





S. P. BALASUBRAHMANYAM | 1946 - 2020

# A golden voice falls silent

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAM | 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 Pandithadrahyula 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 interest in music at a very young age, he was also very interested in academics. He enrolled in JNTU, Ananthpur, to pursue his engineering and for some reasons he had to drop out of college. He joined the Associate Member of Institution of Engineers, Chennai, and also pursued his passion of music and started performing in several music competitions. He was adjudged the best singer at a competition by ace musicians S.P. Kodandapani and Ghantasala who were on the jury panel. Later on, S.P. Kodandapani became his mentor and the rest is history.

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

Industry pundits recall that SPB was personally selected by the iconic star MG 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 MS Viswanathan's composition on par with top playback singers like T.M. Soundarrajan and P.B. Srinivas. He also recorded songs with all top women singers like P. Susheela, S. Janaki, Vani Jayaram and

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

Donning several hats as a playback singer, music director, actor, voice artiste and film producer, he worked predominantly in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam. He won six National Film Awards for Best Male Playback Singer for his works in four different languages - Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Hindi - besides 25 Nandi Awards from Andhra Pradesh for his works 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 all the famous songs in Sankarabharanam which were in high classical notes after KVM chose him over ace playback and classical singers like K.J. Yesudas and Balamuralikrishna.

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

SPB's prominence rose in Bollywood right from 1989 when he sang for Salman Khan for the film *Maine Pyar Kiya*. Besides winning many awards, Balasubrahmanyam continued as the "romantic singing voice" on the 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, SA. Rajkumar, Deva and MM 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 Maadhama, Pudihiya Mugam, Kizhakku Cheemayile, Duet and Minsara Kanavu, and the last one fetched him the 6th National Award for the song *Thanga Thamarai* Magale.

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

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



SPB with legendary Ghantasala

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

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

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

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

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



SPB AND K.J. YESUDAS

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

**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** Did films in three languages. Notable films as an actor include *Keladi Kannani*, *Sigaram*, *Thiruda Thiruda*, *Kadhalan*, and *Naanayam*. He was also part of a few TV serials and shows.

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

The singer was presented with Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan

He won his sixth National Award for the song 'Thanga Thamarai' in Tamil movie *Minsara Kanavu*

Bagged **National Award** for his Kannada song in movie *Sangeetha Sagara Ganayogi Panchakshara Gavai*

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



SPB won his second National Award for Hindi movie *Ek Duuje Ke Liye*



Bagged two National Awards for his songs in Telugu movies *Sagara Sangamam* and *Rudhra Veena*

SPB gets Padma award from Prez Prathiba Patil



## Janaki first spotted Balu

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

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

—Suresh Kavirayani

## Sankarabharanam got him global 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 *Sruthilayalu*.

—Suresh Kavirayani

## SPB tuned a number on Covid, its deadly effects

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

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

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

—PTI



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



# Balu had special bond with hometown Nellore

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

A native of Nellore city, ace playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam has strong bond with Nellore and people especially his classmates and childhood friends.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

statue of Sri Sambamoorthy on October 3, 2015.

Bala Subrahmanyam was also organising drama competitions through his cultural organisation 'Vijetha Arts' at town hall in Nellore every year with the help of his friends Hazarath Babu, Vennelakanti Rajendra Prasad, Sessa Gireesam and Devi Prasad.

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

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

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

## 'Two days' that turned eternal for SPB

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

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

However, his health suffered a sudden setback and his condition turned critical on August 13, prompting the doctors to put him on life support, which continued till his end on Friday. —PTI

## CM: God's gift to music world

**From P1**

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

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

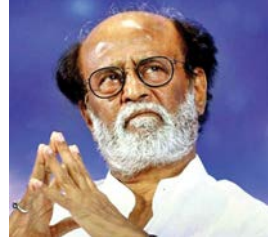
Calling SPB a legend, Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam said that with his melodious voice he attracted millions of fan from all ages. He would be remembered all through as his songs would be heard all along, he said, adding that he had carved a niche for himself in the world of music.

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

## FILM INDUSTRY MOURNS

**RAJINIKANTH**

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



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

Ghantasala, TM Soundararajan, their contemporary SPB had something special...he was the only one who sang in multiple languages, where as others crooned in a particular language, which they are familiar with.

