday,” police said. The case in which Bharati



Kesavananda Bharati

had challenged Kerala Land Reform laws nearly four decades ago set the principle that the Supreme

Court is the guardian of the basic structure of the Constitution and the verdict involved 13 judges, the largest bench ever to sit in the apex court.

While the seer did not get the relief he wanted, the case became significant for its landmark judgment which clipped the widest power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and simultaneously gave judiciary the authority to review any amendment.

Former Judge of Madras High Court Justice K

Chandru said: “The Kesavananda Bharati case is significant for its ruling that the Constitution can be amended but not the basic structure.”

Senior Advocate Arvind P. Datar said when some parcels of land of the Edaneer Mutt were acquired under the land reform laws of Kerala, Bharati moved the Kerala High Court against it and partially succeeded.

■ **Page 2: SC said Parliament can't emasculate Constitution**

NATION | 4

BJD MP to get divorce from actress wife



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WORLD | 5

Harris won't trust Don word on Covid vaccine



SPORTS | 6

Chennai to take on Mumbai in opener



Guarding skies



An IAF fighter jet flies over Ladakh amid the prolonged India-China stand off in the region on Sunday. Indian and Chinese militaries held another round of talks on Sunday to calm tensions as the situation remained “delicate” with both sides rushing additional troops and weapons after last week's confrontations.

— PTI

India on alert along LoC as China uses proxy Pak

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

Following specific intelligence inputs that China could use Pakistan to trigger large-scale violations along the border, the Border Security Force and the Army have been put on high alert along the international border and the Line of Control (LoC).

“We have specific inputs that Pakistan could try and foment trouble along the borders. But we have taken adequate preventive measures and substantially increased our security presence along the Indo-Pak border,” a senior BSF official said.

India and China are engaged in a four-month long tense military stand-off in the Ladakh sector and tensions between the

● **A SENIOR BSF official said they had specific inputs that Pakistan could try and foment trouble along the borders and have taken adequate precautions**

two armies flared up again last week after India, in a preemptive move, occupied around two dozen peaks on the southern banks of Pangong Tso and Spanggur Gap.

Given the tense situation along the Indo-China border, there are intelligence inputs that in an attempt to divert the focus and attention of Indian security forces, China could use Pakistan to start an armed offensive along the border and LoC by violating cease-fire.

Earlier, the home min-

istry had increased the presence of forces along some parts of the Indo-China border, particularly in Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

Close to 100 companies or 10,000 personnel of para-military forces have been rushed to border areas. Most of the additional security companies that were deployed along Chinese borders are those that were pulled out of Jammu and Kashmir a couple of weeks back. Both ITBP and SSB have beefed up security in the Doklam region in Sikkim and Kalapani region in Uttarakhand following increased Chinese activity.

CDS General Bipin Rawat had on Thursday said that Pakistan could try to take advantage of any threat along India's northern borders.

THREE YSRC LEGISLATORS TEST COVID +VE

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 6

Three MLAs of ruling Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Antarvedi in Sakshinipalli mandal of East Godavari district was gutted in a fire at about midnight of Saturday. It is said that the teakwood chariot was made 62 years ago, and stood 40-feet tall.

After the celestial marriage of the lord performed during the Hindu month of Magha (February), the deities are carried in the chariot at the head of a procession.

According to sources, the fire in the chariot woke up people in the neighbourhood who immediately called the fire department.

The fire personnel rushed to the spot but the chariot was gutted by then. The police deployed forensic and Clues teams to gather clues to investigate

■ **Page 3: Nuzvid MLA is in quarantine in Hyd**

India overtakes Brazil in Covid as Unlock 4 starts

30% of new virus cases reported worldwide from India

S. UMAMAHESHWAR | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

India on Sunday surpassed Brazil's Coronavirus tally and is now behind only the United States as far as Covid-19 cases are concerned. The country has reported 90,890 new cases on Sunday, taking its aggregate case count to 42,00,366, compared to Brazil's 41.23 lakh cases.

With the Unlock 4 guidelines coming into effect from Monday, there could be a further spurt in cases as they allow large-scale public transport systems like Metro Rail to resume and also let more people participate in social events.

Though India had tentatively crossed Brazil's figure on Saturday, the Latin American country re-established its unenviable lead on India later on as it came out with its fresh numbers.

However, with the difference between India and Brazil widening to 77,000, India went out of reach for Brazil, which has been

● **INDIA NOW has 15 per cent of the total global Coronavirus patients.**

● **THE COUNTRY went up the ladder for Coronavirus infections in spite of testing six times fewer people compared to the US and Brazil.**

● **IF IT matched the testing metric of the US and Brazil, India could have long been the world's number one in Coronavirus infections.**

reporting a daily case addition of around 45,000 as against India's 85,000.

According to health economist Rijo M. John, India now contributes about 30 per cent of daily cases reported across the world.

India now has 15 per cent of the total global Coronavirus patients. The country went up the ladder for Coronavirus infections in spite of testing six times fewer people compared to the US and Brazil.

If India were to match the testing metric of the US and Brazil, the country could have long been occupying the world's number one in Coronavirus infections.

A serosurvey in Pune concluded that over half of its population would have been contracted by the virus. The survey in most other cities indicated an infection rate of over 20 per cent. In Hyderabad, a study showed that actual infected patients in the city could be six times more than the official figure.

As many as 1,065 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours, taking the total fatalities in the country to 70,626 and is ranked third in the world behind the US and Brazil. The current Case Fatality Rate in India is 1.72 per cent.

Though government officials have been quoting low death rates to deflect criticism over ineffective handling of Covid pandemic, a report in the scientific journal *Lancet* expressed doubt about the country's official

Covid-related death figures.

According to official Union health ministry data, India's recovery rate, at the same time, has picked up. For the second successive day, India clocked a record recovery of more than 70,000 patients in a single day. The total numbers of recoveries have reached nearly 32 lakh, taking the country's recovery rate to 77.32 per cent.

According to economist Prof Shamika Ravi, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have been two of the largest Covid-19 India hotspot states since the beginning. “Tamil Nadu is showing stabilisation at 6,000 cases daily, while Maharashtra is still on exponential growth — reporting higher daily cases — now at 17,500 daily,” she said. For several days now, AP has been reporting over 10,000 cases a day and stands just behind Maharashtra in the daily caseload. On Sunday Maharashtra reported 23,350 cases and AP 10,794.

60-yr-old temple chariot destroyed

VADREVVU SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, SEPT. 6

The chariot of the ancient Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Antarvedi in Sakshinipalli mandal of East Godavari district was gutted in a fire at about midnight of Saturday. It is said that the teakwood chariot was made 62 years ago, and stood 40-feet tall.

After the celestial marriage of the lord performed

during the Hindu month of Magha (February), the deities are carried in the chariot at the head of a procession.

According to sources, the fire in the chariot woke up people in the neighbourhood who immediately called the fire department.

