

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
VIJAYAWADA | SATURDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2020



WORLD CONFIRMED CASES
3,194,610

DEATHS
978,202

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213

Vol. 32 No. 115 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

■ **Page 3: Outsourced worker involved in theft**

A former Rajya Sabha MP was instrumental in the

saying that the transaction was not taxable in India and so the company had no obligation to withhold tax. In May that year, Parliament passed the Finance Act 2012 that amended various provisions of the Income-Tax Act, 1961, with retrospective effect to tax any gain on transfer of shares in a non-Indian firm which derives substantial value from underlying Indian assets.

■ Full report on Page 3

From the hospital, his body was taken to his home, where fans poured

maintenance of physical distancing. The singer's last rites would be held at a

■ Full report on Page 2

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OTHER STORIES

AP ANNOUNCES
NEW EXCISE POLICY
FOR YEAR 2020-21SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

The state government announced a new excise policy for the year 2020-21, allowing the Andhra Pradesh state beverages corporation limited (ABSCL) to continue to retail Indian made foreign liquor and foreign liquor through the 2,934 retail outlets for the period from 01-10-2020 to 30-09-2021, following the norms of AP excise rules, 2019.

The state government issued GO MS No. 279 on Friday announcing the new prohibition and excise policy in respect of retail outlets.

Accordingly, the same number of 2,934 retail outlets existing as on Sept. 30, 2020 will be fixed for the year 2020-21 and the licence period is to be one year as contemplated in the AP excise rules, 2019. The APS-BCL will continue to sell liquor by shop and will run retail outlets.

The commissioner of prohibition and excise is permitted to renew the existing retail outlets being run by APSBCL under Rule 8 of the AP excise rules, 2019 on payment of an annual licence fee as fixed by the state government. The directions of the Supreme Court are to be followed on the sale of liquor on highways. No shop will be permitted or renewed on the road from Tirupati railway station to Alipiri via RTC bus stand, Leela-mahal circle and other areas falling under the Tirupati municipal corporation area.

The commissioner is permitted to establish walk-in shops (elite shops) in the state if required but without any change in the number of retail outlets permitted. An intensive campaign is to be taken up to educate the people on the evils of consumption of liquor and other intoxicants.

The APSBCL's Managing Director is directed to implement track and trace in all retail outlets for transparency in sale transactions. He will prepare and communicate a manual for the operation of retail outlets from the fixing of rent to cash remittances to save the state revenue.

Officials asked to procure
every grain from farmers

Restrain repetition of Nellore incident: Chief Minister

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, directed officials to avoid a repetition of the Nellore incident and to procure all crops from farmers through Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBK) at minimum support prices (MSP).

The paddy farmers of Nellore failed to get a good price to their yield due to the exploitation of middlemen. Mr Jagan conducted a review meeting on the preparedness and procurement of agriculture produce in the CM camp office at Tadepalli on Friday. He sought procurement of agriculture produce to the tune of ₹3,300 crore in this season and directed officials to put display boards with MSPs at every RBK.

Asking officials to procure 62 lakh metric tonnes of paddy against the total

● **THE STATE government procured crops like maize, corn, jowar, onion, tomato, banana, tobacco during the previous Rabi season, spending ₹3,200 crore**

production of 93.61 lakh metric tonnes in Kharif season, Jagan asserted that RBKs will be serving as paddy procurement centres in near future.

Instructing officials to display the MSP of each crop at RBKs, Jagan asked them to educate farmers on the crops that need to be avoided and ways to maximise the yield for more profits.

The state government procured crops like maize, corn, jowar, onion, tomato, banana, tobacco during the previous Rabi season, spending ₹3,200 crore. Similarly, this year, Jagan

instructed the officials to purchase ₹3,300 crore worth of crops in Kharif through the market intervention fund and help the farmers.

Asking joint collectors to take responsibility in educating farmers on the government initiatives, Jagan said that the farmers should be told in advance about procurement at RBKs and local MLAs should also be involved.

Directing the marketing department (Markfed) to purchase 30 per cent of the crops in the villages and provide marketing facilities for the remaining 70 per cent, Jagan told officials to prepare crop plans, focus on e-marketing platforms and integrate purchase centres and agent data in the outer market to e-marketing platforms.

Telling officials to promote the sortex variety of rice and also keep the bro-

ken rice for value addition, Jagan asked officials to increase the CCI purchase centres to ensure proper marketing for the crops and to safeguard the farmers from suffering losses.

Officials informed Jagan that 10 types of crops are being procured in Kharif and also 3,000 centres were established for purchasing paddy. With the help of CM-APP, the entire process of crop procurement and marketing is being monitored. Discussing the purchase of cotton, Jagan gave strict orders to avoid scams in the procurement of the crops and make clear, transparent purchases benefiting the farmers.

Agriculture minister Kurasala Kannababu, civil supplies minister, Kodali Venkateswara Rao, special secretary for agriculture, Poonam Malakondaiah, commissioner for marketing, Pradhyumna, and others were present.

STIR AGAINST
AGRI BILLS FOILEDDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

The police took into custody several Left party leaders here on Friday while they were taking out a rally from MB Bhavan to the collector's camp office protesting agriculture bills.

The CPI national secretary, K. Narayana, state secretary K. Ramakrishna, CPM state secretary P Madhu, former minister and farmers' leader Vadde Sobhanadeswara Rao, CPM executive committee member Ch. Babu Rao and others started to the collector's camp office with cadres and farmers.

Fresh case booked against
former advocate-generalN. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

The AP police on Friday booked a fresh case of cheating, criminal conspiracy and breach of trust against former advocate general Dammalapati Srinivas, his wife Nagarani and brother-in-law Nannapaneni Seetharamaraju and a few others.

