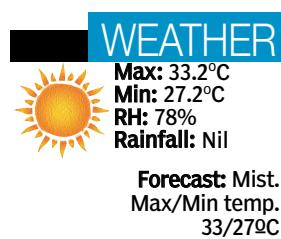


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VISAKHAPATNAM | SATURDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2020



WORLD | 7

Retired generals oppose Trump, to back Biden



SPORTS | 8

Kohli fined ₹12 lakh for slow over rate

CORONA COUNT	CASES	(+83,898)	58,96,544
DEATHS	BULLETS	(+1,082)	93,357
STATE GOVT BULLETINS	TELANGANA	(+10)	1,080

covid19india.org

ANDHRA PRADESH	6,61,458	(+7073)
STATE GOVT BULLETINS	5,606	(+45)

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES	3,26,42,738
DEATHS	9,90,772
COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES	213

Vol. 36 No. 123 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

Aurobindo eyes Kakinada deep port

State government encourages takeover as it feels Adani may not pursue earlier plan

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

After taking a majority stake in the Kakinada SEZ, Aurobindo Realty is said to have set its eyes on the Kakinada deep water port. A top delegation from the Aurobindo group visited the port a few days ago and held discussions on port operations.

Sources having knowledge about the developments told *Deccan Chronicle* that the company was keen on diversifying into the marine sector and the port provides a better platform to begin.

Deccan Chronicle in these columns on September 1 had reported that Aurobindo was holding talks with GMR for the Kakinada SEZ as part of its plan to bid for the Centre-

● **TOP DELEGATION** from the Aurobindo group visited the port a few days ago and held discussions on port operations.

● **GMR** ON Friday made an official announcement on selling its 51 per cent stake to Aurobindo for ₹2,600 crore.

● **THE YSRC** government took a tough stand and ordered a forensic audit into allegations of swindling of revenue by KSPL.

● **THE AUDIT** firms were looking at KSPL's sub-contracts with Bothras and Sharat Chatterjee Company sponsored pharma park, Aurobindo for ₹2,600 crore. "Besides acquiring the remaining 49 per cent stake in KSEZ held by Kakinada Infrastructure Holdings Pvt Ltd (KIHL), the pharma giant is exploring the possibilities of buying the existing port," sources said. Kakinada Sea Ports Limited, the present concessionaire of the port, owns KIHL.

K.V. Rao, managing director of KSPL, enjoyed a rapport with all successive governments beginning with Dr Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy's in 2004. The YSR regime grossly compromised on the state's interest and removed crucial clauses including the minimum guarantee amount to benefit Rao's company. A former Rajya Sabha MP was instrumental in the government doling out benefits to KSPL.

"We are probing into allegations of KSPL showing less revenues to pay a smaller share to the state government," a senior infrastructure official said adding that two agencies — Kroll and a Chennai-based audit firm — were engaged for forensic audit. The audit firms have been looking into KSPL's sub-contract arrangement with Bothras and Sharat Chatterjee Company. While the final reports are pending, the Aurobindo group is said to have begun exploring the takeover, sources pointed out.

The bonhomie continued after 2014 when Naidu became Chief Minister. The Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government, however, took a tough stand and ordered a forensic audit into allegations of swindling of revenue by KSPL.

"The Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government, however, took a tough stand and ordered a forensic audit into allegations of swindling of revenue by KSPL.

"We are probing into allegations of KSPL showing less revenues to pay a smaller share to the state government," a senior

infrastructure official said adding that two agencies — Kroll and a Chennai-based audit firm — were engaged for forensic audit.

The audit firms have been looking into KSPL's sub-contract arrangement with Bothras and Sharat Chatterjee Company. While the final reports are pending, the Aurobindo group is said to have begun exploring the takeover, sources pointed out.

Sources with direct knowledge of the matter said the government of India's liability will be restricted to about ₹75 crore.

Before the arbitration tribunal, Vodafone had challenged India's usage of a 2012 legislation that gave it powers to retrospectively tax deals like Vodafone's \$11-billion acquisition of 67 per cent stake in the mobile phone business owned by Hutchison Whampoa in 2007.

