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# RAM LALLA COMES HOME, A NEW MASJID TO RISE

## SC calls Babri's demolition a crime, but says Hindus' claim on land is stronger

### 5 judges pronounce unanimous verdict

PRAMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

In an unprecedented case based on faith and belief, the Supreme Court on Saturday “unanimously” paved the way for the construction of Lord Ram’s temple at Ayodhya as it rejected the Muslim claim over the disputed site and handed over the entire 1,500 square yard of the “composite” disputed area comprising the inner and the outer court yard of the now demolished Babri Masjid to a trust that would construct the temple and would be set up by the Central government in next three months.

The disputed land would remain in the custody of the statutory receiver till the Trust is formed and the land handed over to it. The court said that the Central government would be at “liberty to make suitable provisions in respect of the rest of the acquired land by handing it over to the trust” for its management and development.

The verdict was delivered by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi who along with Chief Justice designate Justice S.A. Bobde, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice S. Abdul Nazeer had heard the matter for 40 days starting on August 6 and concluding on October 16 when judgment was reserved.

The hearing was rooted in a batch of petitions challenging September 30, 2010, Allahabad High Court judgment in which the disputed site was divided into three parts with Hindu litigants — the Idol of Ram Lalla and Nirmohi Akhara getting one part each and Muslims’ Sunni Waqf Board the third.

The top court described the High Court judgment as “legally unsustainable”. Handing over the entire disputed site for the construction of Lord Ram’s temple, the top court ordered giving Muslims a “suitable” five-acre plot either by the Central government out of the acquired 67 acres of land or by the Uttar Pradesh government at a “suitable prominent place in Ayodhya.”

The court said that both the creation of trust and handing over the entire disputed site to it and giving Sunni Waqf Board five acres of land would be done simultaneously.

Justifying the allotment of land to Muslims, the court said, “The allotment of land to the Muslims is

### INSIDE

#### RAM TEMPLE WORK TO BEGIN IN APRIL

● The RSS is now hoping to lay the temple’s foundation stone on the ‘Ram Navmi’ next April.

■ REPORT ON PAGE 4

#### RAJIV GANDHI’S BLUNDERS HELPED BJP RISE

● Rajiv Gandhi’s handling of Shah Bano case and *shila nyas* at Ayodhya helped BJP

■ REPORT ON PAGE 5

#### PEOPLE KEEP CALM, PEACEFUL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

● The offline calm maintained by restrained citizens was palpable on Twitter too.

■ REPORT ON PAGE 8

necessary because though on a balance of probabilities, the evidence in respect of the possessory claim of the Hindus to the composite whole of the disputed property stands on a better footing than the evidence adduced by the Muslims ...

“... the Muslims were dispossessed upon the desecration of the mosque on 22/23 December 1949 which was ultimately destroyed on 6 December 1992. There was no abandonment of the mosque by the Muslims,” said the court.

The court said that the Sunni Central Waqf Board would be at liberty on the allotment of the land to take all necessary steps for the construction of a mosque on the land allotted together with other associated facilities.

The court ordered giving Sunni Waqf Board five acres of “suitable” land at Ayodhya taking recourse to its plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

■ Page 4: Muslims failed to prove exclusive possession



Five Supreme Court judges — Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi (centre) flanked by Justice Ashok Bhushan (left), Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde (second from left), Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (second from right), Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (right) — pose for a photograph after delivering the verdict on Ayodhya land case in New Delhi on Saturday. ■ Judges’ profiles are on Page 2 — PTI

## Civil code, Kashi, Mathura next?

SANJAY BASAK | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

“What would the verdict be, if Babri (masjid) had not been razed”, asked Asaduddin Owaisi, leader of the All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen.

While the Sangh Parivar and the BJP welcome the Supreme Court verdict, others argued that the Supreme Court has handed over the disputed site to the ruling BJP which continue to have “individuals and leaders responsible for the demolition of the Babri Masjid in its ranks.”

The verdict, described “unjust” by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) not merely paved the way for the construction of the Ram temple” but also legitimised the saffron slogan, which rent the air after the *kar sevaks* demolished the mosque — *Mandir wahi banayenge*.

