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THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | SATURDAY 26 | SEPTEMBER 2020





Min: 23°C Rainfall: 4 mm

Forecast: Mostly cloudy with a thunderstorm in the afternoon

CAG: Centre used GST

compensation cess elsewhere, violated law

New Delhi: The CAG has found that the Union government in the very first two years of the GST implementation wrongly retained ₹47,272 crore of GST compensation cess that was meant to be used specifically to compensate states for loss of revenue. In its audit report of government accounts, the

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged that the amount was to be credited to the non-lapsable GST Compensation Cess collection fund for payment to states for loss of revenue due to implementation of GST since 2017. but the government did not do so, and thus violated the GST

NMC comes into

existence as India's regulator of medical edu

New Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) came into existence from Friday as the country's apex regulator of medical education and profession replacing the Medical Council of India (MCI). With this, the nearly 64-year-old Indian Medical Council Act stands repealed and the Board of Governors appointed in supersession of the MCI has also been dissolved with effect from September 25. the health ministry said. "Historic reform in the field of medical education has been effected by the Union government with the constitution of the National Medical Commission (NMC), along with four autonomous boards," the ministry said in a statement.

Rahul says new farm laws will 'enslave' farmers

ing the Monsoon session and are

dent through farmers' voices," he said in the video. —PTI he said in the video.



STATE | 4 Min defends govt's support for agri bills



WORLD | 5 **Activist Greta calls for** more climate pressure

SPORT | 8 Delhi Capitals beat CSK by 44 runs



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Vol. 10 No. 270 Established 1938 | 8 pages | ₹4.00

Vodafone wins tax fight against India

New Delhi, Sept. 25: British telecom giant Vodafone Group plc on Friday won an arbitration against the Indian government over its demand for ₹22,100 crore in taxes using retrospective legislation.

However, the Centre said it will study the arbitration award on decide on its future course of action.

The international arbitration tribunal ruled that India's demand in past taxes was in breach of fair treatment under a bilateral investment protection pact.
"Vodafone confirms that
the investment treaty tri-

VINEETA PANDEY AND NAYEAR AZAD | DC NEW DELHI/PATNA,

The Assembly elections in

Bihar will be held in three

phases starting from October

28, chief election commis-

sioner Sunil Arora announced on Friday. This Sunil

will be the first election to be

held under the shadow and

spread of the coronavirus

pandemic that has claimed

over 92.000 lives and infected over 58 lakh people in India.

In Bihar, which is still

recovering from the devas-

tating floods in several areas,

over 1.74 lakh cases have

been detected and its daily

fresh cases continue to be

Bihar elections in 3

phases from Oct. 28

The government said it will be studying the award and all its aspects carefully in consultation with its counsels

bunal found in Vodafone's favour," the British firm said in a statement.

"This was a unanimous decision, including India's appointed arbitrator Rodrigo Oreamuno. The tribunal held that any attempt by India to enforce the tax demand would be a violation of India's international law obligations."

over 1,000. However, since

the Assembly's term expires on November 29, the Election

Commission has tried to wind up the poll process after

Dussehra but before Diwali

and Chhath festivals by hold-

ing the polls in three phases.

Voting for 243 Assembly seats in Bihar will be held on

October 28, November 3 and

November 7, and the results

Legislative Council from the

graduates' and teachers' con-

on May 6 due to the retire-

ment of the sitting members,

and the elections for these

will be held on October 22.

The government said it will be studying the award and all its aspects carefully in consultation with its counsels.

"After such consultations, the government will consider all options and take a decision on further course of action including legal remedies before appropriate fora," the finance ministry said in a statement. Meanwhile, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said the Government of India's liability will be restricted to about ₹75 crore in cost refunds. — PTI

Nearly 7 crore **Covid-19 tests** conducted in India

New Delhi, Sept. 20: A record 14,92,409 tests have been conducted for detection of Covid-19 in a span of 24 hours, taking the total tests done so far in the country to nearly 7 crore, while the national cumulative positivity rate stands at 8.44 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said on

Friday.
The Tests Per Million (TPM) will be declared on Stand at 49,948 as of today, it said. This exponential surge in the term of office of eight members of the Bihar demonstrates the determined escalation of the testing infrastructure in the country, the stituencies had fallen vacant ministry said. "Evidence has revealed that higher numbers of testing subsequently leads to lowered positivity rate," the ministry said.

CHENNAI, SEPT. 25 Popular playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, known endearingly as SPB, passed away at 1.04 pm on Friday at the MGM Healthcare Hospital in Chennai, where he was under maximal life support measures at the criti-

DC CORRESPONDENT

cal care unit. He was admitted to the hospital on August 5 and had been on life support for severe Covid-19 and pneumonia since August 4. On Thursday his condition deteriorated, triggering a spate of 'get well' messages from his fans and well-wishers all over the world on social media.

Born in Nellore in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh in 1946, he made his debut as a playback singer on December 15 with Sri Sri Sri Marayada Ramanna, a Telugu movie, and went on to win the national award for best singer six times and state awards in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka several times. The nation honoured the legendary singer with Padma Bhushan and

Padma Shri awards. SPB's body would be laid



LEGENDARY SINGER

SPB PASSES AWAY

In this August 21, 2010 file picture playback singer SP Balasubrahmanyam receives the Great Son of the Soil award at the All India Conference of Intellectuals in Hyderabad.

to rest with police honours, a government press

After his demise was announced by the hospital, condolence messages poured in from all over with Prime Minister

Narendra Modi leading the nation in paying tributes to the musical genius, who had sung over 40,000 songs in several languages during a career spanning over half a century.
"With the unfortunate

A golden voice falls silent

Sankarabharanam got him global recognition PAGE 2

Balu had special bond with **hometown Nellore**

PAGE 3

demise of Shri SP Balasubrahmanyam, our cultural world is a lot poorer. A household name across India, his melodious voice and music enthralled audiences for decades," Mr Modi tweeted.

"He was a nice gentleman, who spent his life time for the music and playback singing," said Governor Banwarilal Purohit, adding "His demise is irreparable loss to the people of India and particularly to all music lovers across the globe. All of his will miss his magical golden voice""

New Delhi, Sept. 25: Expressing solidarity with the farmers who called a Bharat bandh on Friday to protest the farm bills, the Congress alleged that the legislations will 'enslave' farmers and the MSP will be "snatched and the MSP will be "snatched away" from them, with Rahul Gandhi claiming the laws will foster an East India companylike culture.

The three bills were passed by both houses of Parliament durawaiting presidential assent.

Gandhi talked to some farmers through video conferencing and said they have no faith in the government, adding the country together opposes these agri-relat-

He said earlier it was the East India company and now it is the West India company that has come to do business

In a short video attached with a tweet, Gandhi said India attained independence with the voice of farmers and once again the country will achieve independence through their strong voice.

"One thing is clear after talking to farmers — they do not have even a little faith in the Modi government. The voice of all of us has added to the loud voice of the farmers, and today the entire country together opposes these agricultural laws," he said in a tweet in Hindi, using the hashtag "ISupportBharatBandh".

In the video, he said, "these laws have to be opposed, not for farmers but for the future of the country." "The farmer's voice is in the youth, the armed forces, the police. The farmer's voice has strength and India attained independence using this voice. "India became independent through the farmer's voice and once again today India will become indepen-



Shambu Punjab-Haryana border near Ambala, on Friday.

Farmers protest against agri bills

25: Farmers shouted slogans and blocked roads in several parts of the country Friday, protesting against the three agri-marketing bills passed recently by Parliament.

The most widespread protests were in Punjab and Haryana, but demonstrations were also reported from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Karnataka as part of the "Bharat bandh" call given by several farmer unions. Over 30 organisations had given a separate "Punjab bandh" call, leading to farmers blocking roads and traders shutting shops and vegetable markets for the day.

The bandh in the state appeared to be near total. Hundreds of farmers — on Over 30 organisations had given a separate "Punjab bandh" call, leading to farmers blocking roads and traders shutting shops and vegetable markets for the day

foot, two-wheelers and tractor-trolleys — were stopped at Delhi's border with Uttar Pradesh as they tried to press ahead into the national capital, their agitation disrupting traffic in Noida and Ghaziabad. Stopped from entering the city, the farmers staged 'panchayats' at the road blockades where they addressed Bhartiya Kisan Union office-bearers.

and workers on the birth anniversary of party's ide-Deendaval Upadhyay, Prime Minister Narendra Modi again made a pitch for the new laws meant to deregulate the sale of farm produce. But farmer unions and opposition parties say they will lead to the dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system. In West Bengal, farmer bodies loyal to the Left parties staged protests. CPI(M) farmers' wing 'Sara Bharat Krishak Sabha' and those of other left partners such as CPI, Forward Bloc and RSP took out rallies in Hooghly, Murshidabad, North 24 Parganas, Parganas, Bankura and Nadia. In Karnataka, there were

demonstrations across the state and many farmers arrived in Bengaluru to take part in protests against amendments to the Agricultural Marketing Committee Act and the Karnataka Land Reforms Act. Farmers under the umbrella of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) staged protests in Kerala, including outside the Raj Bhavan in capital Thiruvan-anthapuram.

In Punjab's Barnala, a tractor was set on fire by protesters. Punjab farmers the Sangrur-Chandigarhblocked Patiala, Bathinda and Ambala-Rajpura-Ludhiana and Moga-Ferozepur roads, triggering traffic diversions and hardship to com-

all-round partnership "Had a very good conversation with PM New Delhi, Sept. 25: Suga Yoshihide. We Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, Suga agree to strengthen

conversation, phonic touching upon a range of issues including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highspeed rail project and ways to deepen coopera-tion for a free and open

Indo-Pacific region. In a tweet, Modi said it was agreed in the talks that stronger India-Japan ties would help meet the challenges of the current regional and global situa-

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two leaders emphasised that the economic architecture of a "free, open and inclusive" Indo-Pacific region must be premised on resilient supply chains, and in this context, welcooperation comed between India, Japan and other like-minded coun-

"Had a very good conversation with PM Suga Yoshihide. We exchanged views on the tremendous progress in our relationship in the last few years, and the future direction of our Special Strategic and Global Partnership. @sug-

awitter," Modi tweeted. He added, "We agreed that stronger India-Japan ties would help meet the challenges of the current regional and global situa-tion. I look forward to working with PM Suga to further strengthen our allround partnership.

Modi and his Japanese exchanged views on the

Yoshihide tremendous progress in our relationship in the last few years, and the future direction of our Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

@sugawitter," Modi tweeted In a statement, the Japanese foreign ministry said Suga expressed his intention to promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of security and econ-

Shinzo Abe as Japanese prime minister.
The India-Japan relationship witnessed major expansion under Abe's leadership.

omy, and to work with

India towards achieving a

free and open Indo-

Pacific". Suga succeeded

The Japanese foreign ministry said Suga also stated that he would like to promote cooperation with Îndia under multilateral frameworks such as Japan-Australia-India-US

coalition. It said the two prime ministers affirmed their intention to steadily advance the high-speed rail project. "The two prime ministers also welcomed that the Memorandum of Cooperation on specified skilled workers would be signed in the near future, and affirmed their intention to facilitate people-to-people exchanges," it added. In a statement, the MEA said Modi congratulated Suga on his appointment as prime minister of Japan and wished him success in achieving his goals. "The two leaders agreed

that the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership has made great advances over the last few years and expressed their intention to further strengthen this relationship based upon mutual trust and shared values," it said on the Modi-Śuga telephonic

The MEA said the two leaders concurred that the partnership between the two countries is even more relevant in today's times given the global chal-lenges, including that of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It said the two leaders appreciated the progress made in the economic partnership between the two countries, and in this context, welcomed the finalisation of the text of the agreement pertaining to specialized skilled workers. "The Prime workers. "The Prime Minister extended an invitation to Prime Minister Suga to visit India for the annual bilateral summit, after improvement of the situation caused by the global Covi-19 pandemic," the MEA added. -PTI

Rakul reaches NCB office to record statement in drugs case

Mumbai, Sept 25: Actor Rakul Preet Singh reached NCB office in South Mumbai on Friday morning to record her statement in drugs probe linked to filmstar Sushant Singh Rajput's death, an offi-

cial said. Rakul (29) was seen entering the NCB guest house, from where the central agency is operating, in Colaba around 10.30 am. She has been summoned by Narcotics Control The NCB, which began the inquiry after a drugs angle came to light in connection with Rajput's alleged suicide, has now widened its investigation and asked a clutch of Bollywood celebrities to "join the probe"

Bureau (NCB) as part of its alleged into Bollywood-drugs nexus. Her name had cropped up

during the interrogation of actress Rhea Chakraborty, Rajput's girlfriend who has been arrested by the NCB in

the drugs case along with over a dozen others, the offi-

Earlier, Rakul was to record her statement on Thursday, but her teamhad claimed she had not received summons from the

NCB officials reached out to her on Thursday following which sheacknowledged the summons, the official said.

Besides Rakul, actor Deepika Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash and Dharma Productions executive producer Kshitij Ravi are also slated to join the NCB investigation on

Friday, he said. An NCB team had raided Ravis residence at Versova

in the western suburbs on Thursday, the official said. The team also had carried searches at the residence of a TV actor-couple who was also quizzed by NCB officials, he said.

The NCB, which began the inquiry after a drugs angle came to light in connection with Rajput's alleged suicide, has now widened its investigation and asked a clutch of Bollywood celebrities to "join the probe" — PTI



Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh leaves the NCB office after being questioned in connection with a drugs case related to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, in Mumbai, on Friday.