It challenged the demand of ₹7,990 crore in capital gains taxes (₹22,100 crore after including interest and penalty) under the Netherlands-India Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT).

It was not immediately known if the Indian government will abide by the arbitration award.

Sources said the

government

will

abide by the arbitration award.

Sources said the company

had served notice to Vodafone International Holdings BV (VIHBV) for its alleged failure to deduct withholding tax from consideration paid to the Hutchison Telecommunications International Ltd.

However, Vodafone challenged this in the Supreme Court, which set it aside tax notice in January 2012, saying that the transaction was not taxable in India and so the company had no obligation to withhold tax.

Supreme Court, which set it aside tax notice in January 2012, 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 company which derives substantial value from underlying Indian assets. In January 2013, the company was served a tax notice of ₹14,200 crore after including interest on the principal amount. A year later, Vodafone challenged the tax demand.

Sources said the company in April 2014 served the notice of arbitration after out-of-court dispute resolution talks failed. Vodafone has always maintained that there is no liability and that it will vigorously defend any allegation that it is liable to pay tax.

— PTI

SPB music to play in films as legend exits world stage

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

Renowned playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, known in nearly every household as SPB and Balu, passed away at 1.04 pm on Friday at MGM Healthcare Hospital in Chennai, where he was under maximal life support.

He was survived by his wife, a daughter and a son, S.P. Charan. SPB's body would be laid to rest with police honours, a Tamil Nadu government press release said.

From the hospital, his body was taken to his home, where fans poured in to pay tributes and police had a tough time regulating the crowds, particularly in ensuring the maintenance of physical distancing.

The singer's last rites would be held at a family farmhouse on the outskirts of Chennai on Saturday morning and the cortège would leave from home on Friday night, sources said.

Balasubrahmanyam was admitted on August 5 follow-

ON PAGE 4
A GOLDEN VOICE FALLS SILENT



ing mild Covid-19 symptoms.

His condition worsened and he was on life support for Covid-19 and pneumonia since August 14. 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.

He was in the hospital for a total of 52 days. He had tested negative for Covid-19 on September 4. At the time of admission, the singer had said in a video message that the infection was "very mild" and he would return home in two days.

Born in Nellore in 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, who also directed music in many films and acted in 74 movies, with the Padma Bhushan in 2011 and the Padma Shri in 2001.

Fans noted he could whistle, mimic any sound or voice and had the ability to blend stammer, laughter, cough or give a voice form to any emotion in his songs.

■ Page 4: Condolence messages pour in for SPB

Video shows ring stolen from dead Covid-19 patient

AVINASH P.
SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, SEPT. 25

A Covid-19-designated State hospital, which is run by Sri Padmavathi Medical College for Women (SPMC) and is attached to Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) here has been embroiled in a controversy after a video shot inside the hospital premises, shows a dead person being relieved of his jewellery. This has gone viral on social media.

SVIMS-SPMC hospital has treated more than 3,407 patients till the second week of September and achieved a success rate of 87 percent. Also, more than 1,79,266 RT-PCR tests were conducted at VRDL, which is attached to the hospital. For all its achieve-

ments on the corona front, it is now at the receiving end after the CC cameras in ICU captured workers stealing the gold ring of a Covid-19 deceased patient. The video has created ripples in political circles with many slamming the government authorities for not keeping a tab on activities in the hospital.

Sources told this newspaper that a middle-aged man hailing from Chowdepalli in Punganur mandal, who had tested positive for Covid-19, admitted about 10 days back. His health deteriorated on Thursday and he passed away on the same day. Family members noticed that a gold ring and a mobile phone of the deceased were missing.

■ Page 3: Outsourced worker involved in theft

Farmers intensify agitation over farm Bills

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
HYDERABAD, NEW DELHI,
SEPT. 25



Farmers protest against the farm Bills passed by the Centre at Ambala on Friday. — PTI

by farmer unions. In Telangana, the held demonstrations in Hyderabad and elsewhere in the state. TRS rallies to

highlight the recently amended revenue Acts saw leaders criticising the farm Bills. Over 30 organisations had given a separate Punjabi bandh call, which appeared to be near total.

