

A Prayer and a Punch

How does an athlete at the pinnacle of her career motivate herself for more? Boxing champion MC Mary Kom has the answer

AYODHYA VERDICT

FULL COVERAGE PAGES 10-14, 17

RSS welcomes verdict, says Sangh role in temple movement done, it's over to government now



IDEA EXCHANGE PAGE 9

'TEMPLE ISSUE CHANGED COUNTRY'S CHARACTER... TELL PEOPLE HUMANISM ABOVE NATIONALISM'

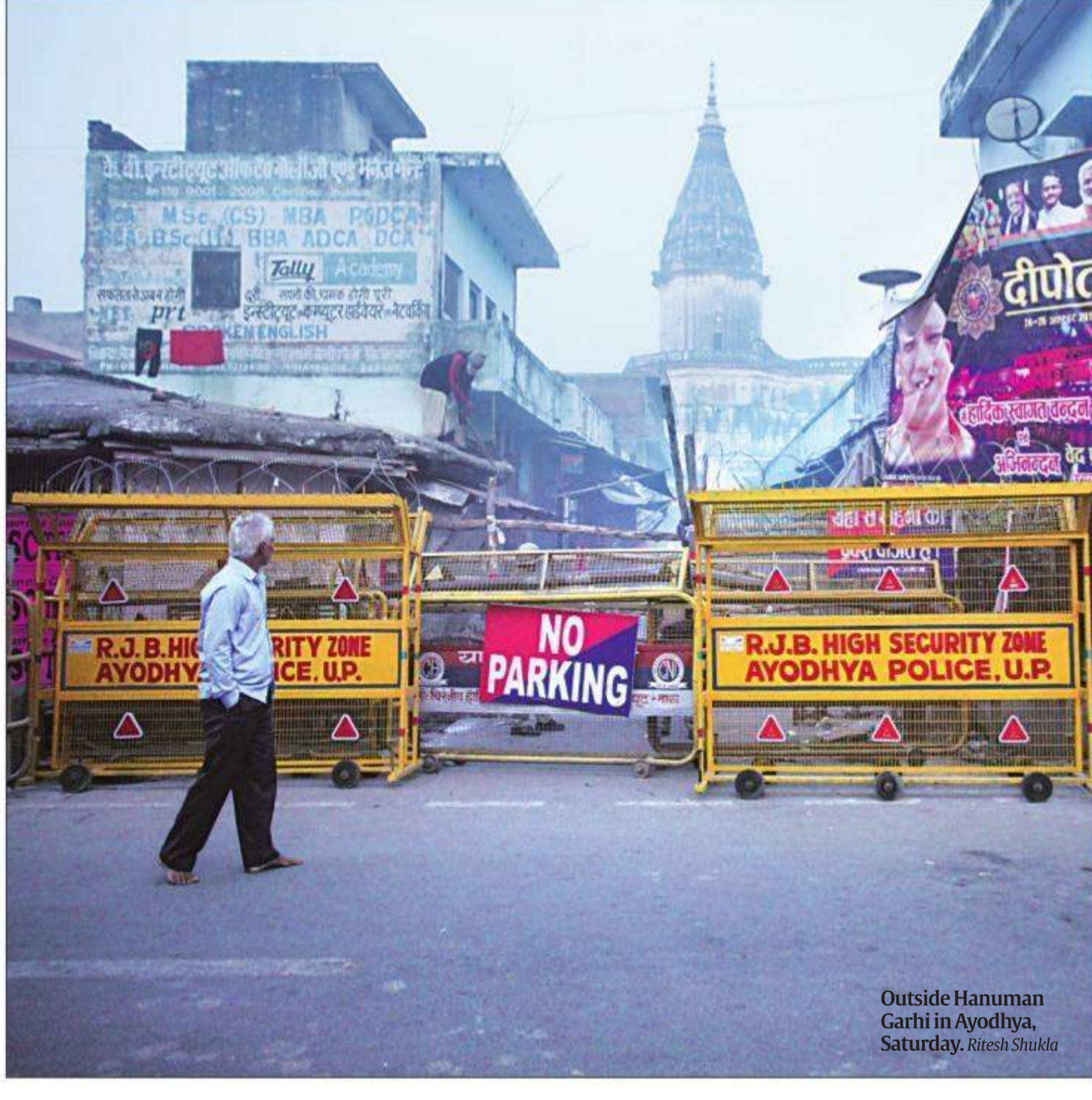
ASHOK GEHLOT, Rajasthan CM

CONSTITUTION BENCH DIRECTS CENTRE TO FORMULATE A SCHEME WITHIN 3 MONTHS FOR TEMPLE TRUST

Temple gets site, mosque a plot



AFTER THE RULING: Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice S A Bobde, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice S A Nazeer.