The fire personnel rushed to the spot but the chariot was gutted by then.

The police deployed forensic and Clues teams to gather clues to investigate

whether there was any foul play and pressed into service a dog squad to track any possible perpetrators of the act. Apart from a possible conspiracy, police is also examining whether there was any other reason for the fire, like a short circuit.

It was said that some beggars were moving in the vicinity of the temple.

■ **Page 2: Sangh members seek EO's suspension**

MENTALLY-ILL MAN ARRESTED FOR FIRE

Kakinda, Sept. 6: A mentally disturbed person was picked up by police suspecting that he might have a role in setting fire to the chariot at Antarvedi of Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple, said East Godavari SP.

— DC

■ **Full report on Page 2**



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SHORT TAKES

PARLIAMENT CANT EMASCULATE BASIC FEATURES

FROM PAGE 1

However, when the 29th Constitutional Amendment was adopted by Parliament giving protection to Kerala laws, the seer moved the Supreme Court challenging it. The apex court ruled that the 29th Amendment is valid and held that the two Kerala land Acts that were included in the Ninth Schedule are entitled to the protection of Article 31B of the (validation of certain acts and regulations) Constitution.

The verdict had held that though Parliament has power to amend under Article 368 of the Constitution, it did not have the power to emasculate its basic features.

The case of Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala was heard for 68 days and continues to hold the top spot for the longest proceedings ever to have taken place in the top court.

The hearing in the case commenced on October 31, 1972, and concluded on March 23, 1973 and it's the most referred to case name in Indian Constitutional law.

"Kesavananda Bharati Swamiji, the seer of Edneer Mutt was a rare blend of philosopher, classical singer and a cultural icon. His patronage of Yakshagana was crucial in reviving this traditional theatre form in Karnataka. #Kesavananda-Bharati," Naidu tweeted.

The Prime Minister said on his twitter handle, "We will always remember Pujya Kesavananda Bharati Ji for his contributions towards community service and empowering the downtrodden. He was deeply attached to India's rich culture and our great Constitution. He will continue to inspire generations. Om Shanti." —PTI

MAN, DAUGHTER KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 6

A 34-year-old man and his four-year-old daughter died on the spot when their two-wheeler was hit by a lorry from behind at Chodavaram road in Anakapalle mandal in Visakhapatnam district on Sunday morning. The man's wife escaped unhurt.

The deceased were identified as A. Raju and A. Hayathi, both residents of Malkapuram area and native of V. Madugula mandal.

According to reports, the incident reportedly occurred when the trio was heading to their native village. While Raju and Hayathi died on the spot, the wife of Raju escaped with minor injuries.

ONE SPILLWAY GATE LIFTED AT SRISAILAM

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, SEPT. 6

With rising water levelled in both Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, Srisaillam dam has opened one spillway gate on Sunday. Priyadarshini Jurala project on Krishna river is discharging 52,000 cusecs of water into the Srisaillam reservoir while Sunkesula Barrage is letting out 4,345 cusecs of water. The dam received a total of 56,238 cusecs of water until Sunday evening.

The water level at Srisaillam reservoir is measured at 884.9 feet against the total height of 885 feet. The quantum of water stored is 215.3263 TMC against its full capacity of 215 TMC.

However, the dam officials released 96,567 cusecs of water including 28,029 cusecs to Nagarjunasagar by lifting seven crest gates so far.

Probe ordered into fire mishap

Authorities were probing whether the fire was the result of negligence or sabotage

Sangh seeks EO's suspension

FROM PAGE 1

CCTV cameras were said to be not functioning at the spot, which led to religious organisations to suspect the role of some endowment officials in the incident.

East Godavari SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi said wrongdoers would not be spared in the event that the fire was deliberately caused by some persons.

He said that as per the complaint lodged by the temple authorities, the Sakshinetipalli police had registered a case and were investigating. He said that special teams had been formed to investigate the fire.

BC welfare minister Ch. Srinivasa Venugopala Krishna, Amalapuram MP Chinta Anuradha, Razole MLA Rapaka Vara Prasad, East Godavari collector D. Muralidhar Reddy, SP Asmi, and others visited the spot on Sunday.

Collector Muralidhar Reddy said that a committee comprising the superintendent of police, district fire officer, AP Transco superintendent engineer and other officials had been appointed to inquire into incident.

The members of the RSS, Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad took up an agitation in the temple premises and demanded the suspension of temple executive officer N.S. Chakram for the fire. They tried to drag him out of his office but were foiled by the police. They demanded that the government should make another chariot before the celebrations of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy.

BJP and Jana Sena leaders visited the temple and

LORD RAMA AND ARJUNA TOOK DARSHAN AT SHRINE

VADREUV SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, SEPT. 6

The Lord Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Antarvedi, located on the sea shore of Sakshinetipalli mandal of East Godavari district, has a history that is believed to date back thousands of years. It is also among the famous Narasimha Swamy temples.

As per the Puranas, Lord Rama, Goddess Sita and Lakshmana took darshan of the Lord at the temple, as did Arjuna in Dwaparayuga.

The temple is believed to have been built in 300 BC. About 100 years ago, a fisherman, Koppinathi Krishnamma, donated thousands of acres of land to the temple. Devotees believe that Lord Narasimha Swamy would protect them from natural disasters. Others visit the temple, believing the Lord would keep away poverty and help them develop their businesses.

Former minister Gollapalli Surya Rao visited the temple after Sunday's chariot fire.

expressed their resentment at the incident. Ayyaji Vema, BJP Amalapuram parliament district president and former MLA, said the endowment department had failed to keep away beggars in the vicinity of the temple as they are making use of Ganja and other anti-social activities.



The chariot of lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Antarvedi before and after it got fire in the early hours of Sunday in East Godavari district.



● Minister Venu said that the new chariot would be made by the time of the celestial marriage of the Lord. He said that the incident has been taken to the notice of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and endowment minister V. Srinivas.

● Endowment minister Velampalli said the social media campaign alleging diversion of endowment funds to the welfare department was false.

The community had sanctioned funds to the Brahmin Corporation.

On other issues, he said that an ACB probe had been ordered into the illegals registered at the Srisaillam temple and a vigilance probe had been ordered into the Simhachalam temple issues.

Police pick up mentally ill person in chariot burning

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, SEPT. 6

A mentally disturbed person was picked up by police suspecting that he might have a role in setting fire to the chariot at Antarvedi of Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple.

East Godavari superintendent of police Adnan Nayeem Asmi told *Deccan Chronicle* that the man was moving under suspicious circumstances around the temple. He said that the police teams speeded up investigation to take into custody more suspects.

The police are said to

● Jana Sena leaders said that if the CC Cameras have functioned, the culprits would have found and they blamed the endowment department officials on the incident.