A tractor was set on fire by protesters in Punjab's Bariana. A three-day rail roko that began on Thursday is also underway in Punjab, with farmers squatting on the tracks at many places in Punjab and the railways suspending many trains.

Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal drove

a tractor while his wife and former minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal sat beside him in Muktsar district.

Prominent Punjabi singers like Harbhajan Mann and Ranjit Bawa took part in a farmers' protest in Nabha.

In the capital, hundreds of farmers, on foot, two-wheelers and tractors, were stopped at Delhi's border with UP, their agitation disrupting traffic in Noida and Ghaziabad.

■ More reports on Page 5

SUDDEN | DEATH

Villagers see bad omen; pesticide suspected to be cause

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC
VIZIANAGARAM, SEPT. 25

Hundreds of pelicans from Siberia have been found dead in and around Chellamnaiyalvalas of Seethanagaram mandal in Vizianagaram district, about 130 km from Visakhapatnam.

The bird deaths were occurring for about a week, locals said. It is suspected that pesticide poisoning could be the reason.

The villagers, shocked at the unusual death of these winged guests, alerted veterinary department offi-

cials to protect the remaining birds. Villagers see the death of the birds as a bad omen. Villagers said thousands of Siberian birds arrive in their village in the last week of June for the nesting season. The birds leave between November and December along with their offspring.

The locals never harm the birds; rather they protect them from poachers and predators. They have also punished a few people for harming the birds in the past. Tourists usually visit the village for a glimpse of

the animal disease diagnostic centre, visited the village and conducted a post-mortem on a few dead birds. It sent samples to the Animal Biological Research Institute at Vijayawada to find out the reason for the deaths. The birds usually perch on tamarind trees where they build nests.

"Prima facie we suspect the birds might have consumed pesticide in the agriculture fields close to Swarnamukhi river. The birds feed on snails that are largely found in the 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. There were no reports of bird deaths there.

"Only open billed storks arrived in Telikunchi and there is no sign of birds at Telineelapuram," said divisional forest officer Sandeep Krupavaram. Sources said a few storks died in Telineelapuram two years ago and the reason was not known.

■ Full report on Page 2

■ Page 3: Covid suspects to be called for tests

■ Page 3: Vegetable prices burning pockets

SUDDEN | DEATH

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC
VIZIANAGARAM, SEPT. 25

Hundreds of pelicans from Siberia have been found dead in and around Chellamnaiyalvalas of Seethanagaram mandal in Vizianagaram district, about 130 km from Visakhapatnam.

The bird deaths were occurring for about a week, locals said. It is suspected that pesticide poisoning could be the reason.

The villagers, shocked at the unusual death of these winged guests, alerted veterinary department offi-

cials to protect the remaining birds. Villagers see the death of the birds as a bad omen. Villagers said thousands of Siberian birds arrive in their village in the last week of June for the nesting season. The birds leave between November and December along with their offspring.

The locals never harm the birds; rather they protect them from poachers and predators. They have also punished a few people for harming the birds in the past. Tourists usually visit the village for a glimpse of

the animal disease diagnostic centre, visited the village and conducted a post-mortem on a few dead birds. It sent samples to the Animal Biological Research Institute at Vijayawada to find out the reason for the deaths. The birds usually perch on tamarind trees where they build nests.

"Prima facie we suspect the birds might have consumed pesticide in the agriculture fields close to Swarnamukhi river. The birds feed on snails that are largely found in the fields,"

OTHER STORIES
AP ANNOUNCES
NEW EXCISE POLICY
FOR YEAR 2020-21

SAMPAT 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 (APSBCCL) 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 APSBCCL 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 APSBCCL 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, Leelamahal 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 APSBCCL'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

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.

Telling officials to promote the sortex variety of

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 broken 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 Malakondiah, commissioner for marketing, Pradhyumna,

and director of agriculture, S. Venkateswaran.

