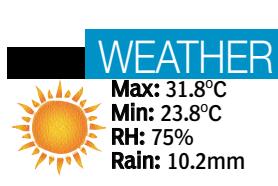


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2020



Forecast: Cloudy sky. Thunderstorms likely. Max/Min temp. 32/23 °C



WORLD | 7

Retired generals oppose Trump, to back Biden



SPORTS | 8

Kohli fined ₹12 lakh for slow over rate



CASES (+83,898)
58,96,544

STATE GOVT BULLETINS
TELANGANA (+2,381)
1,81,627

ANDHRA PRADESH (+7073)
6,61,458
5,606

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

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Man strangled in honour killing

14 arrested for pre-planned murder, victim's wife says her kin were against marriage

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

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

The two belong to different castes and had married four months ago despite opposition from Avanti's family. Avanti and Hemant had grown up in the same locality of Chandanagar in Serilingampally mandal and fell in love with each other eight years ago.

Fourteen people, including Avanti's uncle Yugender have been arrested by the Cyberabad

police for their involvement in the murder. Police said Avanti's father D. Lakma, mother Archana, Yugender, the others had been plotting ways to get rid of Hemant.

It was two years, almost to the date, on September 15, 2018, that Perumalla Pranay Kumar, who had married Amrutavarshini, was hacked to death in Miryalguda by killers hired by her father Maruthi Rao who was upset that his daughter had married out of his caste.

Addressing a press conference, Madhapur deputy commissioner of police Venkateswarlu said the plan to kill Hemant was made after Lakma agreed to Yugender's plan to hire some persons to commit the murder which would



The parents of Yogi Hemant Kumar console their daughter Avanti, after her husband was killed, at the Osmania General Hospital mortuary — P. SURENDRA

require ₹10 lakh.

"This killing was executed in a pre-planned man-

ner. It is an honour killing," Venkateswarlu said.

A distraught Avanti told mediapersons outside the Osmania General Hospital mortuary on Friday, as she and her in-laws awaited completion of the post-mortem on Hemant's body, that her father and uncle and the others were against her marriage.

"After our wedding, the Chandanagar police counseled both our families. After that, things quietened down. Little did I know that while staying quiet my family was hatching a plan to kill my husband. If there was a problem, since it was I who married against their wishes my family could have killed me. Why kill my husband," Avanti asked.

■ Page 2: Killers forcefully took away couple

SPB, with 40,000 songs, six national awards, dead

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25



ON PAGE 6
A GOLDEN VOICE
FALLS SILENT

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

He was 74. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son, S.P. Charan. SPB's body would be laid to rest with police honours, a Tamil Nadu government press release said.

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

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

Balasubrahmanyam was admitted on August 5 follow-

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

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

The nation honoured the legendary singer, who also directed music in many films and acted in 74 movies, with the Padma Bhushan in 2011 and the Padma Shri in 2001.

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

■ Page 6: Condolence messages pour in for SPB

ing mild Covid-19 symptoms.

His condition worsened and he was on life support for Covid-19 and pneumonia since August 14. On Thursday his condition deteriorated, triggering a spate of 'get well' messages from his fans and well-wishers all over the world on social media.

Bars, pubs, clubs open for public

BALU PULIPAKA I DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The state government on Friday evening 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 management 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.

He said the Nehru Zoological Park will be opened for the public from October 6, Zoo Day. The zoo and all parks were closed in the Covid lockdown.

Indrakaran Reddy said forest department officials were instructed that visitors have to follow Covid hygiene protocols. He told them to clean parks.

KBR PARK, CITY URBAN FORESTS TO OPEN TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The KBR National Park in Banjara Hills will be opened for public from Saturday, forests minister A. Indrakaran Reddy announced on Friday. All the other urban forest parks in and around the city and 15 elsewhere in the state too will be open from Saturday.

He said the Nehru Zoological Park will be opened for the public from October 6, Zoo Day. The zoo and all parks were closed in the Covid lockdown.

Indrakaran Reddy said forest department officials were instructed that visitors have to follow Covid hygiene protocols. He told them to clean parks.

Farmers intensify agitation over farm Bills

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



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

Farmers blocked roads in several parts of the country on Friday, protesting against the three agri-marketing Bills passed on Sunday by Parliament.

The most widespread protests were in Punjab and Haryana, and demonstrations were reported from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Karnataka as part of the 'Bharat bandh' call given

by farmer unions. In Telangana, the Congress and Left parties

held demonstrations in Hyderabad and elsewhere in the state. TRS rallies to

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

A tractor was set on fire by protesters in Punjab's Bariana.

A three-day rail roko that began on Thursday is also underway in Punjab, with farmers squatting on the tracks at many places in Punjab and the railways suspending many trains.

Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal drove

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

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

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

■ More reports on Page 4

SUDDEN | DEATH

Villagers see bad omen; pesticide suspected to be cause

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

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

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

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

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

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

the birds in November.

Chellamnai duvalasa vil-

lage elders said more than 300 birds were found dead near the trees and a few other places

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

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

Dr Lalitha said. Telikunchi and Telineelapuram are the two other villages in Srikakulam district where a large number of pelicans and painted storks from Siberia arrive every year. There were no reports of bird deaths there.