"His great voice will echo in our ears even after hundred years. He is a great soul and my deepest condolences to his family."

Some of the evergreen songs of the duo include *My Name is Billa (Billa)*, *Naan Autokkaran (Baasha)*, *Rakkamma Kaiya* (*Thalapathy*) and *En Peru Padayappa (Padayappa)*



**KAMAL HAASAN**

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

**ILAYARAJA**

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



**SHANKAR**

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



**DEVA**

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

**K.S. CHITHRA**

An era is over. Music will never be the same. World will never be the same. Words are not enough to thank him for guiding me to be a better singer. Cannot think about a concert without your great & gracious presence. Condolences & prayers to Savithriamma, Charan, Pallavi & Family.



**RADHIKAA SARATHKUMAR**

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



**SRINIVAS**

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

**VISHAL**

Feeling sad that legend #SP Balasubrahmanyam is no more. Ending his ERA of the voice of melody but his songs will always be with us strong and heart touching forever. I will always miss you RIP.



**ARYA**

Heartbroken. You will be missed sir. Thank you for all the music and memories #SPBalasubrahmanyam . #RIPSPB.

**SIVAMANI**

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



**RAVI SHASTRI**

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

**NADHIYA MOHIDHU**

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

**PRIYA MANI**

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

**CHINMAYI SRIPAADA**

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



**VIVEKH**

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

**THAMAN SS:**

Mammmmmmaaaaa. Not Able to control my tears. Will misssss U dear mammmmmmaaa. Heart is So HEAVY.

**KRISH SRIKANTH**

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

— Compiled by Anupama Subramanian



(Clockwise) People paying homage to 'Paadum Nila' SPB on Friday; Actor and producer S. P. Charan announcing the demise of his father to mediapersons; the huge crowd that gathered in front of his house in the city on Friday evening. The singer's last rite will be held at a family farm house on the outskirts of Chennai on Saturday morning and the cortege will leave from home Friday night itself, sources said. —DC



## When SPB sang for Army men in Wellington

**B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC OOTY, SEPT. 25**

S.P.Balasubrahmanyam's dream came true when he landed at the Madras Regimental Centre(MRC) at Wellington near here to sing for Army men in 2013.

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

A major part of his first song in Tamil cine world, the evergreen *Iyarkai ennum illaya kanni* in the film *Santhi Nilayam*, was shot here in Ooty in places like the Golf links, Wenlockdowns and Pykara slopes that perfectly matched with the nature. In fact, when he made his debut as music composer in Tamil films through Rajini starrer

*Thudikkum Karangal*, nearly four songs he composed for the film, especially, to suit Rajini's style and designs, were filmed in Ooty.

In December 2013, SPB and his music troupe landed at Thangaraj Stadium at MRC in Wellington to exclusively sing for the army fraternity in the programme 'Indhiya Ranuvaveergaludan oru

naal' which was organized by the Army fraternity. SPB, the versatile singer with mesmerizing and miraculous voice, rendered songs in many languages thus making the army men to glue to his music programme.

Speaking to the media on the occasion he said, "By singing for army men my five decade dream has come

true today. All these years I had been singing for 'reel-heroes', but, today I had the opportunity to sing for the 'real heroes' of the country. It has opened a new chapter in my life.

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



## OTHER STORY

## Covid-19 cases spike in Chennai

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

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

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

## Man arrested for harassing woman cop

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

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

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

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

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

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Purattasi 10

Tithi: Dashami

Star: Uthiradam

Rahukalam:

9 am to 10.30 am

Yamagandam:

1.30 pm to 3 pm

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.48 am

Zohar: 12.07 pm

Asar: 3.20 pm

Maghrib: 6.05 pm

Isha: 7.16 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.02 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.58 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 2.27 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 2.07 AM

## COUNTER POINT



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



CPM members protest in the city on Friday against the Centre for 'allegedly bulldozing' various bills. — DC

## Water level crosses 100 ft in Mettur reservoir near Salem

ZAKEER HUSSAIN &  
A. ARUL PALANI | DC  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

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

The stored capacity of water in the dam was 64,340 mcoft and it received an inflow of 35,000 cusecs of

**Water level touched 100 ft in the dam for 66nd time in 87 years. PWD officials performed special pujas as the water level in Mettur dam crossed the 100-foot-mark after 102 days on Friday**

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

The reservoir received water of 35,000 cusecs and the

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

The PWD official hoped that this year the dam would reach its full capacity of 120 feet in the next few days if the rain continues to lash in the water catchment areas in Karnataka. PWD executive engineer Devarajan, assistant executive engineer Madhusudan and other officials were present at the dam site during the puja.