Acting on a complaint from a retired lecturer, Kode Rama Mohan Rao, the Mangalagiri Rural police filed an FIR against on September 22 under sections 120b, 420, 406 and 506 of Indian Penal Code.

The AP High Court already stayed an FIR registered by the Anti Corruption Bureau against the former advocate general and others in a case relating to the Amaravati land scam.

According to the complainant, he was induced to buy two flats in a proposed residential complex, Lakeview Apartments, at Krishnayapalem in Amaravati and he paid an advance of ₹50 lakh. Rao said he was taken to the office of Capital Housing Projects Pvt Ltd where he was introduced to the accused who boasted of Srinivas' influence in government and his alleged ability to get things done. As per the ministry of corporate affairs records, Seetharamaraju is one of the directors of Capital Housing Projects.

The accused took him to the project site and made him believe that the former AG's wife owns a vacant plot nearby where a star hotel project was coming up. The com-

plainant alleged that the accused took another ₹73 lakh towards the vacant plot. "I transferred the amount from my daughter's NRO account," the retired lecturer said, adding that the accused registered only one flat on July 24 last year before he left for the United States.

On his return, the complainant found that the registered document for one flat was faulty and no link documents were provided. The accused also did not register any vacant plot till date and threatened to indict him in false cases using their clout. "We also found that the proposed complex is incomplete," Rao said.

When contacted, the Mangalagiri police confirmed that they booked an FIR against Srinivas and others.

OVER 2 LAKH
CASES PENDING IN
AP HC: RS MEMBERDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

As many as 2,03,024 cases are pending in the AP High Court and 5,82,069 in various lower courts in Andhra Pradesh as on September 17.

Rajya Sabha member from the state Parimal Nathwani said that this information was provided by Union minister of law and justice Ravi Shankar Prasad in the Upper House in response to a question raised by him. Mr Nathwani said that he wanted to know whether the Covid-19 pandemic caused piling up of cases and the steps taken to reduce the pendency. Mr Prasad replied A new software 'Patch and Court User Manual' was developed to help in smart scheduling of cases and prevent overcrowding in courts.

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Tithi: Adhika-Ashwauja Suddha
 Dasami till 7.03 pm
Star: Uttarashadha till 7.28 pm
Varjyam: 11.42 pm to 1.23 am
 (Sunday)
Durmuhurtam: 6.09 am to 7.44 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Safar ul Muzaffar 7, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.30 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 4.45 pm
Maghrib: 6.12 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.56 AM
SUNSET TODAY 6.00 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 2.32 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 1.59 AM

COUNTER POINT



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

SHORT TAKES

CIVIL SERVICES
PRELIMS ON OCT
4 AT 68 CENTRES

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination-2020 will be held on October 4 at 68 centres in Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Anantapur, in two sessions: from 9.30 am to 11.30 am and 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm.

Praveen Prakash, principal secretary (political) to government of Andhra Pradesh, said that the collectors of the districts concerned would act as coordinating supervisors of the exams. Two senior IAS officers each for Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada and one each for Anantapur and Tirupati would be appointed as observers. About 30,199 candidates will write the exam.

HAVE THIRST FOR
KNOWLEDGE:
CIVILS RANKER

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

Mallavarapu Suryateja, who has secured 76th rank in the Civil Services this year, said thirst for knowledge and hard work would help students reach top positions in the intensely competitive world.

Vignan's Nirula Institute of Technology and Science for Women felicitated Mr Suryateja at Guntur on Friday, in which Tobacco Board chairman and IAS officer Addanki Sridhar and others participated. Mr Suryateja said that he had dreamt of becoming an IAS officer since his childhood and his determination to reach his goal had grown as he grew up. He recalled his days at Vignan school where the teachers and its founder Lavu Rattaiah instilled inspiration in him to achieve his goal.

HIKED ONION
PRICES BRING
TEARS

MD ILYAS | DC
 VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

The abnormal hike in onion prices is bringing tears to people in these pandemic-destroyed times as onions turned ₹50 per kg against the normal price of ₹15 to ₹20 per kg.

Already facing financial difficulties due to the impact of the lockdown, this huge increase in onion prices is a big burden on ordinary people. The recent rains damaged onion crops in Rayalaseema, Maharashtra and Karnataka which were major suppliers of onions to AP. Hence the shortage, upsetting the demand-supply ratio, has caused the abnormal price hike.

Further, the removal of onions from essential commodities list by the Union government is going to raise onion prices further due to the absence of control by the government.

The onion was priced at ₹44 per kg in the Rythu bazaars and ₹50-₹60 per kg according to size and quality in the open market on Friday in AP.

Balu had special bond with hometown

Nellore district goes into mourning after hearing demise of legendary Balasubrahmanyam

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR I
 DC
 NELLORE, SEPT. 25

S.P. Balasubrahmanyam had a strong bond with Nellore, his native city, and the people, especially his classmates and childhood friends.

Born on June 4, 1946, to S.P. Sambamurthy, an exponent in Harikatha, and Sakunthalamma at Konetimpeta in Chittoor district, Balu went to primary school at Srikalahasti. He studied in VR High School and VR College in Nellore before he enrolled at the JNTU College of Engineering, Anantapur.

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 singer, Balu always kept in touch with his friends and relatives in Nellore. His mother stayed in their ancestral house at Tipprajuvari Street in Nellore till her demise in February last year.

In memory of his parents, Balasubrahmanyam donated the house to the Kanchi Sankara Peetam to run a Veda patasala and renovated the building, spending nearly ₹10 lakh. Balu had two brothers and five sisters. He paid his sisters in lieu of their share in the house while donating the building, said Tunga Siva Prabhath Reddy, a family friend.