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

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ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Ithi: Adhika-Ashwayuja Sudha
Dasami till 7.03 pm
Star: Uttarashadha till 7.28 pm
Varjyam: 11.42 pm to 1.23 am
(Sunday)
Durmuhurtam: 6.09 am to 7.44 am
RahuKalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Safar ul Muzaffar 8, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.06 am
Zohar: 12.17 pm
Asar: 4.27 pm
Maghrab: 6.15 pm
Isha: 7.22 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.08 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.05 AM

MOONSET TODAY 1.10 AM MOONRISE

TOMORROW 2.42 PM

COUNTER POINT



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

IN BRIEF

Four arrested in robbery cases

Hyderabad: The North Zone Task Force arrested four persons for involvement in five cases — two of attention diversion, one each of robbery, chain-snatching and attempted chain-snatching. The accused were identified as Bollam Vamshi, 19, Kodanda Mohan, Musthipally Tarun and Chinthakuntla Ramakrishna, all 21 years old. Police said Vamshi, a resident of Gandhinagar, ran a hardware shop but took to crime to earn easy money. The gang targeted passers-by in lonely areas. They were arrested near Rasoopura crossroads.

Covid occupancy in pvt hosps drops 60%

Fall in hospitalisation due to early diagnosis, treatment

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

A 60 per cent drop in occupancy of Covid-19 beds has been noted in private hospitals for a week. With people coming in early for diagnosis, and treatment protocols being better understood by doctors, hospital admissions have seen a drastic drop.

Besides, home and hotel quarantine facilities have been developed for mild and asymptomatic cases. Treatment via video counselling is proving effective in these cases.

Dr T. Narasinha Reddy, national vice-president of the Indian Medical Association, said, "Earlier, fear led to patients with mild cases being hospitalised. Now, there is a shift as people are confident of getting treated at home."

- **BUT COVID-19** patients with co-morbid conditions like heart diseases, diabetes, transplants, cancers and other degenerative disorders are being admitted in hospitals.
- Mortality has also been noted in this group as they are developing recurrent severe diarrhoea which is causing complications in the body.

Association, said, "Earlier, fear led to patients with mild cases being hospitalised. Now, there is a shift as people are confident of getting treated at home."

But Covid-19 patients with co-morbid conditions like heart diseases, diabetes, transplants, cancers and other degenerative disorders are being admitted in hospitals.

Dr Rahul Medakkal, chief executive officer of Continental Hospitals, said, "The major challenges are faced by those who are suffering from co-morbid conditions as the virus is leaving a long-term impact on the lungs and other organs. There are complications in these cases and the treatment is prolonged."

Post-Covid-19 inflammation in these patients takes time to control. Those who require oxygen support for long are either contracting pneumonia or have developed lung fibrosis. Mortality has also been noted in this group as they are developing recurrent severe diarrhoea which is causing complications in the body.

According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, the SARS-CoV-2 particles, detected up to 120 days in the body and can cause persistent inflammation. Extreme increase in inflammatory markers reduces functionality of the immune system, leading to multi-organ failure causing death.

NO MUSICAL EVENTS, DANCE FLOORS NOW

From Page 1

The orders prohibited holding musical events or opening dance floors.

Magements 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 ventilation in the premises.

Around 1,400 bars, pubs and liquor-serving outlets in hotels and restaurants and clubs had been closed as part of the Covid-19 lockdown in March.

The state government had on May 6 allowed the sale of liquor in shops.

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The Telangana High Court on Friday asked Netflix Entertainment India Ltd whether telecasting the 'Bad Boy Billionaires' docu-series on Satyam Computers former chairman B.

Ramalinga Raju would not prejudice the cases filed by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Enforcement Directorate against him that were yet to be decided, and the appeals filed by Raju that were pending before the courts.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Annireddy Abhishek Reddy was dealing with

- **NEERAJ KISHAN** Kaul, counsel for Netflix, said many books like 'Corporate Frauds' and 28 articles on the Satyam issue were in the public domain. The docu-series producers had also communicated with Raju.

Neeraj Kishan Kaul, counsel for Netflix, said many books like 'Corporate Frauds' and 28 articles on the Satyam issue were in the public domain. The docu-series producers had also communicated with Raju.

Counsel asked how Raju could approach the trial court before the docu-series was telecast or he had watched it. "Based on the trailers, how he could confirm that it would tarnish his reputation," Kaul asked.

He said that the trial court did not give Netflix an opportunity and had issued ex parte orders. "The Supreme Court has said that in only the rarest cases should pre-publication injunction orders be given. But this issue is already in the public domain," Kaul said in the course of arguments which went on for more than two hours.

Netflix said the docu-series was an assimilation of information available in public domain. For further arguments, the case was posted to Monday.

The spot following a phone call from her. After warning Avanti and her laws, Yugender and the others left the scene, leaving Avanti to rush to the police.

According to DCP Venkateswarulu, the three hired killers murdered Hemant and dumped the body on the outskirts of Kistaigudem village in Sangareddy. They went to a wayside shop where they began consuming liquor.

"Once they switched on their cellphones, we tracked their location and took them into custody. During questioning they revealed the entire plan," DCP Venkateswarulu said.

STATE RECORDS 2,381 FRESH COVID CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

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.