● Peddapuram MLA Nimmakayala China Rajappa expressed shock and said that a detailed probe should be conducted into the incident.

ing short circuit and resultant burning of the chariot. BJP state president Somu Veerajulu wrote a letter to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and expressed his anger over the burning of the chariot. He said that similar earlier incidents in temples were attributed to the acts of mentally ill persons and demanded probe by a sitting High Court judge.

AP Archaka Samakhya state general secretary Agnihotram Atreyababu and organising secretary Peddinti Rambabu requested the endowments minister to provide protection to temple properties.

have found a stick that might have touched a live wire while some prankster was trying to stir a beehive in a tree beside the chariot, caus-

Naidu demands rehabilitation

MD ILYAS VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 6

Former chief minister and Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday slammed the YSRC government for 'harassing' evacuees of Gandikota project in Kadapa district by denying them rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) package. He asked the government to explain how the displaced families could be expected to vacate their villages without getting compensation.

Mr Naidu alleged that the authorities were forcing over 2,369 families of Tallapodduru village to move out without first settling their R&R package. Alleging discrimination in payment of compensation, the former CM said only 500 families were given rehabilitation package while the rest in the village were left out.

He further suggested that the authorities keep in mind the danger posed to the public by Coronavirus and restrain from evicting the villagers.



TD demands explanation from Jagan on Discom dues

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 6

Leader of Opposition in AP Legislative Council, Yanamala Ramakrishnu on Sunday accused the Jagan Mohan Reddy government of having ulterior plans to impose an overall financial burden of ₹24,000 crore on the Discoms by not making required payments to them every year. He demanded the CM to explain why his regime has not yet cleared ₹4,802 crore dues to the Discoms in the very first year itself. He lamented that the YSRC government was not only destroying the power sector but also cutting the throats of farmers by installing smart meters on agricultural pump sets.

Mr Ramakrishnu said the YSRC regime check its default in payments to the power utilities before making allegations against the previous TD rule. He mentioned that the Discoms faced a deficit of ₹6,052 crore last year, but the government cleared just ₹1,250 crore leaving pending payments of ₹4,802 crore. He further men-

TD SHEDDING CROCODILE TEARS ON FARMERS' ISSUES, SAYS NANI

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 6

Appealing to the farmers not to fall prey to the false propaganda of Chandrababu Naidu and vested interests, information minister Perni Venkataramaiah alias Nani said that Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government will provide free power to the farmers and the smart meters are only to bring in accountability and transparency in to the system.

Speaking to media here on Sunday, the Minister said, Chandrababu Naidu has ditched the farmers during his tenure, where he did not pay ₹970 crore to the farmers towards paddy procurement and the previous Telugu Desam government owed ₹8,000 crore to Discoms. Mr Nani claimed that

Mr Naidu has no moral right to speak on agriculture as he always considered it was a non-profitable venture which does not contribute to the State economy.

He failed to waive the loans of farmers as promised but had only cleared a fraction of it which shows his intent and he speaking for farmers' cause was futile.

He stated that though Chandrababu government had ordered for firing at agitators seeking roll back of power tariff hike at Basheebagh earlier, TD leaders are now shedding crocodile tears on farmers' issues to mislead farming community.

Mr Nani clarified that the State government will not put any additional burden on farmers with the introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

tioned that the Discoms would be pushed into losses up to ₹24,000 crore, and

all this burden would have to be borne by the next government alone.

Land-grabbers arrested in Vizag

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 6

The city police restored another stretch of land to its rightful owner and arrested six persons accused of land grabbing.

The police identified the arrested persons as Jami Satya Ravi Kishore, Ganta Ravi Kishore, Pilla Ramu, Pothina Yallayamma, Pothina Potnuri Narasayamma and Yeddi Pilli Paidikonda, all belonging to Visakhapatnam city.

Giving details of the case, ACP (north), A. Ravi Shankar Reddy, said Datti Laxmanarao, from Venkataramapuram, Gowrammapeta, Vizianagaram said he and two others purchased 1146.13 square yards and another bit of land measuring 125.86 square yards, covered in survey number No. 249/10, Durganagar, Madhura-wada, Visakhapatnam by way of registered sale deeds.

They purchased the land from Dhanaraj Kalyani in 2003 and later constructed a compound wall. Since then, they have been in peaceful possession of property, paying property taxes.

He said the accused persons created a fraudulent and forged document and executed a deed of parti-

● THE ACCUSED trespassed on the property, damaged part of the compound wall and constructed a thatched shed.

● THE MAIN ACCUSED in the case, Kishore, erected a board of ownership and employed some labour to keep watch on the board.

tion into five unequal shares to an extent of 2,323 square yards and got it registered at a sub-registrar's office at Dwarakanagar in Visakhapatnam.

The accused trespassed on the property, damaged part of the compound wall and constructed a thatched shed. The main accused in the case, Kishore, erected a board of ownership and employed some labour to keep watch on the board.

The ACP said that after investigation, all the six persons were arrested and remanded to the court for judicial custody.

He said a close watch has been kept on land-grabbing activities and legal action will be initiated against those involved in grabbing government or private lands.

COUNTER | CLAIM

Rankings worked out through a survey during January and February 2020: Minister

TD takes credit for EoDB rank, YSRC dismisses claim

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 6

The opposition Telugu Desam and ruling YSR Congress claimed the credit for the top rank secured by the state in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB).

Soon after the Union finance ministry announced the nation-wide rankings, TD leaders were quick to claim that the honour was the fruit of the hard work done by the previous Chandrababu Naidu govern-

ment. Countering the opposition claim, the ruling party said the top EoDB rank was testimony to the excellent performance and recognition for Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's government.

Leader of opposition in the Legislative Council Yanamala Ramakrishnu termed it as a shame on the part of the YSRC government to claim the credit for the EoDB top rank achieved by the state even though Niti Aayog's Export

● Minister for industries Mekapati Gautam Reddy was of the view that the top rank represented the ease of doing business in the state with increased transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the government regulatory functions

Preparedness Index gave AP 20th place reflecting poor performance of the Jagan government.

He asserted that the EoDB

first rank was the result of earlier TD government's performance.

TD national general secretary and MLC Nara Lokesh criticised Mr Jagan for 'hanging his stand' on EoDB after coming to power. He said Jagan called those who gave EoDB top rank to AP unwise and stupid, but after becoming CM, he swallowed his pride and boasting about the top rank as an achievement of his government though it was actually a progress report on the pre-

vious TD's rule.

"The same Mr Jagan who once spread lies that not a single job was created during the Chandrababu Naidu regime was now forced to accept the fact that over 39,450 industries and 5.13 lakh jobs were created during the previous government," the TD MLC said.

Former state Planning Board vice chairman Ch. Kutumba Rao echoed the sentiments of Mr Lokesh. Minister for industries Mekapati Gautam Reddy

was of the view that the top rank represented the ease of doing business in the state with increased transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the government regulatory functions. These rankings worked out through a survey of the investor community during January and February 2020 truly stood testimony to the investor-friendly commitment of the state and transparent governance, the minister said and dismissed the TD claim.