"He was planning to come to Nellore for the opening of the Veda patasala but the Coronavirus infection changed all plans," said Prabhath Reddy.

Veerisetty Hazarath Babu, another family friend, said Balu had installed his father's statue at Kasthuba Kalakshethra in Nellore. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, then a Union minister, along with film actor Kamal Haasan and noted director



A file photo of S.P. Balasubrahmanyam with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Groomed a generation
of musicians, says V-P

DC CORRESPONDENT
 NELLORE, SEPT. 25

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu said he was shocked to learn of the tragic demise of S.P. Balasubrahmanyam whom he has known for several decades.

"It is truly an irreparable loss to the world of music and a deeply emotional moment for me personally. SPB, or Balu as he was fondly called by his innumerable admirers, came from Nellore, my native place. I have had

immense admiration for him as I heard his rapturous melodies, his passionate love for his mother-tongue and the extraordinary manner in which he groomed a whole generation of talented, young musicians," Venkaiah Naidu observed.

In a press release, the Vice-President said Balu has left a void in his heart and the hearts of millions of music lovers across the world.

"His mellifluous voice has been unfortunately muted by the vicious

virus."

"However, his genial smile and infectious humour will remain etched in our memories. His extraordinary renditions of songs will keep resonating in our consciousness for a very long time to come. I pay my reverential homage to this legendary musician whom I have had the pleasure of knowing so closely. I pray to the Almighty to give his family the strength to cope with this most unexpected loss".

K. Viswanath had unveiled the statue on October 3, 2015.

Balu used to organise drama competitions through his cultural organisation Vijetha Arts at the town hall in Nellore every year with the help of his friends Hazarath Babu, Vennelakanti Rajendra Prasad, Sesha Gireesam and Devi Prasad.

He had set up an award on his name and presented a cash prize of ₹1 lakh each to outstanding personalities in films and social service field to mark his birthday every year at Nellore.

"Being a brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission, Balu was keen on holding a rally with 20,000 students to create awareness about the environment and to clean all roads in Nellore," said Siva

Prabhath. Recalling his 60-year association with Balu and his family, Hazarath Babu said the singer was ajatha sathru, a person without enemies.

"He was very kind and down to earth despite his popularity all over the country" Hazarath Babu said.

Though everyone was aware that he was undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at MGM Hospital in

Chennai for the past 40 days, they were firm that he would conquer the dreaded virus.

Noted lyricist and his close associate, Vennelakanti Rajendra Prasad said he penned a song on Nellore at the instance of Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Balu was

supposed to sing it while director Kodandarami Reddy was entrusted with the job of filming the song.

JAGAN SADDENED,
SHOCKED OVER
SPB'S DEATH

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed profound grief over the demise of singing legend S.P. Balasubrahmanyam. Telugu Desam chief and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and other leaders also expressed shock and grief over the death of SPB.

In his condolence message, Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan described the singer as a household name, not only in the Telugu states but the entire country, as an iconic playback singer in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, Malayalam and numerous other Indian languages.

Mr Jagan said, "Sripathi Panditaradhyula Balasubrahmanyam, popularly known as SPB, has been the refreshing notation of film music spanning over five decades enthralling the connoisseurs and common people alike through his multifaceted talent." He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Mr Chandrababu Naidu said the demise of Balu saddened him, a wonderful era in the film industry concluded with his exit. Naidu conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved family.

Chennai for the past 40 days, they were firm that he would conquer the dreaded virus.

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Didn't know who Balu
was then: Temple clerk

K.M.P. PATNAIK I DC
 VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 25

It was mid-morning on September 9, 1969, when three men and a woman came to Simhachalam temple prasadam counter clerk Pasarla Suryanarayana and asked him for a ticket to perform a marriage at the temple.

The fee was ₹100. They paid up and Suryanarayana gave them the receipt. Asked whose names should be mentioned in the receipt, the prospective groom said S.P. Balasubrahmanyam and Savitri.

They went inside the temple and got married. "Three days later, a man from Chennai came to me and introduced himself

as the uncle of S.P. Balasubrahmanyam. He asked about the validity of the receipt which is also treated as a marriage certificate," Suryanarayana recalled.

"I told him it was valid. Later he asked whether I knew Balu, an upcoming playback singer. I said I had heard only about Ghantasala and none other. The man went away with a smile," Suryanarayana said.

He said he began tracking Balu's career after that but could never meet the singer. Sources said Balu's marriage was opposed by his relatives and therefore he went to the Simhachalam temple to perform a 'Rukmini kalyanam'.

SPB leaves without
seeing his statue

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC
 KAKINADA, SEPT. 25

Legendary playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam breathed his last without seeing his statue for which he had commissioned a sculptor at Kothapet in East Godavari a year ago.

The sculptor wanted to give the statue on June 4 on the singer's birthday, who had announced a national award to the sculptor. However, the programme was postponed because of Covid-19. "The statue will be ready in the next three or four days. But SPB breathed his last without seeing his statue," said Vudayaraj Kumar Devaguptapu, shedding tears.

He said he cannot express his pain at the demise of SPB who had since become a family friend. "We had carved his father's statue, which has been installed in Nellore. Last year, he placed an order for statues of his father and mother that were to be installed in his house, which was given to 'Veda Vidyalayam' at Nellore. Baluji spent a day at my house last year. This January, he announced the national award to me and actor K. Satyanarayana, which were to be given on June 4 but was postponed due to Covid-19. Sadly, Baluji left the world without seeing his statue," Rajakumar said.