There are 30,387 active cases in the state.

According to experts, there has to be a focus on reducing active cases which will require proper contact tracing.

With every six symptomatic cases there are 200 asymptomatic cases and these patients are spreading the virus. The high-risk zones continue to be Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits with 386 cases, Ranga Reddy 227, Malkajgiri 193, Karimnagar 119 and Nalgonda with 132 cases.

Bus service after 6 months



Commuters travel in an TSRTC bus, which resumed services after six months on Friday. — R. PAVAN

Killers took away couple forcibly

From Page 1

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IN BRIEF

Fake JNTU exam schedule circulated

Hyderabad: Amidst opposition against the JNTU-H's decision to hold regular as well as supplementary exams beginning mid-October, an exam schedule that was being circulated among students on social media platforms is fake and not released by the university, JNTU-H authorities said. Deccan Chronicle reached out to JNTUH registrar Dr Manzoor Hussain about the purported timetable. He said that the circular had nothing to do with the university. While he cannot confirm, this could be the schedule of an autonomous college that is free to follow its own schedule, away from the university, Dr Hussain said.

KTR INAUGURATES DURGAM CHERUVU CABLE BRIDGE

MADDY DEEKSHITI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The cable-stayed bridge over Durgam Cheruvu was inaugurated on Friday and dedicated to the city by minister K.T. Rama Rao in the presence of Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy. Rain played spoilsport during the event.

Constructed under the Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP), the 435-m bridge will ease traffic flow towards Hitec City, reduce commute time from Jubilee Hills to Madhapur to 10 minutes and the distance from Mindspace to Jubilee Hills by 2 km. The ₹184-crore bridge will be open for tourists on weekends and holidays.

The bridge is 25.8 m wide with 52 cables, and the footpaths 1.8 m on either side. The cables were procured from Germany, everything else is sourced from India. The bridge would be India's largest extradosed cable-stayed bridge in span, surpassing the 144-metre bridge over the Narmada in Bharuch, Gujarat. A 1,740-metre flyover, costing ₹150 crore, connects Jubilee Hills Road No. 45 to Mindspace junction via Durgam Cheruvu.

Fire NoC is must for all jr colleges

Order says colleges can self-certify fire norms

HARLEEN
MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

minimum of four extinguishers per compartment/floor.

The extinguisher should be available within a 15-metre radius. A first aid hose reel, (one for every 1,000 square metres) and a 10,000-litre terrace tank over the respective tower terrace are essential.

Two fire brigade inlets are also mandatory for all junior colleges, the government order said.

For the purpose of affiliation by the concerned authority, junior colleges will have to submit a self-certification report to the secretary of the Board of Intermediate Education, marking a

copy to the jurisdictional divisional fire officer.

The TS Disaster Response Fire Service will conduct surprise inspections and if any deviations from self-certification reports are noticed the Board of Intermediate secretary will be recommended to cancel the affiliation of the defaulters, said the government order.

The home department said in the government order that these relaxations have been made keeping in view the prevalent situation in terms of Covid-19 and saving the careers of the students enrolled in such colleges.

NEW MACHINE AT NIMS FOR COVID-19 TESTS

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

T.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

A high-end Cobas 8800 machine was inaugurated at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences which will facilitate in performing 3,000 RT-PCR tests for the Coronavirus in a day.

The machine, used globally, was installed by the TS government in the Molecular Lab and Centre of Excellence at NIMS. Health minister Etela Rajendra who inaugurated the machine said it could be used for HIV and hepatitis tests.

The machines uses nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal samples to detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2. High volume and quality testing is required to control the spread of infections.

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"A notice must be issued four days in advance of any call for a meeting, be it a special board meeting or an ordinary one. For the September 22 meeting, the notice was sent only 17 hours in advance. The courts found this to be against the rules," Rama Krishna said, adding, "I will continue in the post for another four weeks."

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IN BRIEF

HC notice to govt over illegal layouts

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Friday issued notice to the state government on PIL filed by Congress MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy challenging the government orders issued for the regularisation of unapproved and illegal layouts. He asked how the government could prohibit the registration of properties which did not get regularised under the new scheme.

Wakf properties registration halts

Hyderabad: The government on Friday issued orders prohibiting the registration of Wakf properties and banning issuing of no objection certificates and building permits for construction on Wakf properties, as stated by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao in the Assembly. The CEO, Wakf Board, was instructed to furnish the list of Wakf properties to district collectors, municipal commissioners and panchayat secretaries immediately. No building construction permit will be issued on Wakf properties other than those authorised by the minorities welfare department. Wakf Board chairman Mohammed Saleem welcomed the "landmark initiative" for the protection of Wakf properties. Wakf Board will furnish the list of properties to the authorities concerned, he said.

COPS ARREST 3 FOR CRICKET BETTING

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The West Zone Task Force apprehended three persons for cricket betting. Police said accused Pratik Agarwal, who runs Agarwal Communications at Abids, hired two persons to collect betting amounts and distribute the winnings among 15 to 20 punters. Pratik used to organise betting by watching cricket on mobilephone apps.

They approached one Neeraj Jain, a resident of Attapur and cricket betting organiser, and took his assistance for betting. The accused hired a room in a hotel on Road No.13, Jubilee Hills, and were organising betting when the police raided the place.