IN BRIEF

Free yoga training for Tirupati public

Tirupati: With an aim to strengthen one's immunity and beat the severe acute respiratory syndrome illness, caused by Covid-19, the Municipal Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) has launched a free yoga training program for city residents here on Sunday. The corporation has collaborated with Chittoor District Yoga Association for the training programme and professional yoga trainers were involved to conduct the programme at the open auditorium in Prakasam park. Along with the over 150 city residents, municipal commissioner P.S. Girisha also participated in the training session, led by District Yoga Association president Srinivasulu Naidu and practised different basic yoga asanas. The Commissioner said that the free yoga training program has been started with an aim to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by educating people and creating awareness among them.

Withdraw decision to fix metres: CPM

Rajahmundry: The CPM Rajahmundry unit demanded the state government to withdraw GO No. 22 on fixing agri smart metres to farmers pumpsets. Addressing the party activists at the CPM district committee meeting here on Sunday, CPM Rajahmundry unit secretary T. Arun Kumar said that the merging the free power scheme with the cash transfer system and fixing of agri smart metres will become a curse to the farmers in the future. When the people are facing hardships due to Covid-19 crisis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to burden the people in the name of reforms. He criticised Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for not making any effort to bring funds from the Union government. He suggested the Chief Minister to focus on collecting the dues and funds from the Union government rather than thinking of fixing agri smart metres. All the opposing parties in AP have been opposing the merger of the free power scheme with the fund transfer scheme and fixing of metres to the farmers pumpsets.

Covid cases touch 5L

AP registers 70 new deaths in the last 24 hours

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 6

Registration of above 10,000 Covid-19 positive cases per day in Andhra Pradesh continued on the 11th consecutive day on Sunday with registration of 10,794 new virus cases during the past 24 hours. With this, the total number of Coronavirus cases in AP has reached 4,98,125 on Sunday among which 99,1689 are active cases, 3,94,019 patients have recovered and 4,417 patients have died.

Among all the districts in Andhra Pradesh, East Godavari is at the top in registering the highest number of Covid-19 cases. The single-day highest cases on Sunday have, however, been reported from Nellore district. The state registered as many 70 new deaths during the past 24 hours. The

highest number of nine deaths have been reported from Chittoor district, followed by eight each in Anantapur, Guntur and Prakasam, seven in Kadapa, five each in West Godavari, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam, four each in Krishna, Kurnool and Nellore, two in Srikakulam and one death in Vizianagaram district. As many as 72,573 Coronavirus tests have been conducted in the past 24-hours. 10,794 of them turned out positive.

AP has so far tested a total of 4,10,780 samples for Coronavirus and is at the top place in the country in conducting of Covid-19 tests.

As many as 11,915 patients have recovered from Coronavirus in the past 24 hours and discharged from various hospitals in the state. The single day highest

number of 1,299 Covid-19 cases has been registered in Nellore district in the past 24-hours, increasing the total to 37,278 in which 6,673 are active cases. The second highest number of 1,244 cases has been registered in East Godavari district, increasing the total to 66,948 in which 14,454 are active cases. West Godavari district is in the third place registering 1,101 new positive cases, increasing the total positive cases to 42,903 in which 2,832 are active cases. Chittoor district registered 927 new Corona positive cases in the past 24 hours, increasing total positive cases to 42,561 in which 8,979 are active cases. 904 new Corona positive cases have been registered in Kadapa district, increasing the total positive cases to 31,481 in which 8,052 were active cases. 818 new Corona positive

cases have been registered in Srikakulam district, increasing the total positive cases to 27,984 in which 7,065 are active cases.

Anantapur registered 753 new positive cases in the past 24 hours, increasing the total positive cases to 45,300 in which 6,020 are active cases. 703 new Corona positive cases have been registered in Guntur district, increasing the total positive cases to 40,135 in which 7597 are active cases. 593 new Corona positive cases have been registered in Vizianagaram district, increasing the total positive cases to 23,911 in which 8,876 are active cases. 573 new Corona positive cases have been registered in Visakhapatnam district, increasing the total positive cases to 40,787 in which 6,503 are active cases.

Woman Covid patient dies by suicide at Nellore GGH

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, SEPT. 6

A 60-year-old woman, who was undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at the Government General Hospital in Nellore, allegedly died by suicide early on Sunday morning.

The incident has sent shock waves among patients and staff of the GGH. The woman's son has, however, lodged a complaint at Dargamitta Police Station seeking a probe into her death.

According to Dargamitta circle inspector Nageswaramma, the victim, a resident of Municipal Quarters at Kondadibba in Mulapeta area of Nellore city, was admitted to a private hospital in Nellore on

■ **HER SON** Ganesh, in his complaint, stated that his mother had complained of frequent vomiting since her admission to the ward. She called him on Friday night and told him that she was not feeling well, as she had vomited several times.

September 1 for some ailment. Next day, the private hospital asked her to get a Coronavirus test done at Nellore GGH after she showed some symptoms of the virus.

She tested positive on September 3 and was admitted to the isolation ward in GGH.

Her son Ganesh, in his complaint, stated that his mother had complained of frequent vomiting since

her admission to the ward. She called him on Friday night and told him that she was not feeling well, as she had vomited several times.

On Sunday, at around 4.30 am, Ganesh got a phone call from a woman, believed to be another patient in the isolation ward, informing him that his mother's body has been found on the second floor of GGH.

The son immediately rushed to the hospital and saw his mother's body.

He lodged a complaint with the police stating that he was suspicious about her death and demanded a probe. Dargamitta police have registered a case with crime number 397/2020 under section 174 CrPC. Investigation is underway.

Beach side story



People visit the Beach road neglecting the Covid-19 protocol in Visakhapatnam on Sunday evening. — K. MURALIKRISHNA

16-YEAR-OLD DROWNS IN PENNA

DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, SEPT. 6

A sixteen-year-old boy Ranjith from Proddutur Rameswaram drowned in Penna river on Sunday morning.

He, along with his friends, went to Penna for swimming but was carried away after entering the water.

The fire department recovered his body.

The officers alerted the people living near the river not to enter into the waters for a few days. This morning, water was released to Penna river from Mylavaram reservoir and the flow is heavy due to which drowning could occur.

2 more rest houses converted to CCC

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, SEPT. 6

The Chittoor district administration has converted two more TTD rest houses – Sri Govindaraja Swamy and Sri Kodandarama Swamy choultries, into Covid care centres and enhanced the overall bed-strength to 5,200. Tirupati MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, collector Bharat Gupta, SP Ramesh Reddy inaugurated the facilities here on Sunday.

Speaking to mediapersons, MLA Mr Bhumana said, in view of possible spike in the Covid-19 cases due to the arrival of Tamil Nadu based pilgrims to the city during the auspicious Perataasi month, I have requested the TTD administration to cancel the issuance of time slotted

sarva darshan token in Tirupati, though several pilgrims were disappointed with this decision.

