



# THE HANS INDIA

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## WINDOWS



### Lost Halloween prop creates big scare

**Mexico City:** Just when we thought 2020 couldn't get any worse, Mexico City residents got the living daylight scared out of them when what appeared to be a giant rat was pulled up out of the city's drainage system. Workers spotted the huge rodent hunched over in a drain as they sorted through 22 tons of trash last Friday after heavy rain, according to a Report. When the workers put any initial fears aside, they discovered it was actually fake and a Halloween prop. A woman, Evelin López, claimed the rat was hers and had disappeared during a storm years ago. She said she had asked for help in searching the drains at the time, but to no avail. The rat looked so real that some people said they would have fled in fear had they encountered it on the street. Some social media users suggested that the rat be recycled for Halloween this year, according to the New York Post. The giant rat is the latest of a variety of unlikely objects that have emerged from sewers around the world.

## BUSINESS



### Mkts rebound amid positive global cues P6

## SPORTS



### Anushka hits back at Gavaskar: 'Your message is distasteful' P8



# A voice falls silent forever

## SPB breathes his last in Chennai on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai:** Much celebrated multi-lingual singer, Gana Gandharva, Sripathi Panditaradhyula Balasubrahmanyam, is no more. He breathed his last at MGM Hospital in Chennai on Friday. He was 74. He is survived by two brothers and five sisters, including singer SP Sailaja, son SP Charan also a popular South Indian Singer and Producer, daughter Pallavi and his wife Savithri. He was well on his way to recovery, but suddenly, his condition turned critical.

On August 5, 2020, Balasubrahmanyam tested positive for Covid-19 and was admitted to MGM Healthcare



in Chennai. Subsequently, his health deteriorated and he was shifted to the intensive care unit in a critical state. He required a ventilator and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) support. His son Charan provided updates via social media to fans, while members of the Tamil film industry engaged in a mass prayer via Zoom on August 20 and candlelight vigils were held by fans outside the hospital. On September 7, Balasubrahmanyam tested negative, but remained on life support.

SP, SPB or Balu as he was affectionately called was not just a singer, music director, actor, dubbing artiste and film producer for Telugus. He was much more. His efforts to popularise singing through his tele-programmes like 'Padutha teeyaga' endeared him to the Telugus more than any.

His concern for Telugu which was losing sheen and glory by the Western influence and by the 'mummy/daddy' culture that had seeped into Telugu lives made him use every programme and fora to emphasize on the importance of preserving all threads of Telugu culture and literature without diluting them. He became a beacon light for the revival of light classical Telugu music with his dedicated efforts. He even sang a song in one of the films he acted saying "Avakaya Manadira, Gongura manadira..."

Born on June 4, 1946, Balu worked predominantly in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam. He had recorded over 40,000 songs in 16 Indian languages. He holds the Guinness World Record for recording the highest number of songs by a singer with over 40,000 songs. He had garnered six National Film Awards for Best Male Playback Singer for his works in four different languages; Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Hindi; 25 Andhra Pradesh state Nandi Awards for his works towards Telugu cinema, numerous other state awards from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In addition, he garnered the Bollywood Filmfare Award, and six Filmfare Awards South. In 2012, he received the state NTR National Award for his contributions to Indian cinema. In 2016, he was honoured with the Indian Film Personality of the Year consisting of a Silver Peacock Medal. He is a recipient of civilian awards such as Padma Shri (2001) and Padma Bhushan (2011) from the Government of India.

Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and K Chandrasekhar Rao, Leader of Opposition in AP N Chandrababu Naidu and host of other leaders expressed their shock and dismay over his death and offered condolences to the family members.

# AN ARDENT DEVOTEE OF LORD VENKATESWARA

- ▶ Balu had sung many songs over Annamayya Keerthanas for TTD recording project as well as SVBC launching promo song
- ▶ He was felicitated by Annamacharya Project artists and musicians in 2019 at Tirupati, it was his last public function in temple city
- ▶ He studied secondary higher education at SV Arts College, Tirupati

K NETHAJI

**Tirupati:** SP Balasubrahmanyam had a strong bond with the temple town of Tirumala-Tirupati. First and foremost, he was an ardent devotee of Lord Sri Venkateswara.

Balu had sung many songs of Annamayya Kirthanas on Srivari Vaibhavam during his journey as a playback singer. Another relationship he had with Tirupati was that he was a student of TTD SV Arts College. He also spent some of his younger days in Srikalahasti as his parents stayed there. His father used to give Harikatha programmes here. He had done his SSLC from Srikalahasti. Balu also studied in Class 8 and 9 from a high school in Nagari town between 1955 and 57 staying in his maternal uncle's house. His maternal grandparents were from Konetampeta village of Pallipattu Taluk of Tamil Nadu, which is just 10 kms away from Nagari town. Continued on Page 5



S P Balasubrahmanyam honouring his Guru Radhapati by touching his feet

▶ MORE REPORTS ON

P7

# PM Modi hits out at Opposition for misleading farmers

**New Delhi (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday accused the Opposition of "misleading" farmers and "using their shoulders to fire" at his government over the farm bills for selfish political interests, and asserted that for the first time in decades, the Centre has framed laws that will benefit farmers and workers.

Addressing BJP leaders and workers on the 104th birth anniversary of the party's ideologue Deendayal Upadhyay, Modi launched a powerful defence of farm as well as labour bills, saying the reforms brought in the agriculture sector will benefit the small and marginal farmers the most as 85 out of 100 farmers fall in this category. The three farm bills -- the Farmer's 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-- and the labour bills were passed by Parliament during the recent monsoon session.

Amid vehement protests by the Congress and other opposition parties against these bills, Modi hit out at them, saying many governments came to power in states and at the Centre over the decades in the name of farmers and workers, "but what



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation on the occasion of founder of Jana Sangh Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary, via video conferencing, in New Delhi on Friday**

did they get--nothing; just a web of promises that neither the farmers understood nor the workers." "The farmers were entwined in laws that prevented them from selling their produce at prices that they wanted; consequently, even though the produce went up their income did not go up," he said, adding those who always "lied" to farmers are now "shooting from their shoulders" and misleading them.

Asserting that the small and marginal farmers are "happiest today", the Prime Minister said, "for the first time, they have got an alternative to bargain for the price of their produce. The tradition earlier was to sell in 'mandis'. If he thinks he will benefit by selling there, he will sell there. If he thinks the benefit is more outside, he will sell outside."

# Farmers hold 'Bharat Bandh' on farm bills

**New Delhi:** Farmer unions and political parties across the country participated in 'Bharat Bandh' on Friday to protest against the farm Bills that were recently passed by the Parliament.

While Punjab and Haryana continue to witness the most prominent protests, the bandh also saw participation from farmer unions in Bengaluru, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha among several other states. Along with the 'Bharat

Bandh', the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee in Punjab also announced the three-day "rail roko" agitation till September 26 to lodge their protest.

Thirteen pairs of trains were also short-terminated as a precautionary measure. Train routes to Punjab are being avoided.

An additional police personnel was deployed in several parts, including the Delhi-Haryana border where members of the Bhartiya Kisan Union blocked roads.

# Bars, pubs open in TS from today

PATAN AFZAL BABU

**Hyderabad:** Now, the tipplers can take a sip of their favourite drink enjoying night recreation at their favourite bars as the long wait has come to an end and from Saturday all bars, clubs and tourist bars would lift their shutters.

The bars and clubs have been shut in March this year

soon after the nationwide lockdown was imposed to check the spread of deadly coronavirus pandemic in the country.

The Centre had given its nod to open the bars from September 1. State Excise and Prohibition department officials said more than 1,000 licensed bars were eagerly waiting for the government nod. As part of safety

measures, the bar managements have been asked to comply strictly with the corona safety norms like installation of non-touch infrared thermal screen and thermo meters at the entrance of the bars, proper queue management and hygienic conditions, crowd management at parking lots and wearing of masks by bar staff and crew. Cont'd on P5

# After Covid, Sisodia diagnosed with dengue

**New Delhi (IANS):** Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia, already receiving treatment for Covid-19 disease, was on Thursday diagnosed with dengue. However, his health condition is stable, a top official from the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan (LNJP) Hospital, in which Sisodia is admitted, informed. Sisodia was diagnosed with dengue while re-



ceiving treatment at the government-run LNJP hospital where he was admitted on Wednesday after he complained of persistent fever and falling levels of oxygen, the official added. "His oxygen saturation level

and platelets count in the blood is a little low, but overall health is stable," the official told IANS. The 48-year-old leader from Aam Aadmi Party had tested positive for Covid-19 on September 14 and was in home isolation since he exhibited no symptoms of the viral disease. "Had got my Covid-19 test done after I had a mild fever. The report has come posi-

tive. I have gone into self-isolation. As of now, I have no fever or any other issue. I am fine. By your blessings, I will recover fully and return to work soon," Sisodia had announced on Twitter after testing positive with Covid-19. After Delhi's health minister Satyendra Jain, Sisodia is the second minister in the Delhi cabinet to test positive for Covid-19.

# Would love to help: Trump on India-China border row

**Washington (PTI):** US President Donald Trump hoped on Thursday that India and China would be able to resolve their current border disputes as he reiterated his offer to help the two Asian giants. "I know that China now, and India, are having difficulty, and very very substantial difficulty. And hopefully, they will be able to work that out," Trump told reporters at the White House. "If we can help, we would love to help," he said. The president's remarks in this regard come days after senior Indian and Chi-

**I know that China now, and India, are having difficulty, and very very substantial difficulty. And hopefully, they will be able to work that out**

nese military commanders held talks aimed at resolving the months-long standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

The two countries agreed to stop sending more troops to their disputed border in the Himalayas. Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal reported that the border conflict is pushing India to look for an asymmetric response: flexing its naval might. "India is intensifying joint naval maneuvers with the US and its allies while building new ships and setting up a network of coastal surveillance outposts that would allow New Delhi to keep an eye on the Indian Ocean's maritime traffic," the newspaper said.

Continued on Page 5

# NCB grills Rakul, Deepika's ex-manager, Dharma honcho

**Mumbai (IANS):** The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday is questioning Bollywood actor Rakul Preet Singh, Dharma Productions executive producer Kshitij Ravi Prasad and Deepika Padukone's former manager Karishma Prakash in connection with its probe into the drugs case related to death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

According to NCB officials, Rakul, Karishma and Kshitij deposed before the drug law enforcement agency in a drug case related to the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.



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

NCB officials said Rakul was the first to arrive at the NCB office followed by Karishma and Kshitij. They are being questioned about their alleged drugs chats that came to the fore after the NCB seized the electronic devices of several people. Reportedly, the NCB has also asked Dharma Productions ex-Assistant Director Anubhav Chopra for questioning in connection with the case.

The development comes two days after the NCB summoned Deepika, Rakul, Shraddha Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan and others. Earlier in the day responding to a question on whether Ranveer

Singh will join the investigation with his wife Deepika, an NCB official said, "We confirm that we have not received any such request from any summoned person. The last email received from the concerned summoned person is only regarding joining the investigation."

On Thursday, the NCB recorded the statement of Sushant's former manager Shruti Modi and fashion designer Simone Khambatta. According to the NCB, the digital forensics of seized communication devices led to some workable information which was verified subsequently.





# THE NEW-AGE BRIDE

Something with a message, something you can dance in, something you can re-wear

SUJATA ASSOMULL

**L**ockdown may have forced the Big Fat Indian Wedding to become a leaner affair but a bride's approach to fashion is more discerning than ever. Over the last month or so designers from Tarun Tahiliani to Gaurav Gupta unveiled their new bridal collections via the digital medium. Designed at a time when we were learning how to co-exist with Covid-19, and after the time when the forced pause caused an upheaval wherein many socio-political issues came to the surface.

Fashion has always been driven by politics and social issues, but of late, consumption seems to have forced it to forget its voice. The pandemic is a reminder to fashion that it does drive change and designers are now talking issues even in their bridal collection.

Gaurav Gupta opened India Couture Week with a fashion film called, 'Name is Love'; on the runway were a diverse cast; trans-female, non-binary, same sex, plus

size and darker hued models. His presentation spoke of Gaurav's own beliefs as a known campaigner for issues such as LGBTQ rights, Gupta was an active spokesperson during the #Metoo movement.

He says, "Brides today know what's happening in the world, they just don't want pretty clothes. They want to wear something that is more than that."

As more Indian designers realise they have a ready made platform to address issues; brides-to-be will turn to designers whose messages speak to them. Gone are the days where brides wanted to be weighed down with embroidery, heavy silks and adorned with rows of necklaces. Today's bride wants to dance the night away, feel easy, yet be the belle of the ball. Which means there is a new lightness that has come into fashion be it Tarun Tahiliani, JJ Valaya or Rahul Mishra this has been a common to all fashion shows of late, and explains the popularity of thread embroidery and lighter embellishment techniques such as chikankari and aari.

In fact one of Mishra's most popular looks has been an easy fit hand embroidered A-line silk-organza circular gown, it talks of a bride who does not want to give into the convention of Indian bridal dressing. Brides

now longer want an outfit that hangs in their wardrobe as a memory, they want to be able to rewear their bridal outfit.

As fashion becomes more conscious and value driven, no one wants to spend on an outfit that they cannot wear again. Especially when it comes to the lehenga, which remains as the most popular choice for the actual wedding day outfit. Blouses from a bridal lehenga can be worn with a plain saree for formal functions, dupattas can be thrown over a silk outfit for a first Diwali or Karva Chauth, and the lehenga skirt can be teamed with a shirt as a fusion option for a friend's wedding.