JOURNALISTS SEEK COVID-19 INSURANCE

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU), the largest representative body of working journalists in the country, will mark October 2 as a protest day against the indifferent attitude of the state and Union governments in creating a safety net for working journalists from the pandemic.

The IJU has for long been demanding that journalists, who are on the frontline to disseminate authentic information and expert opinions to the people, be provided ₹50 lakh insurance cover paid for by the state, free treatment to those who contract the Coronavirus, and other benefits on par with other frontline workers involved in combating Covid-19.

IJU president K. Sreenivas Reddy and secretary-general Balwinder Singh Jammu said the decision to observe a protest day was taken at the IJU national executive committee meeting on September 19. The IJU, they said, was concerned about the loss of large number of jobs in the newspaper industry, illegal and arbitrary dismissals of journalists without following the due process of law, and cases filed against journalists whose reportage was critical of the state or Union governments.

They called upon working journalists to stage dharnas, hunger strikes and demonstrations on October 2 at state and district headquarters, cities and towns by following Covid-19 protocols.

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Centre insensitive to farmers: Kharge

Impact on farmers not considered, says Cong leader

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Working Committee (CWC) member and Rajya Sabha MP, charged the BJP government at the Centre with being stubborn and insensitive in not considering the impact of the controversial three farm Bills on farmers.

"In all, 18 political parties opposed these Bills but the government was adamant. We tried to stall the Bills in the Rajya Sabha as they will prove detrimental to farmers' interests," said Kharge, addressing a press conference at Indira Bhawan in the city on Friday.

Terming the Bills as anti-Constitution and anti-farmer, Kharge said that the entire Opposition, and the Congress in particular, had opposed the Bills.

Stating that they have been passed by the BJP only to benefit the corporate world, Kharge argued that farmers



Congress MP Mallikarjun Kharge with senior party leaders at Indira Bhawan on Friday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

won't receive minimum support price and they will not be in a position to sell their produce at a price that they like. He maintained, "the corporate companies will import rice directly from other countries. As a result, small and

marginal farmers that constitute 83 per cent of the farming community will be wiped out."

Questioning how farmers would receive the minimum support price if the market yards are closed down, he said that the Centre

was not considering the impact of these Bills on the people who depend on the market yards. "While these are the facts, the government at the Centre is refusing to see the reality and is spreading wrong information," Kharge said.

Protests in TS against farm Bills

Talk turns to Bills during TRS rallies on revenue Act

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The Congress and Left Parties on Friday staged protests in Telangana as part of the nation-wide agitation against the contentious farm bills passed by Parliament.

Interestingly, TRS leaders, who took out rallies in some parts of the state supporting the New Revenue Act, used it as a dais to accuse the BJP government at the Centre for passing the farm bills that were detrimental to the interests of farmers.

Congress Kisan Cell, the CPI and CPI-M, their affiliated organisations, All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) and other farmers' bodies protested at Aayakar Bhavan in the city.

Activists of Rythu Swarajya Vedika took

out protest rallies in Adilabad and All India Kisan Sangh Coordination Committee did so in Karimnagar while CPI workers staged protests in Warangal city.

Holding their party flags, activists raised slogans against the Centre for passing the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, the Farmers' Empowerment and Protection Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, despite strong opposition from farmers and other political parties. They demanded their immediate revocation.

Congress veteran V. Hanumanth Rao, CPI state secretary Chada

accused the BJP government of enacting draconian laws. He said the state government is working towards the uplift of farmers, but the Centre is benefiting corporate sectors with the new agriculture Bills.

Dornakal MLA DS Redya Naik, taking part in a farmer's rally supporting the new Revenue Act, alleged that the Union government was trying to reduce the status of farmers to that of coolies.

Elsewhere, TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy demanded the government to amend the law by inserting a clause to ensure that farmers get Minimum Support Price (MSP) whether they sell their produce in market yard or outside.

Meanwhile, minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao, while addressing a tractor rally in support of the new Revenue Act in Jangaon

district

Cong asks SEC for info on use of EVMS, ballots

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The US Embassy and consulates in India will organise the Education USA Fair from October 2 to October 10 to help students discover educational opportunities in the United States. This year, students from across the country will be able to connect virtually with representatives from 150 accredited US colleges and universities.

Participants will gain valuable information about academic programmes, campus life, financial aid options, application procedures, and safety precautions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Congress leaders said the SEC could seek expert views, not only from within the government but also of expert agencies like the ICMR. The

Congress said that with the SEC will have to give time to identify more polling stations which it has mandated to ensure physical distance during voting.

Considering these factors, the SEC should schedule the polls in the first week of February, well in time for the end of the term of GHMC and the Warangal and Khammam municipal corporations.

Former minister Marri Shashidhar Reddy, chairman of the TPCC election commission coordination committee, said that the SEC could have consulted the Election Commission

of India (ECI), which is fully geared up to conduct the Bihar Assembly elections. He said there have been a lot of discrepancies in the enumeration of BC voters in the past and reservations were tailored to suit the requirement of the TRS. In view of this, the SEC should ensure that once the BC enumeration is completed, it should be provided in the public domain and allow a minimum time of two weeks for objections to be filed.