The MLA further appealed to the denizens to get treatment in government hospitals for free of cost instead of spending huge amounts by going to corporate hospitals. Mr maintained that he had availed treatment in state-run Ruia hospital after he got infected with the virus.

Collector Dr Narayana Bharath Gupta said that they had increased the number of beds from up to 5200 with the support of Covid-19 co-ordination committee in the district.

The collector advised patients who are not having facilities for home isolation, to admit at the government hospitals for treatment.

2 Mee Seva operators held for fudging cards

HOSKOTE NAGA BHUSHANAM | DC ANANTAPUR, SEPT. 6

In a major breakthrough, Tadipatri police busted a five-member gang, including two Mee Seva centre organisers, over fabricating of Unique ID records by using fake Pan cards, making them eligible to get government schemes like YSR Cheyutha.

The police identified the gang fabricated at least 800 records in Aadhar card details by collecting hefty amounts from people in Guntakal and Tadipatri areas since January.

It is suspected the Mee Seva organisers in many parts of the state are involved in fudging the details of people using

fake Pan cards.

Anantapur SP Satya Esubabu said Tadipatri Rural police arrested a gang of five for changing details on Aadhaar cards through illegal methods.

The SP said that the gang was involved in the illegal activity for the last 8 months.

The gang was collecting huge amounts from the people to change their details on the cards and make them eligible for government schemes, mainly YSR Cheyutha and old age pensions.

Four laptops, four keyboards, four mikes, two iris scanners, one xerox machine, paper cutter, four biometric devices, Mee Seva key pen drive, laminator, printer, 3 color printers and others were seized.

Kadapa-Tirupati highway underway

NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA | DC KADAPA, SEPT. 6

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is preparing a detailed project report for the construction of a new four-lane highway from Kadapa to Tirupati.

The central government has approved the construction of a new greenfield express highway connecting Kadapa and Chittoor districts. It is learnt that in addition to widening the existing two-lane road only in a few places, new road construction will be given high priority.

In addition to the accident-free road construction, the new road is designed to greatly reduce travel time. Traffic congestion on this road was surveyed between 2016 and 2018. It was found that more than 20,000 vehicles were moving per day. The Kadapa-Renigunta route, which was originally an inter-district highway, was identified as NH-716 two years ago. The present two-lane road has many curves, turns. Accidents

often occur due to non-visibility of upcoming vehicles due to the hilly terrain.

Following the orders of the central government, the NHAI is proposing a new greenfield express way from Kadapa to Renigunta which is expected to be complete by 2024-25. It is 117.6 km from Kadapa to the district border, Kukkadaloddi area. From there to Renigunta, it is about 20 kilometers.

A new four-lane road is being proposed on the other side of the Mumbai-Chennai railway line.

For this, 446 hectares of land will be acquired in the district. A toll plaza will be set up at the existing two-lane road from the ring road junction to Kadapa General Hospital to Bhakarapeta.

A high flyover bridge will be constructed to cross the Chennai-Mumbai railway line from Bhakarapeta.

The cost of the highway is estimated to be ₹3,000 crore to be estimated. A total of 446 hectares of land to be acquired for the construction of this highway in Kadapa district.



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SHORT TAKES

AMBULANCE DRIVER HELD FOR RAPE OF PATIENT

Pathanamthitta, Sept. 6: A 19-year-old woman Covid-19 patient was allegedly raped by an ambulance driver while shifting her to a first line treatment centre near here, police said on Sunday.

Taking note of it, the state women's commission registered a case on its own into the incident, which drew wide condemnation from the Opposition Congress and BJP, even as health minister K.K. Shailaja said strict instructions had been given to take strong action against the culprit.

"This is an unfortunate incident. We have given strict directions to take strong action against the culprit," she said in Thiruvananthapuram.

The ambulance driver Noufal (29) was taken into custody on Sunday based on a complaint by the victim's mother to the hospital authorities and the police.

UJJAIN TEMPLE TO OFFER 'PURE MILK' TO STATUE

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 6

The ancient shrine of Mahakaleswar in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh is planning to raise cows to meet the demand for milk in the wake of the recent directive by the Supreme Court to offer only pure milk to the jyotirlinga in the temple.

The temple administration is working out a plan to procure 150 Gir cows and to raise them in the shrine to make their milk available to the devotees to offer to the jyotirlinga, worshipped in the sanctum sanctorum of the eighteenth-century shrine.

"The temple administration is mulling over procuring Gir cows, a famous breed in India, to raise them in the gaushala or cowshed of the temple to meet the demand for pure milk in the shrine," temple administrator, S.S. Rawat, told this newspaper on Sunday.

According to him, around 1,000 litres of milk is being offered to the jyotirlinga by devotees every day.

The temple can build its captive reserve of pure milk to make it available to the devotees by raising the cattle breed, a senior temple administrator said.

GANJA SMUGGLERS THRASH HOME GUARD TO DEATH

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 6

A home guard died after allegedly being thrashed by a group of ganja smugglers near Chaulimendi under Balimela police limits in Odisha's Malkangiri district on Sunday.

According to reports, more than 100 persons disguised as kanwariyas were carrying the contraband using slings.

Acting on a tip-off, the police on Saturday night intercepted them near Chaulimendi for search.

The accused attacked the cops, during which home guard Banabasi Maharana was grievously injured. The accused fled the spot after assaulting the cops.

The victim was rescued and rushed to the Mathili Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday morning while undergoing treatment.

SHEIKH HASINA PAYS TRIBUTE TO MUKHERJEE

Dhaka, Sept. 6: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday paid rich tributes to India's former president Pranab Mukherjee and said he was a true friend of Bangladesh, as the country's Parliament adopted a condolence motion over his death.

He was a true friend of Bangladesh since our 1971 Liberation War, Hasina told the maiden session of Parliament called for the second time since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The country's Parliament adopted a condolence motion to mourn the demise of Mukherjee and several distinguished Bangladeshis who died recently.

Mukherjee, 84, died on Monday in New Delhi following a 21-day battle with multiple ailments.

The former president was cremated with full state honours on Tuesday.

TA battalions deployed along LAC

TA units are in addition to 2 Mountain Divisions from Bareilly, HP-Ladakh Scouts, SFF

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD SEPT. 6

With situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh hotting up leading to massive deployment of forces — especially those well-

versed with the art of survival in inhospitable terrains and harsh weather and fight the enemy — Territorial Army (TA) battalions, comprising people from Ladakh are the latest addition in the troop deployment at strategic points to thwart any designs of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China. The TA had played a key role alongside the Army in the 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars.