Mishra says, "Many brides order separate crop tops with their lehengas to re-wear for a different kind of an occasion or style their blouses with a pair of jeans later."

Designers no longer design a wedding outfit as a one-time ensemble but as a piece that can be mixed and matched. It is something that newer entrants into the bridal fashion market such as Amit Aggarwal and Nachiket Barve are very conscious of, and reflects in their design approach. "Nothing pains me more than a lehenga sitting in a mothball lined trunk or stashed away for decades," says Barve.



TWEET PATROL



**SHILPA SHETTY KUNDR**  
**@THESHILPASHETTY**

Rest in peace, Bala Sir 🙏🏻🕊️  
Your illustrious career of over five decades will be a legacy that generations to come will know of and cherish. Heartfelt condolences to the entire family, praying for peace and strength in these tough times 🙏🏻🕊️  
#SPBalasubramanyam #SPB

QUICK TIP



## Use sunblock

**F**or healthy and glowing skin, wear sunscreen every day and proactively protect yourself from exposure to harmful rays. It's a key regimen for skin health. UVA rays penetrate deeper into the skin and cause skin aging. Even when it is cloudy outside you still need to protect yourself from the harmful rays. SPF 30-50/PA+++ sunscreen should be applied half an hour before sun exposure and be applied at least thrice a day. Sun-damage is cumulative, and regular use of sunblock slows down signs of premature aging like pigmentation, fine wrinkling and collagen depletion of the skin.

## Lakmé fashion week launches 3 designer labels for new gennext batch of LFW 2020

**L**akmé Fashion Week (LFW) announces the 30th batch of its most prestigious talent discovery programs – GenNext. Three winning designers were chosen from the first ever virtual jury selection process that saw participation from over 200 aspiring applicants. The selected designers will be presenting their creations by INIFD at Lakmé Fashion Week's first ever digital destination to be hosted between 21st to 25th October.

Given the physical limitations of submitting one's designs this season, the applicants had to submit a video montage of their ensembles to complement their presentation. The applicants were shortlisted and presented their collections digitally to an expert jury comprising Anaita Shroff Adajania, Amit Aggarwal, Pernia Qureshi, Tina Tahiliani, GenNext mentor Sabina Chopra along with Ashwath Swaminathan- Head of Innovations, Lakmé and Jaspreet Chandok, Head of Lifestyle Businesses, IMG Reliance.

After being announced winners, the new GenNext designers Dhātu Design Studio by Anmol Sharma, A-MISHÉ by Bhumika & Minakshi Ahluwalia and THE LOOM ART by Aarushi Kilawat were taken through a series of Masterclasses over 3 days with Sabina Chopra, the Lakmé Fashion Week team as well as industry experts to give an



understanding of brand building, business and marketing skills in addition to feedback and advice on their upcoming showcase and collection.

All 3 winning designers are conscious designers and have a sustainable collection. GenNext, for the first time, will be showcasing a fully sustainable collection on day 1 of Lakmé Fashion Week. This season, 'Sustainable Fashion Day' is going to be celebrated on both day 1 & 2.

In order to address the uncertain times that the design community is challenged with, Lakmé Fashion Week this season has announced

several initiatives to support the GenNext designers that have been introduced in the past as well. LFW will provide free stall space to all GenNext designers in the LFW virtual showroom. These GenNext designers will also get the opportunity to be a part of the schedule through a look book format of showcase without any designer fees. LFW will also support the GenNext designers through promotions on the LFW digital handles for the next 6 months to help them market their brands.

Since its inception, the 'INIFD presents GenNext' programme has been famed for identifying talent, providing young designers with a nurturing platform, and turning them into the new design stars of the industry. This season, unlike any other before, the GenNext program takes on a new avatar and gives the winning designers the chance to showcase their creations in a first of its kind virtual format.

Announcing the latest batch of GenNext designers, Ashwath Swaminathan, Head of Innovations, Lakmé said, "Discovering new talent who will be the future of fashion is one of the key pillars of Lakmé Fashion Week. We look forward to the 30th batch of the GenNext program display their collections on the virtual runway and reinvent the paradigms of fashion to be more future fit."

## Natural remedies for Eczema

People can use creams, natural products, and dietary and lifestyle changes to manage or prevent eczema flares, especially in the winter, when symptoms tend to be at their worst. Natural substances, such as aloe vera gel and coconut oil, can moisturize dry, broken skin. They can also combat inflammation and harmful bacteria to reduce swelling and prevent infection.

**H**ere are few home remedies and natural treatments that can soothe the dry, itching skin that comes with eczema.

### Aloe vera gel

A person can use aloe vera gel directly from the plant.

Aloe vera gel is derived from the leaves of the aloe plant. People have used aloe vera gel for centuries to treat a wide range of ailments. One common use is to soothe eczema. The antibacterial and antimicrobial effects can prevent skin infections, which are more likely to occur when a person has dry, cracked skin. Aloe's wound-healing properties may soothe the broken skin and promote healing.

### Coconut oil

Coconut oil contains healthful

fatty acids that can add moisture to the skin, which can help people with dry skin and eczema. Virgin coconut oil may protect the skin by helping combat inflammation and by improving the health of the skin barrier.

Apply cold-pressed virgin coconut oil directly to the skin after bathing and up to several times a day. Use it before bed to keep the skin moisturized overnight. Extra-virgin coconut oil is generally solid at room temperature, but the warmth of a person's body turns it to liquid. The oil is sold in health stores and online.

### Honey

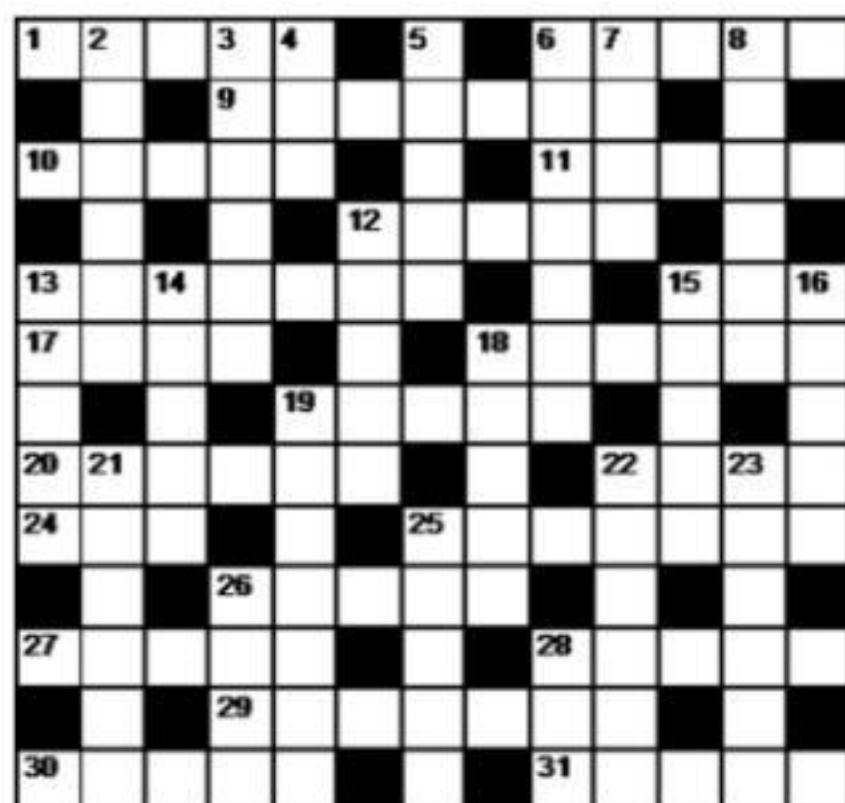
Honey is a natural antibacterial and anti-inflammatory agent, and people have used it to heal wounds for centuries. Honey can help heal wounds and boost immune sys-

tem function, which means that it can help the body fight off infections. It is useful for treating a variety of skin ailments, including burns and wounds, and that it has antibacterial capability. Applied directly to eczema, honey could help prevent infections while moisturizing the skin and speeding healing.

### Tea tree oil

Manufacturers derive tea tree oil from the leaves of the Melaleuca alternifolia tree. People often use this oil to help with skin problems, including eczema. Always dilute essential oils before using them on the skin.

Try mixing tea tree oil with a carrier oil, such as almond or olive oil, then applying the solution. Some products include tea tree oil in a diluted form.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 25

## CROSSWORD

### Across

- Akbar's grandfather (5)
- Radiates, discharges or expels (5)
- Enigma (7)
- A round ball (5)
- New York city on the Mohawk (5)
- Pictograph (5)
- Fate (7)
- Doctor, in short (3)
- Chooses or selects (4)
- Depart (6)
- Give merit (5)
- Trunks (6)
- Stagger (4)
- Yang's opposite (3)
- Italian port (7)
- Multimedia device (2-3)
- Zodiac sign (5)
- Distinctive glows (5)
- Revising copies (7)
- Double curves (5)
- Shouts (5)

### Down

- Dormant (6)
- Scopes or extents; bounds (6)
- Cereal grass (3)
- European country (5)
- Flared up (7)
- Legend or epic (4)
- Wealthy magnate (6)
- Chews (5)
- Eccentric (5)
- Grim, frowning (5)
- Channel port (5)
- String instrument (5)
- A freshwater fish (5)
- North African wild sheep (7)
- Greasing or lubricating (6)
- Shelter (6)
- Involve (6)
- Compass point (5)
- Algonquian language (4)
- Some (3)

## SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 25

## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Disha Patani becomes 'beauty' brand ambassador

PUJA GUPTA

**“B**eauty is an integral part of my life, even more since I became a model,” says Bollywood actress Disha Patani has been roped in as the beauty brand ambassador of Myntra.

Disha will be featured in a brand campaign that will bring to the table a holistic representation of a tech-savvy, modern-day celebrity with the appeal to connect and engage with enthusiasts for beauty and personal care products across various age-groups.

She adds, “Myntra has consistently pioneered the path to self-expression through fashion and beauty for fashion-forward customers, including myself. Through this association with Myntra, I hope to inspire and help people across India on their journey towards discovering their own unique fashion styles and preferences.”

Commenting on the association, Amar Nagaram, CEO, Myntra, said, “In a first-ever for Myntra, this association with Disha as our beauty brand ambassador represents our increasing focus on the booming Beauty and Personal Care segment. Through our tech-based personalization capabilities, a growing portfolio, and content innovation, we are extending our superlative consumer experience to cater to the beauty needs of consumers and help them complete the look. Disha joins our illustrious list of celebrity brand ambassadors ahead of the festive season and will help us in our vision of providing a holistic fashion and lifestyle offering to our fashion-forward consumers across the nation under one roof.”







**Guwahati:** The Assam government has excluded lessons on Jawaharlal Nehru's policies, the Ayodhya dispute and the Gujarat riots among topics from the Class 12 syllabus of the state examination board to "ease burden on students." The chap-

ters were deleted by the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) to apparently reduce the load by 30 percent on account of loss of academic schedule due to the Covid-19 pandemic. According to officials, topics have been cut short

in all the subjects of the three streams- Science, Arts and Commerce.

"The main objective is to reduce the exam stress of the students of the session 2020-21, due to the pandemic and to prevent learning gaps. This syllabi will be the academic portion for the preparation of upcoming final exams of Higher Secondary 1st and 2nd year to be held in 2021," AHSCE Secretary Manoranjan Kakati said in a recent report. The decision to trim the syllabus was taken on the recommendation of the se-

lected subject experts from various reputed institutions of the state, he said.

In Political Science, Jawaharlal Nehru's approach to nation-building and his foreign policy, politics of 'Garibi Hatao' and the first three general elections have been struck off. The reduced syllabi also excluded the implementation of Mandal Commission report, the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, the central governments under the United Front, earlier regimes of NDA and UPA, Ayodhya dispute, Gujarat riots, famine and suspen-

sion of five-year plans. Topics like the cold war, rise of China as an economic power in post-Mao era, conflicts and efforts for peace in South Asia, politics of disarmament, consequences of globalisation and anti-globalisation movements have also been done away with.

The salient features of the National Policy of Education 1986 and the units on women empowerment have been dropped from Class 12 syllabus. In Sociology, the experts have deleted the chapters on the struggle for women's equality,

minority rights and nation building, panchayati raj and challenges of social transformation, globalisation and social change, land reforms, secularisation and tribal movements.

For the History examination, the students will not require to study the Mughal court, Jesuits at the Mughal court, peasants, zamindars and the state, difference and conflict, religious ferment in North India and reconstructing histories of religious traditions. There will not be any material on liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation and in-

dustrial development in India.

Likewise, measures of government deficit, foreign exchange rate and determination of exchange rate in a free market and progress of nationalisation of banks and lead bank scheme from Banking were removed, the report said.

In the Swadesh Adhyayan subject, which was introduced in 2018 to study Assam and North East, changes in religious and linguistic demography, population explosion of Assam and the foreigners' issue have been deleted.

# Battle for Bihar: 3-phase poll from Oct 28 to Nov 7

**New Delhi (IANS):** The elections for the 243 Assembly seats in Bihar will take place in three phases between October 28 and November 7. The counting of votes will be on November 10, the Election Commission said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference here, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said, "The Bihar elections will be held in three phases. Elections for the first phase will take place on October 28 on 71 Assembly constituencies, elections for second phase on 94 seats will take place on November 3 and third phase poll on 78 Assembly seats on November 7."