The Congress also requested the SEC to ask the authorities to ensure transparency in disposal of the objections.

For students seeking Master's or PhD programmes in the US, the graduate virtual fair will be conducted on October 2 and October 3 from 5.30 pm to 10.30 pm. For high school students seeking entry into the bachelor's programme in the US, the undergraduate virtual fair will take place on October 9-10 from 5.30 pm to 10.30 pm. Aspirants will have to register themselves for these virtual fairs. To learn more about this, those interested can visit: www.usief.org.in.

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The TS Minorities Finance Corporation has disbursed subsidised loans to 10,452 beneficiaries with a subsidy component of ₹83.07 crore for the financial years 2015-16 to 2019-2020. Corporation in-charge managing director A.H.N. Kanthi Wesley told the media that the corporation had distributed 1,744 autorickshaws with a subsidy component of ₹12.76 crore. She said the govern-

ment had released ₹15 crore recently out of the ₹80 crore earmarked for the corporation. The corporation had distributed 409 cabs during 2018-19 and 2019-2020, each vehicle costing ₹7,50,577 and carrying a subsidy component of ₹4,44,346.

It gave ₹20 lakh to two NGOs for lending microfinance among 1,000 beneficiaries. It distributed 100 mopedos to families of Muslim fakirs with an outlay of ₹50 lakh. During the current financial year, the government has

sanctioned 300 cabs for drivers belonging to minority communities with a subsidy component of ₹15 crores, she added.

Kanthi Wesley said the corporation was providing training in paramedical courses, plastic engineering, security systems, IT, pre-primary teaching, motor driving, beautician, tailoring, embroidery and karachi, jute bag manufacturing and handicrafts. It has established 10 community training centres with minority NGOs.

10,452 receive loans from Minorities Finance Corp.

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

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NIZAMABAD MLC BYELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 9

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

By-election for Telangana Legislative Council from Nizamabad Local Authorities constituency will be conducted on October 9. Making the announcement here on Friday, the Election Commission also set the ground to conduct elections to MLC seats in the state.

It ordered de-novo preparation of electoral rolls of Mahabubnagar-Ranga Reddy-Hyderabad and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda graduates' constituencies of Telangana Legislative Council.

As far as Nizamabad Local Authorities elections are concerned the EC has earlier scheduled April 22 as polling day but it was postponed because of Covid-19.

Former Nizamabad MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha is contesting the by-election and is pitted against Mohan Reddy (Congress) and P. Laxminarayana (BJP).

Following the disqualification of sitting MLC R. Bhupathi Reddy, who turned a TRS rebel, the by-election has been necessitated. However, the elections for two graduate seats are likely to be held after January next.

In view of the EC order for de-novo preparation of electoral rolls for two seats, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shashank Goel issued a press release stating that every application by a person seeking enrolment in Graduates' Constituency must be accompanied by authenticated copies of requisite documents, or certificates duly authenticated by the designated officer, additional designated officer, gazetted officer of the district concerned or a notary public.

SCHEDULE FOR PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

- Issue of public notice: October 1
- Last date for receipt of applications: November 6
- Draft publication of electoral rolls: Dec. 1
- Final publication of electoral rolls: January 18

HYD LIKELY TO GET MORE RAINS, CAUTIONS IMD

T.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

After a break of more than 48 hours, rains lashed the city on Friday evening. These rains, albeit light in nature, gave relief from the prevailing humid conditions.

As of 8.30 pm the highest rainfall in the city was recorded at the south Hastingnapuram community hall at 30.8 mm.

Certain pockets of the state, however, received copious amounts of rainfall. The highest rainfall in the state fell in Enugulu in Warangal district, which had received 131.8 mm of rainfall till 8.30 pm.

"There is a trough that is prevailing over the state, so we can expect rains for the next 48 hours. The intensity of the rains would however, come down," said Raja Rao Boddu, a meteorologist with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad office.

In the wake of the sudden rains, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) had received 47 complaints till 8 pm of rain-related issues.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mrs. GRACE JAMES
On her 21st Death Anniversary 26.09.2020
Inserted by:
Husband S.T. James & Children
Viz. Patricia & T. Samson
Col. Anil E. James & Paula
Dr. Reynold P. James & Hayley
Dr. Ajit R. James & Elizabeth
and Seven Grand Children
May Her Soul Rest in Peace

(S/2021/D00627)

16th ANNIVERSARY

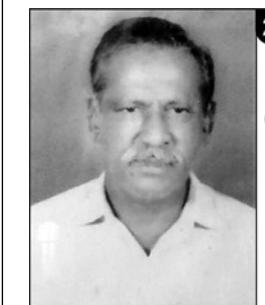
Late : NEMURI SRI HARI GOUD
DOB: 26-9-2004
An embodiment of dignity, love and abounding affection nobody who knew you can forget you.
Inserted by: N. Aruna (Wife)
Sons, Daughters-in-law, Daughters, Sons in Laws & Grand Children
SUBHASREE GARDENS FUNCTION HALL

(S/2021/D00633)