He said that the statue will be sent either to Nellore or Chennai.

SPB has sung a song on Adikavi Nannayaya University, the lyrics for which were penned by Dr Venigalla Rambabu.

Focus on rural areas for Covid tests

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN |
 DC
 VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

The state health authorities seem to have trimmed the number of Covid-19 tests to be conducted on a daily basis especially in urban areas given the slight dip in cases while focusing more in rural areas following the rise in rural cases in Andhra Pradesh.

The change in strategy is perceptible, especially in East Godavari which has the dubious distinction of the highest number of Covid-19 positive cases at 1,031, highest cumulative positive cases at 92,173 and also total active cases at 11,131 as on Friday.

The district health authorities had planned the distribution of 500 kits to conduct the viral lysis medium test; 1,950 kits for viral transport medium test and 4,325 rapid antigen test kits in the district on Thursday night.

On Friday morning, local health authorities were informed about the distribution of 200 VLM kits and 200 rapid test kits to the district hospital in Rajahmundry and no testing kit of any mode has been allotted to

NEW COVID CASES DECLINE IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

Andhra Pradesh continues to witness a dip in the number of Covid-19 positive cases and also deaths giving a major flip to the efforts of the state government to contain the spread of the pandemic and fatalities.

The state registered 7,073 new positive cases in the last 24 hours, scaling up the overall tally to 6,61,458.

the eight urban health centres located in the city alone.

A health assistant at the urban health centre said, "We were allotted 75 rapid antigen test kits on September 21 and since then no allotment of kits was done. We managed to get some kits from the district hospital. Several patients are visiting our health centre to undergo Covid-19 test as it is free of cost. We are entering the names of symptomatic cases with their Aadhaar details and phone numbers and informing them that as soon as we get kits, they will be called for the

test."

A female patient, K. Jyothi, suffering with cold, cough and fever who arrived at the health centre said, "It is unfair on the part of health authorities to ignore us living in urban areas by not sending testing kits. As we can't afford to visit a private hospital to undergo a Covid-19 test by paying thousands of rupees, we are arriving here but not able to undergo the test for want of test kits."

The health centre has enrolled the names of patients waiting for the test to the tune of 50 in the last few days even

after turning away several of them as only patients suffering serious health issues are being accepted for registration for the test.

East Godavari district medical and health officer, Dr B. Subramanyeswari, said, "As we are getting more Covid-19 positive cases from rural areas, we are paying more attention to villages in terms of conducting Covid-19 tests."

In Vizianagaram, district health authorities are focusing more on rural areas like Bobbili and Saluru given rise in number of Covid-19 positive cases.

Vizianagaram district medical and health officer, Dr S.V. Ramana Kumari, said "We have planned to conduct 5,000 Covid-19 tests per day in the district and as we are seeing more Covid-19 positive cases of late from rural areas. We have given targets to PHCs to conduct tests ranging from 50 to 100 each depending upon size of population."

So is the case in Visakhapatnam district too where focus on conduct of Covid-19 tests has been shifted to rural areas given the high rate of infection.

fields," Dr Lalitha said.

Telikunchi and Telineelapuram are the two other villages in Srikakulam district where a large number of pelicans and painted storks from Siberia arrive every year. "Only open billed storks arrived in Telikunchi and there is no sign of birds at Telineelapuram," said divisional forest officer Sandeep Krupavaram.

A few storks died in Telineelapuram two years ago and the reason was not known.

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S. P. BALASUBRAHMANYAM | 1947 - 2020

A golden voice falls silent

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN | DC CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

The 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 Panditha-dradyula Balasubrahmanyam, more readily identified by three letters SPB by the film fraternity and millions of fans, was born in Nellore in 1946. His father Sambamurthy was a Harikatha artiste who had also acted in plays. Though SPB developed an interest in music at a very young age, he was also interested in academics. He enrolled in JNTU, Anantapur, to pursue his engineering and for some reasons had to drop out of college. He joined as associate member of the Institution of Engineers, Chennai, and pursued his passion of music and started performing in music competitions. He was adjudged the best singer at a competition by musicians S.P. Kodandapani and Ghantasala who were on the jury panel. Kodandapani later became his mentor and the rest is history.

Balasubrahmanyam made his debut as a playback singer on December 15, 1966, with the song *Sri Sri Marayada Ramanna* composed by his guru Kodandapani in a Telugu movie. After recording a Kannada song, he made his debut 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. A duet with P. Susheela, *Iyarkai Ennum Ilaya Kanni* in the 1969 film *Shanti Nilayam*, featuring Gemini Ganesh and Kanchana was a big hit.

Industry pundits recall that SPB was personally selected by the iconic star M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) to sing a song for his production venture *Adimai Penn*, featuring him and late CM Jayalalitha 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 in M.S. Viswanathan's compositions on par with top playback singers like T.M. Soundararajan 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 SPB era. In Telugu, he was

singing for N.T. Rama Rao, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, Krishna and Sobhan Babu. Balasubrahmanyam's association with Ilayaraja began even before the maestro came to the 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 his concerts. Donning several hats as a singer, music director, actor, voice artiste and film producer, SPB 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, Tamil and Hindi — besides 25 Nandi Awards from Andhra Pradesh for his work in Telugu cinema and numerous other state awards from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka governments. Without a background in classical music, he had to toil in rendering 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, *Swathi Muthyam* in 1986 and *Rudraveena* in 1988.

SPB's rose to prominence in Bollywood started 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 soundtracks 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, S.A. Rajkumar, Deva and M.M. Keeravani and his collaboration with 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 Cheemayile*, *Duet* and *Minsara Kanavu*, and the last one fetched him the sixth national award for *Thanga Thaamarai Magale*.