He said that counting of votes will take place on November 10.

He also said, keeping in mind the Covid-19 pandemic, polling time has been increased by one hour. "Now the polling time will be between 7 a.m. to 6 p.m." he said. But it would not be not applicable to the left-wing Ef-



Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora (Right) with Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra announces the schedule for the Bihar Assembly Elections, at a Press conference, in New Delhi on Friday

fectured (LWE) areas.

The term of the Bihar Assembly comes to an end on November 29. According to the poll panel, there are 7.29 crore vot-

ers in the state, including 3.85 crore male and 3.4 crore female voters and 1.6 lakh service voters. In 2015 Bihar Assembly elections, the Rashtriya Janata

Dal (RJD) emerged as the largest party by winning 80 seats while the ruling Janata Dal-United won 71 seats, the Congress 27. The BJP managed to win 53 seats, followed by two seats by the LJP and one seat by Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular, others won 10 seats in the state. The BJP despite winning only 53 seats got the maximum percentage of vote share with 24 per cent, followed by the RJD with 18 per cent and JD-U 17 per cent. The Congress managed to get seven per cent vote share and LJP got around 4.8 per cent vote share.

"Face Masks, Sanitizer, Thermal scanners, gloves, face shield and PPE kits shall be used during the electoral process ensuring social distancing norms. Hand gloves shall be provided to all the electors for signing on the voter registers and pressing buttons of EVM for voting," it said.



## India crosses 58 lakh cases

**New Delhi:** India's COVID-19 caseload zoomed past 58 lakh, while over 47 lakh people have recuperated from the disease, pushing the national recovery rate to 81.74 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 58,18,570 with 86,052 infections being reported in a day. The death toll climbed to 92,290 with 1,141 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The total recoveries have surged to 47,56,164.

There are 9,70,116 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 16.67 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

## Heartbroken to hear about SP sir: Salman

**Mumbai:** Music legend S P Balasubrahmanyam was the voice behind several hit songs of Salman Khan, the first of which was for the soundtrack of 1989 movie Maine Pyar Kiya. Remembering Balasubrahmanyam and his legacy of work, Salman Khan tweeted: "Heartbroken to hear about S P Balasubrahmanyam sir... you will forever live on in your undisputed legacy of music! Condolence to the family #RIP."

Apart from Salman Khan's tribute, S P Balasubrahmanyam has also been remembered fondly by Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan, Lata Mangeshkar, Anil Kapoor, Hema Malini, among others.

"Devastated," A R Rahman wrote minutes after the singer's death. Later, he posted a tribute to S P Balasubrahmanyam, describing him as "The voice of victory, love, devotion and joy." With the words, Rahman share an obituary set to a song snippet.

Back to 1992 and Roja, S P Balasubrahmanyam was a giant of the music industry - having already won four of his six National Awards - and A R Rahman was



just starting out. SPB sang three songs in the Tamil original - Rukkumani Rukkumani, and the duet and solo versions of Kaadhal Rojave. In the Hindi release, he sang two duets - Yeh Haseen Waadiyan and a version of Roja Jaaneman (the second version was sung by Hariharan). Roja was the first of many SPB-Rahman projects together. They worked together on any number of films, including the massive hits Gentleman, Sivaji and Enthiran. Songs such as Anjali Anjali, Vellimalare, Kadalenum, Azhagana Rakshasiye, Swasamae, July Matham, Minnale Nee and Thoda Thoda are some of Rahman and S P Balasubrahmanyam's most memorable creations.

## Centre sets up National Medical Commission, abolishes MCI

**New Delhi (IANS):** Putting into effect the 'historic reforms' in the field of medical education, the Union government has set up the National Medical Commission (NMC) along with four other autonomous boards while abolishing the MCI.

The Undergraduate and Postgraduate Medical Education Boards, Medical Assessment and Rating Board, and Ethics and Medical Registration Board have been constituted to help the NMC in day-to-day functioning. The four boards come into existence with effect from Friday. The decades-old Medical Council of India (MCI) stands abolished.

The reforms are aimed to steer the country's medical education towards a transparent, qualitative and accountable system. The basic change is that the

regulator is now 'selected' on merit, as opposed to an 'elected' regulator.

Men and Women with impeccable integrity, professionalism, experience, and stature have now been placed at the helm to steer the medical education reforms further. The notifications in this regard were issued on September 24. Dr SC Sharma (retired Professor of ENT Department, AIIMS, Delhi) has been selected as the NMC Chairperson for three years. The NMC will also have 10 ex-officio members, including Presidents of the four autonomous boards; Dr Jagat Ram, Director of PGIMER, Chandigarh; Dr Rajendra A Badwe, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai; and Dr Surekha Kishore, Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur.

## Rlys cancel several trains in view of 'rail roko' agitation

**New Delhi/Chandigarh (IANS):** With the announcement of a three-day 'rail roko' protest in several parts of the country by farmers over controversial agriculture Bills, the Northern Railways cancelled three trains and curtailed routes of 20 special trains, officials said on Friday. Northern Railways spokesperson Deepak Kumar said, "Following the farmers agitation in Punjab, the Northern Railways has decided to cancel the services of three trains from September 25 and 26." He said that the trains have been cancelled in Ferozepur Railway division till September 26 in view of the safety of passengers. The cancelled trains included Haridwar-Amritsar Jan Shatabdi Express, New Delhi-Jammu Tawi Rajdhani Express, Amritsar-Haridwar Jan Shatabdi Express. Besides the cancellation of three trains, the NR also partially cancelled 20 trains that included Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Express till Ambala Cantt, New Jalpaigudi-Amritsar Karm Bhumi Express till Ambala cantt, Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Express till Ambala cantt.



## Keralite trained by ISIS guilty of waging war against India

**Kochi:** An Indian national, trained by ISIS in Iraq in 2015, was found guilty by a court in Kochi on Friday for hatching a

criminal conspiracy to wage war against the Governments of India and Iraq.

Subahani Haja Moideen, a Keralite, was arrested by the NIA in 2016 following a crackdown in Tamil Nadu with the help of central security agencies and other state police, foiling designs of ISIS operatives to attack or eliminate certain prominent persons and target places of public importance.

## Fresh trouble for Vijayan as CBI to probe his pet project

**Kochi(IANS):** The CBI on Friday filed a detailed report in the special court here on the Kerala government's now controversial Life Mission Housing Project and has decided to take up the case, in a setback to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who was losing his cool whenever the media questioned him on the issue.

The next step for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will be to register an FIR and list all those who will be questioned.

Sensing trouble, it was on Wednesday that Vijayan decided to order a Vigilance probe into the project.

The Life Mission project, a pet one for Vijayan ever since he assumed office in 2016, was floated to build houses for the homeless and landless, using funds from sponsorships, and the role of the state government was to provide the land only. The project, however, ran into trouble when Anil Akkara, the Congress legislator from Wadakkanchery in Thrissur, first raised questions about the wrongdoings in a building project in his constituency, cleared with funds from UAE-based charity organisation, the Red Crescent.

Though Vijayan had been maintaining that the state government, apart from handing over the land, had no role in the project, but things began changing since the Kerala gold smuggling case surfaced.

This particular project was routed through the UAE Consulate, where main accused Swapna Suresh and P.S. Saritha, whose arrest led to uncovering of the scam, both worked. It turned murkier, when news surfaced that the son of state Industries Minister E.P. Jayarajan was also close to Swapna.

Suspensions were also raised after Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of the powerful CPI-M state Secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan,



was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate.

Adding to the problems, it came out that the commission for the project was not Rs 1 crore, but more than that, as per Vijayan's media advisor as well as state Finance Minister Thomas Issac.

Vijayan, for the past one month, has been evading media's questions about the Life Mission project.

Speaking to the media, Akkara noted it was he who had first raised this fraud and he approached Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan seeking justice. "I knew the CBI would take up this case, as I had given them a detailed complaint on this case. Later I was called by the CBI and I gave them all the details I had about this project. Now I am happy that the CBI has taken the case up. This was a classic case where in the name of the poor, money was swindled... such a thing should never ever happen," said Akkara.



## Police reforms: A long overdue exercise

The need for police reforms in India is long recognised. There has been almost three decades of discussion by government created committees and commissions. Way back in 1979, the National Police Commission (NPC) was set up to report on policing and give recommendations for reform. The Commission produced eight reports, dozens of topic specific recommendations and also a Model Police Act.

None of the major recommendations were adopted by any government. Delay in reforming the police has only led to increased illegal arrests, encounters, favouritism, politicisation and even anarchy in some areas as has been witnessed in several cases. Refusal of the police to file cases against noted criminals, politically influential persons and the hand-in-glove attitude in investigations has eroded people's confidence in the system itself resulting in huge surge in court cases leading to a huge pendency and delayed deliverance of justice.

The infamous Vikas Dubey encounter in UP and the politicisation of the police forces evident as in Kanganana Ranaut vs Maharashtra Government where it has become Bihar vs Maharashtra and even Centre

vs the State Government is another classic example of the rot that has set in. This persuaded two former Directors General of Police (DGPs) in 1996 to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court asking the Court to direct governments to implement the NPC recommendations. In the course of the 10-year long case, in 1998 the Court set up the Ribeiro Committee which handed in its reports in 1999.

This was followed by the Padmanabhaiah Committee report in 2000 and eventually the Police Act Drafting Committee (PADC or Soli Sorabjee Committee) that drafted a new model police bill to replace the colonial 1861 Police Act. Meanwhile very little was ever done on the ground to improve policing or implement recommendations put forth by any of these committees or commissions. It was only a decade later in 2006 that the Court delivered its verdict. In what is popularly referred to as the Prakash Singh case the Supreme Court ordered that reform must take place.

The States and union territories were directed to comply with seven binding directives that would kick start reform. These directives pulled together the various strands of improvement generated since 1979.

The Court required immediate implementation of its orders either through executive orders or new police legislation. Initially, the Court itself monitored compliance of all States and Union Territories. However, in 2008 it set up a three-member Monitoring Committee with a two-year mandate to examine compliance.

The seven directives provide practical mechanisms to kick-start reform. The scheme puts in place mechanisms to better ensure that: the police have functional responsibility while remaining under the supervision of the political executive within its legitimate bounds. As the issue again has reached the Supreme Court, even the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative urged the Apex Court to continuously monitor implementation of the reforms by the states.

Unfortunately, police reforms do not suit any government in this country. Parliamentary Research Services (PRS), a leading NGO in India, put out an excellent report in 2017 on police reforms in India. They articulated six areas where considerable work was still needed—police accountability; the need to separate law and order from investigation; poor working conditions and an overburdened police force; constabulary related issues; police infrastructure; and public-police relations. It will be insanity to refuse reforms.



## Rohtang highway tunnel to prove a blessing for T-90 tanks too

VISHAL GULATI

One of the world's most challenging and a marvel of engineering motorways -- the Rohtang Pass highway tunnel -- in the Himalayas is strategic as it will bring the Indian Army with its T-90 tanks and infantry combat vehicles closer to the Line of Actual Control, project engineers said on Friday.

It is all set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3.

The 9.2 km-long horseshoe-shaped single-tube, two-lane tunnel -- the world's longest motorable tunnel at over 3,000 metre above the sea level, coming up under the 3,978 metre Rohtang Pass in the Pir Panjal range some 30 km from here in Himachal Pradesh.

"The all-weather tunnel can take any military traffic, even armoured vehicles," an official aware of the development told IANS.

However, the all-weather road to forward areas of Ladakh requires more tunnels, either at Shikunla or at the high passes located on the 475-km Manali-Leh road for round-the-year connectivity.

Considered a wonder of human perseverance, the Rohtang tunnel, a dream of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and named after him posthumously, is going to be completed after 10 years of sheer hard work by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) with an outlay of Rs 4,000 crore.

Talking exclusively to IANS, project Director Colonel Parikshit Mehra said the tunnel has manoeuvred one of the largest shear zones in the history of highway tunnelling.

"A length of 587 m across the Seri-nullah or rivulet zone took us four years and the balance 8.4 km took almost the same time," he said.

Mehra, who did twin master's degree in tunneling, including the one from Austria, said during excavation the temperature inside the tunnel rose to 55 degrees Celsius before breakthrough and it hardly crossed 20 degrees after that.

On its vulnerability, he said, "The deep tunnels in general are not vulnerable to tectonic effects since they move as a rigid body with shock waves.

"However portal buildings are vulnerable to earthquakes and in our case earthquake loads have been considered in design."

On the decision to keep the main and escape tunnel within the same opening was with a viewpoint not to disturb a large extent of rock mass and restrict excavation to a specific area only, Colonel Mehra said.

Globally, the escape tunnel is built separately along the main tunnel.

And no wonder the working conditions were relatively short and tough too owing to climatic conditions. "The north portal of the tunnel was accessible only for five-six months in a year," he said.

The tunnel construction, a blessing for the people of landlocked Lahaul-Spiti district who mark a new beginning in their lives this winter, was abandoned on numerous occasions, primarily due to the complex geology that included fracture zones and fault lines.

Colonel Mehra said all major works have been completed. Now cleaning and final touches are going on inside the tunnel.

He said for at least two years the BRO would regulate the movement of vehicles through the tunnel. Later, it would be handed over to the local civil authorities.