DECCAN CHRONICLE | COIMBATORE | SATURDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2020

S. P. BALASUBRAHMANYAM | 1946 - 2020

A golden voice falls silent

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAM | DC

ne celebrated playback singer, who enthralled movie fans with over 40,000 songs in 16 languages and lent his voice to several matinee idols on screen, strode the world of film music for more than five decades. Remarkably, his voice never lost its timbre with age and he was busy almost up to the day he was admitted to a hospital in Chennai. A winner of six national awards, Shripathi Pandithadradhyula Balasubrahmanyam, more readily identified by three letters – SPB – by the film fraternity and millions of fans, was born in Nellore in

His father Sambamurthy was a Harikatha artiste who had also acted in plays. Though SPB developed interest in music at a very young age, he was also very interested in academics. He enrolled in JNTU, Ananthpur, to pursue his engineering and for some reasons he had to drop out of college. He joined the Associate Member of Institution of Engineers, Chennai, and also pursued his passion of music and his passion of music and started performing in several music competitions. He was adjudged the best singer at a competition by ace musicians S.P. Kodan-dapani and Ghantasala who were on the jury panel. Later on, S.P Kodandapani

became his mentor and the rest is history.

Balasubrahmanyam made his debut as a playback singer on December 15, 1966 with the cong Sei Sei Sei with the song Sri Sri Sri Marayada Ramanna composed by his guru Kothandapani in a Telugu movie. After recording a Kannada song, he made his dabut circing in Tomil with debut singing in Tamil with the number *Athaanodu Ippadi Irundhu Eththanai* Naalaachu, a duet with L.R. Eswari in M. S. Viswanathan's composition for the film Hotel Ramba, but unfortunately the film was never released. His song, a duet with P. Susheela, *Iyarkai Ennum laya Kanni* in the 1969 ilim Shanti Nilayam, featuring Ganesh

Kanchana was a big hit.
Industry pundits recall that SPB was personally selected by the iconic star MG Ramachnadran (MGR) to sing a song for his production venture Adimai Penn, featuring him and late CM Jayalalithaa and directed by K. Shankar. The song was Aayiram Nilave Vaa, which took SPB to dizzy heights. A time soon came when he was singing for the likes of MGR, Sivaji Ganesan and Gemini Ganesan and Gemini Ganesan in MS Viswanathan's composition on par with top playback singers like T.M. Soundarrajan and P.B. Srinivas. He also recorded songs with all top women singers like P. Susheela, S. Janaki, Vani Jayaram and

L.R. Eswari. Thus began the Balasubrahmanyam's association with Ilayaraja began even before the maestro came to the film industry. In their early days, SPB used to sing in towns and villages all over south India and Ilayaraja, then an unknown harmonium and guitar player, accompanied him and played in all his concerts.

Donning several hats as a Donning several hats as a playback singer, music director, actor, voice artiste and film producer, he worked predominantly in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam. He won six National Film Awards for Best Male Playback Singer for his works in four different languages — Telugu Kannada guages — Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Hindi — besides 25 Nandi Awards from Andhra Pradesh for his works in Telugu cinema and numerous other awards from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka govern-

Without a background in classical music, he had to toil in rendering all the famous songs in Sankarabharanam which were in high classical notes after KVM chose him over ace playback and classical singers like K.J. Yesudas and Balamuralikrishna.

He had successful collaborations with Ilayaraja and S.Janaki and the trio's songs were a huge hit from late 1970s and throughout 1980s. SPB and Raja won National Awards together for their collaborations in films like Saagara Sangamam in 1983, SwathiMuthyam in 1986 and Rudraveena in 1988.

SPB's prominence rose in Bollywood right from 1989 when he sang for Salman Khan for the film *Maine Pyar Kiya*. Besides winning many awards. Balasubrahmanyam continued as the "romantic singing voice" on the sound-tracks of Khan's films for almost a decade. SPB was identified as Salman Khan's voice in the '90s and he consolidated his position as an

'Indian playback singer'. In the '90s, he worked with other composers like Vidyasagar, SA. Rajkumar , Deva and MM Keeravani AR Rahman turned out to be a bigger hit. ARR and SPB joined hands right from the former's debut film Roja, July Maadham, Pudhiya Mugam, Kizhakku Mugam,

Cheemayile, Duet Minsara Kanavu, and the last one fetched him the 6th National Award for the song hanga Thaamarai Magale. SPB has also been the

music director of 46 films in four south languages. Some notable works among them are Padamati Sandhya Ragam and Thurpu Veľle Railu. SPB has always been a lucky mascot for Rajinikanth's numerous intro songs and the combo has always clicked. The ace singer's last few renderings include Petta's Marana Mass and Chumma Kizhi from Darbar composed by Anirudh.

For someone with no formal training in classical music, the heights SPB scaled were not something that even well-trained singers could touch



SPB with legendary Ghantasala

'Balu', fondly called by many of his friends such as Illayraja, was born on June 4, 1946, in Nellore in Andhra

He made his debut as a playback singer on December 15, 1966, with the song Sri Sri Sri Marayada Ramanna for a Telugu movie composed by his guru Kodandapani

His duet with P. Susheela, 'Iyarkai Ennum Ilaya Kanni' in film *Shanti Nilayam,* featuring Gemini Ganesh and Kanchana was a big hit. The song 'Aayiram Nilave Vaa' in Adimai Penn. starring MGR took SPB to dizzy heights

> He won his first National Award for Telugu movie Sankarabharanam for his song 'Omkaara Naadanu

In the '80s he had successful collaborations with Ilayaraja and S.Janaki and the trio's songs were a huge hit from late 1970s to the 1980s.





RECORDED

songs in the span of 12 hours for

Bagged two

National

Awards for

his songs in

Telugu

movies

Sagara

Sangamam

and Rudhra

Veena

SPB gets

from Prez

Prathiba

Padma

award

Patil

his

second

National

Award for

Ek Duuje

Ke Liye



SPB AND K.J. YESUDAS

SPB's love for singer K.J.Yesudas is well known and he used to always address him as a guru. SPB lent his voice several Malayalam songs during his five-decade-long career. In the movie, *Kinar*, released in 2018, he sung a duet 'Ayyaa.. Saami.....' with Yesudas. Both also acted together in the

has also given voice for various stars including kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth, Salman Khan, Vishnuvardhan, Nagesh, Gemini, Arjun, Raghuvaran and Karthik in various languages. He also dubbed for Ben Kingsley in the Telugu-dubbed version of the film Gandhi.



Sigaram, Thiruda Thiruda, Kadhalan, and Naanayam. He was also part of a few TV serials and shows.

SPB HAS ALSO BEEN A MUSIC DIRECTOR Composed for films in four south Indian languages. Some of the notable works among them are Padamati Sandhya Ragam and Thurpu Velle Railu.

The singer was presented

with Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan He won his sixth National Award for the song 'Thanga Thamarai in Tamil movie *Minsara*

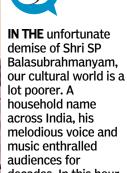
Bagged National Award for his Kannada song

in movie *Sangeetha Sagara Ganayogi* Panchakshara Gavai



His collaboration with AR Rahman turned out to be a huge hit. ARR and SPB joined hands right from the former's debut film *Roja* and then *July* Maadham, Pudhiya Mugam, Kizhakku Cheemavile. Duet and Minsara Kanavu

Prime Minister Modi presenting a memento to SPB on Sankranthi to mark the golden jubilee of his singing career in New Delhi on Jan. 16, 2016.



melodious voice and decades. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and admirers. Om Shanti: NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Janaki first spotted Balu

wanted to study engineering and join government service. That was the wish of his father. Balu was not interested in singing for films, and had not learnt music though he used to participate in singing competitions. When he was studying engineering in Anantapur, he participated in a competition in Gudur, where the chief guest was the

Balasubrahmanyam famous playback singer S. Janaki. Balu won the first prize, and Janaki asked him to try singing in films as she found something special in his voice. He replied that he did not know music. To this, Janaki said she too did not know music but was singing in films. That's the first time that SPB's talent was spotted by the film industry.

–Suresh Kaviravani

Sankarabharanam got him global recognition

In Balu's long and illustrious career, *Sankarabharanam* was a milestone. K. Viswanath was in 1980 and changed Telugu cinema. SPB won a national award for his song in the film. the director and he initially wanted veteran classical singer Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna to render the songs which were based on Carnatic music. Music director K.V. Mahadevan, however, kept his faith in Balu. The songs were a huge hit and are considered classics today. The film released

The songs of the film are considered to be among among Balu's best. The film was screened in international film festivals. He and K, Viswanath continued their collaborations in films like Sagara Vennela, Sangamam, Siri Saptapadi and Sruthilayalu. –Suresh Kavirayani

SPB tuned a number on Covid, its deadly effects

Ironically, before he tested positive for coronavirus, singer S. P. Balasubrahmanyam composed music and sang a Tamil song to create awareness about the deadly pathogen with the lyrics brimming with confidence that mankind would eventually win over the pandemic. "I composed this number. Let us listen to this... it is not more musical, it is more lyrical," he had said months ago in his foreword to

the song, penned by renowned lyricist Vairamuthu. Popularly known as 'SPB', he had in the three-minute plus video post urged his fans to pay attention to the depth and import of the words and act accordingly to help prevent the virus spread. The song that begins with "Corona, Corona," goes on to explain that though the virus was pretty small in size, smaller than an atom, it was deadly like

an atom bomb and it infected people stealthily. The rendition Balasubrahmanyam also attached importance to avoiding physical contact, following hygiene and other aspects aimed at avoiding the pathogen. The singer switched to a higher pitch while singing verses laced with confidence that human race would annihilate coronavirus and emerge victorious.









(From left) Former Tamil Nadu CM J. Jayalalithaa presenting Nandi Award to SPB; The singer sharing a smile with Usha Uthup; Susheela and SPB recording one of their memorable duets; Veteran playback singer P. B. Srinivas kisses SPB.

Balu had special bond with hometown Nellore

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC **NELLORE, SEPT. 24**

A native of Nellore city, ace playsinger Balasubhramanyam has strong bond with Nellore and people especially his classmates and

childhood friends. Born on June 4, 1946, to SP Sambamurthy and Sakunthalamma couple at Konetimpeta in Chittor district, Balu went to primary school at Srikalahasti.

He studied in VR High School and VR College in Nellore before he enrolled at JNTU College of Engineering, Anantaur to become an engineer. However, he discontinued his studies early due to typhoid and joined as an Associate Member of the Institution of Engineers, Chennai. Though he settled in Chennai after he established himself as a top singer in differ-ent languages, he always kept in touch with his friends and relatives in Nellore. In fact, his mother was staying in their ancestral house at Tipprajuvari Street in Nellore till her demise in February last year. In memory of his parents, Balasubhramanyam donated the house to Kanchi Sankara Peetam to run Veda Patasala and renovated the build-ing, spending nearly ₹10 lakh. "He was planning to come to

Nellore for the opening of the Veda Patasala but the Corona infection uprooted all the plans" said Tunga Siva Prabhat Reddy, a family friend of Balu.

He said "the ace singer has given money to his sisters in lieu of their share in the house while donating the building for Kanchi Peetam". Balu is one among three sons and 5 daughters of his

Reminding that Balu's father SP Samba Moorthy was an exponent in Harikatha, a close friend of Balu's family, Veerisetty Hazarath Babu said Balu had installed his father's statue at Kasthurba Kalakshethra in

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, when he was union minister, along with popular film hero Kamala Haasan and noted director K. Viswanath unveiled the



SPB with Kanchi seer Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal at his house in Nellore while presenting the documents of his house to Kanchi Peetam in February.

statue of Sri Sambamoornthy on

October 3, 2015. Bala Subhramanyam was also organising drama competitions through his cultural organisation 'Vijetha Arts' at town hall in Nellore every year with the help of his friends Hazarth Babu, Vennelakanti Rajendra Prasad, Sesha Gireesam and Devi Prasad.

He had also set up an award on his name and offering ₹1 lakh each to outstanding personalities in the film world and social service field during his birthday celebrations every year at Nellore.

"Being a brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission, Mr Bala Subhramanyam was keen on holding a rally with 20,000 students to create awareness among the youngsters on environment and clean all roads in Nellore, but the wish has not materialised yet" Mr Siva Prabhat said.

Recalling his 60 years long association with Balu and his family, Hazarath Babu said Balu is a unique person and Ajatha Sathru (a person without enemies). "He was very kind and ground to earth despite his popularity all over the country" Hazarath Babu said lamenting over the irre-

'Two days' that turned eternal for SPB

Chennai, Sept 25: "I very mild positive of am perfectly alright... in twodays I will be dis-charged and I will be home..," was what veteran playback singer S P Balasubrahmanyam said in his last public video message last month on his admission to a hospital after testing positive for coronavirus. Fate had it otherwise and the singer died on Friday, after a grim 52-day battle for life though he was found negative for the virus early this month. In a video clip, on his admission to the MGM Healthcare on August 5, Balasubrahmanyam, popularly known as SPB, said he had a little discomfort, chest congestion, cold and "on and off fever" for sometime. "It's a mild, mild,

corona, (doctors said) you can stay home and quarantine yourself and take medication,' he had said. SPB had said he chose to get admitted in hospital since the family was concerned and also to take rest without disturbance and follow medication.He expressed confidence that he would be back home in about two days and said "I am perfectly

am fine and I will be However, his health suffered a sudden setback and his condition turned critical on August 13, prompting the doctors to put him on life support, which continued till his end on

alright but for the cold. I

CM: God's gift to music world

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami described the singer as God's gift to the Indian musical world in the 20th century and said his demise was a loss to the music lover, Tamil filmdom and Tamil Nadu.

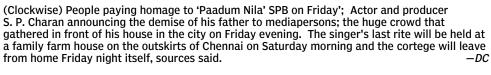
The Chief Minister also said that the immortal AIADMK's party anthem 'Thanga Tharagiye Varuga, Tamil Mannin Devathiye Varuga,' was also sung by SPB. Describing him as 'brother', Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan wondered if the man born in Telugu soil and earned fame in Tamil Nadu had been called by the heavens

to sing there.
Calling SPB a legend,
Deputy Chief Minister O
Panneerselvam said that with his melodious voice he attracted millions of fan from all ages. He would be remembered all through as his songs would be heard all along, he said, adding that he had carved a niche for himself

in the world of music.