TD questions delay in Polavaram project works

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

The opposition Telugu Desam has demanded that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy explain the reason for the delay in completing the Polavaram project. Former minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao on Friday accused Mr Jagan of covering up its inefficiency and failure to complete the project even 16 months after coming to power, by blaming the previous Chandrababu regime. He wanted to know why only 0.63 per cent of the project work was executed, while the

TD regime finished 70.83 per cent works.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr Umamaheswara Rao asserted that through the TD government's relentless efforts the Central technical advisory committee approved ₹55,548 crore for the project. "Mr Chandrababu Naidu reviewed Polavaram progress every Monday and carried three tonnes of documents to Delhi to convince the Union Jal Shakti Ministry and Central Water Commission to approve the project estimates. But now, the YSR's inefficiency led to the reduction of the funds to

just ₹47,728 crore," he said. He remarked that the project which achieved a Guinness record for rapid progress earned the dubious distinction of being reduced to a sluggish pace. Neither the CM nor his minister concerned can say for sure how much concrete has been put into the dam since their party came to power, he claimed.

Mr Umamaheswara Rao said that despite having 22 MPs in the Lok Sabha and six in Rajya Sabha, Jagan was not able to get the ₹5,741 crore pending funds for the works done during the TD regime.

STIR AGAINST AGRI BILLS FOILED

DC 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 agricultural 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.

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.

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.

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-

Fresh case booked against former advocate-general

N. 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.

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 MEMBER

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

parade of trainee sub inspectors at the AP Police Academy here on Friday. About 273 trainee SIs completed training at the Anantapur centre.

She presented certificates and medals to the trainee sub inspectors.

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.

DGP Gowtham Sawang, DIG and in-charge principal of the training centre Kranthi Rana Tata, MPs, MLA and others participated.

**REVOLON®
TOP SPEED®**

AMMONIA FREE HAIR COLOR

COVERS GREY HAIR IN 5 MINUTES



Revlon® Top Speed® Hair Color

Easy to use formula infused with Mother of Pearl and Ginseng root extract to deliver shiny & resilient hair. 100% Grey Coverage. Multiple applications.



www.revlon.co.in
customercell@modibeautyproducts.com
Toll Free: 18001217585

Follow us on



Marketed by:
Modi-Mundipharma Beauty
Products Pvt. Ltd.



*T&C apply. Offer valid till stocks last.
© Revlon, Revlon, REVOLON and TOP SPEED are trademarks of Revlon Manufacturing Co., Inc.

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Adhika-Ashwayuja Sudha
Dasami till 7.03 pm
Star: Uttarashadha till 7.28 pm
Varijyam: 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

Fajr: 5.50 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 4.45 pm
Magrib: 6.15 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.50 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.46 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 2.23 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 00.50 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 officer each for Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada and one each for Anantapur and Tirupati would be appointed as observes. About 30,199 candidates will write the exam.

40,000 STUDENTS ABSENT FOR APEAMCET

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, SEPT. 25

The APEamcet-2020 examinations, held in 14 sessions for engineering, agriculture and medical have been completed on Friday. The preliminary key will be released on Saturday and the APEamcet office will receive objections on the key up to September 28. As many as 23,733 students out of 27,759 attended the AP Eamcet examination and 40,865 students became absent for both engineering and medical and agriculture.

The Eamcet-2020 convener Prof. V. Ravindra said that engineering exam was held in nine sessions and 1,56,899 students out of 1,56,899 attended registering 84.38 per cent and 29,47 students were absent. Agriculture and Medical Examination was held in five sessions and 75,834 students out of 87,652 attended registering 86.52 per cent and 11,818 students were absent. He said that the students' response sheets would be uploaded on the website soon.

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 Lalu Rattaiyah instilled inspiration in him to achieve his goal.

POOR RAINS

Production has come down in north Andhra

Vegetable prices burning pockets

V.K.L. GAYATRI | DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 25

Bulk customers are buying the vegetables at the fields by offering good prices to the farmers

In fact, vegetable prices get cheaper during the rainy season. However, due to the poor rains in the north coastal districts, the production of various vegetables has come down and the traders are selling onions at ₹50 per kg.

Meanwhile, bulk customers are buying the vegetables at the fields by offering good prices to the farmers but this is creating a big demand for the vegetables in the retail markets.