The tunnel will shorten the distance between this Himachal Pradesh tourist resort and Keylong, the headquarters of Lahaul-Spiti, by 46 km, shortening the travel time by nearly three hours.

With the maximum speed limit of 80 km per hour, the tunnel is expected to see traffic of 3,000 cars and 1,500 trucks a day.

The tunnel has consumed 12,252 metric tonnes of steel, 1,69,426 metric tonnes of cement and 1,01,336 metric tonnes of concrete, and excavated out 5,05,264 metric tonnes of soil and rocks by adopting the latest Austrian tunnelling method for construction.

The construction contract of the tunnel has been awarded to Strabag-Afcons, a joint venture between India-based Afcons Infrastructure and Austria's Strabag.

Chandigarh-based Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) has designed mechanical structures to ensure the safety of motorists by countering avalanches on both ends of the tunnel that remain under snow even during peak summer.

Engineers of SASE, a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratory, said self-escape snow galleries have been erected for the safety of motorists after studying the local dynamics of avalanches like force and velocity.

The tunnel's foundation stone was laid by United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on June 28, 2010, in the Solang Valley near Manali, some 570 km from the national capital.

The completion of the Atal tunnel is a key element in the Defence Ministry's attempts to make the entire 475 km-long Manali-Keylong-Leh highway, used by the armed forces to reach forward areas in Ladakh bordering China and Pakistan, motorable almost round the year.

# Impartiality of Speaker under a cloud

### IN MY OPINION



V RAMU SARMA

Corona pandemic has taught us many things. It has helped in reminding us of our ancient methods of healthy living and usage of various ingredients to boost the immunity levels in our body. Along with this, its time all political parties, national and regional focus attention on reviving the lost glory of constitutional positions in the country.

We have seen how since 1977, the Apex Court had been critical of the role of Governors particularly regarding the exercise of Article 356 to dismiss a state government. There were occasions when it had cautioned them not to become puppets in the hands of the Centre. Despite the flak, governors continued to behave as political appointees who must obey the master's voice.

The Supreme Court in its judgment in the BP Singhal case on May 7, 2010, said, "Governor is the constitutional head of the state. He is not an employee or an agent of the Union government nor a part of any political team." But things have not changed till date. Allegations keep pouring in from opposition parties that Governors continue to behave as if they were part of the political dispensation that appointed them. When these very parties who level allegations come to power, they also follow the same pattern and defend the undefendable acts.

Another important position is that of a Speaker. A Speaker is supposed to be the epitome of impartiality and regarded to be the true guardian of the traditions of parliamentary democracy. The role of the Speaker is multi-faceted; part-Chair, part-referee. But of late it is being seen that they too are getting mired in controversies. The question that is being asked is if governors are to keep off politics, should Speakers, who enjoy an equally dignified position under the Constitution, not behave accordingly?

The Speaker enjoys a unique position because while a gov-

ernment may fall with simple majority of members present and voted, to remove a Speaker the number of votes against him must be higher than half of the total strength of the House.

Jawaharlal Nehru had nicely articulated the Speaker's role: "The Speaker represents the House. He represents the dignity of the House, the freedom of the House, and because the House represents the nation, in a particular way, the Speaker becomes symbol of the nation's freedom and liberty. Therefore, that should be an honoured position. A free position and should be occupied always by persons of outstanding ability and impartiality."

But then is that happening in our country? In 1992, the Speaker of Manipur assembly disqualified an MLA. The affected MLA went to Supreme Court which set aside the decision of the Speaker. He refused to accept the court verdict and ultimately, the Apex Court had to summon him in contempt. Even then he refused to appear.

In Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the Speakers in both Assemblies were alleged to have helped the ruling parties by disqualifying the MLAs under the Tenth Schedule so that the then ruling party could benefit and keep its flock together.

The Speaker under the Constitution has the power to disqualify if a member quits the party on whose ticket and symbol he had won and crosses over to another party. But he should not use it as a means to help the ruling party. Similarly, as per Constitution, the Speaker and the Governor are expected to follow the ethos of the Constitution and not to take sides in the political thickets.

But there have been any number of incidents where the Speakers in various States have been alleged to have taken decisions to protect the interests of the party in power. For example, in Andhra Pradesh we have seen that when over 20 members from the opposition YSRC joined TDP their disqualification issue was put on back burner and they even became ministers in the cabinet.

Such incidents have now thrown up arguments that the power of disqualification of a member should not be given to a Speaker since the Speakers continue to be members of the ruling party. Normally, a



Another important position is that of a Speaker. A Speaker is supposed to be the epitome of impartiality and regarded to be the true guardian of the traditions of parliamentary democracy. The role of the Speaker is multi-faceted; part-Chair, part-referee. But of late it is being seen that they too are getting mired in controversies. The question that is being asked is if governors are to keep off politics, should Speakers, who enjoy an equally dignified position under the Constitution, not behave accordingly?

The Speaker enjoys a unique position because while a government may fall with simple majority of members present and voted, to remove a Speaker the number of votes against him must be higher than half of the total strength of the House.

Speaker is expected to resign from the membership of the party on whose ticket he had been elected to ensure that he acts in an impartial manner. But that was never seen at least in the last four decades. All Speakers continue to be members of a political party either de jure or de facto.

There have been suggestions that the speakers should not have the quasi-judicial powers to disqualify a member and instead a permanent tribunal headed by a retired Supreme

Court judge or a retired chief justice to deal with such cases be set up. In short, many felt that there should be an independent mechanism to examine the cases where disqualification of a member has been sought.

Such a body could do away with the delay in disqualification of a member. What is happening now is that since the Speaker has absolute power and as there is no time limit within which he has to decide and certain procedure to be followed has been laid down in Tenth

Schedule, the decision is kept in abeyance on one pretext or the other and in many cases even the term of the assembly comes to an end and still no decision is announced.

The Speaker is not supposed to participate in programmes like campaign in elections or hold political meetings. When Balram Jakhar used to be the Speaker of Lok Sabha, he had an MP who used to raise questions pertaining to the constituency from where the Speaker was elected.

But now we have some who feel that they are speakers only when they have to conduct the proceedings of the Assembly and during non-session days they are political leaders of the party to which they belong. We have recently seen the kind of comments the Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Assembly had made against the leader of Opposition and the TDP leaders and his comments even on another constitutional body the High Court judges.

This raises the fundamental question. Has time come for the political parties to give training in the provisions of Constitution and the responsibilities of the office the politicians hold? Even when a constable is appointed, he is made to undergo one-year training in CrPC and other related rules. May be its high time, the politicians who are elevated to constitutional positions should also undergo some training with regard to various constitutional provisions. All political parties need to seriously ponder over this if democracy has to survive in the country.

## 'Manavadu' who ruled music world

The untimely demise of melodious singer SP Balasubrahmanyam who succumbed to Corona virus after undergoing excellent treatment in a famous hospital in Chennai for about fifty days, is a shock to film industry, especially Tollywood. When NTR and ANR were tuned to Ghantasala's songs, his void was filled with SPB and continued till the end of these two veteran actors. God did not pay heed to the prayers for saving the life of SPB.

N Ramalakshmi, Secunderabad

### SPB- the immortal voice

The voice that rings in all ears, The voice that plays on all heart-strings, The voice that elevates all souls,



## LETTERS

The voice that runs in all blood-streams,  
The voice that inspires all music-loves,  
The voice that lends eternal beauty  
And glory to the world of music  
Left the mundane world  
With a huge void in music,  
Ascended the celestial world,  
Called by the Master of the Universe  
To be in His court of divine musicians  
And to enthrall all in heaven  
With his most mellifluous, ever-enchanted voice,  
That is immortal SPB,  
Not just a legendary musician,  
But himself an institution of music,  
A myriad-splendored genius  
Who strode like a colossus  
In the world of music,  
Leaving his unique, indelible stamp,

Winning love, affection and adoration  
From all the people of the world,  
May God cradle his blessed soul  
In rest and peace  
Dr Venugopala Rao Kaki, Kakinada

### Ineffective medical treatment

It is a pity that best medical treatment and prayers of millions of music lovers could not save legendary singer S. P. Balasubrahmanyam, who was affectionately called as Ganagandharvudu (Celestial Singer) by people of Telugu states (September 25). I am sure world would have never seen multi-talented artist like SPB in the past and would never see in future. May his soul attain sadgati.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

### Irreplaceable void

SP Balu made his debut as playback singer in 1966 with Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna and since then he had no looking back. He won number of awards including Padma awards, Film Fare and Nandi awards. He entered into Guinness Book of world records for singing more songs in a day. He became a dubbing artist with veteran actor Kamal Hassan's film 'Manmadha Leela'. He provided voice over to Rajanikanth, Salman

Khan, Bhagyaraj, Mohan, Anil Kapoor and Girish Karnad. He recorded duets with senior as well as budding singers. He gave life to several songs both duets and devotional songs. His demise created a great void in the film world.

We the Telugu speaking States must feel proud as the great singer born in PSR Nellore district and became a well-known personality in the world. Though he was no more physically he remained in our hearts with soul filling songs for ever. I pray Almighty to keep his soul in rest.

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru

### Eternal memories

The legendary singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam Garu's demise left the music industry void. He was blessed with a beautiful and unique voice which set a mark in the music industry. He sang over 40,000 songs in 16 Indian languages and won Guinness Book of World Record for his highest songs. He is a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan in the year 2001 & 2011. He is also a holder of 25 Nandi awards in the Telugu film industry. He gave many singers a life to enter the industry through his programme "Padutha teeyaga". He may not be with us, but his evergreen songs and voice will remain with us forever.

Sreelakshmi Peri, Hyderabad

### Humility was his virtue

In the death of SP Balasubrahmanyam, the film industry lost a multi-talented person. As a playback singer, musician, actor, dubbing artist, SP Balu left an indelible mark and won millions of fans and admirers. In his 51-year long singing career, Balu sang about 40,000 songs in 16 languages, mesmerizing thousands of his fans and bringing house down on many occasions. For about 45 movies Balu composed music and in the Telugu movies 'Padamata Sandya Raagam', 'Thoorupuve Railla' and 'Jackie', his numbers are very delectable and soothing.

Winning two times the national award for best singer, Balu went on bagging 5 Filmfare Awards and 25 times best singer awards at State level. He was second to none in finding and encouraging new singing talent and many young and promising singers in the South now are his discoveries and disciples. Even after attaining Himalayan heights in his eventful life, Balu remained humble and never threw his weight around and this is one big lesson our youngsters have to learn from him besides his hardwork and discipline.

M Somasekhara Prasad, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com



# Be prompt in protecting law and women, cops told

**Anantapur:** As many as 273 probationary police sub-inspectors have completed training and passed out of the Police Training College (PTC) here on Friday.

“Police should always be available to people with their services. They should always be a step ahead in maintaining law and order and women’s protection,” said home minister Mekhatoti Sucharita, presiding over the passing out ceremony.

She said every woman should receive justice when she approaches police with a problem.

Sucharita advised the new pass outs to be innovative in cracking crime, with new thinking and making use of technology.

“You should not see police job as a profession, but as a service to the people. You should engage in friendly policing,” she said.

The home minister said the government is injecting young blood into the police department, giving details about new recruitment into the department in 2020. According to Sucharita, five Indian Police Service (IPS) officials have been allocated to the AP cadre, even as 25 DSPs have also completed their training. Likewise, 1,591 constables have also successfully completed their training.

“At the village level, we are striving to deliver police services for every family. We have allo-



Home Minister Mekhatoti Sucharita along with DGP D Gautam Sawang receives guard of honor during passing out parade of probationary Sub-Inspectors at PTC in Anantapur on Friday

► **While speaking at the passing out programme of 273 probationary SIs at Police Training College, Home Minister Sucharita says every woman who approaches police should receive justice**

► **Tells new pass outs to be innovative in cracking crime using modern technology**  
► **Vows that the govt will not allow crimes against SC, ST and BC Minorities**

cated women police officers to protect women in every village,” she said. The minister said Disha app, a women’s protection initiative, has been downloaded 11 lakh times until now.

“We will not allow crimes against SC, ST and BC minorities and deal land encroachment crimes with an iron fist,” she said.

Spandana initiative received 87,000 complaints, out of which 80 per cent have been solved, said

the minister.

Detailing other initiatives of the state government, Sucharita said forensic labs are being planned in Amaravati, Tirupati and Visakhapatnam.

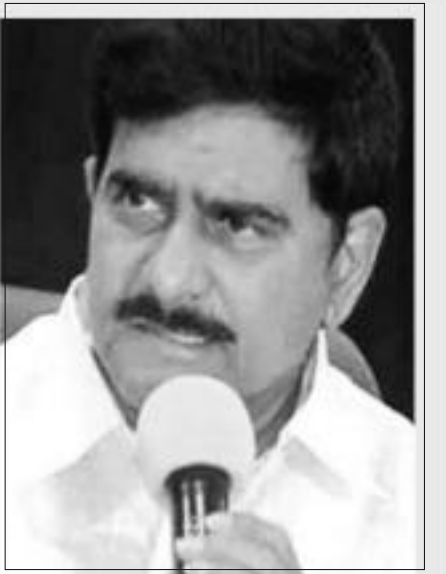
DGP Goutham Sawang speaking on the occasion lauded the services of the police during the Covid-19 challenge saying that the police worked hard day and night braving the life-threatening virus and keep-

ing service above family and personal safety..