The top court’s decision could also cast a shadow over some other mosques in the country if the BJP’s Hindutva hawk Vinay Katiyar is to be believed. Ahead of the verdict, Mr

Katiyar, also a key accused in the Babri Masjid case had announced: “We are waiting for the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya. After that, we will build Ram temple and then move towards liberating Kashi and Mathura temples.”

His remarks are a chilling reminder to the slogan referring to Gyanvapi mosque at Varanasi and Shahi Idgah Mosque at Mathura — *Ayodhya abhi jhanki hai, Mathura, Kashi baaki hai*.

After the verdict, when defence minister Rajnath Singh was asked about the other core issue, the Uniform Civil Code, he said: “Time has come.”

The court’s offer directing the Centre to allot an alternative 5-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a new mosque was flayed by Owaisi.

Clutching at the straws, the AIMPLB is considering going for a review petition, but the Shia Waqf Board supported the verdict and said it was against any review petition.

■ Page 4: Verdict bolsters Modi’s Hindu image

### RAM LALLA SLEEPS WHILE VERDICT READ

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC  
AYODHYA, NOV. 9

Ram Lalla had just fallen asleep when the verdict was read out — granting the permanent resident status to him, in the land Hindus believed belonged to him.

Outside in “Ram Nagari”, the roads were deserted, shops shut and anxious locals stayed indoors while in Tedhi Bazaar, green flags and bunting fluttered to mark Milad un Nabi. A police posse positioned themselves all over, many tired and some yawning and whispering “Hey Ram!”

Around 1 pm, after his brief rest, Ram Lalla woke up to songs of “Sita Ram” on the loudspeakers, temple bells, crackers, as well as chants of “Jai Shri Ram”; he comfortably sat on his throne to again give “darshan” to visitors.

■ Page 4: It’s Modi or Yogi everywhere

## Sidelined Advani: ‘Blessed’

YOJNA GUSAI | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

L.K. Advani, the most prominent face of the

1990s Ram Janmabhoomi movement, whose Rath Yatra to support the VHP’s mandir movement is given credit for bring-

ing the BJP much political gains, felt “vindicated” over the Supreme Court verdict.

■ Turn to P4

## When cops joined kar sevaks to shout Jai Shri Ram

SANJAY KAW

Among the hundreds and thousands of *kar sevaks* armed with hammers and shovels, I wormed my way as an undercover for the *Statesman* newspaper to the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya way back in December 1992. Before going to the holy town, I was told that all *kar sevaks* were being issued *parichay patras* (letters of identification/introduction). To obtain this, I visited the BJP unit in south Delhi’s Ambedkar Nagar. I convinced the party office-bearer there that I was a Kashmiri Pandit who had to abandon his studies because of militancy in the Valley. He gave me the letter on hearing my story.

For this subterfuge, I took on the name of Sanjay Kaul. In Ayodhya, I

was put through intense grilling to establish my credentials as a *kar sevak*. Several times I had to recite an apocryphal tale of being a Kashmiri migrant who had abandoned his studies because of militant activity. It was terrifying to see the extent to which the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), BJP, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal combine had gone to ensure there was no infiltration. All through my stay in Ayodhya, the BJP’s letter proved to be my sole protection. After I was accepted as “genuine”, I saw first hand the face of religious zealotry that had remained veiled by political hoopla.

I managed to stay with the *kar sevaks* from Delhi and Haryana in a tent at Guru Gobind Singh camp near the disputed site. I was briefed

### FLASHBACK



by pracharaks of the RSS and “indoctrinated” by the Bajrang Dal.

**PROUD TO ROLL OUT  
THE BEST GRADUANDS OF 2019**

**CHIEF GUEST**  
**Shri. A. Rajarajan**  
Director  
Satish Dhawan Space Centre  
SHAR, ISRO, Sriharikota

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) will be conferred on  
**Shri. K. N. Vyas**  
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission  
& Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India

**PRESIDED BY**  
**Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar, MP**  
Founder Chancellor  
SRM Institute of Science and Technology

**10th November, 2019, Sunday at 11.00 AM**  
**Dr. T. P. Ganesan Auditorium, Kattankulathur**  
CAMPUSES : CHENNAI | TRICHY | NEW DELHI | SONEPAT | AMARAVATI | SIKKIM





When kar sevaks brought down Babri

Hindu activists climb up the dome of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya which was quickly demolished by end of the day.