Outside Hanuman Garhi in Ayodhya, Saturday. Ritesh Shukla

Sunni board says won't go for review; Muslim parties cold to five-acre offer

ABANTIKA GHOSH, ASAD REHMAN & SHAJU PHILIP  
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 9

AS THE All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) contemplates a review of the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya and whether to accept the five acres offered for a mosque in lieu of the disputed plot, there were differing voices within the community on the way forward.

Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board chairman Zufar Farooqui said the board, one of the main litigants in the case, would not file a review petition. "The board will not go in for any review of the apex court's order or file any curative petition," Farooqui said at a press conference in Lucknow, adding that "it would not look good" if any of

the Muslim litigants do not accept the verdict.

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), which had split in 1992 over a "moderate" stand on the issue, also said it respected the judgment.

The AIMPLB, however, expressed "grave dissatisfaction", calling the verdict "neither equity nor justice". On an alternative plot for a masjid in Ayodhya, its counsel Zafaryab Jilani said, "You cannot exchange land for a mosque." Another AIMPLB member, AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, said the offer of five acres should be rejected, while regretting the victory of "faith over facts".

The AIMPLB working committee will take a call on whether to file for a review, which must be done within 30 days. "If they so decide, we will file a petition," said Jilani, who is the AIMPLB secretary. The working committee will also take a

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How the scales tilted in favour of temple parties

APURVA VISHWANATH  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

RELIANCE ON records of European travellers, lack of evidence from the Muslim side to prove continuous, uninterrupted and exclusive possession prior to 1856, treating the outer and inner courtyard of the disputed structure as one unit in a significant departure from the Allahabad High Court verdict—a

combination of these factors tilted the Constitution Bench verdict in the Ayodhya title dispute against the Muslim side.

The court, while using the "preponderance of probabilities" as a standard of proof, picks the claim of the Hindu side as more plausible than the Muslim side.

"The Muslim account of worship prior to 1856 is conspicuously silent as opposed to the accounts of worship being

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5 judges unanimous on Ayodhya, call Babri razing illegal

ANANTHAKRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

BRINGING TO an end a seven-decade legal battle over the title to the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in a unanimous verdict Saturday, ruled that the entire disputed land be handed over to a trust to be constituted for construction of a Ram temple and that Muslims, in the name of "equity", be given five acres of either the acquired land near the site or at "a suitable prominent place in Ayodhya" for building a mosque.

BUSINESS AS USUAL



While dismissing the Nirmohi Akhara suit as barred by limitation but upholding the suits of the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board — the High Court order had said the Board suit was barred by limitation — and Ramlalla Virajman, the Bench said the High Court order was "legally unsustainable" and "dividing the land will not subserve the interest of either of the parties or secure a lasting sense

of equity", be given five acres of either the acquired land near the site or at "a suitable prominent place in Ayodhya" for building a mosque. Underlining that it had been "tasked with the resolution of a dispute whose origins are as old as the idea of India itself", the Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S A Nazeer overturned the September 30, 2010 judgment of the Allahabad High Court which had ordered three-way division of the disputed 2.77

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No place for fear, bitterness in new India: PM



Modi with Manmohan Singh

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

INVOKING THE fall of the Berlin Wall on this day 30 years ago in his address to the nation Saturday, hours after the Supreme Court verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it was time to "unite" and "take everyone

together... without leaving anyone behind".

Describing the judgment as a "golden chapter in India's judicial history", Modi said the unanimous verdict "shouldn't be seen as a win or loss for anybody".

Pointing out that November 9 was the date when the Berlin Wall was brought down, Modi said: "Today, the Kartarpur corridor was also inaugurated. Now the Ayodhya verdict, so this date

gives us the message to stay united and move forward."

Termining the verdict as a "new dawn", Modi said: "Now, the next generation will build a new India. Today is the day to forget any bitterness one may have; there is no place for fear, bitterness and negativity in new India."