The home minister handed over certificates to the trainee sub-inspectors. SP Bhusharapu Yesu Babu coordinated the programme. Those who were present included Hindupur MP Gorantla Madhav, MLC Gopala Reddy, DIG Kanti Rana Tata, IG Nagendra Kumar and local MLA Anantha Venkatarama Reddy.

# Uma lambasts failure of YSRCP govt to take Polavaram forward

- **Uma demands explanation from CM as his government could complete only 0.63% of works while the TDP govt finished 70.83% works by making dedicated efforts**
- **Says Naidu reviewed Polavaram every Monday and took 3 tonne documents to New Delhi to convince Centre**



HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** YSRCP government miserably failed in executing the construction works of Polavaram irrigation project, said TDP senior leader and former water resources minister Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao.

Speaking in a press conference here on Friday, he accused the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government of covering up its inefficiency and failure in completing the Polavaram project by blaming the previous government of Chandrababu Naidu even 16 months after coming to power in the state.

Uma demanded the Chief Minister to explain why his government could complete only 0.63 per cent of works while the TDP finished 70.83 per cent works by making dedicated efforts. At that time,

Naidu reviewed Polavaram every Monday and took three tonne documents to New Delhi to convince the Union Jal Shakti ministry and Central Water Commission.

He asserted that the TDP’s determined efforts helped to make the Central technical advisory committee to approve Rs 55,548 crore for the project. But now, the YSRCP government’s inefficiency led to reduction of these funds to just Rs 47,728 crore.

In a project for which a Guinness record was achieved earlier, the present regime has got the distinction of having slowed down to a sluggish pace. Neither the Chief Minister nor the minister concerned can talk how much concrete has been put into the dam since their party came to power, he criticised.

# YSRCP flexis ‘warn’ Constitutional institutions

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Flexis warning ‘constitutional systems’ against ‘interfering’ in the work of the government elected by people created a flutter on Friday. The flexis appeared on the busy Kanakadurgamma Varadhi in Vijayawada much to the bewilderment of the passers-by.

The flexis come up in the backdrop of attacks by YSRCP leaders, including ministers, MLAs and MPs, against the judiciary over its rulings on several issues related to government’s decisions.

The posters have photographs of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and Pedana MLA Jogi Ramesh prominently and credit YSRCP TUC leader Madu Sivaramakrishna as the publisher.

Jogi Ramesh justified the flexis stating that they were



aimed at the people who were “misusing and managing” the institutions.

Ramesh further warned that people would not tolerate while the elected government was shackled and revolt against those who hold constitutional posts and try to manipulate the constitutional institutions to meddle with the government.

- **The flexis put up on Kanakadurgamma Varadhi say people will not remain mute spectators if the govt elected by people is restrained in the name of constitutional institutions**
- **The warning comes in the wake of strong criticism of courts by ruling party MPs, Ministers and MLAs over its decisions on various issues**

He said leaders like TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu who were “managing the Constitutional authorities against the government” should realise that due to their vested interests 30 lakh poor would not get house sites, the children of the poor would not get English medium education among other benefits.

# 180 days maternity leave extended to volunteers, secretariat staff

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The state government sanctioned maternity leave for 180 days with full pay to married women employees working in the village and ward secretariats. Ajay Jain, principal secretary, department of gram volunteers and ward volunteers and village secretariats and ward Secretariats in a GO on Friday said that the government has decided to sanction the maternity leave on full pay to the GSWs women employees who are on probation at a consolidated pay of Rs 15,000 per month.

Kakarla Venkata Rami Reddy, chairman, AP Government Employees Federation, said that the government had considered the requests of the federation and took this decision. He thanked the government for extending maternity leaves to the women employees working in the village and ward secretariats.



Lord on Surya Prabha vahanam

# Lord rides Surya Prabha vahanam

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirumala:** On the seventh day of ongoing annual Brahmotsavams at Tirumala on Friday morning, Sri Malayappa Swami as Kesava Murthy blessed the devotees on Surya Prabha vahanam.

Legend says that the Sun God, the key architect of life, is dragged by seven horses with Anura as his charioteer. Sun God is symbolically represented for blessing with good health.

It is the common belief that the darshan of Surya Prabha vahanam would provide a long life to devotees and also relief to

them from all illnesses.

In the evening, Chandra Prabha vahanam was conducted as part of Brahmotsavams.

The processional deity in the form of Vennamudha Krishnu with dazzling ornaments, atop flower decked Chandrababha vahanam, enthralled devotees.

TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy, TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal and others were present.

# Polycet to be held on Sept 27

- **Exam begins at 11 am**
- **Candidates are not allowed after 11 am**
- **PPE kits are provided to corona positive candidates**

**Vijayawada:** The common entrance test for polytechnic courses throughout the state will be held on September 27.

In a statement, on Friday, Special commissioner for State Technical Education department MM Naik said, “Around 88,484 candidates in 388 centres all over the state would be appearing. The test will be held between 11.00 am 1.00 pm”. The candidates will not be allowed into the centres after 11 am. They should bring hall ticket, pen and pencil, along with mask, gloves sanitiser, and water bottle. The candidates would be allowed into the examination hall only after testing with a thermometer. The seating would be arranged as per the Covid-19 guidelines at all the centres.

He said that PPE kits will be supplied to the candidates who are affected by coronavirus. The candidates should fill the Covid-19 declaration form and advised them to download the new hall tickets and covid-19 declaration form from the website <https://polycetap.nic.in>

# All set for Civils Prelim test on October 4

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** All necessary arrangements are being made in the 68 centres in four cities in the state, where 30,199 candidates are appearing for the preliminary examination for the Civil Services conducted by the Union Public Service Commission on October 4, said principal secretary (political) Praveen Prakash.

He said in a statement here on Friday that the district collectors of Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati and Anantapur would act

► **30,199 candidates appear for exams in 68 centres in four cities in the state**

► **Principal secretary (political) Praveen Prakash says all candidates should wear mask or face cover and gates will be closed 10 minutes before start of exams**

as supervisory officials and two senior IAS officers in the centres, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada,

and one IAS officer in Tirupati and Anantapur, would be observers.

The candidates are asked to arrive at the exam centres one in advance to appear for the two exam sessions, from 9.30 am to 11.30 am and again 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. The gates would be closed ten minutes before commencement of the exam, the principal secretary said.

Bags, mobile phones, any IT-related things, electronic communication material would not be allowed into the examination hall. Praveen Prakash said that every

candidate must wear mask or face cover while attending the exam.

The district collectors were given clear instructions to fully sanitise examination premises, entrance, tables and chairs in the examination hall, washrooms and toilets. At every examination hall, sanitisers, face masks and gloves should be kept handy, he said. There should be a distance of two metre between the two candidates. The district collectors were instructed to make sure there was uninterrupted power supply at all the examination centres.

# Bars, pubs open in TS from today

Continued from P1

However, officials said, gatherings, musical events and dance floors were prohibited inside the bars and clubs.

It is also mandatory to deep clean and sanitise entire bar premises morning and evening and proper ventilation should be maintained. Official sources said due to the closure of bars and clubs for the last six months, the state government incurred a loss of nearly Rs 1,000-crore revenue.

The bar managements said that they suffered huge losses during the lockdown and the delay in allowing them to resume trade aggravated their woes. Each licensed bar will have to pay Rs 41 lakh as annual fee. Since the managements are facing financial difficulties, the bar managements association has urged the government to reduce the licence fee. A decision from the government is awaited, they added.

# Would love to help: Trump on India-China border row

Continued from P1

A “Grand Tamasha” podcast with senior fellow and director of the South Asia Program of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, eminent American expert on India and South Asia Ashley Tellis said the Trump administration has taken a very transparent position of support for India in this crisis.

# An ardent devotee of Lord Venkateswara

Continued from P1

He also had a special relationship with the TTD. He had sung many a song over the Lord for TTD projects and Srivari albums for private recording companies. His song, “Thara Tharala Tirumala” which he had sung when SVBC was launched is an evergreen song. He also used to participate in every Annamacharya Harikatha Kalakarula Satham till 2019. That was the last public function of SPB in Tirupati city. In that programme he had participated along with family members and shared his memories and attachment with the TTD as well as Tirupati.

# APSSDC signs 3 agreements for skill development in State

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The AP State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) entered in to three Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) with three companies to introduce skill development courses across the state. This event took place through videoconference on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, industries minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy said the government signed these MoUs to establish skills university and skill colleges in all Lok Sabha constituencies besides a Centres of Excellence (CoE) to strengthen the skill ecosystem and create industry aligned workforce. The three MoUs were signed by APSSDC with Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), NSE Academy and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)

for partnerships with the skill colleges to drive sector-specific and industry-aligned courses.

The signing ceremony was presided by Goutham Reddy and attended by Challa Madhusudhan Reddy, chairman, APSSDC, G Anantha Ramu, special chief secretary and others from government. Vishal Bharadwaj, CEO, DBF, Abhilash Misra, CEO, National Stock Exchange (NSE) Academy and others. The DBF would set up a CoE in construction sector at RGUKT, Idupulapaya in Kadapa district. Through this partnership, the DBF will set up and operate the CoE, design and develop courses and curriculum, undertake training programmes, conduct ToT (training of trainers), provide on-the-job training, conduct industrial trainings and visits, and faculty development programmes.

# Nellorians recall their association with SPB

P V PRASAD

**Nellore:** An ordinary stage singer from Nellore city has grown into a legendary singer with his unique professional talent and his colleagues and mentors remember their association with him, who has been a soft and humble even though he had attained to the level of an ace singer in the country. Though Sripathi Panditharadhya Bala Subrahmanyam popularly known as Balu was born in Chittoor district, his bonding with Nellore is inseparable due to his father and Harikatha artiste Sripathi Panditharadhya Sambamurthy. Family members of Balu are masters in classical Carnatic music except himself and his sister signer Sailaja. But his friends say he was highly passionate in singing songs and associated with local singers like Paturu Srinivasulu and others who were popular in 1960-70s.

“I have started stage performances since 1959 and Balu approached me in 1962 and requested some support. I used to sing only songs of Ghan-tasala and Balu’s voice was not suitable for rendering such old melodies. I said his voice is unique and suggested him to follow his own style. I taught him only six popular songs of Ghan-tasala and we both used to perform them on local stages,” said octogenarian Paturu Srinivasulu, sharing his memories with Balu.

Sripathi Panditharadhya Bala Subrahmanyam popularly known as Balu is having many friends and Yammamra Kameswara Prasad, known as Kamayya, was one among them. Balu, Kamayya,

**His friends say Balu used to practise songs in local Swatantra Park at Gandhi Statue in the evening hours and participate in local competitions in Nellore, Gudur and other places**



Srinivasulu, and others used to practice songs in local Swatantra Park at Gandhi Statue in the evening hours. He used to participate in local competitions in Nellore, Gudur and other places. He was having no music gurus in classical music and achieved the talent by virtue of his father’s Harikatha performances and family environment, said Balu’s friends.

Balu had to discontinue his studies for almost a year due to some health issues and during this period he started to participate in various singing competitions, and he received second prize from popular singer S Janaki in Gudur when Kalidasa Kalaniketan conducted competitions. He, then, developed a passion and resumed his engineering (AMIE) course in Chennai.

Balu used to say in many programmes that SP Kodandapani turned his life. He was offered to sing in Sri Sri Maredada Ramanna in 1966 filmed by the popular comedian Padmanabham which was his first break.

It was said he started Simhapuri Kalasamithi and then he was having his own Balasubrahmanyam and party, the musical troop. He used to sing devotional and popular songs of PB Srinivas along with some mimicry events.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Festive season to propel air travel

“We do expect air travel demand to pick up during festive season. We are hoping to increase our domestic capacity to 60% by Diwali, 80% by Christmas and 100% by Holi as per our approved summer schedule for 2020.

-**IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta**



## INDIA'S RATING

### S&P affirms sovereign ratings to 'BBB-'

Global ratings agency S&P affirmed India's unsolicited foreign and local currency sovereign ratings with a stable long-term outlook. Consequently, the ratings were affirmed the 'BBB-' long-term and 'A-3' short-term unsolicited foreign and local currency sovereign ratings.

## FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.03	South	
Euro	90.03	African Rand	4.94
UAE Dirham	22.04	Hong Kong Dollar	10.92
Thai Baht	2.68	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	97.35	New Zealand Dollar	50.66
Australian Dollar	54.41	Saudi Riyal	21.58
Canadian Dollar	57.77	Swedish Krona	9.25
Swiss Franc	82.53	Singapore Dollar	56.12

DELHI SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2020

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Ficci holds webinar

**Hyderabad:** East-West Seed India and Ficci organised a webinar on 'Role of women in agriculture'. Dr Poonam Malakondaiah, Special Chief Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation Department, Andhra Pradesh, and other took part. Dr Mary Ann Sayoc, Head, Public Affairs, East-West Seed Global, moderated the webinar in which nearly 400 participants across India participated actively. Speaking at the webinar, Dilip Rajan, Managing Director, East-West Seed India, "In India, agriculture continues to absorb and employ the female workforce but fails to recognize employed/hired labour. While we work with smallholder vegetable farmers, we do focus a lot on women farmers. We provide training to rural women in improvised techniques in commercial vegetable farming and train young women to help them set up agribusiness ventures".