## Seven more die of coronavirus in Pondy

**Puducherry, Sept. 25:** Seven more succumbed to Covid-19 in Puducherry while 608 new infections were recorded on Friday, taking the total caseload to 25,489 in the union territory.

Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said in a release that 608 fresh cases were identified after examination of 5,515 samples in the last 24 hours.

Of the 25,489 overall cases, 5,214 were active, 19,781 patients recovered and were discharged while the fatalities were 494.

The Director said the fatality rate was 1.94 percent while recovery rate was 77.61 percent.

The Health Department has so far tested 1.61 lakh samples and it was found that 1.30 lakh out of them were negative.

The result of the examination of remaining samples was awaited.

The Director said 470 patients were discharged from hospitals during last 24 hours.

Thesevenpersons who died were in the age group ranging between 45 and 83 years and most of them

had co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension and kidney related ailments.

Puducherry region accounted for 481 out of the total 608 cases followed by 95 in Karaikal, 23 in Yanam and nine in Mahe region.

Five of the deceased hailed from Puducherry region while one each from Karaikal and Yanam died in the government hospitals there.

Mahe region an enclave of Puducherry in Kerala did not report any death.

— PTI

## Dad's funeral: History-sheeter on run held

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

The police special team on Thursday arrested a murder accused, who went on absconding two years ago, the police said.

The history-sheeter, identified as Vinoth, 28, of Mannivakkam near Vandalur in Chengalpattu district, has at least 10 cases against him in the city



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

several extortion cases pending against him in the Vandalur Otteri police station and Somangalam police station.

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

The accused was caught red-handed by the police

special team from his house in Mannivakkam when he came to attend his father's funeral on Thursday.

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

## Min defends govt's support for agri bills

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

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

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



R. Duraiannu

Minister was a farmer who knew about agriculture, he added.

Referring to the Farmers (Empowerment and

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

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

sation too, Bedi said.

While farmers were free to go in for the contract or not, the system would help ensure that they get the minimum support price and there were provisions to take action against defaulters, he said and pointed out some sugarcane buyers had been penalized under the Act.

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

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

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

The Minister said that the benefits of the three bills would be explained to farmers at the block level and said that the political parties were raising a hue and cry over them only with elections in mind.

## DMK, Congress firm up alliance

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

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

Rao, who is in Chennai to meet TNCC leaders and functionaries, took time off his busy schedules to have a discussion with the DMK leaders, general secretary Durai Murugan, treasurer T.R. Baalu and principal secretary K.N. Nehru, who were present during the meet.

The TNCC leaders who accompanied Rao were TNCC president K S Alagiri, leader of the Congress legislative party K.R. Ramasamy and media committee chairman A. Gopanna.

DC CORRESPONDENT.  
TIRUNELVELI, SEPT. 25

The Foreign Contribution (regulation) amendment bill 2020 successfully passed in the both the Houses of Parliament however has been viewed by NGOs and voluntary social activists as a death knell to the grassroots level community development and relief.

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

"Smaller NGOs working in the grassroots level among the tribals and the marginalised communities will have no other option to perish," said Britto, as the amended bill prohibits sub-granting of foreign funds to grassroots NGOs that now work in collaboration with the bigger NGOs by receiving grants from them.

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

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

However not all view the FCRA amendment bill negatively as according to a senior advocate Girinivasaprasad, the amendment is the need of the hour. "Our government got the realisation for such amendment in the FCRA act much earlier in 2011, when the then Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh himself made an open allegation about the diversion of foreign funds received by NGOs to throttle devel-

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

"Only 20% of the total foreign contribution received by Indian NGOs are utilised by organisations in the Northern and Northeastern states that are comparatively more underdeveloped," said the senior advocate, who too added that this has created the suspicion that the fund received by most NGOs from outside the country has been used for purposes other than development of the community.

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

## HC slams handing over of 100 med seats to private colleges

J. STALIN | DC  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

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

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



by conducting 'Mop Up' counselling for management seats 2020 and by considering the candidature of the petitioner on the basis of merit Neet PG rank 1335.