The TA units, sent recently to the strategic heights to assist the Army, are in addition to the deployment of two Mountain Divisions from Bareilly and Himachal Pradesh — Ladakh Scouts, Special Frontier Force besides the existing three divisions of 14 Corps apart from the Indian Air Force — making it the first of its kind deployment at the LAC, post the 1962 Sino-

● **TERRITORIAL ARMY** is a unique concept wherein any citizen can join the force while continuing with their main profession and serve the Army when required.

India war:

Each division has between 17,000 and 20,000 soldiers. Recently, the Army has put on hold the premature retirement of thousands of JCOs and jawans, who have been asked to be ready for deployment at short notice.

The TA shot to prominence after cricket stars like Kapil Dev, M.S. Dhoni, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and some from the South Indian film industry joined the force and underwent training.

Sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that the "home and hearth" units of the TA, which was raised on the concept of the "son of the soil," is coming in handy at this crucial time. The soldiers in this force are locals who are well-versed with the terrain and geography of the area

and have the required survival skills. During peace time, these units, though well-trained, are used for mundane tasks within Army establishments.

While the TA has been supporting the Army in carrying out anti-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir, this would be the first time that they have been given bigger operational roles in the ongoing stand-off with the PLA. Known as the 'citizen's Army' wherein any citizen can volunteer to join the TA and serve the Army when required, the TA units form the second line of defence.

"Since the unit comprises Ladakhis, who are tough, intelligent and know the region like the back of their hand, it was decided to deploy them at various heights," sources said.

Raised in October 1949, the size and task of TA has increased manifold over the years. It now has a strength of about 45,000 and sources said there are major plans in the pipeline to further make the TA strong and give bigger roles.

Govt to improve livelihood of those living on borders

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, SEPT. 6

Amid escalating border tension with China, the Government of India has embarked upon an ambitious multi-pronged strategy to strengthen the border management along the international border with China by launching schemes aimed at improving the standard of living of people in those areas where they can become important stakeholders in border management.

The secretary of the border management wing of the ministry of home affairs Sanjeeva Kumar visited Ladakh to monitor the implementation of the border area development scheme along the border with China. Authoritative security sources in the ministry of home affairs told this newspaper that the ministry has asked

respective state governments and union territories to prepare the schemes in consultation with the border guarding forces and submit it to the border management wing of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Pointing out that improving road connectivity is the key component of the scheme, security sources said that the ministry has already started massive exercise to improve the connectivity along the international border with China.

Stressing the need for augmenting connectivity along the China border under the present circumstances security sources said that several road projects are at various stages of implementation. Creation of border outposts is another key component of the scheme. Infrastructure develop-

ment from zero to ten kilometres from the international border is given priority under the border areas development scheme, security sources said adding that adequate funds are being pumped in for speedy implementation of the schemes submitted by the state governments.

Informing that the government of Arunachal Pradesh, which has a long international border with China, is doing a good job in improving infrastructure along the international border with the funds provided by the ministry, security sources said that senior officers are in constant touch with the chief secretaries of the border states and a team of senior officers headed by Sanjeeva Kumar, Secretary, Border Management, has also been monitoring the execution of the schemes.

THACKERAY GETS THREATENING CALL, SECURITY BEEFED UP

Mumbai, Sept. 6: An unidentified man allegedly called up Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's personal residence 'Matoshree' in Bandra here, saying that he was calling from Dubai on behalf of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, a police official said on Sunday.

The caller rang up twice around 10.30 pm on Saturday, following which the police beefed up security at Thackeray's bungalow located in Kalanagar Colony, the official said.

"Someone called up on 'Matoshree' phone number two times on Saturday night and said Dawood Ibrahim wanted to talk to the CM. However, the telephone operator did not transfer the call to the CM," the official said.

"The caller did not reveal his identity, but only said that he was calling from Dubai on behalf of Dawood Ibrahim. Both the calls were received around 10.30 pm," he added. — PTI

Offering prayers



Devotees offer prayers at the Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah after it reopened in New Delhi on Sunday, during Unlocked 4.0. Union minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was among the people who paid obeisance to Sufi saint at Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia .

— PTI

K'TAKA LABOUR MANTRI TESTS +VE FOR COVID

Bengaluru, Sept. 6: Karnataka Labour Minister A. Shivaram Hebbar on Sunday said he and his wife have tested positive for the Covid-19 and would be under treatment in their home itself being asymptomatic.

"Me and my wife underwent Covid-19 test and have been found positive for the virus. Since there are no symptoms of Covid-19, we decided to remain in home quarantine on doctors' advice and are getting treatment at home," Hebbar tweeted.

Rahul slams govt for 'faulty GST'

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lashed out at the centre over the contraction of the economy and linked it with a 'faulty GST'. "Another big reason for record GDP contraction is Modi government's Gabbar Singh Tax (GST). Many have been badly affected by this — lakhs of poor families, crores lost their jobs, states' economy was affected (sic)," he said in a post on Twitter.

In a video, which he shared with the post, the former Congress president is heard saying: "GST

was the second biggest attack on the unorganised sector: GST was UPA's idea — one tax, intended to simplify the system.

NDA's GST was different — four different types of tax slabs, up to 28 per cent tax, it has become complicated. Small enterprises cannot pay this amount. These four slabs are only meant to help the privileged, the country's most powerful businessmen in the country."

He added: "NDA's GST has left states at receiving end. Centre is not able to pay the states. The GST is not just a failure, it's an attack on poor." In the last

couple of days, the Congress leader has been doing a series of videos attacking the government over its policies.

In his third video of the four-part series, he also accused the government of allowing 15-20 businessmen of having the reach to manipulate the tax payment and farmers, labourers and small businesses of not having similar leverage.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday hit back saying "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing" and asked when will the Congress leader stop lying.

Reminding the former Congress president that he had to once "apologise" to the Supreme Court for one of his lies, the ruling party claimed that the Congress leader wants to have a tax regime where airplane and slippers are taxed same and essential commodities and services which have no tax are brought under the tax regime.

The BJP has claimed that the contraction in the GDP was from April to June when the country was under complete lockdown and barring essential services there was no economic activity.

MARITAL DISPUTE

Varsha reportedly stayed with her husband only 18 months

Mohanty filed divorce petition: Lawyer

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 6

The controversy surrounding BJD MP, Anubhav Mohanty, allegedly harassing his actress wife Varsha Priyadarshini, took a new twist on Sunday after the lawmaker's legal counsel informed the media that his client has filed a divorce petition in the court of principal judge, Family Court, Patiala House, New Delhi, seeking a divorce.

"My client has filed a

divorce petition under Section 13 (i)(a) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 on the grounds that the marriage between the two has never been consummated and as such no child was born. Though the couple got married on February 8, 2014, Varsha stayed with her husband only for 18 months. The married life was full of cruelty, tyranny, misery, harassment and suffering for Anubhav and his family members," Ashwini Dubey, the legal counsel of the lawmaker, told a local television channel here

over the telephone from Delhi.