### Zee launches new initiative

**Hyderabad:** Zee Entertainment Enterprises-promoted Mind Wars, a multiplatform knowledge programme, launched on-line GK Olympiad for school students across India. The national-level championship will begin in November 2020, and it is open to students of classes 4 to 12 from all education boards across India. The 20-minute exam comprises relevant and interesting general awareness question across 5 topics per class, that aims at improving students' ability and growth in the coming years. Umesh Kr Bansal, Sr. Vice President, Zee Entertainment Enterprises, said "The national-level GK Olympiad is designed to encourage the application of knowledge, reasoning, and building competence. It will not only help school kids enhance their problem-solving skills along with time management but also provide a competitive experience that will prepare them for their career choices ahead".

# Mkts rebound amid positive global cues

Sensex zooms 835 points after 6 days of fall; Nifty up 193 pts

**Mumbai:** After six days of declines, a relief rally, backed up by bargain hunting and positive global cues, lifted the Indian stock markets on Friday.

The upmove lifted S&P BSE Sensex by over 800 points, ending the six-day losing streak. Similarly, the Nifty50 of the National Stock Exchange rose to close near the psychological 11,000 mark.

Investors took to bargain buying after the indices plunged around 3 per cent on Thursday. A strengthening rupee - which spurted 28 paise against the US dollar - added to the momentum. The Sensex closed at 37,388.66, higher by 835.06 points, or 2.28 per cent, from its previous close of 36,553.60. It had opened at 36,991.89 and touched an intraday high of 37,471.17 and a low of 36,730.52 points. The Nifty50 closed the day's trade at 10,998.60, higher by 193.05 points, or 1.79 per cent, from its previous close.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex lost 1,457.16 points or 3.83 per cent, while the Nifty tumbled 454.70

Investors take to bargain buying after the indices plunged around 3% on Thursday



points or 4.04 per cent. All Sensex components ended in the green, with Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, L&T, TCS, ICICI Bank, ONGC, Infosys and Bajaj Finance gaining up to 6.64 per cent.

Healthy buying was witnessed across sectors led by IT, auto, banking and metal stocks. The BSE Telecom index spurted 5.73 per cent, led by Vodafone Idea, following reports that Vodafone has won the arbitration case against India over the latter's Rs 20,000 crore retrospective tax demand.

The broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices jumped up to 2.90 per cent.

Manish Hathiramani, technical analyst with Deen Dayal Investments, said: "While the markets spent some time above the psychological level of 11,000, the weakness in the index continues. The resistance on the upside is at 11,300". Until that is not crossed, we cannot surmise that the short term bear trend has been completed and an upside rally will ensue. On the downside, the Nifty can fall to achieve the 10,750 level, he added. Analysts, however, expect the volatility in the market to continue in days ahead. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, opined that the relief rally seemed to be based on the hope of more stimulus measures by the government.

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities, said: "Indian equity benchmark indices recovered most of Thursday's losses on Friday and cut the losses for the week sharply."



### Vodafone wins arbitration in ₹20k cr tax case

**New Delhi:** Vodafone has won the case against India over a retrospective tax demand of more than Rs 20,000 crore. The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague has ruled that the conduct of India's tax department is in breach of 'fair and equitable' treatment.

Vodafone had moved the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2016 due to a lack of consensus between the parties' arbitrators in finalising a judge for a tax dispute. Following this, a tribunal was constituted in June 2016 after Vodafone challenged India's use of a 2012 legislation that gave it powers to retrospectively tax deals like Vodafone's \$11 billion acquisition of 67 per cent stake in Hutchison Whampoa in 2007. The retrospective tax law had been enacted after a Supreme Court judgement went in Vodafone's favour. Vodafone had challenged the tax department's demand of Rs 7,990 crore as capital gains tax (Rs 22,100 crore after including interest and penalty) under the Netherlands-India Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT).

# Sri City plans to take up skilling in big way

P MADHUSUDHAN REDDY

**Hyderabad:** Sri City, the integrated business city in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, is planning to take up skill development in a big way, according to its Founder and Managing Director Ravindra Sannareddy.

Sannareddy, who was recently appointed as a Member of the High Level Advisory Committee on Skill Development constituted by the Andhra Pradesh government to advise it on the skill development, said that skill development programmes were imperative to equip unemployed youth with requisite skill sets, and fill the skill gaps.

"We are taking up skill development programme in a big way. Further, we also want to focus on re-skilling to upgrade skill sets among the existing workforce," Sannareddy told The Hans India. As part of these efforts, Sri City, AP State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and Alstom, which has a manufacturing plant in Sri City, are jointly organising a skill development programme for diploma holders in mechanical engineering. "We are planning to launch the programme on October 2," he said.



We will also initiate re-skilling programmes to upgrade skill sets, says Sri City MD Ravindra Sannareddy

Pointing out that people from other States were being employed when local talent with required skills were not available, he said: "Locals can be employed for such roles if the skill gaps are filled". Right before its inception, Sri City took up skill training initiatives for transforming the local people with agrarian background as blue-coloured workforce. Initially, it collaborated with National Academy for Construction and IL&FS to offer free vocational training in different trades. Till date, over 4,500 people were trained, and more than 90 per cent of them got jobs either in Sri City or at other places.

### Lee Pharma develops new ointment

**Hyderabad:** Lee Health Domain, a part of city-based Lee Pharma, said it developed a new formula with 100 per cent herbal topical solution for the treatment of psoriasis. Based on this, it launched Lerosis ointment. "Lee Health Domain developed the new formula with a blend of herbs for which the technical information extracted from the scriptures of 'Charaka Samhita', the 2,500 year old and ancient authoritative writings in ayurveda," the company said in a release.

# GMR sells KSEZ stake for ₹2,610 cr

HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** In a major development, GMR Infrastructure on Friday said it signed definitive agreements to divest its entire 51 per cent stake in Kakinada SEZ Ltd to Aurobindo Realty for Rs 2,610 crore.

In a statement, GMR Infrastructure announced the signing of definitive agreements for the sale of entire 51 per cent stake owned by its wholly-owned subsidiary GMR SEZ and Port Holding Ltd (GSPHL) in Kakinada SEZ Ltd (KSEZ) to Aurobindo Realty and Infrastructure Pvt Ltd. "As part of the proposed transfer of stake of KSEZ, the 100



Aurobindo Realty has bought GMR's entire 51% stake in Kakinada SEZ

per cent equity stake of Kakinada Gateway Port Ltd (KGPL) held by KSEZ would also be transferred to Aurobindo Realty. Total consideration for the sale of equity stake as well as the sub-debt

in KSEZ is Rs 2,610 crore," the company said.

GMR Infra said out of the total consideration, Rs 1,600 crore would be received on the closing date and balance Rs 1,010 crore

would be received in next two to three years, which is contingent upon certain agreed milestones. Proceeds will be used majorly to reduce the indebtedness of GMR Group.

KSEZ is engaged in the business of implementation of a port-based multi-product special economic zone project at Kakinada, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh and KGPL has the concession granted by the Andhra Pradesh government to set up a greenfield commercial port in the State.

The sale transaction shall be subject to receipt of regulatory and other statutory approvals, the company added.

### FIR registered against Franklin Templeton

**Chennai:** In a major development, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Chennai Police has registered a first information report (FIR) against the beleaguered Franklin Templeton Asset Management India Pvt Ltd (FTAMIL) and Franklin Templeton Trustee Services Pvt Ltd (FTTSPL) for hatching criminal conspiracy to defraud three lakh investors by causing wrongful loss to them and unlawful gain to themselves by committing various offences under the IPC. The FIR also names Santosh Das Kamath, MD and Chief Investment Officer, FTAMIL, Sanjay V Sapre, whole time member, FTAMIL, and their directors Jayaram Subramaniam Iyer, Vivek Kudva, RV Subramaniam, Pradip P Shah among others.

# REAL CORNER

## Value of real estate under construction jumps to \$243bn

The entry of large corporates and consolidation have led to the expansion of the Indian property market with the value of real estate under construction jumping over two-fold to \$243 billion in the last one decade, according to a report by FICCI and Anarock.

The expansion of the property market was largely driven by the residential segment.

Property consultant Anarock and industry body FICCI pointed out that the number of developers has declined 53 per cent across India's top 14 cities between 2012-2019. "The Indian real estate sector has been undergoing constant metamorphosis since the turn of the century. This transition has been for the better and the ac-



complishments so far have been remarkable. The results are quite visible today as the sector has become better organised, compliant, accountable, and transparent compared to what it was during the last decade of the 20th century," the report said.

The sector saw a slew of structural reforms and policy changes which led to the elimination of weaker players, large-scale consolidation, and entry of large corporate houses, it added. "Until 2008, the real estate business was highly unregulated and more of a localised play. It was a sellers' market and was driven by the landlords who had become developers overnight to take advantage of the boom in the sector.

## MindSpace REIT eyes 100% e-mobility

MindSpace Business Parks REIT, with one of India's largest Grade A office portfolios, has pledged to transition to 100 per cent electric mobility by expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure for Clients across all its business parks by 2030. This initiative aimed at accelerating at a global shift to clean transport and reduce air pollution in the urban micro-markets.

MindSpace Business Parks REIT is the first real estate entity from India to join the Climate Group's global EV100 initiative, which brings together nearly 90 international companies committed to making electric transport the new normal by the end of this decade. The announcement came during Climate Week NYC 2020, one of the biggest climate summits in the world, showcasing climate



action by leading businesses and governments and inspiring others to do more.

With an office portfolio that covers five integrated business parks and five quality independent offices, the company has over two lakh employees coming in to work each day at its business parks, pointing at an opportunity to positively empower and influence a large populace. It has already begun driving EV uptake amongst its

clients by installing over 1,000 charging points across its business parks, which can be accessed without any charge.

Vinod Rohira, CEO, MindSpace Business Parks REIT, said: "Our endeavour under the Climate Group's EV100 initiative is to fortify our commitment to sustainability, with the best blend of innovation and technology. By setting up of the electrical charging stations at our business parks, we offer solutions that are good on the environment, customers, stakeholders, and future generations".

The company's owned EV vehicles, which are used to ferry employees in and around the business parks, provides clients a first-hand experience of an EV, encouraging them to make the switch. The whole fleet will be switched to electric by 2030.

## PE investment in realty plunges 85%

Investors remain cautious due to the Covid-19 pandemic; Office segment gets ₹1,500 cr

Private equity investment in Indian real estate plunged 85 per cent during January-August period of this year at \$866 million (around Rs 6,500 crore) as investors remained cautious due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Colliers International and FICCI report.

The private equity (PE) inflow stood at \$5,795 million in the corresponding period of the previous year. Data centres segment attracted maximum investment so far this year at 46 per cent of the total inflows.

Office segment accounted for 24 per cent of the total PE investment at \$207 million (around Rs 1,500 crore) till August of this calendar year. Industrial and warehousing share stood at 12 per cent, hospitality 9 per cent, housing 8 per cent and co-living one per cent. "Investors, both foreign and domestic, are adopting a cautious approach to Indian real estate in the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic," said the report "Future India: Captivating Strategic and Private Equity Investments".

"According to Colliers International, through August 2020, overall private equity inflows into Indian real estate stood at Rs 6,500 crore which is just 15 per cent of the corresponding period in 2019," it added.

The report said that newer asset classes such as data centres and rental housing gained



Data centres segment attracted maximum investment, so far, this year at 46 per cent of the total inflows of ₹6,500 crore received during January-August this year

prominence among investors.

"During 2020 through August, the leading segments have been data centres, driven by demand for cloud infrastructure, as well as offices as, they tend to offer steady rental income. Robust domestic consumption also maintained investors' confidence in industrial and logistics assets," the report said.

During January-August 2019, office segment got 47 per cent of the total PE inflows that stood at \$5,795 million. Industrial and warehousing had received 9 per cent funds, hospitality 12 per cent, housing 8 per cent, retail

18 per cent and mixed use development 6 per cent. Colliers International advised investors to focus on data centres in order to leverage growing demand for cloud computing. It recommended them to continue to focus on the office segment to capitalise on steady rental income as well as enhanced liquidity offered by the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs.)