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

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

**The judge said the authorities for some reasons, did not choose to conduct 'Mop Up' counseling for the management seats and one justification that was given during the previous hearing was that they did not have time**

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

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

financing colleges on August 30, 2020, directing them to admit the candidates for the PG courses from the list of candidates who have not been allotted any seat in PG courses in Management quota seats. On receipt of this letter, the private colleges filled up the entire seats that were vacant. When this petition came up for hearing on September 2, 2020, it was informed to this court that the authorities will not be in a position to carry out the process of 'Mop Up' counselling. This court suggested that the authorities can approach the Supreme Court and get necessary extension of time to conduct the 'Mop Up' counselling. The application filed by the authorities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SHORT TAKES

DNA SAMPALES MATCH THOSE OF SHOPIAN YOUTH

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 25

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

"We've received the DNA sample results of three families of Rajouri and these have matched with those of the three killed in Amshipora, 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 1990 were exceeded and the Do's and Don'ts of Chief of Army Staff as approved by the Supreme Court have been contravened". It had, however, also said that the slain men's "involvement with terrorism or related activities is under investigation by the police".

According to the families of three labourers Muhammad Imtiaz, Abrar Ahmed Khan and Abrar Yusuf, the trio was killed by the troops in a fake encounter in Shopian's Amshipora area on July 18.

A night before, the youth had informed their respective families over the phone that they had reached Shopian.

# Challenges Nitish face include Coronavirus, unemployment

Polls are crucial for BJP after defeats in Jharkhand and Maharashtra

NAYEAR AZAD | DC 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 National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would be the Coronavirus crisis, unemployment, law and order scenario and flood situation. He is trying to retain power in Bihar for the fourth term this 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 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.

# 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.

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

**AP numbers dip further:** Andhra Pradesh continues to witness a dip in the number of Covid-19 positive cases and also deaths. The state registered 7,073 new positive cases in the last 24 hours, scaling up the overall tally to 6,61,458. With 48 deaths, the toll has risen to 5,606.

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

# TELANGANA ALLOWS OPENING OF BARS, CLUBS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

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

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

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

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

with 6477 new cases even as 3481 persons recovered from the infection.

**8,655 cases in Karnataka:** Karnataka on Friday reported 8,655 new cases of Covid-19 and 86 related fatalities, taking the tally to 5,57,212 and the death toll to 8,417.

# 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 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 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.

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

# Retired generals, admirals endorse Biden in US polls

4-star officers who served under Trump also back Dem US Prez candidate

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

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

The list of signatories featured 22 retired four-star military officers, among them Navy Adm. Samuel Locklear, who oversaw all US forces in the Pacific from 2012 to 2015, and Adm. Harry Ulrich, who commanded U.S. naval forces in Europe during President George W. Bush's administration.

The retired top brass signed the letter backing

# Despite Trump attacks, both parties vow orderly elections

**Washington, Sept. 26:** President Donald Trump's refusal to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses drew swift blowback on Thursday from both parties in Congress, and lawmakers turned to unprecedented steps to ensure he can't ignore the vote of the people.

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

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

# TRUMP PROMOTES 'VISION' FOR HEALTH CARE

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

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

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

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. He said that he believed he had a duty to speak out as a citizen and that he was troubled initially by Trump's comments about the late Sen. John McCain in 2016. — AFP

# China to produce 1b vaccine doses

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

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

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

# RIO POSTPONES CARNIVAL AS CASES SURGE

**Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 25:** 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.

Rio's carnival, famous for its gyrating Samba dancers, drummers and dancing crowds, draws millions for all night parties in packed streets, making social distancing all but impossible. Brazil now has the world's second highest death toll after the United States — nearly 1,40,000 fatalities — and is still battling to bring the virus under control.

Rio's samba schools had already warned in July that without certainty of a vaccine this year it would be difficult to organise the February 2021 festival.

hospitals and other 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

# Activist Greta calls for more climate pressure

**Stockholm, Sept. 25:** Teenage campaigner Greta Thunberg demonstrated outside Parliament in her native Sweden on Friday as a new set of worldwide protests to fight climate change kicked off.

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

ing on Coronavirus restrictions.