The Prime Minister also said the judgment will "further increase people's faith in judicial

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Rebuilding Babri Masjid to welcoming Ram temple, how Cong re-calibrates

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

MINUTES AFTER the Supreme Court delivered its verdict on Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit case, the Congress said Saturday it respects the decision and declared it was in favour of construction of a Ram temple. There was no mention of Babri Masjid, the rebuilding of which

then Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao had publicly committed to in 1993 — or the fact that one side had several questions about the verdict.

The Congress, which sank into political insignificance in the Hindi heartland in the last three decades after it got caught in the Mandal (social justice) versus Kamandal (Hindutva) narrative, appeared to be circumspect and wary of the political fallout of the

verdict especially since it was a unanimous one. Perhaps, learning from the experience of the last three decades, it subtly sought to move the present day Congress closer to the Congress of three decades ago.

For, it was the Rajiv Gandhi government which allowed the opening of the locks of the Babri Masjid in 1986 and permitted Shilanyas there three years later.

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EXPRESS NETWORK



CYCLONE BULBUL MAKES LANDFALL, 2 DEATHS IN BENGAL, ODISHA  
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At Ground Zero, sigh of relief: bawal khatam hua

MAULSHREE SETH  
AYODHYA, NOVEMBER 9

THERE WAS some fear and some hope. But after the Supreme Court delivered its verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, the mood in Ayodhya was that of relief.

"I cannot speak on behalf of others but for me, the case is closed," Iqbal Ansari, who is one of the litigants in the case, told The Indian Express. "Acha hai,



Prayers on the banks of the Saryu in Ayodhya. Ritesh Shukla

bawal khatam hua (It's good that the issue has been resolved)," said Altaf Ansari, the young nephew of Iqbal Ansari.

At Ground Zero of the decades-old case, the day began with business as usual: Pilgrims started arriving at the makeshift Ramlalla temple and Hanuman Garhi, shops selling puja material opened on time, and the local priests were busy preparing for daily pujas.

But as the verdict came

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Emotions blur borders as history marks Kartarpur opening

KANCHAN VASDEV & MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA  
KARTARPUR, NOVEMBER 9

ASURGE of emotions blurred the border Saturday, as over 500 Indian pilgrims crossed a 4.2-km stretch from Gurdaspur to the Durbar Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan's Kartarpur to mark the historic opening of the corridor to one of the holiest shrines of the Sikh community.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the first jatha led by Akal Takht jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh, and prominent

leaders including former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, from near the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur.

In Kartarpur, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan opened the corridor and unveiled a kirpan as the symbol for the gurdwara complex in Narowal district. "It was a good beginning to normalise relations between the two countries. It is a big day for us," said Manmohan Singh.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said he was "overwhelmed to be a part of the first jatha as a humble devotee" and to see the fulfillment of a

70-year demand of the Sikh community.

As soon as the pilgrims crossed into Pakistan, they were greeted by Pakistan Rangers personnel. "It is as if we are meeting after the Partition. We are the same people. It's just that two generations have passed with the pain of Partition," a Pakistani immigration official told The Indian Express.

Welcoming the Indian pilgrims, including his cricketing friend and MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu, Imran Khan said that if the Kashmir issue was resolved, borders could open and trade



Pilgrims visit Kartarpur, Saturday. Neeraj Priyadarshi

would take place. "When I was elected Prime Minister, I told Modi that our biggest problem was poverty. I told him that if we open our borders, then trade will eliminate poverty," he said.

"If Modi is listening to what I am saying, then I would like to tell him that peace comes from justice, injustice can only breed antagonism," Khan said.

The Pakistan Prime Minister said that he could "see the happiness on the faces of Sikh pilgrims". "Kartarpur is like Medina for the Sikh community. Think how a Muslim would feel if he were able to see Medina from

3 km away but not able to visit it," Khan said.

Apart from the gurdwara itself, one of the main attractions for pilgrims from India was "Guru Nanak's well". "This is a corridor of hope. We have come from Italy to be a part of the first jatha," said Jagwant Singh, who reached India on the government's invitation.

Delivering an emotional speech on the occasion, Sidhu thanked Imran Khan for fulfilling the promise made by him in ten months. He also said that Modi and Khan had put a salve on the wounds of the Sikhs.

Apart from Manmohan Singh and Amarinder Singh, the Indian delegation included Union ministers Harsimrat Badal and Hardeep Puri, and Punjab ministers and MLAs. It also included former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, and his son and former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal.

On the Pakistan side, the ceremony was attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Pakistan Punjab province's Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar and Chief Minister Usman Buzdar.

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