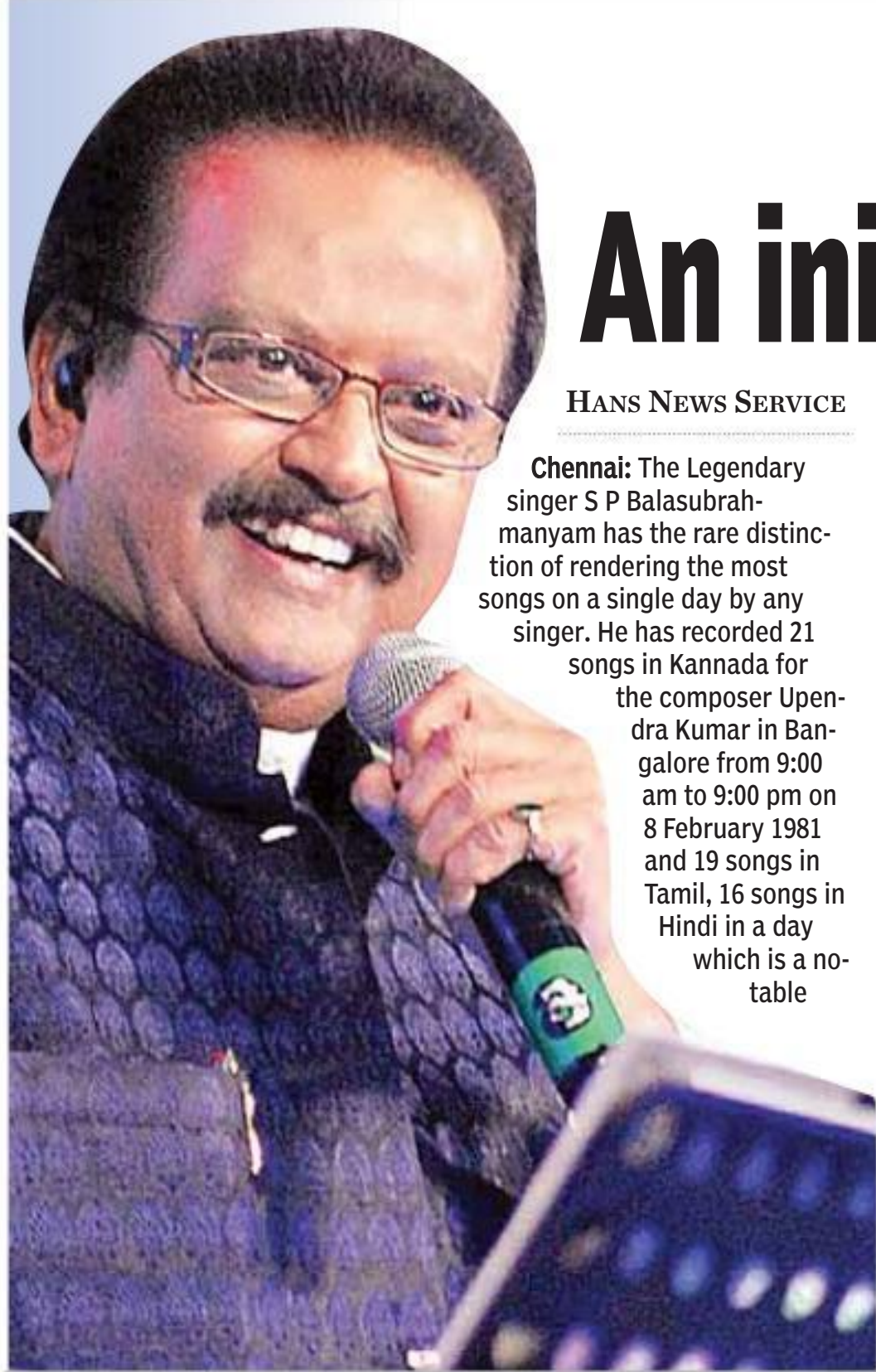
"In the backdrop of robust demand from e-commerce and other consumer-led occupiers, we recommend investors stay focused on the industrial and logistics segment in order to reap

the benefits," the consultant said. It suggested investors to consider equity investments in completed units of affordable and mid-segment residential projects. Investors should consider partnering with top-tier developers and invest in Greenfield residential projects to capitalise on inherent end-user demand. "We recommend investors consider opportunistic assets in hospitality and retail real estate segments that offer attractive valuations. We believe investors can benefit from revival in demand going forward," Colliers said.



## S P Balasubrahmanyam (1946-2020)

## An inimitable singer who ruled for over 50 yrs



HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai:** The Legendary singer S P Balasubrahmanyam has the rare distinction of rendering the most songs on a single day by any singer. He has recorded 21 songs in Kannada for the composer Upen-dra Kumar in Bangalore from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm on 8 February 1981 and 19 songs in Tamil, 16 songs in Hindi in a day which is a notable

achievement and a record.

He established a prolific career. "There were days when I used to record 15-20 songs, but only for Anand-Milind. And I would take the last flight back to Chennai. In the 1970s, he also worked with M. S. Viswanathan in Tamil movies for actors such as M. G. Ramachandran, Sivaji Ganesan and Gemini Ganesan. He recorded duets with P. Susheela, S. Janaki, Vani Jayaram and L. R. Eswari. Balasubrahmanyam's association with Ilaiyaraaja began even before Ilaiyaraaja came to the cine field. In those days, SPB used to sing in towns and villages all over south India and Ilaiyaraaja, then an unknown harmonium and guitar player accompanied SPB by playing in his concerts.

He was born in Nellore into a Telugu family. His father late S. P. Sambamurthy, was a Harikatha artist who had also acted in plays. His mother was Sakunthamma. He has two brothers and five sisters, including singer S. P.

Balasubrahmanyam made his debut as a playback singer on 15 December 1966 with Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna, a Telugu film scored by his mentor, S P Kodandapani. The first non-Telugu song that he recorded just eight days after his debut Telugu song was in Kannada in 1966 for the film Nakkare Ade Swarga, starring Kannada comedy stalwart T R Narasimharaju. He recorded his first Tamil song "Athaanodu Ippadi Irundhu Eththanai Naalaachu", a duet with L R Eswari in the music direction of M S Viswanathan for the film Hotel Ramba

Sailaja His son is S. P. Charan who is also a popular South Indian Singer, Actor and a Producer.

Balasubrahmanyam developed an interest towards music at an early age, studied notations and learned music. He enrolled at JNTU College of Engineering Anantapur with the intention of becoming an engineer. He discontinued his studies early due to typhoid and joined as an Associate Member of the Institution of Engineers, Chennai.

He continued to pursue music during his engineering studies and won awards at singing com-

petitions. In 1964, he won the first prize in a music competition for amateur singers organised by the Madras-based Telugu Cultural Organisation. He was the leader of a light music troupe composed of Anirutta (on the harmonium), Ilaiyaraaja (on guitar and later on harmonium), Baskar (on percussion), and Ganga Amaran (on guitar). He was selected as the best singer in a singing competition which was judged by S. P. Kodandapani and Ghantasala. Often visiting music composers seeking opportunities, his first audition song was "Nilave Ennidam Nerungadhe". It

was rendered by veteran playback singer P. B. Srinivas, who used to write and give him multilingual verses in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Sanskrit, English and Urdu.

Balasubrahmanyam made his debut as a playback singer on 15 December 1966 with Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna, a Telugu film scored by his mentor, S P Kodandapani. The first non-Telugu song that he recorded just eight days after his debut Telugu song was in Kannada in 1966 for the film Nakkare Ade Swarga, starring Kannada comedy stalwart T R Narasimharaju. He recorded his

first Tamil song "Athaanodu Ippadi Irundhu Eththanai Naalaachu", a duet with L.R. Eswari in the music direction of M. S. Viswanathan for the film Hotel Ramba. Other early songs he sang were duets with P. Susheela and S. Janaki.

Balasubrahmanyam came to international prominence with the 1980 film Sankarabharanam. The film is considered to be one of the best films ever to emerge from the Telugu film industry. Directed by K. Vishwanath, the film's soundtrack was composed by K.V. Mahadevan, and led to an increase in the usage of Karnatak music in Telugu cinema. Not a classically trained singer, he used a "film music" aesthetic in recording the songs. Balasubrahmanyam received his first National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer for his work. His first work in Hindi films was in the following year, in Ek Duuje Ke Liye (1981), for which he received another National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer. ■

## SPB: An icon with amazing humility

RESHMI RAMAKUMAR

This was way back in 2001 during my stint in ETV at Ramoji Film City (my first job) that I got a chance to meet the legendary singer SP Balasubrahmanyam. He would frequent RFC in Hyderabad for the famous Telugu music reality show Paadutha Teeyaga and on one such occasion, I went to watch him sing.

In between shots, I happened to meet his manager and asked him if I could meet SPB. The manager said SPB hates distractions at work. Then I asked him if I could get an interview with him. The manager shared his number and asked me to call him. I called him a few days later and he said SPB had left for Chennai but will be back soon and he would inform me. I gave up thinking this was another celebrity chasing exercise.

Much to my surprise only a week later, I get a call from one Mr Shastry who says "You wanted to interview SPB?"

► *Me:* Yes  
► *Shastry:* Can you speak Telugu?  
► *Me:* No. But SPB knows English?

*Shastry:* (Laughs) Of course, he can speak more languages than you do.

► *Me:* (Heaving a sigh of relief), Great. So when is he coming down to RFC next?

*Shastry:* Lady, you have to come down with your camera crew and questions to this place (and he shares the address) near Srinagar Colony in Hyderabad.

► *Me:* (I couldn't contain my excitement and ask) when?

*Shastry:* Feb 14  
► *Me:* Done and what time would that be?

*Shastry:* Be here at sharp 8 am because Sir has a meeting followed by shoots at Sarathi studio after that.

I quickly hung up and waited for the day with butterflies in my stomach. I met my first boss Joel Samuel who takes a look at my questions and added his own too.

On Feb 14, I am waiting for the company car and the lensman to show up and he is late. I am furious and nervous all at the same time. But I try to calm myself and finally we reach SPB's apartment half-hour later than the scheduled time.

SPB is waiting for me. And I prepare myself to face the music. I very sheepishly apologise without making it sound like an excuse. But to my utter disbelief, SPB says it's okay ma. I have a meeting with my auditor at 10 am. And I don't want to rush through. "I understand, sir," I say.

Then I ask the cameraman to set everything up and fix the frame. But I am still nervous and fear that SPB will just say we can't do it. Instead, sensing my anxiety, he asks me, "Did you eat something?"

► *Me:* No sir  
► *SPB:* Then have some breakfast first

► *Me:* That's alright sir I am not hungry

*SPB:* I can see how tired you are. Fear not, This is my house and I am not going away anywhere. I will keep my eat and give you the interview. Eat well and then we shall start.



The interviewer sharing a lighter moment with S P Balasubrahmanyam

I reluctantly sit down at the table. SPB gets a plate for me and places it on the table and asks me, what's your favourite breakfast?

► *Me:* Upma  
► *SPB:* This is the first time I have heard somebody say that

► *Me:* My mom is a great cook. Anybody who eats the upma she makes will start liking it

*SPB:* I am sure. All moms are. My mom too (he gives his signature ear to ear smile)

There is a tiffin carrier with a lot of food on the table and SPB puts a spoonful of Upma into my plate and says, 'No need to hurry, eat as much as you want and make sure you try everything here. They are delicious.' to which I nod.

*SPB:* Are you Telugu?

► *Me:* No sir. I am Kannadiga. Then he switches to Kannada and suggests I try Pesarattu, a Telugu specialty. That was the first time I ate Pesarattu. He waits patiently for me to finish my breakfast and then says, shall we begin?

That's SPB for you! He was a star singer, the most sought after in the industry with a busy schedule but he is so grounded. I was bowled over by his humility and down-to-earth nature.

SPB started with his Shankarabharanam days and then talked about how he broke into Bollywood. He literally uses the word 'break' because even to this day South Indians are made fun of for their Hindi accent and pronunciation. SPB said that even though he tried his best not to let the mother tongue influence show, there were times when he would be told at the recording studios that it is easy for music lovers to know that the singer is not a North Indian. But we all know better than to believe that.

SP Balasubrahmanyam breathed life into some of the best Hindi numbers, particularly for Salman Khan. 'Tere Mere Beech Main' for Kamal in Ek Duuje Ke Liye, Pehla Pehla Pyar Hai for Salman Khan, the list goes on.

I remember SPB telling me that although he joined engineering course, his love was for music as he was inspired by Mohammad Rafi. He says, when I would cycle to my

## 'Gana Gandharvudu' SILENCED

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Union Minister Kishan Reddy, State Minister and leaders cutting across parties have extended condolences on the demise of Sripathi Panditaradhya Balasubrahmanyam (SP Balasubrahmanyam), who has had a stellar career of 50 years in singing songs in multiple Indian languages.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy condoled the demise of the legendary singer SP Balasubrahmanyam. In a message on Friday, Kishan Reddy recollected the felicitation of the singer by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking his entry into the 50th year of his

singing career during the Sankranti celebrations at the then Urban Development Minister and current Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu's house in January 2016.

He said that SP Balasubrahmanyam was a colossal talent who left an indelible mark in Indian music. He lent his voice in many languages and took an active part in nurturing and producing talent. He was a mentor to many aspiring singers. "Om Shanti to his atma and condolences to his family," Reddy added.

Telangana State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar in his condolence message said that the late singer has unveiled in his singing that endeared everyone - small children to the older generations. He will be remembered affectionately by

people in their hearts. Former BJP State president Dr K Laxman said that the demise of SP is an irreparable loss to the film industry.

State Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy and Tribal Welfare Minister Satyavathi Rathod expressed their condolences on the singer's demise.

In his message the Agriculture Minister said that though the legendary singer is not physically present, he will continue to live among people through his songs.

Stating that SP's demise an irreparable loss to the field of music the Tribal Welfare Minister recalled him for taking the greatness of Telugu songs to the international arena. He will continue to live in the hearts of people through his songs, she added.

## A multi-lingual legend who will be missed

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai:** S P Balasubrahmanyam recorded more songs in Tamil, especially for Ilaiyaraaja with S.Janaki, the trio were considered to be highly successful in the Tamil film industry from the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s. The songs were based on classical music, such as in Saagara Sangamam (1983), for which both Ilaiyaraaja and SPB won National Film Awards, Swathi Muthyam (1986) and Rudraveena (1988) which again won National Awards for Ilaiyaraaja and Balasubrahmanyam.