DMK president M.K. Stalin said his songs were like a balm to the harassed souls of people who had turned into machines in the whirl of the modern world. For him SPB's demise, like the crores of his fans, was a personal loss, Stalin said, adding that his heart refused to believe that he was no more. Other political leaders who paid condolences included minister Kadambur Raju, MDMK general secretary Vaiko, BJP state president L. Murugan, PMK youth wing leader Anbumani Ramadoss and CPM state secretary Balakrishnan.







When SPB sang for Army men in Wellington

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC

S.P.Balasubrahmanyam's dream came true when he landed at the Madras Regimental Centre(MRC) at Wellington near here to sing

for Army men in 2013. SPB's tinsel world connections with Ooty may be rather accidental, but they turned out to be legendary .

A major part of his first song in Tamil cine world, the evergreen *Iyarkai ennum* illaya kanni in the film Santhi Nilayam, was shot here in Ooty in places like the Golf links, links, Wenlockdowns and Pykara

Ooty. In December 2013, SPB and his music troupe landed at that perfectly Thangaraj Stadium at MRC matched with the nature. In in Wellington to exclusively fact, when he made his debut sing for the army fraternity as music composer in Tamil films through Rajini starrer in the programme 'Indhiya Ranuvaveerargaludan oru

Thudikkum Karangal, nearnaal' which was organized by the Army fraternity. ly four songs he composed for the film, especially, to suit Rajini's style and designs, were filmed in

SPB, the versatile singer mesmerizing and miraculous voice, rendered songs in many languages thus making the army men to glue to his music programme.

Speaking to the media on the occasion he said, "By singing for army men my five decade dream has come true today. All these years I had been singing for 'reel-heroes', but, today I had the opportunity to sing for the 'real heroes' of the country. It has opened a new chapter in my life.

"Everyone should think about the sacrifices of the army men at least 10 seconds in a day and pray for them at least five seconds a day," he

FILM INDUSTRY MOURNS

RAJINIKANTH

SP Balasubrahmanyam has rendered several chartbuster tracks to Rajinikanth as the former was considered lucky for intro song of the latter, which eventually became a ritual over years. The Superstar acknowledged the fact that SPB has been his voice for many years through his tweet. The actor also released a video where he had said, "Today is a very sad day. SPB has left us after battling for his life till the last moment. I am deeply pained and shocked. There cannot be anyone in India who isn't a fan of



"I'm honoured to have lived as the shadow version of Annayya SPB's voice. His fame will live on for seven genera-tions," actor/politician Kamal Haasan posted on his social media handle. The actor had visited SPB at the hospital on Thursday evening after the hospital announced that singer's health condition was critical



SPB's voice and songs. More than his voice and songs, people loved him because of his humanity. He respected everyone and showered love irrespective of age, big or small. Though the Indian film industry was blessed with several iconic singers like Mohammed

Rafi, Kishore Kumar,

Balu, I asked you to get

others crooned in a particular language, which they are familiar with.
"His great voice will echo in our ears even after hundred years. He is a great soul and my deepest condolences to his family."
Some of the evergreen songs of the duo include My Name is Billa (Billa), Autokkaran

(Baasha),

Ghantasala,

Soundararajan, their con-temporary SPB had some-

thing special...he was the only one who sang in mul-

tiple languages, where as

ILAYARAJA

up soon and come. I was waiting for you. But you did not listen to me and left me. Have you gone to sing for heavenly beings? Here, the earth has become empty. I am not able to speak and I at loss of words. Every grief has a limit...But, your loss is unbearable.



An era is over. Music will never be the same.

World will never be the

same. Words are not

K.S. CHITHRA

Kaiya Thattu (Thalapathy) and En Peru

Padayappa(Padayappa)

Rakkamma

SHANKAR

Sharing a picture from the sets of his film *Kadhalan*, Shankar wrote, "Only a very few singers have the quality,they sing a song and it will be a hit even before it reaches the audience. SPB sir was the top among them. We lost him, not his voice. It will always be in the air.'

Because of SPB sir, all other composers thrive. He has sung 300 songs for me. He is such a modest and humility personified person. In late 80s when I made my debut, SPB sir sang a number in my film. I wanted him to sing a stanza in a par-ticular manner, but was very hesitant to tell him being a newcomer. He sensed my problem and immediately agreed to sing the way I wanted.



SRINIVAS

He has sung with five generations of singers. He was a Bhishma Pithamagan for our singer community. He would always take us in right direction. To whom will we look upon hereafter? We had hoped that he would comeback soon, unfortunately, he didn't. I am at loss of

sad that legend

Balasubramanyam is no more. Ending

his ERA of the voice of melody but his

songs will always be with us strong and



Savithriamma, Charan,

presence. Condolences &pravers Pallavi & Family.

RADHIKAA SARATHKUMAR

Radhikaa who has

shared screen space with SPB in *Keladi* Kanmani (in pic above) which featured the evergreen Mannil Indha Kadhal song was in an emotional state on hearing the sad news. Talking about SPB, she said, "He was like a kid and always considered him as a learner. During shooting he would often ask as how to walk, how to smile as if he was a debutant. I am terribly upset. It was heartbreaking day. Lived his life beautifully, contributing to society his passion and music. His voice will live on forever."



DHANUSH

Rip SPB sir. The voice,

which will echo in every-

one's house forever, a

family member in every

household. Ur voice and

U will continue to live

with us for generations to come. My condolences

SARATHKUMAR

an't imagine Paadum Nila Balu is not with us anymore. Unimaginable loss for the film indus-

RAMYA KRISHNAN

Someone so special can never be forgotten, may his soul rest in peace my deepest condolences to the family. #ripspb.

SUJATHA MOHAN

End of an era! Balu sir. Koti Pranaams for your music, for being an inspiration millions, for being a big brother to all of us. You will live in our hearts as long as music lives.. RIP.

ARYA

VISHAL

Heartbroken. You will be missed sir. Thank you for all the music and m e m o r i e s #SPBalasubrahmanyam #RIPSPB.

SIVAMANI

He was my guru, my Godfather. I can't believe he is no more. I feel he still lives with us through his music. My deepest condolences to all Anni, Charan Pallavi and others. We love and miss you anna.



RAVI SHASTRI

He was my guru, my Sharing a pencil drawing of SPB, Ravi Shastri wrote, "The nightmare continues - so very sad to hear about the passing Balasubramanyam. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and fans. He loved music and music loved him back. Om Shanti

heart touching forever. I will always miss you RIP. **NADHIYA MOHIDHU**

SPB sir, can't believe you are no more with us. This is indeed a very sad day for all of us music lovers who have had the privilege of being part of your music legacy! Your songs have resonated with us during your time and will continue to do so for years to come. Thank you for making such an impact on our lives.. Rest in Peace and may your melodious voice echo in the heavens.

PRIYA MANI

Heartbroken #SPBalasubrahmanyam sir...thank you for all the wonderful songs you sang and made us love you even more, you will forever live on #RIP.

CHINMAYI SRIPAADA

Oru Sahabdham samaptam. Thank you for the memories. Thank you for showing that a singer can be a fantastic singer, act, voice act, produce, compose & more. You lived and how! Your art will live for aeons and

I'll always celebrate you.



Some people's becomes an achieve-ment. Few others become a history. Only life of vey few becomes a Sahaptham (Era). SPB is one such era. Big loss for music industry!

THAMAN SS:

Mammmmmmaaaaa. Not Able to control my tears. Will misssss Ŭ dear maammmmaaa. Heart is So HEAVY.

KRISH SRIKANTH

Sad to hear the Demise of the legendary singer -SPB, his songs will echo through time, condo-lences to his family and close friends! Om Shanti

Compiled by Anupama

OTHER STORY

Covid-19 cases spike in Chennai

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

Coronavirus infection spiked in Chennai on Friday when the city reported 1193 cases as against the State total of 5679. Number of deaths in the State was 72 with the capital city reporting 18.

The districts that have high rates of infection were Coimbatore 661, Salem 297, Chengalpattu 277, Cuddalore 235 and Thiruvallur 229.

Man arrested for harassing woman cop

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

The Meenambakkam police have arrested a man for allegedly barging into the police station and harassing a woman police officer on Tuesday.

According to the police, the accused, identified as, Raja alias Lollu Raja, has been booked under six sections including woman harassment of IPC.

The 22-year-old rowdy, on Tuesday night at around 9 pm, barged into Meenambakkam police station, in an ine-briated condition and reportedly harassed a woman police officer.

The woman police post-The woman police posted on duty at the Meenambakkam police station, stopped him when he allegedly harassed her. He also pulled out a knife and threatened to kill the victim and two other women officers present at the sta-

Sarvari: Purattasi 10 Tithi: Dashami Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am Yamagandam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

> **PRAYERS Fajar:** 4.48 am Zohar: 12.07 pm Asar: 3.20 pm Maghrib: 6.05 pm

> > Isha: 7.16 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.02 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.58 AM MOONRISE TODAY 2.27 PM **MOONSET TOMORROW 2.07 AM**

COUNTER



How to get noticed? Let's stage a dharna at NCB office!

CPM members protest in the city on Friday against the Centre for 'allegedly bulldozing'

Water level crosses 100 ft in Mettur reservoir near Salem

ZAKEER HUSSAIN & A. ARUL PALANI | DC

The water level at Stanley reservoir in Mettur, near Salem. crossed 100 feet against a Full Reservoir Level of 120 feet on Friday afternoon. The water level touched 100 ft in the dam for 66nd time in 87 years. PWD officials performed special pujas as the water level in Mettur dam crossed the 100-foot-mark after 102 days on Friday.

The stored capacity of water in the dam was 64,340 mcft and it received an

Puducherry, Sept. 25: Seven more succumbed to Covid-19 in Puducherry

while 608 new infections

were recorded on Friday,

taking the total caseload to

25,489 in the union territo-

ry.
Director of Health and

Family Welfare S Mohan

Kumar said in a release

that 608 fresh cases were

identified after examina-

tion of 5,515 samples in the

ases.5.214 were active.

Of the 25,489 overall 24 hours.

19,781 patients recovered died were in the age group

and were discharged while ranging between 45 and 83

last 24 hours.

Water level touched 100 ft in the dam for 66nd time in 87 years. **PWD** officials performed special

pujas as the water level in Mettur dam crossed the 100-foot-mark after 102 days on Friday

The discharge through the Cauvery river was 20,000 cusecs of water and 850 cusecs of water was discharged through the East-West canal.

The reservoir received water of 35,000 cusecs and the

coronavirus in Pondy

cent while recovery rate

The Health Department

has so far tested 1.61 lakh

samples and it was found

that 1.30 lakh out of them

nation of remaining sam-

The Director said 470 patients were discharged

from hospitals during last

years and most of them

Thesevenpersons

The result of the exami-

was 77.61 percent.

were negative.

ples was awaited.

Seven more die of

discharge level was increased to 20,000 cusecs from 18,000 cusecs. About 850 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam's east and west bank canals for Salem, Namakkal and Erode districts' irrigation needs.

The PWD official hoped that this year the dam would reach its full capacity of 120 feet in the next few days if the rain continues to lash in the water catchment areas in Karnataka. PWD executive engineer Devarajan, assistant execu-Madhusudanan and other

officials were present at the

diabetes, hypertension and kidney related ail-

accounted for 481 out of

the total 608 cases followed

by 95 in Karaikal, 23 in

Yanam and nine in Mahe

Five of the deceased

hailed from Puducherry

region while one each from

Karaikal and Yanam died

in the government hospi-

Mane region an enclave

of Puducherry in Kerala

did not report any death.

region

Puducherry

region.

Min defends govt's support for agri bills

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

Agriculture minister R. Duraikannu defended the AIADMK government's decision to support the three Central farm bills that have sparked protests all over the country, saying the bills would not affect the farmers in any way.

Speaking to the media, the minister said the government would not do anything that would be detrimental to the interests of Chief The



R. Duraikannu Minister was a farmer who

knew about agriculture, he

Referring to the Farmers (Empowerment

Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, Principal Secretary for Agriculture, Gagandeep Singh Bedi, said a similar law on contract farming was already in force in the State and had helped farmers.

Farmers would be able to fix the price of their produce before the crop and it was mandatory on the part of the buyer to honour the commitment. In the event of the price going up after the agreement, there was provision to seek compen-

Protection) Agreement on sation too, Bedi said. While farmers were free to go in for the contract or not, the system would help ensure that they get the minimum support price and there were provisions to take action against defaulters, he said and pointed out some sugarcane buyers had been penalized under the Act.
On the Farmers' Produce

and Commerce Trade (Promotion Facilitation) Bill, he said the markets in the State were government regulated and it would only help farmers, like it did last year. If the produce did not sell in the market, the Civil Supplies would procure

them, he said
To a question if the PDS would be affected because of the Bill, Bedi said 'no,' adding the market infrastructure was strong in the

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill would also help the farmers, Bedi said. The government would fix the price of farm produce taking the average price in the previous five years and thus it

in rates.

The Minister said that the benefits of the three bills would be explained to farm-

would prevent undue drop

Start mineral sand mining in state, says DMK prez said that by taking up min-

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

DMK president M. K. Stalin urged the Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami to orderTamil Nadu Minerals Limited (TAMIN) to resume production of mineral sand in the state.

In a statement on Friday, Stalin said after mining of mineral sand by private players was suspended in 2003, the government had announced that it would take over the mining business. It was even promised in the 2016 Election manifesto, Stalin said.



Stating that the committee appointed by the government to suggest ways to and take action against improve the economy had those involved in the loot.

should take note of it. He also urged the government to take action against those who were involved in the alleged Rs one lakh crore loot in mineral sand mining.