In his divorce petition, a copy of which is with this newspaper, the respondent (Priyadarshini) fears the pain while thinking about having sexual intercourse. As such, she never allowed the petitioner (Anubhav) to consummate their marriage. Whenever the petitioner tried to even touch the respondent, she never allowed it. This behaviour made the petitioner uncomfortable and unhappy. The petitioner never felt he was married as the respondent never gave

him the pleasure of being married, reads the petition.

The petition says that the respondent did not allow the petitioner to establish a physical relationship on their first night after marriage and clearly told the petitioner that she is going to take three-four months to get comfortable and would allow physical relations only then. The petitioner appreciated the feelings of the respondent and gave her time to become comfortable.

The content of Anubhav's divorce is in

sharp contrast with the allegations levelled by Varsha.

In a petition filed before the sub-divisional judicial magistrate court, Cuttack, Varsha has charged Anubhav with domestic violence.

The actress, while accusing Anubhav of being an alcoholic, has said that though she insisted on a child, the actor did not show any interest.

Varsha has demanded a monthly maintenance and an indemnity of ₹15 crore from her actor-turned-lawmaker husband.

AHEAD OF POLLS, BJP RELEASES POSTER SEEKING JUSTICE FOR SSR

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, SEPT. 6

A BJP poster campaign seeking justice for actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has created a flutter in poll-bound Bihar.

Opposition parties are of the view that posters and pamphlets have been released to influence voters ahead of the assembly elections scheduled in October-November this year.

Talking to reporters in Patna, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) spokesperson, Mrityunjay Tiwari, said, "Tejaswi Yadav was the first to demand a CBI probe into the case but

never used it for political reasons. It's tragic to see BJP doing politics over someone's dead body."

Dismissing the opposition's allegations, BJP leaders in Patna said that the posters were released by the art and culture wing of the party and has nothing to do with politics. According to BJP spokesperson, Nikhil Anand, "Sushant is the son of the soil who represented Bihar in Hindi cinema. His untimely death has been a shock to all of us which is visible not only in the Bihar but globally. Bihar BJP has stood by the demand of justice for the late actor."

China's reusable spacecraft
aboard a Long March-2F
carrier rocket. — AFP

SHORT TAKES

Football champ
Veeru no more

Visakhapatnam: Former international footballer V. Veeru Babu died at a hospital where he was undergoing treatment here on Saturday. He was 63 and is survived by his wife and three sons. Called the "Little Goal-getter" by fellow players, the Visakhapatnam-born Babu played for Railways for several years. He also played for Bengal Nagpur Railways (BNR Club). Babu was the vice-captain of the India Railways team during 1981 World Railways Football Championship in Nigeria, and was appreciated with \$200 cash prize by the Nigerian Railways for his performance. Kosaraju Gopal Krishna, President of APFA and DFA, said it was a big loss to the football community. — PTI

Shuttlers back at
training today

New Delhi: Top singles players such as Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth will finally resume training from Monday as the Sports Authority of India (SAI) gave its go-ahead to the national badminton camp at the Pullela Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad under strict Covid-19 guidelines.

The camp, to continue till September 27, is being organised to help 26 players prepare for the Thomas and Uber Cup tournaments, beginning in Aarhus, Denmark, from October 3. The players who will be part of the camp include Nehwal, Sai Praneeth, P. Kashyap, Srikanth, Lakshya Sen (all singles), women's doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponappa, along with seven coaches, four support staff and three sparring partners. — PTI

England seal
T20 series vs Oz

Southampton: Jos Buttler made a dashing 77 not out as England beat Australia by six wickets in a series-clinching win in the second Twenty20 international at Southampton on Sunday. Victory saw England go an unbeatable 2-0 up in a three-match contest. England, set 158 to win, finished on 158-4 with seven balls to spare.

Brief scores: Australia 157/7 in 20 overs (Finch 40, Stoinis 35) lost to **England 158/4** in 18.5 overs (Jos Buttler 77 n.o., D. Malan 42; Ashton Agar 2/27).

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STERLING SHOW

Raheem's heroics power England past Iceland

Paris, Sept. 6: European heavyweights England, world champions France, holders Portugal and Belgium all enjoyed winning starts to their UEFA Nations League campaigns on Saturday even if there were signs of international rust following the Coronavirus shutdown.

England needed a stoppage-time penalty to beat Iceland 1-0 while France saw off Sweden by the same scoreline.

Portugal shrugged off the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo to thrash Croatia 4-1 with top-ranked Belgium coming away from Denmark with a 2-0 win.

In Reykjavik, Raheem Sterling's last minute penalty salvaged England from another embarrassing result against Iceland.

Gareth Southgate's men also survived going down to 10 men and seeing Birkir Bjarnason miss a late spot-kick for the hosts. Four years on from one of English football's most embarrassing nights in losing 2-1 to Iceland at Euro 2016, England were far from the free-scoring force that romped through Euro 2020 qualifying in their first match for 10 months.

Harry Kane had an early goal wrongly ruled out for offside before Kyle Walker was sent-off for two bookable offences 20 minutes from time.

All of Iceland's good defensive work was undone in the 89th minute when Sverrir Ingason was



England's Raheem Sterling (left) in action during the UEFA Nations League football match against Iceland in Reykjavik, Iceland, on Saturday. England won 1-0. — AP

THE RESULTS

Iceland	0
England (Sterling 90+2-pen)	1
Denmark	0
Belgium (Denayer 9, Mertens 77)	2
Sweden	0
France (Mbappe 41)	1
Portugal (Joao Cancelo 41, Diogo Jota 58, Joao Felix 70, Silva 90+5)	4
Croatia (Petkovic 90+1)	1

also harshly dismissed for a second booking when he blocked Sterling's shot with his arm.

Kylian Mbappe scored with France's only shot on goal in Solna to give the world champions a 1-0 victory over Sweden.

Mbappe picked up the ball wide of the goal in the 41st minute, squeezed past two defenders, waited for goalkeeper Robin Olsen to go down and then clipped the ball inside the post.

In Porto, Cristiano Ronaldo was missing with an infected toe — caused by a bee sting according to Italian media — but Portugal were still too good for a disappointing Croatia. Joao Cancelo, Diogo Jota, with his first international goal, Joao Felix and Andre Silva were all on target for Portugal who also hit the woodwork three times. — AFP

Serena survives Sloane scare

New York, Sept. 6: Serena Williams battled into the US Open last 16 Saturday.

Williams, chasing a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title, came from a set down to oust 2017 champion Sloane Stephens 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, in what she called an "intense" encounter on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"In that first set I don't think she made any errors, honestly. She was just playing so clean and I just said, 'I don't want to lose in straight sets,'" said Williams, who will play 15th seed Maria Sakkari for a place in the quarter-finals.

The Greek player, who

stunned Williams at the Western & Southern Open last month, progressed with a 6-3, 6-1 dismantling of America's 22nd seed Amanda Anisimova.