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

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

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

Thunberg said the Swedish demonstrations would "focus on being few

people in many places and keeping distance."

Previous global Fridays for Future school strikes have seen millions of young people pour into the streets to demand action.

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

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

following a year spent campaigning for the climate around the world.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace marked the day by releasing a photo taken several days ago in the Arctic of 18-year-old ornithologist Mya-Rose Craig, known as "birdgirl", standing on an ice floe holding a poster "Youth Strike for Climate" — in what it said was the world's most northerly climate strike. — AFP



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



## DECCAN Chronicle

26 SEPTEMBER 2020

### Dig in for the long haul: Chinese not going soon

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

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

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

### Deano transformed cricket

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

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

A brave Jones may have defied death very early in his career as he dominated the opening parts of 'Tied Test II' at Chepauk in Chennai in September 1986 when he compiled a mammoth 210 in 508 minutes of sapping heat and humidity, besides the discomfort of the foul smell emanating from the polluted Cooum River flowing nearby. Jones was so dehydrated with the effort on the opening day that he was thrown into a bathtub filled with ice cubes in his hotel room to cool him down and then dragged to a hot shower to make him feel "human" again and fit to resume batting, but only to be put on saline drips in a hospital that night. Alas, a stroke took him in his Mumbai hotel room at the relatively young age of 59.

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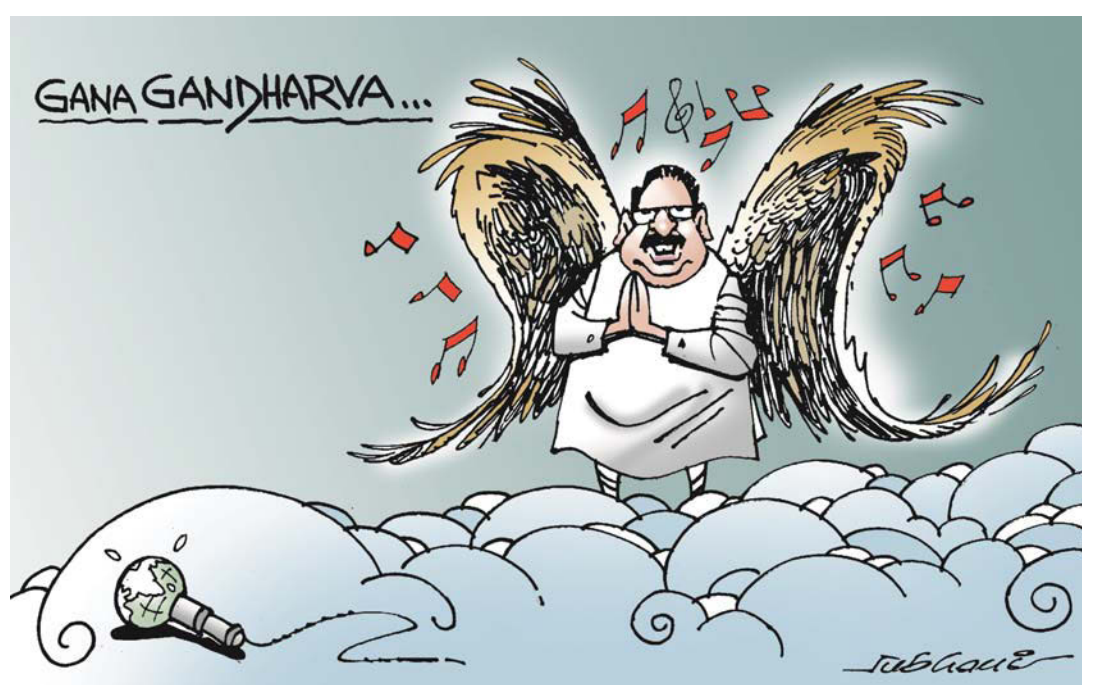
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Subhani



## Can fury over farm bills trigger wider Opp. stir?



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

For the first time in India, a motion of no-confidence was moved against the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha earlier this week. It's another matter that it was rejected. To save the two agriculture bills — on which Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears to have staked so much — from possibly falling in the Upper House, Harivansh, as the presiding officer, appeared to shabbily disregard the rules, leading to the Opposition parties expressing their mistrust in him.