The government should study the report on the alleged loot, do proper investigations, expedite the clearing of the pending court cases on the matter

eral sand mining the government can earn a revenue of ₹20,000 crore,

Stalin said the government

ers at the block level and said that the political parties were raising a hue and cry over them only with elections in mind.

DMK, Congress firm up alliance

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

In what was a sign of the DMK-Congress alliance firming up, Dinesh Gundu Rao, the AICC appointed 'In-Charge Tamil Nadu' called on the DMK president M.K. Stalin at Anna Arivalayam on Friday.

meet TNCC leaders and who accompanied Rao were TNCC president K S Alaasamv and media committee chairman A. Gopanna.

Rao, who is in Chennai to

functionaries, took time off his busy schedules to have a discussion with the DMK leaders, general secretary Durai Murugan, treasurer T.R. Baalu and principal secretary K.N. Nehru, who were present during the meet. The TNCC leaders giri, leader of the Congress legislative party K.R. Ram-

Mixed reactions to FCRA amendment bill

DC CORRESPONDENT. TIRUNELVELI, SEPT. 25

The Foreign Contribution (regulation) amendment 2020 passed in the both the Houses of Parliament how-ever has been viewed by NGOs and voluntary social activists as a death knell to the grassroot level commudevelopment and

Flaying the union government for the amendment in the Foreign Contribution (Regulations) Act (FCRA), allegedly made based on the ruling party's political ideology, a social activist, Britto, who too is running a NGO receiving foriegn fund, said that the FCRA amendment bill passed in both the houses of the parliament amidst the strong opposition by members of several political parties would have an immediete negative impact on the corona relief works being done by the voluntary organisations.

'Smaller NGOs working in the grassroot level among the tribals and the marginalised communities will have no other option to perish," said Britto, as the amended bill prohibits subgranting of foriegn funds to grassroot NGOs that now work in collaboration with the bigger NGOs by recieving grants from them.

Amendment made in section 8 of the FCRA act, restricting the administrative expenses within 20 % from the existing 50% has also been feared to throw many field staff out of job

The amendment made in section 8 of the FCRA act, restricting the administrative expenses within 20 % from the existing 50% has also been feared to throw many field staff out of job. "At least now we are recieving ₹6,500 per month as community workers of voluntary agency and if the agency is compelled to reduce its administrative expenses by 30% we will have a proportionate salary Ramachandran, field staff

of Tirunelveli based NGO. However not all view the FCRA amendment bill negatively as according to a senior

advocate Girinivasaprasad, amendment is the need of the hour. "Our government got the realissation for such amendment in the FCRA act much earlier in 2011, when the then Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh himself made an open allegation about the diversion of foriegn funds received by NGOs to throttle devel-

the Kudankulam Nuclear power project" Girinivasaprasad. lawyer further added that around 80% percent of the funds received by voluntary organisations claimed to have been working for the welfare of the unreached masses has been received by five developed south Indian states of Tamilnadu, Andrapradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala and NGOs functioning in the capital.
"Only 20% of the total

opment projects, especially

foriegn contribution received by Indian NGOs are utilisea tions in the Northern and Northeastern states that are comparatively more underdeveloped," said the senior advocate, who too added that this has created the suspicion that the fund received by most NGOs from outside the country has been used for purposes other than development of the community.

Stating that the amendment has been made to regulate foriegn contribution and not to ban funding from outside the country, the Nagercoil based lawyer said, "NGOs handling their foriegn funds honestly for the purpose it was recieved need not worry about the amendment.'

application was filed before

Dad's funeral: History-sheeter on run held several extortion cases pending against him in the CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

wno

The Director said the had co-morbidities such as fatality rate was 1.94 per-diabetes, hypertension

The police special team on Thursday arrested a mur-der accused, who went on absconding two years ago, the police said. The history-sheeter, iden-

tified as Vinoth, 28, of Mannivakkam Vandalur in Chengalpet district, has at least 10 cases against him in the city



police stations. He has three murder cases, one attempt to murder case and

Vandalur Otteri police sta-Somangalam police station.

According to the police, Vinoth had absconded two years back, after murdering a man in the city suburbs. The police have been searching for him since

The accused was caught

special team from his house in Mannivakkam when he came to attend his Thursday.

Police said that, based on the information, they were present at his house in him on his arrival. He was produced before Tambaram magistrate and lodged at Puzhal prison, the police

HC slams handing over of 100 med seats to private colleges

Expressing its anguish over director of general health services, Ministry of health and family welfare, Government of India, the director, directorate of medical education and the secretary, selection committee, directorate of medical education, which has virtually resulted in handing over nearly 100 seats in a platter to the private colleges, the Madras high court has directed them to answer three queries relating to 'Mop Up' counselling for graduate medical courses under management seats 2020 in private col-

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh gave the directive while passing interim orders on a petition filed by Dr M. Keethanjali, which sought a direction to the authorities to fill up the post graduate medical seats declared as vacant as per the seat matrix published by the selection committee dated August 17, 2020 only



counseling for management seats 2020 and by considering the candidature of the petitioner on the basis of merit Neet PG rank 1335. The judge said the peti-

tioner in this case appeared for the Neet examination and secured 524 marks. She participated in the first round of counselling during May 2020 and she was allotted

(Microbiology) in the PSG Institute of Medical Science and Research, Peelamedu, Coimbatore. She joined the College on June 1, 2020. The provisional allotment order that was issued by the Selection Committee clearly shows that the petitioner was willing to upgrade for better choice in further counselling. The

some reasons, did not choose to conduct 'Mop Up' counseling for the management seats and one justification that was given during the previous hearing was that they did not have time matrix for 'Mop Up' counselfinancing ing for management quota

The judge said the authorities for

was published on August 17, 2020. It was seen that there were nearly 100 seats available in various specialties. The mop up counselling for filling up the government seats was started from August 17, 2020 and at least three rounds of counselling were conducted, the judge

The judge said the authorities for some reasons, did not choose to conduct 'Mop Up' counseling for the management seats and one justification that was given during the previous hearing was that they did not have time. It was brought to the notice of this court that the director, directorate of medical education issued a communication to all the self

financing colleges on August 30, 2020, directing them to admit the candidates for the PG courses from the list of candidates who have not been allotted any seat in PG courses in Management quota seats. On receipt of this letter, the private colleges filled up the entire seats that were vacant. When this petition came up for hearing on September 2, 2020, it was informed to this court that the authorities will not be in a position to carry out the process of 'Mop Up' counselling. This court sug-

gested that the authorities can approach the Supreme

Court and get necessary extension of time to con-

duct the 'Mop Up' counselling. The application filed by the authorities

filed

before the Supreme Court, seeking for extension of time, was dismissed. The authorities never thought it fit to approach the Supreme Court to get extension of time till they were asked to do so by this court and by then, the last date was over. Some of the State governments who thought that they will not be able to complete the process within the deadline, had approached the Supreme court and have got extension of time within the deadline. "For some unexplainable reason, the respondents (authorities) themselves did not take steps to go before the Supreme Court and get extension of time before the deadline", the judge added.

The judge said the result of the same was exhibited as a sample case in the present petition. The petitioner, who had got 524 marks in the Neet examination and was entitled for upgradation, if a mop up counseling had been held, has now been denied a seat in M.D. (Paediatrics). Whereas, this seat has now been allotted by the PSG Institute of

Research college in favour of a candidate who had obtained 298 marks. This case gives an indication as to how the other seats numbering nearly 100 would have been allotted by the private colleges concerned in favour of the candidates, who were less meritorious. The Supreme Court has time and again held that when it comes to Post Graduate and Super Specialty Course, merit was the only criteria. Unfortunately, the merit has now taken a back seat due to the attitude of the respondents 1 to 3, the judge added. The judge said it was now

informed to this court that the college has already allotted the seat in favour of one Jaya Banu, who secured 298 marks. If this court interferes with the allot-ment and if it was given to the petitioner, the course that was presently undergone by the petitioner viz., M.D (Microbiology) will fall vacant and will go waste. A scenario was now being created as if, it has already become a fait accompli and

nothing much can be done by this court at this point of time, the judge added. The judge said, "This

court expresses its anguish on the attitude shown by respondents 1 to 3 which has virtually resulting in handing over nearly 100 seats in a platter to the Private Colleges. This may perfectly suit the Private Colleges, but then, it is done at the cost of overlooking the merit. At some stage, this court has to ensure that similar such instances do not occur in future. There must be a mechanism to ensure that the selection process takes place strictly in accordance with the MCI Regulation and the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court. The respondents cannot be allowed to create a situation and thereafter, water down the selection process which ultimately results in less meritorious students getting the seats and Private Colleges profiteering through the same".

The judge said the respondents 1 to 3 were directed to file a counter which shall specifically answer the fol-

the Supreme Court seeking for extension of time to conduct mop up counseling for the Management quota, before the deadline?, b) Whey the candidates who got the seat during the regular counseling and who had the right to upgrade their discipline by virtue of the marks secured in Neet, were not permitted to parprocess for those vacancies which were directed to be filled up by the Private Medical Colleges and c) The list of candidates who were given admission in the Private Medical Colleges after such authorization was given by the Director, Directorate of Medical Education by letter dated August 30, 2020. It shall be in a tabular format containing the details such as Serial No, Name of the Candidate, Marks secured in Neet, Neet rank, Name of the Institution and course that allotted to the candidate, the judge added and posted to October 15, 2020, further hearing of the case.

SHORT TAKES **DNA SAMPALES MATCH THOSE OF**

SHOPIAN YOUTH

YUSUF JAMEEL I DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 25

The results of the DNA samples of the parents of three youths who went missing a day after their arrival in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Shopian district in July to earn a living have matched with those three persons killed by the Army in an alleged fake encounter and then passed off as terrorists.

"We've received the DNA sample results of three families of Rajouri and these have matched with those of the three killed in Amshipora, Sh-opian on July 18. We will now take further course of action and complete the remaining formalities," Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range), Vijay Kumar, told reporters here on Friday.

The Army had last week admitted that three youths of Rajouri district who had reached Shopian district on July 17 to work as labourers in a local apple orchard killed by its troops in an "encounter".

It said that "disciplinary action" in being initiated by it under the Army Act against the officers and soldiers involved in the operation as the inquiry conducted by it "has brought out certain prima facie evidence indicating that, during the operation, powers vested under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1990 were exceeded and the Do's and Don'ts of Chief of Army Staff as approved by the Supreme Court have been contravened" It had, however, also said that the slain men's "involvement with terrorism or related activities is under investigation by

According to the families of three labourers Muhammad Imtiaz, Abrar Ahmed Khan and Abrar Yusuf, the trio was killed by the troops in a fake encounter in Shopian's

Amshipora area on July 18.
A night before, the youth had informed their respective families over the phone that they had reached Shopian.

Challenges Nitish face include Coronavirus, unemployment

Polls are crucial for BJP after defeats in Jharkhand and Maharashtra

NAYEAR AZAD | DC

The Assembly elections in Bihar, the first amid the Coronavirus pandemic, will be held in three October November.

Primary challenges faced by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would be the Coronavirus crisis, unemployment, law and order scenario and flood situation. He is trying to retain power in Bihar for the fourth term this

The ruling NDA and the RJDled Mahagathbandhan are the two major political alliances contesting against each other.

The NDA is trying to reach out to its voters with "Vikas" (develop-Bihar BJP ment) and "15 years of good governance versus 15-years of jungle raj" narrative against the Opposition parties.

Bihar election is crucial for the NDA especially BJP as it suffered massive electoral setbacks in two states — Jharkhand and Maharashtra in 2019.

'Our party workers are excited after the dates were announced by the election commission. We are confident that the NDA will win more than 220 seats but the grand alliance will be completely wiped out after the polls as they neither have a leader nor policies for the development of the state", BJP spokesperson

Bihar BJP in-charge Bhupendra Yadav in a tweet said that "the results of the Lok Sabha will be repeated during the Assembly elections this year. The NDA is going to win this election with a three – fourth maiority

Nitish Kumar-led NDA had come to power in Bihar after defeating 15 years of Lalu-Rabri

regime in 2005.

During 2015 Assembly elections the JD(U) along with RJD and Congress had formed a grand alliance and defeated the BJP with a huge margin. However, in July 2017 after the CBI registered corruption cases against RJD chief Lalu Yadav

and his son Tejashwi Yadav, Nitish Kumar returned to NDA and formed a government with the support of BJP.

In 2019, Lok Sabha polls the BJP in alliance with JD(U) and LJP had clinched 39 out of 40 seats in the state.

Meanwhile. Tejashwi Yadav in his reaction said that his party's contest in the elections is with BJP. He said that "people are not happy with Nitish Kumar and they will get rid of this government after the polls".

Tejashwi Yadav and his elder brother Tej Pratap also led a massive protest against farm bills, which were passed in parliament recently.

Dishonour: Wife's kin get CBI begins probe 28-year old killed in Hyd into Life project

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The spectre of honour killings returned to the state on Friday with murder of 28-year-old Yogi Hemant Kumar, who, according to the police, was killed by the family of his wife, 23year-old Avanti.

The two belong to different castes and had married four months ago despite opposition from Avanti's family. Avanti and Hemant had grown up in the same locality

Chandanagar in Serilingampally mandal and fell in love with each other eight years

ago. Fourteen people. Avanti's including uncle Yugender have been arrested by the Cyberabad police for their involvement in the murder. Police said Avanti's father D. mother Archana, Yugender, the others had been plotting ways to get rid of Hemant.

According to the police, on Thursday afternoon, a group of men led by Yugender, a few relatives of Avanti. and three hired killers, reached the couple's house in TNGO's Colony in Gachibowli in three cars, manhandled Hemant and Avanti and kidnapped them.

The gang told the couple that they were being taken to Avanti's house to discuss their mar-riage. When the car turned on to the Ring Road and began going the wrong way, Avanti

and Hemanth managed to open the door and jumped out. Another car in which Yugender was seated reached the scene. Hemanth was caught and forced back into the car.