The prices of various vegetables including tomatoes, brinjal, ladyfinger and broad beans have been hiked and range from ₹50 and above per kg. The green chilli price also crossed ₹70.

The farmers are increasing the prices every day as there is a demand in the markets. Bulk buyers are procuring the vegetables by paying whatever the farmers are fixing as prices and paying advances. Meanwhile, there is a burden on the transport charges as the fuel prices also increased. G. Giribabu, a vegetable trader said.

Surprisingly, egg prices have also increased from ₹5 to ₹7 per egg.

increasing the prices every day as there is a demand in the markets. Bulk buyers are procuring the vegetables by paying whatever the farmers are fixing as prices and paying advances. Meanwhile, there is a burden on the transport charges as the fuel prices also increased. G. Giribabu, a vegetable trader said.

The prices of various vegetables including tomatoes, brinjal, ladyfinger and broad beans have been hiked and range from ₹50 and above per kg. The green chilli price also crossed ₹70.

The farmers are increasing the prices every day as there is a demand in the markets. Bulk buyers are procuring the vegetables by paying whatever the farmers are fixing as prices and paying advances. Meanwhile, there is a burden on the transport charges as the fuel prices also increased. G. Giribabu, a vegetable trader said.

Surprisingly, egg prices have also increased from ₹5 to ₹7 per egg.

Balu had special bond with hometown

Nellore district goes into mourning after hearing demise of legendary Balasubrahmanyam

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC
NELLORE, SEPT. 24

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 Srikrishnachari. 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 Tippajravu Street in Nellore till her demise in February last year.

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



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

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".

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

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, Venkateshwaran, then a Union minister, along with film actor Kamal Haasan and noted director

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

Prabhat. 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, Venkateshwaran, 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.

Meanwhile, Balasubrahmanyam (SPB), who passed away on Friday, rendered 'O Sogasari' along with Baby Pasala for the movie *Palasa 1978*, perhaps the swansong of the legendary singer's glittering career. The movie, based on caste politics in the small town Palasa in Srikakulam district, was released on March 6 this year.

Meantime, 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

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 Panditradhyula Balasubrahmanyam, popularly known as SPB, has been the refreshing notation of film music spanning over five decades enthraling 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.

Noted lyricist and his close associate, Venkateshwaran, 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.

Didn't know who Balu was then: Temple clerk

K.M.P. PATNAIK | 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 ceremony.

"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'.

Balu's swansong was on N. Andhra

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM/
KAKINADA, SEPT. 25

programme was postponed because of Covid.

"The statue will be ready in the next three or four days. But SPB breached his last without seeing his statue," said Sudarayya Rajkumar Devaguptapu, shedding tears.

"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," Rajkumar said.

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," lamented Rajkumar.

Covid -19 suspects to be called for tests

From page 1

NEW COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS CONTINUE TO DECLINE IN STATE

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 25

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

The state registered 7,073 new positive cases

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.

Meanwhile, bulk customers are buying the vegetables at the fields by offering good prices to the farmers

to the farmers but this is creating a big demand for the vegetables in the retail markets.

The prices of various vegetables including tomatoes, brinjal, ladyfinger and broad beans have been hiked and range from ₹50 and above per kg. The green chilli price also crossed ₹70.

The farmers are increasing the prices every day as there is a demand in the markets.

Bulk buyers are procuring the vegetables by paying whatever the farmers are fixing as prices and paying advances. Meanwhile, there is a burden on the transport charges as the fuel prices also increased.

G. Giribabu, a vegetable trader said.

Surprisingly, egg prices have also increased from ₹5 to ₹7 per egg.

The farmers are increasing the prices every day as there is a demand in the markets.

Bulk buyers are procuring the vegetables by paying whatever the farmers are fixing as prices and paying advances. Meanwhile, there is a burden on the transport charges as the fuel prices also increased.

G. Giribabu, a vegetable trader said.

Surprisingly, egg prices have also increased from ₹5 to ₹7 per egg.