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

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

These were truly "historic" bills, to quote the PM, in the sense that they will make history. The laws that these will bring about have the intent of deepening capitalism in

agriculture by slowly strangulating the long-standing MSP regime — evidently a bad old "socialist" construct — through which the government offers an assured minimum price to farmers to prevent them from going to the wall. The path will be cleared for businessmen to do all the food-grain procurement to bring farm produce to cities at prices that the market dictates.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### LETTERS

#### A CHINK IN THE ARMOUR

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

**E.S.Chandrasekaran, Chennai**

#### A GREAT HUMAN BEING

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

**S. Vaithianathan, Madurai**

#### END OF AN ERA

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

**B. Suresh Kumar, Coimbatore**

Saeed Naqvi  
Wide Angle



## BJP impunity in House stems from Opp. fear of exposure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In 1969, when his grandmother, Indira Gandhi, split the Congress away from the "power brokers", the regional satraps, the capitalists were, in a sense exposed. They eventually joined up with the RSS, Socialists in the Bihar movement of 1974 under the leadership of arch-Gandhian, Jayaprakash Narayan.

The 1969 split had a Left-Right

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

Politics these days is at a standstill because of the lockdown, of course, but also because of what I call the "Eulalie" syndrome. This light-hearted diversion comes from Wodehouse. The resourceful Jeeves has come to the assistance of his master, Bertie Wooster, at a particularly challenging moment. Roderick Spode, the Earl of Sidcup, has become a permanent social menace in a country house which is Bertie's favourite haunt. How to cut down Spode's bombast? That is Bertie's challenge. Jeeves provides the panacea. Bertie has to sneak upto Spode and whisper, "I know all about Eulalie." Bertie fol-

lows Jeeves' advice. The result is electric. Spode becomes white as a sheet and collapses in the chair like a deflated balloon. It turns out that before Spode began to float in London's high society, he owned a store called Eulalie which sold lingerie known for its bras with bold designs. Eulalie, then is harmless blackmail. But the blackmail which has become the staple in contemporary politics is brutal.

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

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

Even though the Opposition has a comfortable majority in the UP Upper House, the BJP rammed through nearly a hundred bills with-

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

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

*The writer is a senior journalist and commentator based in New Delhi*







## SHORT TAKES

## Messi blasts Barca for Suarez sack

**Madrid:** Lionel Messi bid an emotional farewell on Friday to Luis Suarez, the day after the Uruguayan striker had said tearful goodbyes to Barcelona after the club sent him to Atletico Madrid. "Today I went into the dressing room and the awful truth hit me," Messi posted on *Instagram*, before renewing his criticism of club management. "You deserved to be sent off as what you are: one of the most important players in the history of the club," Messi wrote. "And not to be fired in the way they did it. The truth is that at this point nothing surprises me anymore," the post added. Messi has a long-running feud with club president Josep Maria Bartomeu which intensified after Barcelona were humiliated 8-2 by Bayern in a Champions League quarterfinal in August. Messi tried to force his exit from Barcelona but finally accepted that he would have to see out the final year of his contract. — *AFP*

## Gurpreet, Sanju adjudged best

**New Delhi:** Indian men's team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and women's squad's mid-fielder Sanju were on Friday declared the winners of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Footballer of the Year awards for the 2019-20 season. This is the first time Gurpreet has received the award, and in the process he became the second goalkeeper after Subrata Paul in 2009 to be named the AIFF Player of the Year. Gurpreet was elected as the winner on the basis of votes from Indian Super League and I-League club coaches. — *PTI*

## Bottas revs to the top at Russian GP

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

## Milan, Spurs in Europa play-offs

**Milan:** AC Milan midfielder Hakan Altanoglu scored twice to give his team a 3-2 home victory over Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt in Europa League qualifying. There were no major upsets at Tottenham, Celtic, Wolfsburg, PSV Eindhoven and Sporting Lisbon all advanced to the play-off round. With Zlatan Ibrahimovic sidelined with the Coronavirus, Lorenzo Colombo also scored for the seven-time European champion. After scoring four goals against Southampton in the Premier League on Sunday, Son Heung-min netted again for Tottenham in a 3-1 win against Shkndija in North Macedonia. Erik Lamela and Harry Kane also had a goal each. — *AP*

## Prithvi is big Shaw

## Youngster's half-century sets up win for Capitals

**Dubai, Sept. 25:** Delhi Capitals beat Chennai Super Kings by 44 runs to register their second consecutive win in the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The DC openers hampered 58 in the next 4.4



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

— *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.