SPB directed music in 46 films in four south languages. Some notable works are *Padamati Sandhya Ragam* and *Thurpu Velle Railu*. SPB has always been a lucky mascot for Rajinikanth's intro songs. The ace singer's last few renderings include *Petta's Marana Mass* and *Chumma Kizhi* from *Darbar* composed by Anirudh. SPB also acted in 76 films, making him a multi-faceted singer.

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



SPB with legendary Ghantasala

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

He made his debut as a playback singer on December 15 with *Sri Sri Marayada Ramanna* in a Telugu movie, composed by his guru Kodandapani



Susheela and SPB recording one of their memorable duets

He won his first national award for the Telugu movie *Sankarabaranam* for his song *Omkaara Naadanu*

'80s: SPB had successful collaborations with Ilayaraja and S. Janaki and the trio's songs were a huge hit from late 1970s and throughout 1980s.



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 dizzying heights



SPB won his second national award for the Hindi movie *Ek Duuje Ke Liye*

SPB bagged two national awards for his songs in the Telugu movies *Sagara Sangamam* and *Rudraveena*

SPB gets the Padma award from Prez Prathiba Patil



HIS COLLABORATION WITH A.R. RAHMAN turned out to be a huge hit. ARR and SPB joined hands right from the former's debut film *Roja* through *July Maadham*, *Pudhiya Mugam*, *Kizhakku Cheemayile*, *Duet* and *Minsara Kanavu*



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



IN THE unfortunate 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. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and admirers. *Om Shanti*

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

TOP 10 TELUGU HITS OF SPB

1. *Omkaara Nadanu Sandhana* (1979, Sankarabharanam)
2. *Vedam Anuvuvuna* (1983, Saagara Sangamam)
3. *Sirimalle Neeve Virajallu Kaave* (1977, Pantulamma, Telugu)
4. *Abhinava Thaaravo Naa Abhimana Thaaravo* (1978, Sivaranjani)
5. *Gajje Ghallu Mantunte* (1976, Siri Siri Muvva)
6. *O Bangaru Rangula Chilaka* (1975, Thota Ramudu)
7. *Medante Meda kaadu* (1968, Sukha Dukhalu)
8. *Thanivi theeralede Naa Manasu Nindalede* (1972, Gooduputani)
9. *Ravi Varmake Andani Oke Oka* (1979, Ravanude Ramudaithe)
10. *Nenoka Prema Pipasini* (1978, Indra Dhanassu)

SPB 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*.



SPB AS AN ACTOR Films in three languages. Notable films as an actor include *Keladi Kannani*, *Sigaram*, *Thiruda Thiruda*, *Kadhalan*, and *Naanayam*. He was also part of some TV serials and shows.

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

46

The singer was presented with the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan

SPB won the sixth national award for song *Thanga Thamarai* in the Tamil movie *Minsara Kanavu*

SPB bagged the national award for his Kannada song in the movie *Sangeetha Sagara Ganayogi Panchakshara Gavai*

The six crucial turns in Balu's life



Veteran singer P. B. Srinivas kisses SPB.

songs in that film, and Maryada Ramanna released only later.

3 SEPARATE VOICES FOR NTR **3 AND ANR** | Balu sang more than 40,000 songs in about 14 languages. He was one of the busiest singers of his time, and used to sing for top actors of the generation like N.T. Rama Rao, A. Nageswara Rao, Krishna, Sobhan Babu, Krishnam Raju and the next

generation of actors like Chiranjeevi, Balakrishna, Venkatesh and Nagarjuna. For all the actors he sang with his own voice, but when it came to ANR and NTR he used to change his voice to match that of the actor. Even for comedy actors like Allu Ramalingiah and Raja Babu, Balu used to change his voice.

4 13 HINDI SONGS IN ONE DAY | Balu's first Hindi film as a

playback singer was *Ek Duuje Ke Liye* (1981). L.V. Prasad produced the film which was the remake of the Telugu 'Maro Charitra'. Balachander directed the Hindi remake too. Both Balachander and Prasad wanted Balu to sing all the songs in the Hindi version, but music directors Lakshmikanth-Pyarelal were reluctant. After SPB sang a solo, they liked his voice and continued with him. At one time, SPB recorded 13 songs for them in a day. He was among the best known playback singers in Mumbai at that time, as Mohammad Rafi, Kishore Kumar and Mukesh had all passed away. SPB got the national award for his song in *Ek Duuje Ke Liye*.

5 SANKARABHARANAM GOT HIM INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION | In Balu's long and illustrious career, *Sankarabharanam* was a milestone. K. Viswanath was 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 in 1980 and changed Telugu cinema. SPB won a national award for his song in the film. 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 Sangamam*, *Siri Vennela*, *Saptapadi* and *Struthilayalu*.

6 THE ONLY CONTROVERSY WITH KRISHNA | In Balu's career of more than 50 years, he was never involved in any controversy either professionally or on the personal front, but for one. Balu sang for Krishna in many films but there was a break in between when the actor picked new singers. Producers and music directors requested both of them to put their differences aside and work together. Lyric writer Veturi Sundarama Murthy mediated between the two. Later, Balu went to Krishna's studio and met him there. From then on, he sang for Krishna.

Condolence messages pour in for SPB

From Page 1

After his demise was announced by the hospital, condolence messages poured in from all over with President Ram Nath Kovind 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. The President said: "In the passing of music legend S.P. Balasubrahmanyam Indian music has lost one of its most melodious voices."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on Twitter: "Our cultural world is a lot poorer. A household name across India, his melodious voice and music enthralled audiences for decades."