— SONDEEP SHANKAR

# The five

At 10.30 am on Saturday, November 9, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court delivered a unanimous verdict in the Ayodhya title suit case after a 40-day marathon daily hearing on the matter. Meet the five.



Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice of India

The 46th Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi, born in 1954, joined the Bar in 1978, and was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court in 2012. In October last year, he was appointed Chief Justice of India. He has heard several landmark cases, including one pertaining to National Citizens Register. In an unprecedented move in January 2018, he along and other Supreme Court judges held a press conference to express their displeasure with CJI Dipak Misra. On April 19, 2019, a former female Supreme Court employee accused CJI Gogoi of sexual misconduct. In response, he convened an extraordinary hearing and denied the charges. Many jurists and lawyers were shocked at the “procedural impropriety” shown by him. He was later issued a clean chit by a SC inquiry panel.



Sharad Arvind Bobde, CJI-designate

Born in 1956 in Nagpur, Justice S.A. Bobde got his BA and LLB degrees from Nagpur University in 1979 and was enrolled in the Roll of the Bar Council of Maharashtra in 1978. Justice Bobde practised law at the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay high court with appearances in Bombay before the principal seat and also before the Supreme Court for over 21 years. Justice Bobde was designated a senior advocate in 1998 and was elevated to the bench of the Bombay high court as additional judge in 2000. He was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh high court in 2012 and elevated as a judge of Supreme Court next year. His retirement is due in April 2021. Justice Bobde will be the next CJI, taking charge on November 18, after Justice Gogoi demits office.



Ashok Bhushan, SC judge

Justice Ashok Bhushan, born in 1956 in Jaunpur, UP, obtained a law degree from Allahabad University in 1979 and was elevated as a permanent judge of the Allahabad high court in 2001 and as a judge of the Supreme Court in 2016. Justice Bhushan joined the bench dealing with Ayodhya matter months after delivering a relatively important judgment on September 27, 2018, in which a three-member bench refused to refer to five-judge Constitution bench a 1994 verdict which held that mosque was not integral to offering prayers in Islam. Writing for himself and then CJI Dipak Misra, he declined the request that the 1994 judgment be sent to a larger bench as it would have a bearing in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri masjid land dispute.



D.Y. Chandrachud, SC judge

In May 2016, Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court. Previously he was the Chief Justice of the Allahabad high court. Justice Chandrachud, born in 1959, was appointed as the additional solicitor-general in 1998. He practised law at the Supreme Court and the Bombay high court. A Delhi University graduate, Justice Chandrachud obtained his LLM degree and a doctorate in juridical sciences from Harvard Law School. He is known to have overturned several rulings believed to have turned obsolete with time. Some such verdicts, including those on the adultery law and the right to privacy, were handed down from his father, Y.V. Chandrachud, the longest serving Chief Justice of India.



S. Abdul Nazeer, SC judge

Justice S. Abdul Nazeer practised in the Karnataka high court for 20 years after he enrolled as an advocate in February 1983. Born in 1958, Justice Nazeer was appointed as an additional judge of the Karnataka high court in 2003 and as a permanent judge in 2004. He was elevated as Supreme Court judge in 2017. He is one among a very few in India who became a Supreme Court judge without becoming chief justice of any of the high courts in the country. Justice Nazeer was part of the five-judge bench in the “triple talaq” matter but had delivered a minority verdict along with then Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar. They upheld the validity of the practise of Triple Talaq based on that fact that it is permissible under Muslim Sharia Law.

## ‘Respect judgment, but verdict holds no value for us’

Zafaryab Jilani — secretary All India Muslim Personal Law Board and lawyer representing the Sunni Waqf Board in the Ayodhya land dispute case

**Q1. Are you satisfied with the verdict of the Supreme Court on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute?**

**A.** We respect the Supreme Court judgment but the Ayodhya verdict holds no value for us. Five acres has no value for us. We are not satisfied with

the verdict. We are unhappy and dissatisfied with this judgment. There are several portions in the judgment. The Ayodhya verdict has a lot of contradictions and some incorrect findings also.