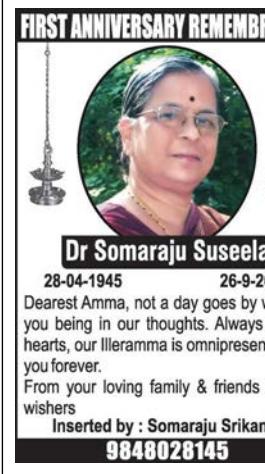
SHRADDHANJALI



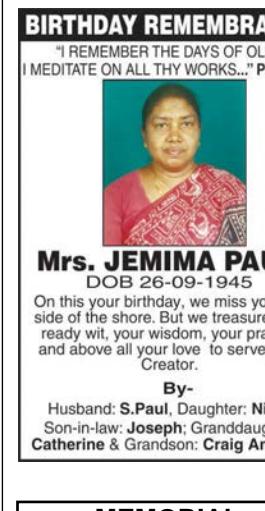
Sri AMILINENI VENKATARAMANA
Senior AP High Court Advocate, Former Nizam's Legal Counsel & Personal Lawyer for Prince of Barar.
DOB: 29-05-1930 DOD: 23-09-2020
Flight to Happiness, Peace & Harmony.
Survived by Children:
Mrs. SHEILA NATWA, Dr. RAM MANOHAR, Mr. MURALIDHAR AMILINENI
Grand Children:
Dr. MONA NATWA, Dr. NITHIN NATWA, Dr. NINA AMILINENI, Dr. THARA AMILINENI, Ms. PRIYA AMILINENI



25th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
... the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.
Ps 112:6
Late ALFRED NARAYAN RAO
(S/o, Late Mr. Adi Narayan Rao & Late Mrs. Samadhanam)
DOB: 26-07-1934 DOD: 26-09-1995
You Left us Beautiful Memories, Your Love is still our Guide, And Though we cannot see you You are always at our Side.
REMEMBERED BY:
Wife - Florence Wesley
Sons, Daughters-In-Law, Grandson & Grand-Daughters



FIRST ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE
Dr Somaraju Suseela
28-04-1945 26-9-2019
Dearest Amma, not a day goes by without you being in our thoughts. Always in our hearts, our Illellaamma is omnipresent, miss you forever.
From your loving family & friends & well-wishers
Inserted by: Somaraju Srikanth
9848028145



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
"I REMEMBER THE DAYS OF OLD, I MEDITATE ON ALL THY WORKS..." Ps 143:5
Mrs. JEMIMA PAUL
DOB: 04.09.1945
On this your birthday, we miss you this side of the shore. But we treasure your ready wit, your wisdom, your prayers and above all your love, to serve your Creator.
By:
Husband: S.Paul, Daughter: Nissi Son-in-Law: Joseph; Granddaughter: Catherine & Grandson: Craig Andrew



MEMORIAL
I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever.
Ps 23:6
Mrs. AMRUTHA VANIS SAMSON
DOB: 18-08-2020
W/o Late Mr. Malle Samson Pradeep Kumar Memorial Thanksgiving Service to be held on 26-09-2020 at 12 noon, at Wesley Church, Clock Tower, Sec-bad.
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS
9247415567 998944649



SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Blessed and honoured in the Lord... For they will rest from their hard work; for

S. P. BALASUBRAHMANYAM | 1947 - 2020

A golden voice falls silent

ANUPAMA
SUBRAMANIAN | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

The celebrated playback singer, who enthralled movie fans with over 40,000 songs in 16 languages and lent his voice to several matinee idols on screen, strode the world of film music for more than five decades. Remarkably, his voice never lost its timbre with age and he was busy almost up to the day he was admitted to a hospital in Chennai.

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

Balasubrahmanyam made his debut as a playback singer on December 15, 1966, with the song Sri Sri Sri Marayada Ramanna composed by his guru Kodandapani in a Telugu movie. After recording a Kannada song, he made his debut in Tamil with the number Athaanodu Ippadi Irundhu Ethanai Naalaachu, a duet with L.R. Eswari in M.S. Viswanathan's composition for the film Hotel Ramba, but unfortunately the film was never released. A duet with P. Susheela, Iyarkai Ennum Ilaya Kanni in the 1969 film Shanti Nilayam, featuring Gemini Ganesh and Kanchana was a big hit. The song Aayiram Nilave Vaa, in Adimai Penn, starring MGR took SPB to dizzying heights.

SPB's rise to prominence in Bollywood started right from 1989 when he sang for Salman Khan for the film Maine Pyar Kiya. Besides winning many awards, Balasubrahmanyam continued as the "romantic singing voice" on the soundtracks of Khan's films for almost a decade. SPB was identified as Salman Khan's voice in the '90s and he consolidated his position as an Indian playback singer.

In the '90s, he worked with other composers like Vidyasagar, S.A. Rajkumar, Deva and M.M. Keeravani and his collaboration with AR Rahman turned out to be a bigger hit. ARR and SPB joined hands right from the former's debut film Roja, July Maadham, Pudhiya Mugam, Kizhakkku Cheemayile, Duet and Minsara Kanavu, and the last one fetched him the sixth national award for Thanga Thaamarai Magale.

SPB directed music in 46 films in four south languages. Some notable works are Padamati Sandhya Ragam and Thurpu Velle Railu. SPB has always been a lucky mascot for Rajinikanth's intro songs.