In 1989, Balasubrahmanyam was the playback singer for Bollywood actor Salman Khan in the blockbuster Maine Pyar Kiya. The soundtrack for the film was very successful and he won a Filmfare Award for Best Male Playback Singer for the song Dil Deewana. For much of the next decade, Balasubrahmanyam continued as the "romantic singing voice" on the soundtracks of Khan's films. No-

table among these was Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! which became the all time hit highest-grossing Bollywood film of all time. Balasubrahmanyam's duet with Lata Mangeshkar, "Didi Tera Devar Deewana", was very popular. This solidified Balasubrahmanyam as one of the biggest playback singers in India. SP Balasubrahmanyam became identified as Salman Khan's voice in the 90s just like Kishore Kumar became Rajesh Khanna's voice through the 70s'. In the 1990s, he worked with composers such as Vidyasagar, M. M. Keeravani, S. A. Rajkumar and Deva among others, but his association with A.R.Rahman turned out to be a major success.

Balasubrahmanyam's association with Hamsalekha began after the latter's successful venture Premaloka in Kannada. Balasubrahmanyam sung the most songs for Hamsalekha in Kannada. He received his fourth National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer for the song "Umandu Ghumandu" from the Kannada film



The singer seen at a function in Chennai with the then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi. Also present are (from left) Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth, Lata Mangeshkar and other dignitaries

Ganayogi Panchakshari Gavayi (1995), which was a Hindustani classical music-based composition by Hamsalekha.

Balasubrahmanyam recorded three songs for A. R. Rahman in his debut film Roja. He had a long time association with Rahman right from Roja, the latter's debut film. Other popular songs include "Juli Maadham" from Pudhiya Mugam, which also marked the debut of singer Anupama, "Mannothu Manthayilae" from Kizhakku Cheemayile which was a folk number and he almost sang all songs in the musical love story Duet and "Thanga Thaamarai" from Min-sara Kanavu which fetched him, the sixth and latest of his National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer till date.

In 2013, Balasubrahmanyam

recorded the title song for Chennai Express - "Chennai Express", singing for the lead actor Shahrukh Khan, under the music direction of Vishal-Shekhar. He returned to Bollywood music after being away from it for 15 years.

In May 2020, SPB crooned a song on humanity titled "Bharath Bhoomi" which was composed by Ilaiyaraaja as a tribute to the people such as police, army, doctors, nurses and janitors who have been significantly working amid COVID-19 pandemic. The video song was officially unveiled by Ilaiyaraaja through his official YouTube account on 30 May 2020 in both Tamil and Hindi languages.

Balasubrahmanyam accidentally became a dubbing artist with K. Balachander's film Manmadha Leela, the dubbed Telugu version

of Manmadha Leelai, providing voice-over for Kamal Haasan. He has also provided voice-overs for various artists, including Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth, Vishnuvardhan, Salman Khan, K. Bhagyaraj, Mohan, Anil Kapoor, Girish Karnad, Gemini Ganesan, Arjun Sarja, Nagesh, Karthik, and Raghuvaran in various languages. For the Telugu version of Dasavathaaram, he gave voice to seven characters (including the female character) out of ten characters played by Kamal Haasan. He was awarded the Nandi Award for Best Male Dubbing Artist for the films Annamayya and Sri Sai Mahima. He dubbed for Nandamuri Balakrishna for the Tamil version of the movie Sri Rama Rajyam in 2012. He also dubbed for Ben Kingsley in the Telugu-dubbed version of Gandhi. ■

## CM, Guv condole Balu's death

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Condolences poured in from all political quarters over the demise of noted playback singer Dr SP Balasubrahmanyam. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao expressed shock over the sudden death of the noted singer, who died while undergoing treatment at a corporate hospital in Chennai on Friday afternoon.

The Governor said that she was deeply saddened and heartbroken by the death of the legendary singer, musician and versatile artiste.

"Through his inimitable versatility and soulful singing, SPB garu has mesmerised millions of fans all over the world for almost five decades. His songs, more than 40,000 in different languages, and singing will remain forever in the hearts of people as long as music exists on this planet," the Governor said. She offered her deep condolences to the bereaved

family members and millions of fans all over the world.

The Chief Minister, in a message, stated that Balu, as SPB is affectionately called by his fans, won admirers all over the country with thousands of his melodious songs. "It was unfortunate that despite best efforts put in by doctors and other medical staff to save Balu's life, it did not work. The void created by his death can never be filled," the Chief Minister said, praising the contributions of Balu as playback singer, composer and actor to the world of cinema.

Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao, Finance Minister T Harish Rao, Forest and Environment Minister A Indrakaran Reddy and Roads and Buildings Minister V Prashant Reddy also condoled the death of the famous singer. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy, party working president A Revanth Reddy, TDP chief L Ramana, BJP leaders and others expressed condolences to the bereaved family of the legendary singer. ■



# Anushka hits back at Gavaskar: 'Your message is distasteful'

**Mumbai (IANS):** Actress Anushka Sharma on Friday hit back at legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar for his comment against her husband, cricketer Virat Kohli, during the Thursday IPL match between Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), which Kohli captains, and Kings XI Punjab (KXIP). Gavaskar was a commentator during the match that RCB lost by 97 runs. Opining on Kohli's poor form during the match, the former Indian opener made a snide remark involving Anushka that many thought was in poor taste. As Kohli prepared to face a fourth

delivery before eventually dismissed by Sheldon Cottrell the next ball, Gavaskar said that the India captain had practiced only against Anushka's bowling during the lockdown.

Anushka took to Instagram Stories and posted a long note expressing disapproval over Gavaskar's comment. She wrote: "That, Mr Gavaskar, your message is distasteful is a fact but I would love for you to explain why you thought of making such a sweeping statement on a wife accusing her for her husband's game? I'm sure over the years you have re-



**As Kohli prepared to face a fourth delivery before eventually dismissed by Sheldon Cottrell the next ball, Gavaskar said that the India captain had practiced only against Anushka's bowling during the lockdown**

spected the private lives of every cricketer while commenting on the game. Don't you think you should have equal amount of respect for me and us?"

"I'm sure you can have many other words and sentences in your mind to use to comment on my husband's performance from last night or your words only relevant if you use my name in the process?" "It's 2020 and things still don't change for me. When will I stop getting dragged into cricket and stop being used to pass sweeping statements?"

"Respected Mr. Gavaskar, you

are a legend whose name stands tall in this gentleman's game. Just wanted to tell you what I felt when I heard you say this." Kohli dropped two catches and did not have a great outing during their 97 run defeat against Kings XI Punjab in Dubai on Thursday night. Many on social media have expressed outrage and criticised Gavaskar. Some even demanded that the legendary cricketer be removed from the commentary panel. This is not the first time that the actress has been dragged into a cricket controversy related to Kohli.

## Kumble imprint in KXIP win: 2 leg-spinners in XI

**New Delhi (IANS):** Kings XI Punjab's landslide win over the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) had the Kumble imprint all over it. A former world-class leg-spinner, Anil Kumble, the head coach, picked two leggies in the XI -- Murugan Ashwin and Ravi Bishnoi - and they did not disappoint as they equally shared six of the 10 RCB wickets to fall.

Ashwin bagged 2/13 in three overs and Bishnoi 3/23 in four overs as the RCB, seeking their first IPL title, capitulated and collapsed for 109 in 17 overs while chasing 206. For that matter, K.L. Rahul's KXIP are also in search of their maiden IPL crown.

The choice of two leg-spinners is believed to be the brainchild of Kumble. This decision came after the reverse KXIP suffered against Delhi Capitals in their opening game that went into the Super Over decider after the scores were tied. In that game, the second spinner in the XI was an off-spinner, Krishnappa Gowtham, who conceded 39 runs in four overs and failed to take a wicket.

It's a myth that leg-spinners are not fit to T20 cricket. Amit Mishra, for example, has bagged three hat-tricks in the IPL and has been a pretty successful bowler for the Delhi (97 wickets in 92 matches), Deccan Chargers (32 in 28), and SunRisers Hyderabad (28 in 27).



**I DON'T GO INTO A GAME WITH HUGE EXPECTATIONS: RAHUL**

**Dubai (IANS):** Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul, who scored a brilliant century and guided his team to a terrific win over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), believes the presence of head coach Anil Kumble has been a great motivation for all the players in the squad, especially the youngsters as they can learn a lot from the experience of the legendary spinner. "...It's important that the coach and the captain are someone who the team enjoys having around. Somebody like Anil Kumble comes in with so much experience. He has captained a franchise, he has been a part of teams and he has been involved with the league (IPL) for so many years," Rahul said.

"He understands exactly what the team goes through and what the players go through during these two months of IPL. He has been through it himself. He is now in a coaching job, it helps the team, and it helps a captain like me who is captaining the team for the first time to have his experience and someone like him to fall back on to bounce some ideas."

## Have to stand in front and take the brunt of it: Kohli

**Dubai (IANS):** Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli on Thursday admitted that his mistakes on the field led to a 97-run defeat against Kings XI Punjab at Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Kohli dropped two easy catches of Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul in the 17th and 18th over after which the latter punished RCB to the full as KXIP put up a score of 206/3.

Rahul smashed 26 runs off Dale Steyn in the 19th over and ended the 20th with a four and consecutive sixes. He was unbeaten on 132 off 69 balls at the end of the innings, which is the highest score ever by a captain in the IPL and the highest by any Indian in the history of the tournament.

"I think we were good in the middle phase with the ball, they got off to a decent start and we pulled things back nicely," said Kohli on Star Sports after the match. "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 under pressure from ball one to chase. We know exactly where we went wrong and I have to put my hand up and say couple of important chances went down." Kohli has been fined for maintaining a slow over-rate. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Kohli was fined Rs 12 lakh."



## Int'l season on Kiwi land gets green light

**Auckland (IANS):** New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has received the permission from the government to host international matches later this summer, which includes series against Pakistan and West Indies.

"New Zealand Cricket has received government approval to proceed with plans to host international touring sides this summer beginning with the West Indies and Pakistan's men's teams in November, December and January," NZC said in a statement on Friday.

"Details of the upcoming summer's schedule will be announced early next week," the statement added.

The Black Caps' international summer is slated to start with a tour by the West Indies (three T20Is, two Tests), then

**Cricket Australia postpone Afghanistan Test, New Zealand ODIs**

Pakistan (three T20Is, two Tests). The board is also hoping to host Bangladesh in limited-overs series as well as the Australian women's team in February.

New Zealand has been one of the few countries in the world which has been successful at containing the spread of novel coronavirus, which has claimed more than nine lakh lives across the world so far.

Cricket Australia have confirmed the postponement of their maiden Test match against Afghanistan and the three-match ODI series against New Zealand until the 2021-22 season due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

## Stafanie crosses 3K T20 runs

**Derby (IANS):** "I'm not a stats person but when it came up on the big screen it was a really good feeling," said Stafanie Taylor as she recounted the historic moment of becoming only the second cricketer -- male or female -- and first West Indian to score 3,000 T20I runs.

The average cricket fan may not pay much attention to statistics but Stafanie actually has more T20I runs than Virat Kohli and Chris Gayle, who have 2,794 and 1,627 respectively.

Stafanie reached the milestone during the second T20I against England which her team lost by 47 runs at the Incore County Ground on Wednesday. In 105 matches, the all-rounder has scored 3,020 runs at an average of 35.95. Only New Zealand's Suzie Bates is ahead of her in T20I cricket, having scored 3,243 runs in 119 matches.

"It shows the amount of work that we as female cricketers have been doing over the years and to see that a lot of people have highlighted what we have done, it's a great feeling..." said Stafanie knowing that the only person ahead of her is also a woman, as per a Cricket West Indies media release.

## Dean Jones was my friend for 35 years, will miss him: Kapil Dev

**New Delhi (IANS):** No foreign cricketer has visited India as many times as former Australian batting mainstay Dean Jones - more than 100 times - such was his connection with this country, said legendary Kapil Dev, while recalling his "35-year long association" with one of his closest friends who passed away on Thursday.

"Deano was quite a dear friend of mine and I was shocked to hear the news of his passing away. I feel quite sad and sorry for his family. You are going to miss him, but his family is going to suffer the most. I knew him for about 35 years," Kapil, who first played against Jones during the 1985 World Championship of Cricket in Australia, told IANS.

"He was a great cricketer and one of the best athletes. He was a master at running between the wickets. He was also a great commentator and had a wonderful sense of humour," said the 1983 World Cup-winning captain.

Kapil also pointed out that because of his close connection with Jones individually and also because of the Aussie's professional work in India, he visited this country many times.

"No other foreign cricketer has perhaps travelled to India as many times as Deano. He would have visited India more than 100 times. But now he is gone; he was not even 60 years old. Even Malcolm Marshall passed away quite young [aged 41 years 200 days in November 1999]," he rued.

Kapil bowled to Jones in 20 ODI innings and dismissed him four times - twice bowled and as many times had him caught - and in 15 Test innings, the Indian 'Sultan of Swing' got him out twice.

One more reason for Jones to love India was that he



scored his first Test century - it was actually a fabulous double century in the testing conditions of Madras - in India in September 1986. It was only his third Test and fifth innings. After his eight-and-a-half hours innings in hot and humid conditions, during which he got dehydrated and vomited, he was taken to a hospital and was put on a saline drip. The Test at the Chepauk ended in a tie, only the second such result till date.

"A day that changed my life forever," Jones tweeted on September 19, on the 34th anniversary of the tied Test. Another tweet read: "This Test was the renaissance for Australian cricket. It was our Mt Everest moment. Under AB [Allan Border] we started to believe that we can compete against the best. Great friendships started with the Indians. Our journey had just begun!"

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