## Wasn't at my best before match: KL

**Dubai, Sept. 25:** Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul, who made a scintillating century against Royal Challengers Bangalore, said he was lacking in confidence heading into the team's second IPL fixture.

Rahul starred with an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls as KXIP outplayed RCB by 97 runs here on Thursday.

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

He had already spoken about his fears leading up to the IPL, considering he was coming back after a five-month long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "Quite honestly I was nervous but I knew if I spend time in the middle, hit a few balls from the middle of bat, it will all settle down."

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

player) but as a captain you have shortened time and you are running around and doing a lot of things," Rahul said. He is captaining in the IPL for the first time. "I still try to maintain the same routine. Once I am in the middle and during the toss is the only time I feel like a captain and otherwise I try to balance being a player and the captain. It's as complete a team performance as it can get. We had few different plans going into this game," he further added. — *PTI*

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

## Virat slapped with ₹12 lakh for slow over 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.



Virat Kohli

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

**KOHLI TAKES BLAME FOR RCB FLOP SHOW**

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

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 had not dropped two catches off the blade of Rahul, who remained unbeaten on 132, KXIP would not have been able to go past the 200-run mark.

"I have to stand in front and take the brunt of it, not the best day in the office, couple of 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*

## KKR &amp; SRH look to open account

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

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

Once again, the batting position of their biggest hitter Andre Russell became the talking point in their 49-run loss to Mumbai Indians.

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

Eoin Morgan also could not do much as the asking rate had shot past 13 by the time he came to bat at No.5.

In bowling too, there was a tactical blunder by holding back their ace spinner Sunil Narine till the last over of power play.

On a day, their biggest buy Pat Cummins failed miserably, Narine was given a go only when his IPL "bunny" Rohit Sharma was well set.

It really defied logic to see such a defensive strategy by a team now coached by Brendon McCullum who is known for his aggressive mindset. Known to put up a balanced side on the park, Hyderabad lacked strength and experience in their middle-order, failing miserably against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

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

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 17
- Kolkata won: 10
- Hyderabad won: 7

## MEETING IN 2019

- Kolkata Knight Riders beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Kolkata.
- Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 9 wickets.

## FOR THE RECORD

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

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

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

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

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 the think tank may bring in Mohammed Nabi to bowl alongside his fellow mate Rashid Khan while Bhuvneshwar Kumar will spearhead the pace attack. — *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

## ‘Anil sir’s advice worked for me’

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

The 20-year-old Bishnoi snared three wickets in an emphatic 97-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier league (IPL) on Thursday night.

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

The India U-19 World Cup player returned impressive

figures of 3-32 in his four overs against a side that boasts of the likes of Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers.

When asked, he sounded confident about bowling against the top players.

"Since we had a long camp before the IPL, I was preparing myself mentally as skill level is the same for everyone here. So being mentally strong and brave was my main focus."

"I told myself not to bowl loose deliveries which would allow them to attack me," further added the leg-spinner.

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

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

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

**Australia Women vs New Zealand Women:** First T20 from 9.20 am on Sony Six, HD

**England Women vs West Indies Women:** Third T20 from 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** Brighton vs Manchester United from 5 pm; Crystal Palace vs Everton from 7.30 pm; West Brom vs Chelsea from 10 pm; Burnley vs Southampton from 12.30 am (Sunday) on Star Sports Select 2, HD

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

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

## FORMULA ONE

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

## TENNIS

**ATP Hamburg European Open:** Semifinals from 5 pm on Sony Six, 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, HD

## UFC FIGHT NIGHT

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



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

— *AP*

## LeBron, Anthony star as Lakers feast on Nuggets

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

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

Game five is Saturday in Orlando. The Lakers have wrapped up both their previous series in five games. Canadian forward Jamal

Murray led the Nuggets with 32 points and eight assists, while Jerami Grant finished with 17 for Denver.

Serbia's Nikola Jokic was held in check most of the game and finished with a disappointing 16 points. He missed all four field goal attempts in the fourth.

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

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

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

before making a pair of historic comebacks.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 13 points and Rajon Rondo tallied 11 points for the Lakers.

— *AFP*

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