Governors Tamilisai Soundararajan of Telangana state and Biswabhusan Harichandan (AP), Chief Ministers K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy were among those who condoled the death of SPB. Describing SPB as "brother", Dr Soundararajan wondered if the man born in Telugu soil and earned fame in Tamil Nadu had been called by the heavens to sing there.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami described the singer as God's gift to the Indian musical world in the 20th century.



SHORT TAKES

92 IPS OFFICERS TRANSFERRED IN MP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 25

Madhya Pradesh government on Friday effected a major reshuffle of police officers ahead of upcoming by-elections in 28 Assembly constituencies, schedule of which may be declared on September 29.

As many as 92 Indian Police Service (IPS) officers were transferred in the reshuffle exercise.

The reshuffle in the police department comes hours after the Election Commission announced that a decision on holding by-elections to vacant Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies in different states would be taken on September 29.

Congress has taken strong exception to the decision by the Shivraj government to go in for large scale transfer of police officers immediately after Election Commission indicated to announce schedule of by-elections in 28 assembly constituencies in MP after four days.

“The Election Commission indicated the schedule of by-elections in 28 assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh would be announced on September 29. That means the model code of conduct for polls has come into force informally in the state. The state government violated the model code of conduct by effecting a massive reshuffle in the police department. We have lodged a complaint with the Election Commission seeking revocation of the transfer orders”, Congress spokesman here J.P. Dhanopia said.

The BJP, however, denied any violation of election rules by the state government by shuffling the police officers.

“First of all, the Election Commission has not announced the schedule so far and hence, model code of conduct is not in force in Madhya Pradesh now. Besides, model code of conduct is only enforced in districts where assembly by-elections are held. Congress is trying to mislead the people,” BJP spokesman here Rajneesh Agrawal said.

● **CONGRESS HAS** taken strong exception to the decision by the Shivraj government to go in for largescale transfer of police officers.

TIGRESS FOUND DEAD IN MP RESERVE FOREST

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 25

A 3-year-old tigress was found dead in Badhavgarh reserve forest in Madhya Pradesh, a senior forest officer said on Friday.

The decomposed body of the big cat was found in Damokhar buffer range in Bandhavgarh tiger reserve late on Thursday.

“A patrol party of forest officials spotted the carcass of the tigress in a drain in Damokhar buffer range. The body had several injury marks and was infested by maggots. The veterinary doctors suggested that the carcass may be 2-3 days old”, field director of Bandhavgarh tiger reserve Vincent Raheem said.

Prima facie, the cause of death may be due to territorial fights since pug marks of another tiger were found at the spot, he added.

However, the exact cause of death could be ascertained after postmortem, he said.

This was the fourth such incident in Bandhavgarh tiger reserve in the last five months. Three tigers died in territorial fights in the reserve forest in April.

CBI begins probe into Life Mission’s deal with Dubai’s Red Crescent

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 25

In a development that has annoyed the ruling LDF in Kerala, the Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday initiated a probe into Life Mission’s financial dealings 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 Life Mission allegations. The BJP and the Congress had alleged that the state government had ordered the vigilance probe to buy time.

The Central Bureau of Investigation filed an FIR in a special court in 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 ₹9 crore was involved in the construction of 140 flats in Wadakkancherry (his constituency) under the Life Mission project.

The project had run into a controversy after one of the key accused in the gold smuggling case reportedly said that ₹1 crore found in her bank locker was the “commission” she received for clinching the construction project for Unitac Builders.

Challenges Nitish face include Coronavirus, unemployment

Polls are crucial for BJP after setback in Jharkhand and Maharashtra

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, SEPT. 25

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

Primary challenges faced by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar led 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 year.

The ruling NDA and the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan are the two major political alliances contesting against each other. The NDA is trying to reach out to its voters with “Vikas” (development) 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 Nikhil Anand said.

Bihar BJP in-charge Bhupendra Yadav in a



A worker removes a hoarding of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Patna on Friday, as per model code of conduct following announcement of Bihar Assembly election dates.

— PTI

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 majority”.

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, RJD leader 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.

Shopian: DNA samples match with those of 3 youths killed

YUSUF JAMEEL | 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 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, Shopian 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 (AFSPA) 1990 were exceeded and the Do’s and Don’ts of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) as approved by

SIT to investigate lawyer’s murder

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, SEPT. 25

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday said that it has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the killing of lawyer and TV debater Syed Babar Qadri by unknown assailants at his Srinagar home on Thursday evening.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range), Vijay Kumar, told reporters here, “We’ve constituted an SIT head-

ed by Superintendent of Police Hazratbal that will probe the killing of Qadri”. He said that the assassins had approached Qadri’s home in the City’s Hawal area as “clients with files in their hands”.

He said that during the preliminary investigation it was learnt that the visitors told the lawyer that they were to discuss with him some accident related case but when he walked close to them they fired at his head using pistols.

TWO LeT COMMANDERS KILLED IN J&K

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, SEPT. 25

Two senior commanders of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) were killed in a firefight with security forces in Sirhama area of southern Anantnag district on Friday.

IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said the slain included a Pakistani national. He said, “One of the slain has been identified as Abu Rehan alias Towheed from Pakistan.”

Kerala up in arms over farm Bills

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVNANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 25

Farmer organisations affiliated to the Left parties held protests across Kerala on Friday against farm Bills passed by the Parliament and to express solidarity with the nationwide agitation called by the Kisan Coordination Committee.

A satyagraha was organised by Left-led farmer organisations in front of the Kerala Raj Bhavan here. All India Kisan Sabha national vice-president S. Ramachandran Pillai who inaugurated the protest, accused the Centre of systematically bringing in big corporates into the farm sector.