The ace singer's last few renderings include Petta's Marana Mass and Chumma Kizhi from Darbar composed by Anirudh. SPB also acted in 76 films, making him a multi-faceted singer.

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



SPB with legendary Ghantasala

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

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



Susheela and SPB recording one of their memorable duets

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

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



Veteran singer P. B. Srinivas kisses SPB.

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

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

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

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



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

16
Hindi songs in a day

19
Tamil songs in a day

72
2001-2011

46

• The singer was presented with the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan

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

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

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

• IN THE unfortunate demise of Shri SP Balasubrahmanyam, our cultural world is a lot poorer. A household name across India, his melodious voice and music enthralled audiences for decades. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and admirers. Om Shanti

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Condolence messages pour in for SPB

From Page 1

After his demise was announced by the hospital, condolence messages poured in from all over with President Ram Nath Kovind leading the nation in paying tributes to the musical genius, who had sung over 40,000 songs in several languages during a career spanning over half a century. The President said: "In the passing of music legend S.P. Balasubrahmanyam Indian music has lost one of its most melodious voices."

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

Governors Tamilisai Soundararajan of Telangana state and Biswabhusan Harichandan (AP), Chief Ministers K. Chandrasekhar Rao and T.S. Jagannath Reddy were among those who condoled the death of SPB. Describing SPB as 'brother', Dr Soundararajan wondered if the man born in Telugu soil and earned fame in Tamil Nadu had been called by the heavens to sing there.

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

TOP 10 TELUGU HITS OF SPB

1. *Omkara Nadanu Sandhana* (1979, *Sankarabharanam*)
2. *Vedam Anuvanuvuna* (1983, *Sagara Sangamam*)
3. *Sirimalle Neeve Virajalla Kaave* (1977, *Pantulamma*, *Telugu*)
4. *Abhinava Thaaravo Naa Abhimana Thaaravo* (1978, *Sivarajanji*)
5. *Gajje Ghallu Mantune* (1976, *Siri Siri Muva*)
6. *O Bangaru Rangula Chilaka* (1975, *Thota Ramudu*)
7. *Medante Meda kaadu* (1968, *Sukha Dukhalu*)
8. *Thanivi theeralede Naa Manasu Nindalede* (1972, *Gooduputani*)
9. *Ravi Varmake Andani Oke Oka* (1979, *Ravanudu Ramudaitha*)
10. *Nenoka Prema Pipasini* (1978, *Indra Dhanassu*)

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



• SPB HAS ALSO BEEN A MUSIC DIRECTOR

films in four south languages. Some of the notable works among them are *Padamati Sandhya Ragam* and *Thurpu Velle Railu*.

• The singer was presented with the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan

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

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

• IN THE unfortunate demise of Shri SP Balasubrahmanyam, our cultural world is a lot poorer. A household name across India, his melodious voice and music enthralled audiences for decades. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and admirers. Om Shanti

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

SURESH KAVIRAYANI | DC

1 JANAKI FIRST SPOTTED

BALU: S.P. Balasubrahmanyam wanted to study engineering and join government service. That was the wish of his father, Balu, as he was affectionately known, was not interested in singing for films, and had not learnt music though he used to participate in singing competitions. When he was studying engineering in Anantapur, he participated in a competition in Gudur, where the chief guest was the famous playback singer S. Janaki. Balu won the first prize, and Janaki asked him to try singing in films as she found something special in his voice. He replied that he did not know music. To this, Janaki said she too did not know music but was singing in films. That's the first time that SPB's talent was spotted by the film industry.

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

The six crucial turns in Balu's life



Veteran singer P. B. Srinivas kisses SPB.

by the Andhra Social Cultural Club. The judges were the renowned playback singer Ghantasala and popular music directors Pendyala Nageswara Rao and Suresh Dakshinamurthy. After the first day, an elderly person who had watched the competition came up to Balu and asked him if he would sing in films. Balu again replied, "No, I am not interested." The elderly man repeated his question and Balu asked him who he was. The old man replied: "My name is Kodandapani." Having composed music for a couple of films by that time, Kodandapani asked Balu to come to his studio and introduced him to producer Bhavanarayana. The producer also felt that Balu's voice was not mature enough. Balu returned to his hometown. One and a half years later, Kodandapani called Balu again and got him to sing for 'Maryada Ramanna' in 1967. That was not to be his debut, however. Producer and writer M.S. Reddy asked Balu to sing for the dubbed film, 'Kala Chakram', which was released first, in 1966. He sang all the

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

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

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

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

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

5 SANKARABHARANAM GOT HIM INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION | In Balu's long and illustrious career, Sankarabharanam was a milestone. K. Viswanath was the director and he initially wanted veteran classical singer Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna to render the songs which were based on Carnatic music. Music director K.V.

Mahadevan, however, kept his faith in Balu. The songs were a huge hit and are considered classics today. The film released in 1983 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 Sagar Sangamam, Siri Vennela, Sapthagiri and Sruthilayam.

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

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

IN BRIEF

Fire breaks out at Huawei office

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



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

— AFP

THAILAND SUES FACEBOOK TWITTER

Bangkok, Sept. 25: Thailand's government lodged complaints with police on Thursday against Facebook and Twitter, alleging they failed to comply with court orders to block content judged illegal under Thai law. Minister of Digital Economy and Society Buddhipongse Punnakanta said at a news conference that it was the first time his ministry has taken such action against the social media companies under Thailand's Computer Crime Act.

