

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
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# SPB, golden voice over generations, falls silent

TOI 26/9/20

Was Hospitalised Since Aug 5 After Testing Covid +ve

Pushpa Narayan and D Govardan | TN

Chennai: Legendary playback singer S P Balasubrahmanyam, popularly known as Balu and SPB, who enthralled millions of people with his youthful voice, died at 1.04pm on Friday while undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at a Chennai hospital. He was 74.

"In a further setback this morning, despite maximum life support measures and the best efforts of the clinical team, his condition deteriorated further, and he suffered a cardio-respiratory arrest. With profound grief, we re-

**FULL COVERAGE: PAGE 2**

gret to inform that he passed away..." said a release issued by hospital assistant director Anuradha Baskaran. The hospital also said the singer had tested negative for coronavirus on September 4.

SPB's son and singer S P Charan thanked everyone who prayed for his father. "I thank doctors and nurses who took care of him. He is everyone's property. My dad will be alive until you are there," he said.

SPB, who sang more than 40,000 songs in a career spanning nearly 55 years, had been undergoing treatment at MGM Healthcare since August 5 after being admitted with "mild" symptoms. The same day, the singer posted a video on his social media page, saying, "Last two to three days, I have been

## 40K SONGS OVER 55 YRS IN 16 LANGUAGES

> SPB, christened Paadam Nila (Singing Moon) by his fans, sang more than 40,000 songs in a career spanning nearly 55 years. Had a fan following across 15 languages

> Sripathi Panditaradhyula Balasubrahmanyam debuted as a singer in 1966 with Telugu film "Sri Sri Maryadha Ramanna".

"Ayiram Nilave Vaa (Come thousand moons)" from MGR-starrer Tamil flick "AdimaiPen" catapulted him to fame in 1969

> Born in Nellore district of Andhra on June 4, 1946

> Sang many popular Hindi film songs in 80s and 90s, starting with hits in "Ek Duje Ke Liye"

> A Padma Bhushan awardee, SPB also made a mark in classical music despite no formal training in the genre

> Renowned playback singer S Janaki first spotted his talent in a competition while he was doing engineering in Chennai

> Acknowledged the influence of Mohammed Rafi, especially during his early years

> Composed music for around 45 films in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Hindi. Played roles in more than 40 movies

> Unlike most singers, he loved ice-cream, was a self-proclaimed smoker for 35 years and a social drinker



SP Balasubrahmanyam

## When Dr Rajkumar sang for SPB

SPB's association with Kannada film industry started in 1967, reports BV Shivashankar. In a rare combination, thespian Dr Rajkumar and SPB have sung playback for each other. While SPB lip-synced to Rajkumar in two songs from 'Muddina Mava', he sang 'Ilili Aaduva Maathu Kannada' from 'CID Rajanna' for Rajkumar. SPB sang for 4-5 generations of artistes across genres. Born in Andhra Pradesh, he had expressed wish that he would like to be a Kannadiga in his next birth. Page 2

having a little discomfort. Discomfort means little chest congestion, which for a singer is nonsense... I am perfectly all right except the cold and fever... In two days, I will be discharged, and I will be home. Lot of people have been calling me. I couldn't attend all the calls. I have come here... so there won't be any disturbance to me, and to take medication. Don't bother calling me. I am fine. I will be fine." Those were the last words his fans

heard from him.

Sripathi Panditaradhyula Balasubrahmanyam, who was born in a Telugu Brahmin family in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh on June 4, 1946, made his debut as a playback singer in 1966 with the Telugu film "Sri Sri Maryadha Ramanna." A versatile singer, languages were no barrier for him. He commanded a fan following across 16 languages.

> Classical music. P 10