In the meanwhile, Avanti's in-laws reached the spot following a phone call from her. After warning Ayanti her and in-laws. Yugender and the others left the scene, leaving Avanti to rush to the police. According to DCP Venkateswarulu, the

three hired killers mur-Hemant and dumped the body on the outskirts of Kistaigudem village in Sangareddy. They went to a wayside shop where they began consuming

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

In a development that has annoyed the ruling LDF in Kerala, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday initiated a probe into the financial dealings of Life Mission, a state government housing project with Dubai-based Red Crescent.

The CBI probe comes close on the heels of the state cabinet on Wednesday asking the state Vigilance and Anti Corruption Bureau to probe the allegations in the deal. The BJP and the Congress had alleged that the state government had ordered the vigilance probe to buy time.

The CBI filed an FIR in a

Ernakulam on Friday in connection with the allegations related to the financial deal. The case was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Congress MLA Anil Akkara who alleged that corruption to the tune of Rs 9 crore was involved in the construction of 140 flats in his constituency Wadakkancherry under the Life Mission project.

The prjoect had run into a major controversy after one of the key accused in the gold smuggling case reportedly told probe officials that Rs 1 crore found in her bank locker was the "commission" she had received for clinching the flat construction project for Unitac Builders.

CPM hits out at Centre,

may cross 1-lakh mark in a week

Coronavirus toll

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

India's death figures due to coronavirus continue to rise on a daily basis taking overall fatalities to 92,290 till Friday with 1,141 new deaths recorded in the last 24 hours. Going by this rate, the toll may cross one lakh mark in another week or so.

The total number of Covid-19 cases in the country has crossed 58.18 lakh with 86,052 new case. India registered the highest number of tests in a single day with nearly 15 lakhs tests conducted in the last 24

Over 47.56 lakh patients have recovered so far out of which 81,177 patients recovered in the last 24 hours and the national recovery rate

now stands at 81.74%.

Of the total new cases detected, 75% are found to be concentrated in ten states/UTs. Maharashtra had more than 19,000 new cases while Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka contributed more than

TS reports 2,381 new cases: On Thursday, the state registered 2,381 new cases of Covid-19 and 10 deaths. The total number of cases stands at 1,81,627 and the toll at 1,080, according to the state Covid-19 bulletin issued by the state health department on Friday.

AP numbers dip further: Andhra Pradesh continues to witness a dip in the number of Covid-19 positive cases and also deaths. The state registered 7,073 new positive cases in the last 24 hours, scaling up the overall tally to 6,61,458. With 48 deaths, the toll has risen to Kerala reports biggest

spike: Kerala on Friday reported the biggest single day spike so far in Covid - 19

TELANGANA ALLOWS OPENING OF BARS, CLUBS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The state government on Friday announced that it was allowing reopening of bars, clubs, and tourism bars "with immediate effect." Permit rooms will not be allowed to reopen

until further orders.
Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, in his orders, laid down eight conditions for the establishments to follow. These include that there should be mandatory thermal screening at the entrance, and the managements must ensure proper queue management.

The orders mandated crowd management in parking lots, provision of hand sanitiser and wearing of masks by bar staff and crew. The orders prohibited gatherings inside the premises, as well as holding or musical events or opening dance floors.

Mangements must ensure "deep cleaning and sanitisation of the premises morning and evening" and every seat must be sanitised before a new customer occupies it. The orders said that it was the managements' responsibility to ensure proper ven-

with 6477 new cases even as 3481 persons recovered from 8,655 cases in Karnataka:

Karnataka on Friday reported 8,655 new cases of Covid-19 and 86 related fatalities, taking the tally to 5,57,212 and the death toll to

Fire breaks out

at Huawei office

Beijing: A huge fire broke out in southern China on Friday at an unfinished Huawei research facility, sending massive plumes of smoke over the industrial city of Dongguan. The blaze started at a Huawei building on Alishan Road, where the company is developing a research base, according to the city government. It was extinguished after 140 firefighters were called to the scene, the local fire brigade said in a separate statement. Footage broadcast online by state media channel CCTV showed dark clouds of smoke billowing out of a blue and white bui-Iding near Songshan Lake. Huawei's spokesperson said the company could not yet provide details on the fire.

THAILAND SUES FACEBOOK

Bangkok, Sept. 25: Thailand's government lodged complaints against Facebook and Twitter, alleging they failed to comply with court orders to block content judged illegal under Thai

Minister of Digital Economy and Society Buddhipongse Punnakanta said at a news conference that it was the first time his ministry has taken such action against the social media companies under Tha-

iland's Computer Crime Act. It has prosecuted website and account owners and users in the past. The ministry filed the complaints at the police Technology Crime Suppression Division, where Buddhipongse said the companies had failed to meet 15-day deadlines issued by the courts to block hundreds of accounts. He said the targeted sites were banned because they contained illegal content related to online gambling, pornography, drugs or the monarchy, a highly sensitive

The ministry also filed complaints against parties using five accounts to disseminate

Retired generals, admirals endorse Biden in US polls 4-star officers who served under Trump also back Dem US Prez candidate

Washington, Sept. 25: More than 200 retired generals and admirals endorsed Joe Biden for president in a letter published on Thursday, saying he had the character and judgment to serve as commander-in-chief instead of President Donald Trump, who has failed "to meet challenges large or small."

Some of the officers who signed the letter supporting Biden had retired only in the past few years, including Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, who served as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Trump before he retired in August 2019; Vice Adm. Gardner Howe, a Navy SEAL leader who also retired last year; and retired Adm. Paul Zukunft, who oversaw the Coast Guard until 2018. The list of signatories

featured 22 retired four-star military officers, among them Navy Adm. Samuel Locklear, who oversaw all US forces in the Pacific from 2012 to 2015, and Adm. Harry Ulrich, who commanded U.S. naval forces in Europe during President George W. Bush's administration. The retired top brass signed the letter backing **Washington, Sept. 26:** what happens" before agreeing to any election outcome. Many other lawpeaceful transfer of power if he loses drew swift blowback on Thursday from both parties in Congress, and lawmakers turned to unprecedented steps to

ensure he can't ignore the

vote of the people. Amid the uproar, Trump said anew he's not sure the election will be "honest." Congressional leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, rejected Trump's assertion that he'll "see

Biden along with nearly 300 other former national security officials and diplomats. William Webster, the former director of the CIA and the FBI, was among the signatories, along with five former defense secretaries: William Perry, William Cohen, Chuck Hagel, Leon

makers — including from Trump's own Republican Party —vowed to make sure voters' wishes are followed ahead Inauguration Day in January.

And some Democrats were taking action, including formally asking Trump's defense secretary, homeland security adviser and attorney general to declare they'll support the Nov. 3 results, whoever wins. Asked as he departed the White House

Panetta and Ash Carter. 'My own personal view is that I have a duty to be involved in civic matters of the nation that I'm a citof, retired Adm. Steve Abbot said of his decision to sign the letter. Abbot served as comma-

nder of the U.S. Sixth Fleet

and commander of Naval

Striking and Support Forces in Southern Europe, and he later became Bush's acting homeland security adviser. He said that he believed he had a duty to speak out as a citizen and that he was troubled initially by Trump's comments about the late Sen. John McCain in 2016.

said, "We'll see." The pres-

ident said he wants to

"make sure the election is

Trump's attacks on the

upcoming vote — almost

without modern precedent in the US — are hitting amid the tumult of

the campaign, as partisan

tensions rage and more

Americans than ever are

planning to vote by mail because of the Coron-

avirus pandemic.

honest, and I'm not sure

can be."

TRUMP PROMOTES Despite Trump attacks, both 'VISION' FOR parties vow orderly elections **HEALTH CARE**

Charlotte, Sept. 25: More than three-and-a-half years into his presidency and 40 days from an election, President Donald Trump on Thursday launched what aides termed a "vision" for health care heavy on unfulfilled aspirations.

'This is affirmed, signed, and done, so we can put that to rest," Trump said. He signed an executive order on a range of issues, including protecting people with preexisting medical conditions from insurance discrimination. But that right is already guaranteed in the Obama-era health law his administration is asking the Supreme Court to overturn. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi dismissively said Trump's "bogus executive order on pre-existing conditions isn't worth the paper it's

Democrats are betting heavily that they have the edge on health care this election season. -AP

China to produce 1b vaccine doses

Beijing, Sept. 25: China's Covid-19 vaccine development programme is in a "leading position" and Beijing is on track to produce over 600 million doses by the end of the year, officials said on Friday.

China has been bullish about the development of its Coronavirus vaccine as scientists around the world race to halt the deadly pathogen which has caused global chaos and killed almost a million people.

Health officials told reporters at a press conference on Friday that China expects to produce 610 million vaccine doses by the end of this year, with annual production capacity to reach at least one billion doses next vear.

Eleven Chinese vaccines have now entered clinical trials, with four in Phase Three trials that are "progressing smoothly", said Wu Yuanbin from the Ministry of Science and Technology. "At present, China's

Covid-19 vaccine research and development work is overall in a leading position," said Wu. We've seen that the vac-

cines' safety is good and there have been no serious adverse reactions." Hundreds of thousands of essential workers at ports,

CARNIVAL AS CASES SURGE Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 25:

RIO POSTPONES

Brazil has postponed Rio de Janeiro's famed carnival for next year, the latest spectacle hit by the panacross the globe struggle to contain a surge in Coronavirus infections.

Rio's carnival, famous for its gyrating Samba dancers, drummers and dancing crowds, draws millions for all night parties in packed streets, making social distancing all but impossible. Brazil now has the world's second highest death toll

after the United States — nearly 1,40,000 fatalities and is still battling to bring the virus under control. Rio's samba schools had already warned in July that without certainty of a

vaccine this year it would be difficult to organise the February 2021 festival. hospitals and other highrisk areas have already been given an experimental vaccine since July, officials said, claiming

that the programme had also gained the support of the World Health Orga-

nisation (WHO).

Activist Greta calls for more climate pressure

enage campaigner Greta Thunberg demonstrated outside Parliament in her native Sweden on Friday as a new set of worldwide protests to fight climate change kicked off.

More than 3,000 rallies by the Fridays for Future movement were scheduled to take place around the world, from Iceland to Australia and both online and in the streets dependrestrictions.

"The main hope is, as always, to try to have an impact on the level of awareness and public opinion so that people will start becoming more aware of the climate crisis, so that we build up this pressure on people in power so that something happens, the 17-year-old, surrounded by a dozen other activists, told reporters.

mate crisis as a crisis, it's just as simple as that," she said, holding her now-famous "School Strike for the Climate" poster and wearing a face mask.

In Sweden, more than 200 events are planned, though Corona restrictions will limit each to fewer than 50 participants.

Thunberg said the Swedish demonstrations would "focus on being few

keeping distance." Previous global Fridays for Future school strikes have seen millions of young people pour into the

streets to demand action.

Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, however, much of the group's actions moved online.

Greta herself resumed her Friday school strikes on September 4, after returning to high school

following a year spent campaigning for the climate around the world. Meanwhile, Greenpeace marked the day by releasing a photo taken several days ago in the Arctic of 18-year-old ornithologist Mya-Rose Craig, known as "birdgirl", standing on an

ice floe holding a poster "Youth Strike for Climate" in what it said was the world's most northerly climate strike.



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg holds a poster reading 'school strike for the climate' takes part in a Fridays For Future protest in front of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdagen) in Stockholm on Friday. — AFP



Chronicle

26 SEPTEMBER 2020

Dig in for the long haul: Chinese not going soon

may be in for a very long haul in eastern Ladakh and perhaps across the entire Line of Actual Control: the standoff with China that began in May isn't ending anytime soon, and the nation had better get used to it. While the two countries agreed, at the sixth round of the corps commanders' talks Monday, to stop sending more troops to the frontline, there is no real way each side can verify what the other is doing, besides satellite imagery, which is often misleading. India and China also agreed, in a "candid and in-depth exchange of views", to "refrain from unilaterally changing the ground situation" and "avoid taking any action that may complicate the situation". Such pious sentiments, in the joint statement issued a day after the talks, are all very well, but appear completely out of sync with the reality on the ground. It should be noted that even if China and India don't send any additional troops to the LAC, the People's Liberation Army already has 50,000 soldiers there, with heavy artillery, tanks, armoured carriers, and the Indian Army has a matching number of troops and equipment. The important thing is that there wasn't an iota of progress on the disengagement process: with the Chinese side refusing to budge on withdrawal of its forces from the Finger area and elsewhere, and go back to its pre-April 2020 positions — despite the 14-hour-long negotiations, attended for the first time by a MEA joint secretary.

After foreign ministers S. Jaishankar and Wang Yi agreed in Moscow on a five-point action plan to reduce tensions, Monday's agreement not to engage

in "escalatory behaviour" along the LAC is perhaps the first significant step forward, but one has to wait and see if it holds for a reasonable period. To reiterate, one can only hope for small steps at a time and it will be a mistake to expect too much from two/three rounds of military/diplomatic negotiations. Given that, the two armies have to remain dug in across the harsh terrain in sub-zero temperatures through the coming winter, and perhaps beyond. India's only advantage is that having occupied the Kailash range's strategic heights overlooking the Spanggur Gap's entry points in Chushul on August 29-31, the PLA can't take it by surprise as it did in May-June. The Chinese side is demanding that India withdraw from these heights, which New Delhi has rightly rejected, saying as the first transgressions were by China, in the Finger area, Pangong Tso, Gogra Post-Hot Springs and Depsang Plains, where the PLA is still preventing Indian Army patrolling, it has to make the first move towards disengagement. China is, of course, in denial that it had transgressed first.

There are fears if the Chinese can't be forced to leave soon, the change in the LAC's alignment might become permanent, to India's disadvantage. That is why the Army must be in readiness, prepared to retaliate for any Chinese action, including by firing if required, and remain watchful for mischief elsewhere on the LAC, such as Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese are masters at the long game, in tiring out their opponents, and India needs a lot of patience. It will be costly too, as our economy is weaker than China's, and the additional spending on defence is something we can ill afford, especially now. But it must be done, we have no alternative.