The farm Bills were passed without detailed discussions in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

and without discussing the matter with the states and farmers’ organisations.

Kisan Sabha national secretary and chairman of the joint Kisan Council Sathyan Mokeri lashed out at the Centre for passing the ‘anti-farmer’ Bills.

The Kisan organisations organised satyagraha in front of Central government offices in 253 centres across the state.

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday had discussed a proposal on challenging the farm Bills in the Supreme Court.

The proposal is being vetted by the state law department.

The state government says the Centre passed the Bills without even discussing with the states and it is against the federal principles of the country.

Maha Deputy CM pays tribute to Pt. Upadhyay, deletes tweet later

- **REMEMBERING UPADHYAY**, Pawar wrote in Marathi, ‘Tributes to the founder of Jana Sangh and senior leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary.’
- **CHIEF MINISTER Uddhav Thackeray** also offered floral tribute to Upadhyay at his private residence ‘Matoshre’.

paid tribute to Upadhyay. Remembering Upadhyay, Pawar wrote in Marathi, “Tributes to the founder of Jana Sangh and senior leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary.”

However, after an hour, the tweet was deleted by Ajit Pawar, which raised several eyebrows. And Ajit Pawar’s explanation for deletion of the tweet also insinuated that it was done on the instructions of his uncle

and NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

When asked why he wrote tribute to Upadhyay and then deleted it, he said, “We speak good about people who are no more and that is why I had tweeted. But in politics, we have to listen to our seniors.” However, he did not elaborate on it further.

Meanwhile, Thackeray offered floral tribute to Upadhyay at his private residence ‘Matoshre’.

MODI, SUGA REITERATE COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE COOPERATION

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a telephonic conversation with the new PM of Japan Suga Yoshihide during which the two leaders reiterated their commitment to promote cooperation. During their 25 minute conversation, PM Suga expressed

commitment to work with India towards achieving a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”.

“Had a very good conversation with PM Suga Yoshihide. We exchanged views on the progress in our relationship in the last few years, and the future direction of our Special Strategic and Global Partnership,” Modi said.

Modi likely to address UNGA today

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address the United Nations General Assembly during the General Debate on Saturday. He is presently scheduled as the first speaker.

Since the UNGA this year is being held in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is being conducted mostly virtually.

Prime Minister’s address will therefore be via a pre-recorded video statement broadcast at the UNGA hall

in New York.

Some of the priority issues for India during 75th session of United Nations General Assembly are to promote strengthening of global action on counter-terrorism and India will push for more transparency in the process of listing and delisting of entities and individuals in sanction committees.

India is seeking inclusive and responsible solutions for international peace and security, effective response to international terrorism, NORMS (New Orientation

for a Reformed Multilateral System), technology for all and streamlining of peace-keeping.

Being one of the largest troop contributing countries, India wants to engage intensively in finalising of mandates for UN peace-keeping missions.

While looking at promoting its role as a net health service provider, India will highlight contribution to global cooperation against Covid-19 by aiding more than 150 countries and as a pharmacy to the world.

IN BRIEF

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 building near Songshan Lake. Huawei's spokesperson said the company could not yet provide details on the fire.

THAILAND SUES FACEBOOK TWITTER

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

Minister of Digital Economy and Society Buddhpongse Punnakantia said at a news conference that it was the first time his ministry has taken such action against the social media companies under Thailand'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 Buddhpongse 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 subject.



French Prime Minister Jean Castex and French interior minister Gerald Darmanin arrive at the scene where several people were injured near the former offices of the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* following an attack by a man wielding a knife in Paris on Friday.

— AFP

Terror probe opened after 2 stabbed in Paris

Paris, Sept. 25: French terrorism authorities are investigating a double-stabbing outside the former Paris offices of a satirical newspaper where a dozen people were killed in 2015, and two suspects have been arrested in Friday's violence, authorities said.

France's counterterrorism prosecutor said authorities suspect a terrorist motive because of the place and timing of the stabbings: in front of the building where *Charlie Hebdo* was based until the Islamic extremist attack on its cartoonists and at a time when suspects in the 2015 attack are on trial across town.

Prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said that the chief suspect in Friday's stabbings was arrested, along with another person. Ricard said the assailant did not know the people who were

stabbed, two workers in a documentary production company who had stepped outside for a smoke break.

The suspects' identities have not been released, and it is unclear exactly what prompted the attack. An investigation was opened into "attempted murder in relation with a terrorist enterprise," according to an official at the terrorism prosecutor's office. French Prime Minister Jean Castex said the lives of the two wounded workers are not in danger. He offered the government's solidarity with their families and colleagues. *Associated Press* reporters at the scene saw police flood the neighborhood in eastern Paris near the Richard Lenoir subway station, which remained cordoned off hours later. Children were sequestered in nine schools while police scoured the area, but were

later released, according to the Paris school district.

"All the team at *Charlie* offers support and solidarity to its former neighbors and colleagues at PLTVfilms and to the people hit by this odious attack," *Charlie Hebdo* tweeted.

The prime minister noted the "symbolic site" of the attack, "at the very moment where the trial into the atrocious acts against *Charlie Hebdo* is under way." He promised the government's "unfailing attachment to freedom of the press, and its determination to fight terrorism."

The two people confirmed injured worked for documentary film company Premieres Lignes, according to founder Paul Moreira. He told *BFM* television that the attacker fled into the subway, and the company's staff members were evacuated. — AP

Retired generals, admirals endorse Biden in US polls

4-star officers who served under Don 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 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 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 citizen" of, retired Adm. Steve Abbot said of his decision to sign the letter.