TRIBALS CALL FOR BANDH ON SEPTEMBER 29

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 25

Demanding for a new act to ensure 100 per cent reservation to the tribals in their respective scheduled areas, the All India Tribal Employees Welfare Association called for bandh in the agency areas of AP and TS on September 29.

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 Pandithadrudhyam 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 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 Ethanai 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. The song Aayiram Nilave Vaa, in Adimai Penn, starring MGR took SPB to dizzying heights.

SPB's rise 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 Vidyaasagar, 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, Kizhakkku 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 Illayaraja, 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 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 Sankarabharanam for his song Omkaara Naadanu

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



Veteran singer P. B. Srinivas kisses SPB.

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

3 SEPARATE VOICES FOR NTR 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 Arjun, Raja Babu, Balu used to change his voice.

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



RECORDED
21
songs in the span of 12 hours for Kannada composer Upendra Kumar

16
Hindi songs in a day

19
Tamil songs in a day

72
2001-2011

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

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, Kizhakkku Cheemayile, Duet and Minsara Kanavu

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



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.

Mahadevan, however, kept his faith in Balu. The songs were a huge hit and are considered classics today. The film released in 1984 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 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, Saptagami and Sruthilayalu.

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 Sundaramurthy 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 T.S. Jagannath 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.

TOP 10 TELUGU HITS OF SPB

1. *Omkara Nadanu Sandhana* (1979, Sankarabharanam)
2. *Vedam Anuvanuvuna* (1983, Saagara Sangamam)
3. *Sirimalle Neeve Virajala Kaave* (1977, Pantulamma, Telugu)
4. *Abhinava Thaaravo Naa Abhimana Thaaravo* (1978, Sivarajanji)
5. *Gajje Ghallu Mantune* (1976, Siri Siri Muva)
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, Ravanudu Ramudaitha)
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, Raghavarao 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 Kanmani*, *Sigaram*, *Thiruda Thiruda*, *Kadhalan*, and *Naanayam*. He was also part of some TV serials and shows.

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*.

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

SPB got the Padma award from Prez Pratibha Patil

SPB gets a memento to mark the golden jubilee of his singing career in New Delhi on Jan. 16, 2016.

SURESH KAVIRAYANI | DC

1 JANAKI FIRST SPOTTED

BALU: S.P. Balasubrahmanyam wanted to study engineering and join government service. That was the wish of his father, Balu, as he was affectionately known, 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 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.

2 KODANDAPANI THE GOD-FATHER | Balu followed her advice, reached Madras (now Chennai) and tried singing but was rejected as his voice was considered not mature enough. He was hardly 18 at that time. After two years, he participated in a singing competition in Madras, organised

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 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 Arjun, 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 are wanted Balu to sing all the songs in the Hindi version, but music directors LakshmiKant-Pyaralel 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 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 1984 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 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, Saptagami and Sruthilayalu.

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 Sundaramurthy mediated between the two. Later, Balu went to Krishna's studio and met him there. From then on, he sang for Krishna.

SHORT TAKES
92 IPS OFFICERS
TRANSFERRED
IN MP

RABINDRA NATH
CHOURHURY | DC
BHOPL, 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. Dhanopria 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
CHOURHURY | DC
BHOPL, SEPT. 25

A 3-year-old tigress was found dead in Bandhavgarh 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 Unicat Builders.

Challenges Nitish face include Coronavirus, unemployment

Polls are crucial for BJP after setback in Jharkhand and Maharashtra

NAYEER 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 Nitish Kumar said.

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 majority".

Nitish Kumar-led NDA had come to power in Bihar after defeating 15 years of Lalu-Rabri regime in 2005.



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

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

Tejashwi Yadav and his party are not happy with Nitish Kumar and they will get rid of this government after the polls.

Tejashwi Yadav and his party are not happy with Nitish Kumar and they will get rid of this government after the polls.

Tejashwi Yadav and his party are not happy with Nitish Kumar and they will get rid of this government after the polls.

Coronavirus toll may cross 1-lakh mark in a week

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 hours.

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 7,000.