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

Terror probe opened after 2 stabbed in Paris

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

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

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

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

The suspects' identities have not been released, and it is unclear exactly what prompted the attack. An investigation was opened into "attempted murder in relation with a terrorist enterprise,"

according to an official at the terrorism prosecutor's office. French Prime Minister Jean Castex said the lives of the two wounded workers are not in danger. He offered the government's solidarity with their families and colleagues.

Associated Press reporters at the scene saw police flood the neighborhood in eastern Paris near the Richard Lenoir subway station, which remained cordoned off hours later. Children were sequestered in nine schools while police scoured the area, but were

later released, according to the Paris school district.

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

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

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

— AP

Retired generals, admirals endorse Biden in US polls

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

DESPISE TRUMP ATTACKS, BOTH PARTIES VOW ORDERLY ELECTION

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, in

cluding Air Force Gen.

Paul Selva, who served as

vice chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff under Tru-

mp before he retired in Au-

gust 2019; Vice Adm. Gar-

nerd 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 signatures fea-

tured 22 retired four-

star military officers,

among them Navy Adm.

Samuel Locklear, who

oversaw all US forces in

the Pacific from 2012 to

2015.

— AFP

DESPISE TRUMP ATTACKS, BOTH PARTIES VOW ORDERLY ELECTION

Washington, Sept. 26:

President Donald

Trump's refusal to com-

mit to a peaceful transfer

of power if he loses drew

swift blowback on

Thursday from both par-

ties in Congress, and law-

makers turned to unprece-

dented steps to en-

sure he can't ignore the

vote of the people.

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 prece-

dent in the US — are hit-

ting amid the tumult of

the campaign, as partisan

tensions rage and more

Americans than ever are

planning to vote by mail

because of the Coronaviru-

s pandemic. — AP

China to produce 1b vaccine doses

Beijing, Sept. 25:

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

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

Health officials told

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 vac-

cines' safety is good and

there have been no serious

adverse reactions."

Hundreds of thousands of

essential workers at ports,

hospitals and other high-

risk areas have already

been given an experimen-

tal vaccine since July,

officials said, claiming

that the programme had

also gained the support of

the World Health Organi-

sation (WHO). — AFP

LIVE RICH

FINANCIAL Chronicle

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2020

quick BITES

Centre used states' ₹47,272cr GST funds to close fiscal gap

CAG says Centre violated GST Act through unauthorised use

BREACH OF TRUST

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

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

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

the GST Compensation Cess collected in 2017-18, ₹56,146 crore was transferred to the non-lapsable fund.

In the following year (2018-19), ₹54,275 crore out of ₹95,081 crore collected was transferred to the fund.

The short transfer in 2017-18 was ₹6,466 crore and in 2018-19 it was ₹40,806 crore, CAG said adding the Centre used

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

The short-crediting was a violation of the GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017.

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

States have not been paid

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

— PTI

New Delhi, Sept. 25:

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

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

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

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

which would then be ratcheted up annually.

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

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

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

CFOs' optimism falls to record low levels

New Delhi, Sept. 25:

The optimism level among chief financial officers (CFOs) about India's financial and macro-economic conditions during the third quarter this year has witnessed a decline of 15 per cent and touched record low level, according to a survey.

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

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

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

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

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

IPL PREVIEW

KKR, SRH look to open accounts

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

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

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

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

SRH bowling has always been impressive and it seems they may bring in Mohammed Nabi to bowl alongside his fellow mate Rashid Khan while Bhuvneshwar Kumar will spearhead the pace attack. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Brighton vs Manchester United from 5 pm; Crystal Palace vs Everton from 7.30 pm; West Brom vs Chelsea from 10 pm; Burnley vs Southampton from 12.30 am (Sunday) 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

FORMULA ONE

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

BASKETBALL

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

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

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

Prithvi is big Shaw

Youngster's half-century sets up win for Capitals

Dubai, Sept. 25: 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 hammered 58 in the next 4.4



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

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw st M. S. Dhoni b Piyush Chawla 64, Shikhar Dhawan lbw 37, Shreyas Iyer c M. S. Dhoni b Sam Curran 26, Marcus Stochni 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.

Slow Kohli fined ₹12 lakh for rate

Dubai, Sept. 25: Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli has been fined ₹12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their Indian Premier League match against Kings XI Punjab here.

RCB were thrashed by 97 runs in the match on Thursday night.

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

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

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

Kohli dropped Rahul twice — once in the 17th over at deep square-leg when he was batting on 83 and then again in the 18th over when he was on 89.

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

Kohli took the blame for his team's flop show. "I have to stand in front



Virat Kohli

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.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	0	4	+1.00
Kings XI Punjab	2	1	1	0	2	+2.425
Mumbai Indians	2	1	1	0	2	+0.993
Rajasthan Royals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.800
Chennai Super Kings	3	1	2	0	2	-0.840
Royal Challengers Bangalore	2	1	1	0	2	-2.175
Sunrisers Hyderabad	1	0	1	0	0	-0.500
Kolkata Knight Riders	1	0	1	0	0	-2.450

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

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