Deano transformed cricket

ragic as the death of the Victorian cricketer Dean Jones in India is, his emotional ties to the subcontinent may have been destined to end this way. The lacksquare Australian batsman helped transform the modern game by showing the way in a more energetic mode of playing as batsman, bowler or fielder in the limitedovers game in which each run seems to matter more towards defining victory or defeat. A positive attitude towards batting in a team's cause and raw courage in standing up to the challenge of pace like that of the West Indies in its heyday enabled him to leave a grand imprint on the game, especially in an epochal World Cup victory in India under Allan Border in 1987 that reshaped the history of Australian

Not many foreigners of Dean Jones' time took to the subcontinent as a favourite touring or visiting place. A liberal-minded Jones was different and he sought out assignments in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan as a commentator. After a gaffe on air in likening a bearded South African batsman's appearance to that of "a terrorist", Jones reconciled to only being a part of studio cricket shows. In his 'Professor Deano' persona, he used his head for figures to present cricket in quirky and engag-

ing fashion and carved a niche in the field of the "talking heads" of sport.

A brave Jones may have defied death very early in his career as he dominated the opening parts of Tied Test II at Chepauk in Chennai in September 1986 when he compiled a mammoth 210 in 503 minutes of sapping heat and humidity, besides the discomfort of the foul smell emanating from the polluted Cooum River flowing near by. Jones was so dehydrated with the effort on the opening day that he was thrown into a bathtub filled with ice cubes in his hotel room to cool him down and then dragged to a hot shower to make him feel "human" again and fit to resume batting, but only to be put on saline drips in a hospital that night. Alas!, a stroke took him in his Mumbai hotel room at the relatively young age of 59.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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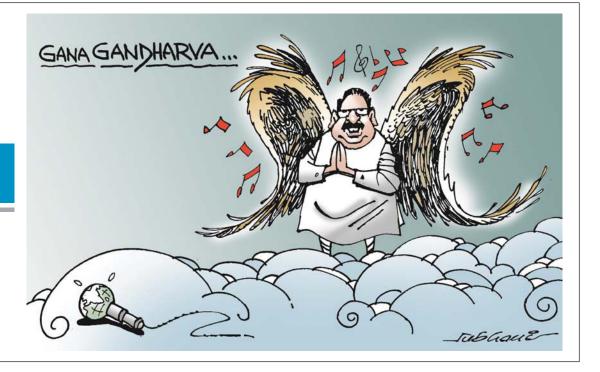
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Subhani



Can fury over farm bills trigger wider Opp. stir?



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

or the first time India, motion of noconfidence was moved against the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha earlier this week. It's another matter that it was rejected. To save the two agriculture bills — on which Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears to have staked so much — from possibly falling in the Upper House, Harivansh, as the presiding officer, appeared to shabbily disregard the rules, leading to the Opposition parties expressing their mistrust

Mr Harivansh stubborn-ly refused the Opposition's demand for a formal vote to test whether the government actually had a majority to pass the intended legislation. It's quite clear that to press for a vote is no longer your right even inside the Parliament of India. All these years formal voting minute any member in either House has demanded a "division". On this occasion, howev-

er, the deputy chairman chose to impose voice voting when the House was in a state of turmoil caused by stiff opposition to the rules being imposed by him even by parties that normally vote with the government. The deputy chairman no doubt acted to help the intended legislation sail through on the strength of lung power. It's clear that if the presiding deity is with you, that's practically nine-tenths of the law.

These were truly "historic" bills, to quote the PM, in the sense that they will make history. The laws that these will bring about have the intent of deepening capitalism in agriculture by slowly strangulating the long-standing MSP regime evidently a bad old "socialist" construct through which the government offers an assured minimum price to farmers to prevent them from going to the wall. The path will be cleared for businessmen to do all the foodgrain procurement to bring farm produce to cities at prices that the

market dictates.
The effect of these laws may take time to come to fruition. For the time being, the government has hastily announced even an increase in the MSP to placate farmers who are on the warpath. But when the desired results begin to kick in with the passage of time, Indian agriculture, which has been described as a "gamble on the monsoon", will also carry the additional feature of being a gamble on the market. The fate of approximately 50 per cent of the population that subsists on agriculture — about 70 million people — will be determined eventually by how the stock market, the money market and the foreign trade market are

Naturally, bedlam ensued of a kind not seen before in the Rajya Sabha. To hide the shame, the live telecast of Rajya Sabha TV was abruptly cut. The microphones of the Opposition members were switched off. It was a blatant effort to ensure that people do not get to see the methods being deployed on the government's behalf in Parliament. It was dark-ness at noon that was on display

If China or North Korea had a multi-party system and a real Parliament,

been expected. But they don't. So that makes us a special category of "democracy", a foretaste of the New India that is being promised as India ostentatiously lays claim to being the "vishwa guru".

Before Mr Harivansh announced a voice vote, it seemed that the ruling party's opponents might just have the upper hand in terms of numbers as some of the government's regular allies from among the Opposition parties were switching sides on this particular vote since it concerned millions of farmers, and they didn't wish to be seen ranged against the growers of food, whose condition is pitiable at the best of

times. Year after year, we have seen gripping images of farmers casting away the healthiest-looking onions and tomatoes — fruits of their toil — on the roads instead of selling them to traders at ridiculous market-determined prices because the MSP regime does not cover such crops. What if the MSP went and rice and wheat now had to be flung away in the wind by our agriculturists?

A defeat for the government on the agriculture Parliament topping a farmers' agitation gripping Punjab, Haryana and several other parts of North India would have been a signal event, coming on top of the news of 24 per cent negative rate of growth, the worst among all countries of the world, shooting Covid-19 figures (again the worst in the world), and China sitting on our territory in Ladakh, barely 200 km out of Leh. The looming defeat

Mr Harivansh stubbornly refused the Opposition's demand for a formal vote... It's quite clear that to press for a vote is no longer your right even inside the **Parliament of India**

had to be prevented at any cost, and Mr Harivansh offered his services, although he is not from the BJP-RSS stable.

What is important is that the no-confidence move against the deputy chairman was signed by as many as 12 non-NDA parties, including several that have loyally supported the Narendra Modi government for a long time, behaving as a loyal Opposition. These decided to make common cause with the government's (and the BJP's) inveterate opponents Congress, the Left parties, the RJD and AIADMK, and lately the Trinamul

The flash unity and loss of faith has come on the heels of the Akali Dal, the BJP's oldest remaining ally (the Shiv Sena departed last year), withdrawing its Cabinet minister from the Modi government. Although the Akalis have not quit the ruling alliance at the Centre, and it is still unclear if they will so so, for many years the two parties have had a fairly tense relationship as partners.

What is fundamental to the unusual Akali Dal decision to withdraw itself from the Union Cabinet, catching the BJP wholly unaware unprecedented events in Rajya Sabha, is the spontaneity seen in the protest of farmers in various parts of North India. government The

doing its best to head off a nationwide action by farmers by offering unrealistic promises and announcing a hike in MSP for certain crops. But it is clear as day that the continuance of MSP runs against the logic of the two cleared Parliament. Not for a long time in the country have we seen a coming together in protest by a robust constituency even as legislation was in the making. The test of the Opposition will be if it can translate its actions in the legislature with channelling a wide variety of people's grievances on the ground.

A CHINK IN THE ARMOUR

Apropos the article Are we ready for 'give & take' with China at LAC? (Sept. 24). It dwells judiciously at the farrago on both sides of Indo-China claim at LAC, which is a chink in the armour for both, thanks to the prolonged fights over the perennial issue since ages past. It is indeed unfortunate that both the countries don't have a solid documented proof to claim the borders at LAC resulting in frequent meetings and frictions, besides five boys from Arunachal Pradesh unwittingly stepping into the disputed place and their falling into the hands of China's PLA. It would be better, in the larger interest of both nations, to exclusively have intermediaries to settle the issue amicably lest aggressive fights should continue on both sides jeopardising the amity, if any, between two sides.

> E.S.Chandrasekaran, Chennai

A GREAT HUMAN BEING

THE ENTIRE music world has been orphaned by the unfortunate demise of the legendary multilingual singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, fondly called as SPB who has sung more than 40,000 songs in as many as 16 languages and scored music for 45 films. One and all in the film world hails him as a great human being, an epitome of simplicity and great understanding. May his soul rest in

S. Vaithianathan, Madurai

END OF AN ERA
THE PASSING away of veteran singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam marks the end of an era and leaves music lovers heart-broken. 'SPB' as he was popularly and affectionately known, was a versatile playback singer and actor who strode the music field like a colossus rendering 40,000 songs in different languages including Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Malayalam in a career spanning more than half a century. The music maestro entertained and enthralled his listeners and audience with his distinguished voice; the quality of which ranged from one of soft, soothing and mellifluous melodies to power packed fast numbers. His zealous approach and his never say die attitude towards life, even when affected by the pandemic, is indeed worthy of emulation by the present day generation.

B. Suresh Kumar, Coimbatore

Saeed Naqvi **Wide Angle**



BJP impunity in House stems from Opp. fear of exposure

rith 303 seats in a House of 540 members, and only 37.36 per cent of the popular vote, the BJP can rush through bills with lightning speed, pummelling any effort at debate. How does this happen? After all, 237 members on the Opposition benches is not a negligible number.

The BJP's impatience with the Constitution is obvious but blame also lies with the Gandhi trio on two counts: neither have they been able to pull together a coalition with any punch, nor have they moved out of the way so that others can.

The salience given to the Gandhis by the media keeps them in the public eye as wishful thinkers with a determination to revive the Congress. This comes across as a massive roadblock in the way of any Opposition unity. They know that such a revival is impossible but harping on the belief serves a purpose: it obstructs opposition unity and sustains their relevance to no useful end. The media is content with the sim-plicity of the Tweedledum versus Tweedledee narrative.

In recent times, a story that has wafted out of the Gandhi enclosure is one of differences between them. Sonia Gandhi, with reliable retainers like Ahmed Patel is averse to rocking any boat. Status quo, uncomfortable

though it be, is about the best she sees for the brood in the given circumstances. Her listless politics is also a function of her indifferent health.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's status quoism derives from her personal anxieties, family problems and an inability to cope with responsibilities. Ask Kishori Lal Sharma, appointed years ago to nurse the "family burroughs" of Rae Bareli and Amethi, and he will guardedly spill the beans. The poor fellow's Stan Hardy (as in Laurel and Hardy) moustache greyed waiting for Priyanka to address the "Congress volunteers". But Priyanka, like Godot, never showed up.

Rahul Gandhi, meanwhile, is being more assertive about beliefs he has long held and which approximate to the line Rajiv Gandhi enunciated at the 1985 Congress Centenary in Mumbai chastising the "power bro-kers". Is Rahul Gandhi looking for that kind of a platform?

away from the "power brokers", the regional satraps, the capitalists were, in a sense exposed. They eventually joined up with the RSS, Socialists in the leadership of arch-Gandhian, Jayaprakash Narayan.

In 1969, when his grandmother, Indira Gandhi, split the Congress

the Bihar movement of 1974 under

The 1969 split had a Left-Right

dimension to it because it was in the context of the Cold War. In the post Cold War world "Inequality" has emerged as the principal affliction of democracies where people's demands are dismissed as "populism". Crony capitalism thrives but no political party is allowed to find its feet if it intends to harness the discontent of the people who have borne the brunt of, say, the extended lockdown in India. There is a huge Left-of-Centre space for the Opposition to occupy. It does not have to be terribly ideological. All it has to do is to make available to the people social benefits such as health, education, housing, et cetera. Surely Rahul is aware of this

Politics these days is at a standstill because of the lockdown, of course, but also because of what I call the "Eulalie" syndrome. This light-hearted diversion comes from Wodehouse. The resourceful Jeeves has come to the assistance of his master, Bertie Wooster, at a particularly challenging moment. Roderick Spode, the Earl of Sidcup, has become a permanent social menace in a country house which is Bertie's favourite haunt. How to cut down Spode's bombast? That is Bertie's challenge. Jeeves provides the panacea. Bertie has to sneak upto Spode and whisper, "I know all about Eulalie." Bertie follows Jeeves' advice. The result is electric. Spode becomes white as a sheet and collapses in the chair like a deflated balloon. It turns out that before Spode began to float in London's high society, he owned a store called Eulalie which sold lingerie known for its bras with bold designs. Eulalie, then is harmless blackmail. But the blackmail which has become the staple in contemporary politics is brutal.

After the BJP's stunning victory in UP in 2017, the Opposition, armed with data on electoral fraud, sought Sonia Gandhi's permission to hold a press conference. She refused to get "controversies" Likewise, she backed away from "snoopgate" which had both Modi and Amit Shah in difficulties.

Take a look at Lucknow. Jockeying has begun for the 10 Rajya Sabha seats from UP. Conventional wisdom concedes eight to the BJP and one to the SP. One would have expected the Opposition to jointly keep the BJP out on the solitary remaining seat. But individual party leaders are in an almighty state of funk just in case the Enforcement Directorate comes

knocking at their door. Even though the Opposition has a comfortable majority in the UP Upper House, the BJP rammed through nearly a hundred bills with

out any vote. A petrified Akhilesh Yadav is hiding behind columns to avoid political leaders who are pressing him to approach the Supreme Court. What if Yogi Adityanath sets the dogs on him? In fact, Lucknow would appear to have been a rehearsal for the real show in Parliament. In uniformed cities like New Delhi

these examples of the ruling party's impunity, away from the media's critical glare, enhance an impression of the BJP's invincibility. Forgotten are dismal economic figures and a simple catalogue: the party is not in power in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Delhi. Just as your eve settles on these facts. India Today thrusts before you its poll results: Modi's approval ratings are 78 per cent. Like the Priest in Kurosawa's Rashomon, you walk away nodding your head, "What is the truth?" The climax, of course, is the audacity of ramming through bills in Parliament. Slowly what is being brought into focus is a need for a new Constitution.