Back on the court on Saturday, Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev, Italy's sixth seed Matteo Berrettini and Andrey Rublev, all entered the last 16 with easy three-set wins.

Second seed Dominic Thiem also progressed to round four, overcoming 2014 champion Marin Cilic 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

And Canada's 94th-ranked Vasek Pospisil shocked eighth-seeded Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut and Australia's 21st

seed Alex de Minaur upset 11th-seeded Russian Karen Khachanov.

In the women's draw, unranked Bulgarian Tsvetana Pironkova, playing her first tournament in three years, knocked out 18th seed Donna Vekic.

Second seed Sofia Kenin defeated Tunisia's Ons Jabeur 7-6 (7/4), 6-3. — AFP

THE RESULTS

Men's singles third round: Matteo Berrettini (ITA x6) bt Casper Ruud (NOR x30) 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; Andrey Rublev (RUS x10) bt Salvatore Caruso (ITA) 6-0, 6-4, 6-0; Frances Tiafoe (USA) bt Marton Fucsovics (HUN) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; Daniil Medvedev (RUS x3) bt Jeffrey Wolf (USA) 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; Vasek Pospisil (CAN)

bt Roberto Bautista (ESP x8) 7-5, 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; Alex De Minaur (AUS x21) bt Karen Khachanov (RUS x11) 6-4, 0-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN x15) bt Corentin Moutet (FRA) 6-1, 6-0, 6-4; Dominic Thiem (AUT x2) bt Marin Cilic (CRO x31) 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Women's singles third round Alize Cornet (FRA) bt Madison Keys (USA x7) 7-6 (7/4), 3-2 retired; Tsvetana Pironkova (BUL) bt Donna Vekic (CRO x18) 6-4, 6-1; Maria Sakkari (GRE x15) bt Amanda Anisimova (USA x22) 6-3, 6-1; Serena Williams (USA x3) bt Sloane Stephens (USA x26) 2-6, 6-2, 6-2; Victoria Azarenka (BLR) bt Iga Swiatek (POL) 6-4, 6-2; Karolina Muchova (CZE x20) bt Sorana Cirstea (ROU) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (9/7); Elise Mertens (BEL x16) bt Caty McNally (USA) 7-5, 6-1.

GASLY TAKES 1ST
FORMULA 1 RACE

Monza (Italy) Sept. 6: AlphaTauri driver Pierre Gasly claimed an unlikely victory at the Italian Grand Prix after a thrilling race which saw world champion Lewis Hamilton given a 10-second penalty and both Ferraris fail to finish at their home circuit on Sunday.

It was Gasly's first-ever win in Formula One. He finished 0.415 seconds ahead of McLaren driver Carlos Sainz and 3.358 ahead of Racing Point's Lance Stroll on a surreal-looking podium. All three drivers had never won a race and each had only one top-three finish to their name. — AP

IPL FIXTURES

M	Date	Time	Teams	Venue
1	19-Sept	7.30 pm	MI vs CSK	Abu Dhabi
2	20-Sept	7.30 pm	DC vs KXIP	Dubai
3	21-Sept	7.30 pm	SRH vs RCB	Dubai
4	22-Sept	7.30 pm	RR vs CSK	Sharjah
5	23-Sept	7.30 pm	KKR vs MI	Abu Dhabi
6	24-Sept	7.30 pm	KXIP vs RCB	Dubai
7	25-Sept	7.30 pm	CSK vs DC	Dubai
8	26-Sept	7.30 pm	KKR vs SRH	Abu Dhabi
9	27-Sept	7.30 pm	RR vs KXIP	Sharjah
10	28-Sept	7.30 pm	RCB vs MI	Dubai
11	29-Sept	7.30 pm	DC vs SRH	Abu Dhabi
12	30-Sept	7.30 pm	RR vs KKR	Dubai
13	1-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs MI	Abu Dhabi
14	2-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs SRH	Dubai
15	3-Oct	3.30 pm	RCB vs RR	Abu Dhabi
16	3-Oct	7.30 pm	DC vs KKR	Sharjah
17	4-Oct	3.30 pm	MI vs SRH	Sharjah
18	4-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs CSK	Dubai
19	5-Oct	7.30 pm	RCB vs DC	Dubai
20	6-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs RR	Abu Dhabi
21	7-Oct	7.30 pm	KKR vs CSK	Abu Dhabi
22	8-Oct	7.30 pm	SRH vs KXIP	Dubai
23	9-Oct	7.30 pm	RR vs DC	Sharjah
24	10-Oct	3.30 pm	KXIP vs KKR	Abu Dhabi
25	10-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs RCB	Dubai
26	11-Oct	3.30 pm	SRH vs RR	Dubai
27	11-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs DC	Abu Dhabi
28	12-Oct	7.30 pm	RCB vs KKR	Sharjah
29	13-Oct	7.30 pm	SRH vs CSK	Dubai
30	14-Oct	7.30 pm	DC vs RR	Dubai
31	15-Oct	7.30 pm	RCB vs KXIP	Sharjah
32	16-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs KKR	Abu Dhabi
33	17-Oct	3.30 pm	RR vs RCB	Dubai
34	17-Oct	7.30 pm	DC vs CSK	Sharjah
35	18-Oct	3.30 pm	SRH vs KKR	Abu Dhabi
36	18-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs KXIP	Dubai
37	19-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs RR	Abu Dhabi
38	20-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs DC	Dubai
39	21-Oct	7.30 pm	KKR vs RCB	Abu Dhabi
40	22-Oct	7.30 pm	RR vs SRH	Dubai
41	23-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs MI	Sharjah
42	24-Oct	3.30 pm	KKR vs DC	Abu Dhabi
43	24-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs SRH	Dubai
44	25-Oct	3.30 pm	RCB vs CSK	Dubai
45	25-Oct	7.30 pm	RR vs MI	Abu Dhabi
46	26-Oct	7.30 pm	KKR vs KXIP	Sharjah
47	27-Oct	7.30 pm	SRH vs DC	Dubai
48	28-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs RCB	Abu Dhabi
49	29-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs KKR	Dubai
50	30-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs RR	Abu Dhabi
51	31-Oct	3.30 pm	DC vs MI	Dubai
52	31-Oct	7.30 pm	RCB vs SRH	Sharjah
53	1-Nov	3.30 pm	CSK vs KXIP	Abu Dhabi
54	1-Nov	7.30 pm	KKR vs RR	Dubai
55	2-Nov	7.30 pm	DC vs RCB	Abu Dhabi
56	3-Nov	7.30 pm	SRH vs MI	Sharjah

SCHUMACHER Jr WINS

Monza (Italy), Sept. 6: Mick Schumacher, son of legendary Formula One driver Michael, won for the first time this season in the European Formula 2 Championship on Saturday at Monza in Italy. The 21-year-old German finished 3.185 seconds ahead of Italian Luca Ghiotto with Dane Christian Lundgaard in third. — AFP

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