Similarly, 73% of the new recovered cases have been reported from ten States/UTs — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Kerala, West Bengal and Assam. Maharashtra continues to lead with more than 17,000 new recoveries. Andhra Pradesh contributed more than 8,000 to the single day recoveries.

Meanwhile, top medical journal The Lancet in its editorial said India is facing a dangerous period with regard to Covid-19. "The rapidly growing case numbers, alongside the continuing relaxation of restrictions, are creating an atmosphere of fatalism mingled with false optimism that undermines effective use of non-pharmaceutical interventions such as masks and physical distancing. The epidemic in India is far from over, with a potentially huge burden of mortality and morbidity to come unless public health measures are used and adhered to. Without clear and honest communication of the risks of Covid-19 to the population, stemming the epidemic will be impossible," the editorial said.

Questioning the transparency of data provided by government, The Lancet said that the Indian government reports a case fatality rate which is much lower than the reported rate in other countries, but it is difficult to know if the numbers are comparable.

It added the authorities are presenting the current situation in India with a "too positive spin" which not only clouds reality but also hampers vital public health initiatives.

"Perpetuating unrealistic claims or failing to honestly

TARUN GOGOI IN ICU AFTER DROP IN OXYGEN LEVEL

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, SEPT. 25

The Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Randeep Guleria on Friday reviewed the health condition of former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi who has been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) at the Guwahati Medical College Hospital (GMCH), following a drop in his oxygen saturation level.

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 7,000.

Similarly, 73% of the new recovered cases have been reported from ten States/UTs — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Kerala, West Bengal and Assam. Maharashtra continues to lead with more than 17,000 new recoveries. Andhra Pradesh contributed more than 8,000 to the single day recoveries.

Meanwhile, top medical journal The Lancet in its editorial said India is facing a dangerous period with regard to Covid-19. "The rapidly growing case numbers, alongside the continuing relaxation of restrictions, are creating an atmosphere of fatalism mingled with false optimism that undermines effective use of non-pharmaceutical interventions such as masks and physical distancing. The epidemic in India is far from over, with a potentially huge burden of mortality and morbidity to come unless public health measures are used and adhered to. Without clear and honest communication of the risks of Covid-19 to the population, stemming the epidemic will be impossible," the editorial said.

Questioning the transparency of data provided by government, The Lancet said that the Indian government reports a case fatality rate which is much lower than the reported rate in other countries, but it is difficult to know if the numbers are comparable.

It added the authorities are presenting the current situation in India with a "too positive spin" which not only clouds reality but also hampers vital public health initiatives.

"Perpetuating unrealistic claims or failing to honestly

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

TWO LeT COMMANDERS KILLED IN J&K

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, SEPT. 25

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.

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 the J&K police".

According to the families of three labourers Muhammad Intiaz, Abrar Ahmed Khan and Abrar Yusuf, the trio 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

Kerala up in arms over farm Bills

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
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 Bhawan 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 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.

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 Sathyam 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 Kisan Coordination Committee

across the state.

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

The Kisan Coordination Committee

across

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.



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

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 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 Thailand's Computer Crime Act.

It has prosecuted websites 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 subject.

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 Hebdo* 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 Premières 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 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.

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 comman-

der 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

Washington, Sept. 26:

President Donald

Trump's refusal to com-

mit to a peaceful transfer

of power if he loses drew

swift blowback on

Thursday from both par-

ties in Congress, and law-

makers turned to

unprecedented steps to

ensure he can't ignore the

vote of the people.

Amid the uproar, Trump

said anew he's not sur-

the election will be "hon-

est."

Congressional lead-

ers, including Senate

Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell and House

Speaker Nancy Pelosi,

rejected Trump's asser-

tion 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 vot-

ers' 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

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 2, 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 Ten 1, 2, HD

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



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 Stoinski not out 5. **Extras:** (LB-5, W-3) 8. **Total:** (for 3 wickets, in 20 overs) 176. **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. (4-0-23-0) and Axar Patel (4-0-18-1) keeping the CSK batsmen on a tight leash.

Young Rituraj 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 powerplay 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. 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



Virat Kohli

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 the field.

Kohli felt he had not dropped two catches off

"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