The writer is a senior journalist and commentator based in

COIMBATORE | SATURDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2020

Centre used states' ₹47,272cr Centre plans \$4.6b sops **GST funds to lower fiscal gap**

CAG says Centre violated GST Act through unauthorised use

INDICATORS 37,388.66 2.28 2.27 Nifty 50 11,050.30 S&P 500° 3,267.82 0.65 0.39 Dollar (₹) 73.61 0.03 Pound Sterling (₹) 94.01 86.01 353 Gold (10gm)* (₹) 49,551▼0.71 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* 41.78 -0.16 6.038 IN 10-Yr bond yield US 10-Yr T-bill yield* 0.659

Hetero launches patient pack of Favivir 800/200

* As of 9:30 PM IST



Hetero on Friday launched the first-ever 'Patient Compliant Pack' of Favivir 800/200 for the treatment of mild-to-moderate symptomatic Covid-19 patients in India. Favivir 800/200 will be available in a patient-friendly pack containing 16 tablets of Favipiravir 800mg and 2 tablets of Favipiravir 200mg, priced at ₹2,640. Favipiravir 800 mg has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India.

CAG has found that the Union government in the very first two years of the implementation wrongly retained ₹47,272 crore of GST compensation cess that was meant to be used specifically to compensate states for loss

of revenue. In its audit report of gov-ernment accounts, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged that the amount was to be credited to the non-laps-able GST Compensation Cess collection fund for payment to states for loss of revenue due to implementation of GST since 2017, but the government did not do so, and thus violated the GST law.

The GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017, provides for levy of cess for the purpose of providing compensation to the states for loss of revenue arising due to

BREACH OF TRUST

CAG said the Centre used this money for "other purposes" which "led to an overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the year".

According to CAG, the **Finance Ministry** accepted the audit observation and stated in February 2020 that the proceeds of cess collected and not transferred to Public Account would be transferred in the subsequent year.

enue. CAG said out of the

₹62,612 crore GST Compensation Cess collected in

2017-18, ₹56,146 crore was

transferred to the non-

In the following year

(2018-19), ₹54,275 crore out of ₹95,081 crore collected

was transferred to the

The short transfer in

2017-18 was ₹6,466 crore

and in 2018-19 it was

₹40.806 crore. CAG said

lapsable fund.

implementation of GST for a period specified in the Act," CAG said.

As per the Act and the accounting procedure, the entire cess collected during the year is required to be credited to a non-lapsable Fund (the GST Compensation Cess Fund) which shall form part of the Public Account and shall be used for the purpose mentioned i.e., for providing compensation to states for loss of rev-

overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the vear' The short-crediting was

a violation of the GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017. The issue of compensation cess is driving a wedge between the Centre and states at the GST Council, the highest decision making body of the GST regime that had subsumed 17 different central and state taxes such as excise duty and VAT.

States have not been paid their promised compensation for letting go their powers to levy taxes on goods and services since last fiscal. The Centre says a slowdown in the economy has meant that not enough money is being collected by way of cess that is levied on luxury and sin goods.

to boost battery factories

New Delhi, Sept. 25: India plans to offer \$4.6 billion in incentives to companies setting up advanced battery manufacturing facilities as it seeks to promote the use of electric vehicles and cut down its dependence on oil, according to a gov-ernment proposal seen by

A proposal drafted by NITI Aayog, a federal think tank chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said India could slash its oil import bills by as much as \$40 billion by 2030 if electric vehicles were widely adopted.

The proposal is likely to be reviewed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet in the coming weeks, said a senior government official, who was not authorised to A PROPOSAL drafted by NITI Aayog, a federal think tank chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said India could slash its oil import bills by as much as \$40 billion by 2030 if electric vehicles were widely adopted.

comment on the matter and declined to be identified. NITI Aayog and the Indian government did not respond to requests for comment.

The think tank recommended incentives of \$4.6 billion by 2030 for compamanufacturing nies advanced batteries, starting with cash and infrastructure incentives of ₹900 crore (\$122 million) in the next financial year

which would then be ratcheted up annually.

"Currently, the battery energy storage industry is at a very nascent stage in India with investors being a little apprehensive to invest in a sunrise industry," the proposal said. India plans to retain its

import tax rate of five per cent for certain types of batteries, including batteries for electric vehicles, until 2022, but will increase it to 15 per cent thereafter to promote local manufacturing, the document said.

Though keen to reduce its oil dependence and cut down on pollution, India's efforts to promote electric vehicles have been stymied by a lack of investment in manufacturing and infrastructure like charging stations.

adding the Centre used LIC, GIC, NIAC too big to fail

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

Insurance regulator finds Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India, General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India and The New India Assurance Co

(NIAC) too big to fail. As their failure can cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system, IRDA will subject them to enhanced regulatory supervision.

IRDA has identified LIC,

domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) for the year 2020-21. D-SIIs are insurers of

such size, market importance and domestic and global interconnectedness whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domesfinancial system. Therefore, the continued functioning of D-SIIs is critical for the uninterrupted availability of insurance services to the national economy.

The D-SIIs have been

OUICK CROSSWORD

19

1.Arrange into categories (8)

8. Research, look into (5)

14. Intrude on a onversation (4,2)

Word Mine

C

NOSU

DDAY'S RATINGS: 6 AVERAGE; 7 GOOD;

How many words of four or

more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's

puzzle? In making a word, each
letter may be used once
only. Each word must contain
the letter at the top of the

pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word.

Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed

10. Make airtight (4) 12. Olfactory organ (4)

17. Curt, abrupt (5)

18. Power cables (5)

19. Of the brain (8)

Across

7. Snake (5)

9. Grain (6)

corporate governance and identify all relevant risk and promote a sound risk management culture. D-SIIs will also be subjected to enhanced regulatory

As D-SIIs are seen as insurers that are 'too big or too important to fail', the perceived expectation of government support may amplify risk taking, reduce market discipline, create competitive distortions, and increase the possibility of distress in future. These considerations require that D-SIIs

should be subjected to additional regulatory measures to deal with the systemic risks and moral hazard issues.

IRDA identifies such insurers using an enhanced monitoring mechanism, which includes parameters like the size of operations in terms of total revenue, including premium underwritten and the value of assets under management. It also considers insurers' global activities across more than one jurisdiction among other factors.

CFOs' optimism falls to record low levels

New Delhi, Sept. 25: The optimism level among chief financial officers financial and macro-economic conditions during the third quarter this year has witnessed a decline of 15 per cent and touched record low level, according to a survey.
Dun & Bradstreet

Composite CFO Optimism Index showed a decline of 15 per cent on quarter-onquarter basis to 74.2 during Q3 2020, bringing the index to a record low.

The survey covered nearly 350 chief financial officers (CFOs), who were asked a set of questions regarding the financial performance of their companies and the overall macroeconomic scenario for the corporate sector in the forthcoming period.

"The steady rise in total infected cases and the spillover effects of the lockdown measures have undermined the optimism levels," said Arun Singh, Global Chief Economist, Dun & Bradstreet.

Further, the lack of space for demand stimulus coupled with subdued consumer demand have constrained the pace of economic activity, the Dun & Bradstreet economist

HEALTH, HYGIENE ITEM LAUNCHES JUMP 18-FOLD

New Delhi, Sept. 25: FMCG companies intro-duced total 1,897 products in health and hygiene segment in March-August registering over 18-fold jump as compared to the preceding six months, said a report from data analytics firm Nielsen.

The companies introduced products in categories including liquid toilet soaps, antiseptic liquids, analgesic between March-August 2020, the report noted.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, between September 2019 to February 2020, only 102 products were introduced in health &

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



change in your life is likely. Taurus: Be the first to offer the hand of friendship. Teamwork and cooperation will earn you more money. Some may get admission into



the views of others on important matters. Heavy expenses on family could weaken your finances. Real estate matters not favourable. Cancer: Your health or that of a relative may

prestigious courses in foreign universities. nini: Trust your own instincts rather than



cause concern. Growth prospects are dull for the self-employed. Those looking for a career break are likely to be disappointed.



o: Your mistakes could cause you unhappiness in domestic life. Attend to your husband's health problems. Finances need attention. Money loaned now won't be easy to recover.



Virgo: Spend time with your family. Let them know how special they are to you. You will have difficulty in taking anything too seriously. A friend or colleague will be helpful in finishing pending tasks.

You share your b'day with

Serena Williams, an American professional tennis player and former world No. 1 in women's single tennis. She has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles and 14 Grand Slam doubles titles, all with her sister Venus Williams. bra: Consistent effort with a partner



will yield satisfying results. Share your good fortune with supportive friends. Your work may suffer slightly. Take time out and think things through on the work front. scorpio: Though money may be tight, you might

still go overboard with an expensive gift. You



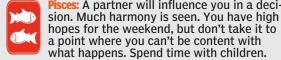
could be troubled by pain in the legs. Improve contacts with influential people. gittarius: Lend a helping hand to a romantic partner. It is time for you to transform your ideas into wealth. Unexpected expenses could



Capricorn: Past investments will bring profits. Failing to prioritise love life could create misunderstandings. Pay special attention to diet. Work needs more attention. quarius: Avoid getting too close to a



colleague. Keep secrets to yourself but be a team player. Don't go overboard with expenditure. Plan your monthly budget. Pisces: A partner will influence you in a deci-



PHII I IP

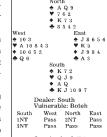
THE **PLAY** THAT IS **ONLY IN NEWSPAPERS**

lately. We include this news for the benefit of gas stations, which otherwise wouldn't learn of it for six

But by then, the price was no doubt back above where it was in tion in raising. 1991, when that was published.

ill Tammeus, a journalist, needed to defeat today's three-no wrote, "Oil prices have fallen trump contract, What happens after West leads his fourth-highest heart? North's game invitation showed a balanced 9-count, or 8 points and a five-card minor. South, adding 1 point for his five-card suit, had no hesita-

When this deal was played during All good newspapers carry a an online duplicate, at all tables, the bridge column! That is the most likely play began with a heart to the king, a



declarer's jack, East discarding a started with 5 or 6, and he had spade. Then the declarers, knowing that they could not afford to let West win a trick, played a spade to the board and returned a club to their king. When that held and the suit proved to be 2-2, the Souths claimed an overtrick. What was missed by the Easts? They should have counted the

points. Dummy had 9, they had 9, and

18

1. Alcoholic drink (5)

5. Hold spellbound (9)

13. Loose hillside stones (5)

2. Overseas (6)

3. Foam (4)

4. Untrue (5)

6. Top up (9)

11. Head servant (6)

15. Lag behind (5)

jumble

MIRGE

THHUC

SWRULA

TOSEOH

16. Surrender up (4)

already produced the heart ace. If West had only one more jack, the contract was unbeatable. But if he had the club queen, there was a have discarded his club ace and, here, gotten herself or himself into multiple

LARVA

minister by saying - AT YOUR SERVICE

Across: 1. Analysis, 6. Sore, 7. Agreed, 9. Rodeo, 11. Eases, 12. Nasal,

11. Eases, 12. Nasal, 13. Impel, 16. Evolve, 18. Inca, 19.

Down: 1. Assurance, 2. Acrid, 3. Seam, 4. Sarcasm, 5. Tie, 8. Displease, 10. Enabled, 14. Panda, 15. Felt, 17. Van.

THEY STARTED WORK ON THE MOUNTAIN TUNNEL AND WOULD WORK UNTIL THEY --

Now arrange the circled letters o form the surprise answer, as

ROTARY

SUBMIT

CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson









ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman







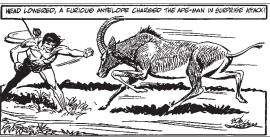
BLONDIE Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN|Edgar Rice Burroughs





Messi blasts Barca

for Suarez sack

Madrid: Lionel Messi bid an emotional farewell on Friday to Luis Suarez, the day after the Uruguayan striker had said tearful goodbyes to Barcelona after the club sent him to Atletico Madrid. "Today I went into the dressing room and the awful truth hit me," Messi posted on *Instagram*, before renewing his criticism of club management.

"You deserved to be sent off as what you are: one of the most important players in the history of the club," Messi wrote. "And not to be fired in the way they did it. The truth is that at this point nothing surprises me

anymore," the post added. Messi has a long-running feud with club president Josep Maria Bartomeu which intensified after Barcelona were humiliated 8-2 by Bayern in a Champions League quarterfinal in August. Messi tried to force his exit from Barcelona but finally

accepted that he would have to

see out the final year of his

contract. - AFP

Gurpreet, Sanju adjudged best

New Delhi: Indian men's team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and women's squad's mid-fielder Sanju were on Friday declared the winners of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Footballer of the Year awards for the 2019-20

season. This is the first time Gurpreet has received the award, and in the process he became the second goalkeeper after Subrata Paul in 2009 to be named the AIFF Player of the Year. Gurpreet was elected as the winner on the basis of votes from Indian Super League and

Bottas revs to the top at Russian GP

I-League club coaches. -PTI

Sochi: Valtteri Bottas topped the times for Mercedes ahead of Renault's Daniel Ricciardo in Friday morning's crash-hit opening free practice at this weekend's Russian Grand Prix. The Finn, who is 55 points adrift of Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton in the title race, clocked a best lap in one minute and 34.923 seconds. This left him half a second clear of the Australian on the smooth-surfaced circuit and six-tenths ahead of third-placed Max Verstappen of Red Bull. Defending six-time champion Hamilton, who is one win short of equalling seven-time champion Michael Schumacher's career record 91 victories. remained in the Mercedes team jarage for much of the session after flat-spotting his tyres and did not clock a truly competitive lap time. He was classified down in 19th. — AFP

Milan, Spurs in **Europa play-offs**

Milan: AC Milan midfielder Hakan alhanoglu scored twice to give his team a 3-2 home victory over Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt in Europa League qualifying. There were no major upsets as

Tottenham, Celtic, Wolfsburg, **PSV Eindhoven and Sporting** Lisbon all advanced to the playoff round. With Zlatan Ibrahimovic sidelined with the Coronavirus, Lorenzo Colombo also scored for the seven-time European champion.