**Q2. What will be your future course of action on the issue?**

**A.** We will decide on the further course of action after studying the judgment in detail. We respect the verdict, but the judgment is not satisfactory. It is not a defeat. We



will discuss if a review petition should be filed or not. We will file a review petition if our executive committee agrees on it. It is our right and it is in the Supreme Court’s rules as well.

**Q3. Do you consider the**



**We will decide on the further course of action after studying the judgment in detail... We will file a review petition if our executive committee agrees on it. It is our right and it is in the Supreme Court’s rules as well.**

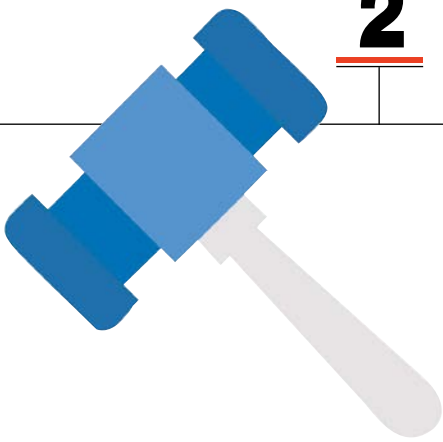
**Supreme Court judgment to be just?**

**A.** The entire country must respect the dignity of the apex court. However, a mistake

could be committed by anybody, and even the Supreme Court had reviewed its judgments on several occasions in the past.

**Q4. Will the verdict create a feeling of discontentment in a section of society?**

**A.** The verdict doesn’t signify a victory or defeat for any community. There should be no demonstration of any kind anywhere on it. We urge people to maintain peace and we will take whatever legal recourse we can.



## SC: No basis for HC to trifurcate site

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

The Supreme Court on Saturday found faults with the Allahabad high court verdict by which it had on September 30, 2010 trifurcated the disputed site in three parts, giving one each to idol of Ram Lalla and Hindu sect Nirmohi Akhara and one part to Muslims.

The Allahabad high court judgment partitioning the disputed site in three parts was pronounced on September 30, 2010.

Noting that the high court was called upon to decide the question of title particularly in the declaratory suits, the top court constitution bench headed by the Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said, “The high court has adopted a path which was not open to it in terms of the principles” that top court had set-out in the judgment.

“There was no basis in the pleadings before the high court and certainly no warrant in the reliefs, which were claimed to direct a division of the land in the manner that a court would do in a suit for partition,” top court said, taking a dim view of the high court judgment by which it partitioned the disputed site in three parts.

In assessing the correctness of the decree of the high court, the top court today said, “It must be noted at the outset that the high court was not seized of a suit for partition. In a suit for partition, it is trite law that every party is both a plaintiff and defendant.” The top court further noted that high court granted reliefs, which were not the subject matter of the prayers in the suits before it and in the “process of doing so, it proceeded to assume the jurisdiction of a civil court in a suit for partition, which the suits before it were not.”

Having pointed to the flaws in the high court judgment of September 30, 2010, the top court said that the high court was hearing a suit by a worshipper seeking the enforcement of the right to a suit by Nirmohi Akhara, asserting Shebaiti rights to the management and charge of the temple, a declaratory suit on title by the Sunni Central Waqf Board and Muslims, and a suit for a declaration on behalf of the Hindu deities in which an injunction has also been sought restraining any obstruction with the construction of a temple.

**THE ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT JUDGMENT PARTITIONING THE DISPUTED SITE IN THREE PARTS WAS PRONOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

Wondering where were the basis for trifurcating the disputed site, the top court today said, “The high court has completely erred in granting relief which lay outside the ambit of the pleadings and the cases set up by the plaintiffs” – idol of Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhara and Sunni Central Waqf Board.

Having said this, the top court said that there was “another serious flaw” in the entire approach of the high court in granting relief of a three-way bifurcation of the disputed site as it went ahead partitioning the disputed site in three parts, even though it had decreed that suit of Nirmohi Akhara and Sunni Waqf Board was time barred.