Abbot served as commander 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. — AFP

DESPITE TRUMP ATTACKS, BOTH PARTIES VOW ORDERLY ELECTION

Washington, Sept. 26: President Donald Trump's refusal to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses drew swift backlash 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 what happens" before agreeing to any election outcome. Many other lawmakers — including from Trump's own Republican Party — vowed to make sure voters' wishes are followed ahead of 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 for a campaign rally if the election is only legitimate if he is the winner, Trump said, "We'll see." The president said he wants to "make sure the election is honest, and I'm not sure that it can be."

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 coronavirus pandemic. — 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

● **BRAZIL HAS** postponed Rio de Janeiro's famed carnival for next year, the latest spectacle hit by the pandemic as governments across the globe struggle to contain a surge in Coronavirus infections.

● **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.

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 year. 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 vaccines' safety is good and there have been no serious adverse reactions." Hundreds of thousands of essential workers at ports, hospitals and other high-risk 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 Organisation (WHO). — AFP

GAMES

IPL PREVIEW

KKR, SRH look to open accounts

Abu Dhabi: 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.

Known to put up a balanced side, Hyderabad lacked strength and experience in their middle-order, failing miserably against RCB. Needing just 43 runs from last five overs, SRH lost their last seven wickets for 32 runs to lose the game by 10 runs.

Skipper 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 they may bring in Mohammed Nabi to bowl alongside his fellow mate Rashid Khan while Bhuvneshwar Kumar will spearhead the pace attack. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

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). All matches on LaLiga page on Facebook

FORMULA ONE

Russian Grand Prix: Practice 3 from 2.25 pm; Qualifying from 5.25 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

BASKETBALL

NBA Western Conference Finals (Game 5 of best-of-7): Denver Nuggets vs Los Angeles Lakers from 6.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

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

Prithvi is big Shaw

Youngster's half-century sets up win for Capitals

Dubai, Sept. 25: Mahendra Singh Dhoni's decision to come down the order yet again backfired as Delhi Capitals rode on Prithvi Shaw's fluent fifty and a disciplined bowling effort to inflict a 44-run defeat on Chennai Super Kings, their second straight loss in the ongoing Indian Premier League here on Friday.

Young Shaw struck a fluent half-century and shared a 94-run opening stand with Shikhar Dhawan to guide Delhi Capitals to 175 for 3.

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 into bat.

While defending, Delhi Capitals made full use of CSK's lacklustre batting performance to register their second consecutive win of the tournament, which took them to the top of the points table.

CSK skipper Dhoni did not push himself up the order on Friday, given the expectations after his decision to hold himself back in the game against Rajasthan Royals backfired, which meant the veteran again did not have enough time and balls to take his side home.

Coming in at No.6 in the 16th over with 78 runs needed from 4.2 overs while chasing 176, Dhoni could only make 15 runs (12 balls, 2 fours) in what was a below par performance from the two-time champions.

South African Faf du Plessis was the top-scorer with 43 while his compatriots Kagiso Rabada (3 for 26) and Anrich Nortje (2 for 21) shone with the ball to fashion a memorable win for Delhi Capitals.

CSK's veteran opener Murali Vijay's struggle continued as he could make only 10 (off 15 balls) for a third straight failure.

Fellow opener Shane Watson fell while attempting to break the shackles, caught in the deep by Shimron Hetmyer off Axar Patel, unable to capi-



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 UAE on Friday.

— BCCI

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw st M. S. Dhoni b Piyush Chawla 64, Shikhar Dhawan lbw Piyush Chawla 35, Rishabh Pant not out 37, Shreyas Iyer 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 4-0-28-0, Piyush Chawla 4-0-33-2, Ravinder Jadeja 4-0-44-0.

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 lbw 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.

talise on a reprieve by Shaw. With the asking rate climbing up, Du Plessis could not force the pace against a disciplined DC bowling attack with the spin duo of Amit Mishra

(4-0-23-0) and Axar Patel (4-0-18-1) keeping the CSK batsmen on a tight leash.

Young Ruturaj Gaikwad (5) and Kedar Jadhav (26 from 21 balls) could not provide the much-needed

thrust as CSK's woes continued.

Earlier, Shaw and Dhawan started slowly, scoring just 36 runs of the first six overs of power-play before opening up to

stitch 94 runs for the opening wicket in 10.4 overs.

Shaw, who began by hitting two consecutive boundaries off Deepak Chahar in the first over of the match, didn't appear to rush things and played some attractive shots.

Once the CSK skipper 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 fours overs (0/44). — PTI

Slow Kohli fined ₹12 lakh for rate

Dubai, Sept. 25: Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli has been fined ₹12 lakh after 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 on 89.

The lapses helped KXIP score an imposing 206 for 3, with Rahul doing the bulk of scoring.

Kohli took the blame for his team's flop show.

Without hesitation, Kohli took the blame for dropping Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul catch, which contributed significantly to their defeat on Thursday.

Kohli felt he had not dropped two catches off



Virat Kohli

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 important chances of KL when he was set and that cost us 35-40 runs at a later stage. Maybe if we restricted them to 180 we wouldn't have been under pressure from ball one of the chase," said Kohli.

KXIP posted 206 for three and RCB were bundled 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

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	0	4	+1.100
Kings XI Punjab	2	1	1	0	2	+2.425
Mumbai Indians	2	1	1	0	2	+0.993
Rajasthan Royals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.800
Chennai Super Kings	3	1	2	0	2	-0.840
Royal Challengers Bangalore	2	1	1	0	2	-2.175
Sunrisers Hyderabad	1	0	1	0	0	-0.500
Kolkata Knight Riders	1	0	1	0	0	-2.450

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

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