After scoring four goals against Southampton in the Premier League on Sunday, Son Heungmin netted again for Tottenham in a 3-1 win against Shkndija in North Macedonia. Erik Lamela and Harry Kane also had a goal each. — AP

Prithvi is big Shaw

Youngster's half-century sets up win for Capitals

Super Kings by 44 runs to register their second consecutive win in the Indian Premier League here on

Sent into bat, DC made 175 for 3 and then restricted CSK to 131 for 7 to maintain their winning

Young Prithvi Shaw struck a fluent half-century and shared a a 94-run opening stand with Shikhar Dhawan to guide Delhi Capitals to a powerful position.

Shaw made 64 off 43 balls in the company of Dhawan (35 off 27 balls, 3 fours, 1 six) to provide a superb start to DC's innings after being put

The duo started slowly, scoring just 36 runs of the first six overs of powerplay before opening up to stitch 94 runs for the opening wicket in 10.4 overs.

Shaw got into his stride, hitting two consecutive boundaries off Deepak Chahar.

The Mumbai youngster didn't appear to rush things and played some

attractive shots.
Once CSK skipper
Mahendra Singh Dhoni
introduced the spin duo of Piyush Chawla and Ravindra Jadeja in the seventh over, both Shaw and Dhawan went on the offensive.

Chawla, who was taken apart by Sanju Samson in their previous game against Rajasthan Royals, came in for some rough treatment as did Jadeja who went wicketless in his four overs (0/44). Dhawan after playing

second fiddle for a while, joined the party and hit a couple of attractive boundaries and slogged Jadeja's first ball for a six over mid-wicket.

The DC openers hammered 58 in the next 4.4



Delhi Capitals batsman Prithvi Shaw plays a shot en-route to his half century during the IPL match against Chennai Super Kings at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

overs after the slow start. Chawla broke the dangerous-looking partnership by removing both Dhawan and Shaw in consecutive overs.

Rishabh Pant (37 not out, 25 balls) and captain Shreyas Iyer (26, 22 balls) pushed the scoreboard along before the latter was caught by a diving Dhoni off Sam Curran as Chennai Super Kings

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw st M. S. Dhoni b Piyush Chawla 64, Shikhar Dhawan Ibw Piyush Chawla 35, Rishabh Pant not out 37, Shrevas Iver c M. S. Dhoni b Sam Curran 26, Marcus Stoinis not out 5. Extras: (LB-5, W-3) 8. Total: (for 3 wickets, in 20 overs) 175. FoW: 1-94, 2-103, 3-161.

Bowling: Deepak Chahar 4-0-38-0, Sam Curran 4-0-27-1, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-28-O, Piyush Chawla 4-0-33-2, Ravinder

Chennai Super Kings: Murali Vijay c K.

Rabada b Nortje 10, Shane Watson c Hetmyer b Patel, Faf du Plessis c Pant b Rabada 43, Ruturaj Gaikwad run out 5, Kedar Jadhav Ibw b Nortje 26, M. S. Dhoni not out c Pant b Rabada 15, R. Jadeja c Mishra b Rabada 8, Sam Curran not out 0. Extras: (LB-1, W-4) 5; Total: (For 7 wickets, in 20 overs) 131; FoW: 1-23, 2-34, 3-44, 4-98. 5-113. 6-130. 7-131.

Bowling: K. Rabada 4-0-26-3, Axar Patel 4-0-18-1, A. Nortje 4-0-21-2, Avesh Khan 4-0-42-0, Amit Mishra 4-0-23-0.

KKR & SRH look to open account

Abu Dhabi, Sept. 25: Skipper Dinesh Karthik's tactical nous will once again be put to test when Kolkata Knight Riders take on a depleted Sunrisers Hyderabad in their second IPL fixture here on Saturday.
Much was expected from

a revamped Kolkata Knight Riders set-up but it seemed Karthik did not learn from his past mistakes and made some inexplicable decisions that led to their complete capitulation against Mumbai Indians.

Once again, the batting position of their biggest hitter Andre Russell became the talking point in Mumbai Indians.

The Jamaican, who was their highest run-getter last season with 510 runs from 249 deliveries and the tournament's highest strike rate of 204.81, was seen at No 6 but by then the task had become extremely difficult.

Eoin Morgan also could not do much as the asking rate had shot past 13 by the time he came to bat at No.5. In bowling too, there was a tactical blunder by hold-

ing back their ace spinner Sunil Narine till the last over of power play. On a day, their biggest buy Pat Cummins failed miserably, Narine was

given a go only when his IPL 'bunny' Rohit Sharma was well set. It really defied logic to see such a defensive strategy by a team now coached by Brendon Mccullum who is known for his aggressive mindset. Known to put up a balanced side on the park, Hyderabad lacked strength

and experience in their

middle-order, failing mis-erably against Royal

Challengers Bangalore. Needing just 43 runs from last five overs, SRH lost their last seven wickets for

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD OVERALL:

Matches: 17 Kolkata won: 10 Hyderabad won: 7

MEETING IN 2019 Kolkata Knight Riders Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Kolkata. Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Kolkata Knight

Riders by 9 wickets. FOR THE RECORD

Dinesh Karthik has won 17, lost 19 and tied one in 37 matches as captain in IPL. He won two and lost three in five matches as skipper for Kolkata **Knight Riders against** Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Andre Russell who claimed 295 wickets at an average of 25.97 in 303 innings of 331 mathces, needs just five wickets to become the ninth bowler to take 300 wickets in Twenty-20.

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

32 runs to lose the game by 10 runs. If that was not enough, injury to their allrounder Mitchell Marsh has compounded their mis-

Škipper David Warner, after being run out in an unfortunate manner at the non-striker's end, will be keen to get into the act, while it remains to be seen whether Kane Williamson has recovered from his injury to bolster the batting department. SRH bowling has always

been impressive and it seems the think tank may bring in Mohammed Nabi to bowl alongside his fellow mate Rashid Khan Bhuvneshwar while Kumar will spearhead the pace attack.

IPL POINTS TABLE W L N/R Pts NRR Teams Delhi Capitals 2 2 0 0 4 Kings XI Punjab 0 2 2 1 1 0 2 Rajasthan Royals 1 1 0 0 2 3 1 2 Chennai Super Kings 0 2 Royal Challengers Bangalore 2 1 1 0 2 Sunrisers Hyderabad 1 0 1 0 0 -0.500 1 0 1 0 0 -2.450 Kolkata Knight Riders

Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

Punjab captain KL Rahul, so confident (hitting it who made a scintillating this well). I had a chat entury against Royai Challengers Bangalore, said he was lacking in confidence heading into the team's second IPL fixture. Rahul starred with an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls as KXIP outplayed RCB by 97 runs here on Thursday.

"I have actually been not so confident (hitting it this well). I had a chat with Maxi (Glenn Maxwell) yesterday, he said how are you feeling, I said that I am not feeling completely in control of my batting, he said you must be joking, you are hitting really well," Rahul said at the post-match pres-

He had already spoken about his fears leading up to the IPL, considering he was coming back after a five-month long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Quite honestly I was nervous but I knew if I spend time in the middle, hit a few balls from the middle of bat, it will all set-

"I try to do (the same routine as I did when I was a

Dubai, Sept. 25: Kings XI I have actually been not with Maxi (Glenn Maxwell) yesterday, he said 'how are you feeling,' I said that I am not feeling completely in control of my batting, he said you must be joking, you are hitting well.

— K. L. RAHUL (after his match winning knock of 132 runs against

player) but as a captain you have shortened time and you are running around and doing a lot of things," Rahul said.

He is captaining in the IPL for the first time.

"I still try to maintain the same routine. Once I am in the middle and during the toss is the only time I feel like a captain and otherwise I try to balance being player and the captain. It's as complete a team performance as it can get. We had few different plans going into this game," he further added. — PTI

Wasn't at my best Virat slapped with ₹12 before match: KL lakh for slow over rate

Dubai. Sept. 25: Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli has been iined ₹12 lakn aiter his team maintained a slow over-rate during their Indian Premier League match against Kings XI Punjab here. RCB were thrashed by 97 runs in the match on Thursday night.

"As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr. Kohli was fined ₹12 lakh," the IPL said in a release.

The Indian batting mainstay had a forgettable outing at the Dubai International Stadium.

While he dropped two catches of centurion KL Rahul, which proved to be costly, Kohli also could not contribute anything substantial with the willow.

Kohli dropped Rahul twice — once in the 17th over at deep square-leg when he was batting on 83 and then again in the 18th over when he was



Virat Kohli

The lapses helped KXIP score an imposing 206 for with Rahul doing the bulk of scoring.

KOHLI TAKES BLAME FOR RCB FLOP SHOW

Challengers Royal Bangalore captain Virat Kohli took the blame for his team's flop show against Kings XI Punjab in the Indian Premier League.

hesitation, Without Kohli took the blame for dropping Kings Punjab skipper

Rahul catch, which contributed significantly to their defeat on Thursday. Kohli felt had he not dropped two catches off the blade of Rahul, who remained unbeaten on 132, KXIP would not have been able to go past the 200-run mark. "I have to stand in front

and take the brunt of it, not the best day in the office, couple of impor-tant chances of KL when he was set and that cost us 35-40 runs at a later stage. Maybe if restricted them to 180 we wouldn't have been under pressure from ball one of the chase," said

KXIP posted 206 for three and RCB were bun-dled out for 109 in 17 overs.

"We know exactly where we went wrong and I have to put my hand up and say a couple of chances went down. There are days when these kind of things happen on the cricket field, they happen and we have to accept them," Kohli added. — PTI

'Anil sir's advice worked for me'

Dubai, Sept. 25: Kings XI Punjab's young spinner Ravi Bishnoi says head coach Anil Kumble has advised him to always stay calm and back his skills as a bowler. The 20-vear-old Bishnoi

snared three wickets in an emphatic 97-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier league (IPL) on Thursday night. "Anil sir has always

asked me to back strength in my bowling and skill. He asked me not to try too many things and try to be cool and calm in the middle," Bishnoi said at the post-match press confer-

The India U-19 World Cup player returned impressive figures of 3-32 in his four overs against a side that boasts of the likes of Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers.

When asked, he sounded

confident about bowling against the top players.
"Since we had a long camp before the IPL, I was preparing myself mentally as skill level is the same for everyone here. So being

mentally strong and brave was my main focus. "I told myself not to bowl lose deliveries which would allow them to attack me," further added the leg-

spinner. "We prepared well in our camp before the tournament here. We were focusing on mental strength and not bowling lose balls," he added. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Zealand Women: First T20 from 9.20 am on Sony Six, HD **England Women vs West Indies**

Australia Women vs New

Women: Third T20 from 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD **FOOTBALL**

English Premier League: Brighton vs Manchester United from 5 pm; Crystal Palace vs Everton from 7.30 pm; West Brom vs Chelsea from 10 pm; Burnley vs Southampton from

12.30 am (Sunday) on Star

Sports Select 2, HD Spanish Premier League: Alaves vs Getafe from 4.30 pm: Valencia vs Huesca from 7.30 pm; Elche vs Real Sociedad from 10 pm; Real Betis vs Real Madrid from 12.30 am (Sunday). All matches on LaLiga page on Facebook

Italian League: Torino vs Atalanta from 6.30 pm; Cagliari vs Lazio from 9.30 pm; Inter Milan vs Fiorentina from 12.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

FORMULA ONE Russian Grand Prix: Practice 3

from 2.25 pm; Qualifying from 5.25 pm on Star Sports Select 1,

ATP Hamburg European Open: Semifinals from 5 pm

BASKETBALL NBA Western Conference Finals (Game 5 of best-of-7): Denver Nuggets vs Los Angeles Lakers

from 6.30 am (Sunday) on Sony

on Sony Six, HD

Six, HD **UFC FIGHT NIGHT**

Israel Adesanya vs Paulo Costa and other bouts starting from 7.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 1, 2, HD



LeBron James (top centre) of Los Angeles Lakers shoots against the Denver Nuggets during the first half of the NBA Western Conference finals play-off match in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Thursday. The Lakers won 114-108.

LeBron, Anthony star as Lakers feast on Nuggets

Orlando, Sept. 25: Anthony Davis and LeBron James combined for 60 points as the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers seized control of their Western Conference finals series with a 114-108 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Thursday.

James finished with 26 points, nine rebounds, and eight assists and Davis had 34 points as Lakers held on to beat the Nuggets and take a 3-1 lead in the best-ofseven series in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida.

Game five is Saturday in Orlando. The Lakers have wrapped up both their pre-Canadian forward Jamal

Murray led the Nuggets with 32 points and eight assists, while Jerami Grant finished with 17 for Denver. Serbia's Nikola Jokic was held in check most of the game and finished with a disappointing 16 points. He missed all four field goal attempts in the fourth.

James took it upon himself to guard Murray with the game on the line.

Denver has dug another big hole in these playoffs and if they are going to advance to the NBA finals they will have to come back from a 3-1 deficit for the third straight series.

Denver lost game four in each of their first two series against Utah and the Los Angeles Clippers

before making a pair of historic comebacks. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 13 points and Rajon Rondo tallied 11 points for the Lakers.

Regd. No. TNENG/2010/35692

Printed & Published by

K. Sudhakar on behalf of

Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited and Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at No 2/22, Sengalipalayam Road, N.G.G.O Colony Post, Kurudampalayam Village, Coimbatore - 641 022. RNI Registration No: TNENG/2010/35692 Ph No: 2231252,253,255,257 & 358 Editor: ADITYA SINHA