“Having come to the conclusion that Suit 3 (filed by Nirmohi Akhara) and Suit 4 (filed by Sunni Central Waqf Board) were barred by limitation, the high court proceeded to grant relief in Suit 5 (by idol of Ram Lalla) to the plaintiffs in Suits 3 (Nirmohi Akhara) and 4 (Sunni Central Waqf Board). This defies logic and is contrary to settled principles of law”, said that top court.

The three judges of the Allahabad high court – Justices S.U. Khan, Sudhir Agrawal and Dharam Veer Sharma – took concurring and divergent positions on the issues before them in 2010.

On Sunni Central Waqf Board’s claim over the Babri Masjid, Justice Khan had said that till 1934, Muslims were offering regular prayers and since 1934 till December 22, 1949, they were offering only Friday prayers in the premises in dispute. The offering of only Friday prayers was also sufficient for continuance of possession and use.

However, Justice Agrawal said that the Muslim parties have failed to prove that the property in dispute was constructed by Emperor Babur or by Mir Bai.

The question as to when disputed structure was built and by whom, Justice Agrawal said it cannot be replied with certainty since neither there is any pleading nor there is any evidence/material to arrive at a concrete finding on this aspect.

However, applying the principle of informed guess, he had said that it appears that the building in dispute may have been constructed, probably between 1659 to 1707 A.D. during the regime of Aurangzeb.

Justice Dharam Veer Sharma in turn had said that the mosque if adversely possessed by a non-Muslim will lose its sacred character as a mosque and the Sunni Central waqf Board were not in possession of the Babri Masjid and had filed a suit for recovery of possession.

He said that there was no reliable evidence to show that Muslims offered prayers from times immemorial.

While Justice Khan had said that it is not proved by direct evidence that premises in dispute, including constructed portion belonged to Babar or the person, who constructed the mosque or under whose orders it was constructed. However, he said that the disputed was constructed as mosque by or under orders of Babar.

Holding that no temple was demolished for constructing the mosque, Justice Khan had said that the mosque was constructed over the ruins of temples, which were lying in utter ruins since a very long time before the construction of mosque and some material thereof was used in construction of the mosque.

Justice Agrawal had held that the matter “mounts to delving into some kind of conjectures but since it is a case which necessarily goes in history and particularly when for sufficiently long time, the things are in dark in the absence of anything to the contrary, the present matter would fall within the domain of preponderance of probability.”



# The Verdict

*Excerpts from the 1,045-page judgment by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the Ayodhya land title suit, one of the most important verdicts in India's judicial history, ending a century-old dispute*

## ANTIQUITY OF THE ISSUE

The history and culture of this country have been home to quests for truth, through the material, the political, and the spiritual. This court is called upon to fulfil its adjudicatory function where it is claimed that two quests for the truth impinge on the freedoms of the other or violate the rule of law.

This court is tasked with the resolution of a dispute whose origins are as old as the idea of India itself. The events associated with the dispute have spanned the Mughal empire, colonial rule and the present constitutional regime.

## 'JURISTIC PERSONALITY'

Legal systems across the world evolved from periods of darkness where legal personality was denied to natural persons to the present day where in constitutional democracies almost all natural persons are also legal persons in the eyes of the law. Legal systems have also extended the concept of legal personality beyond natural persons. This has taken place through the creation of the artificial legal person or juristic person, where an object or thing which is not a natural person is nonetheless recognised as a legal person in the law... A legal person possesses a capability to bear interests, rights and duties.

The recognition of the Hindu idol as a legal or juristic person is therefore based on two premises employed by courts. The first is to recognise the pious purpose of the testator as a legal entity capable of holding property... The second is the merging of the pious purpose itself and the idol which embodies the pious purpose to ensure the fulfilment of the pious purpose... So conceived, the Hindu idol is a legal person.

...In a country like ours where contesting claims over property by religious communities are inevitable, our courts cannot reduce questions of title, which fall firmly within the secular domain and outside the rubric of religion, to a question of which community's faith is stronger

## TOP COURT ON ARCHEOLOGY

Archaeology as a science draws on multi-disciplinary or trans-disciplinary approaches. In considering the nature of archaeological evidence, it is important to remember that archaeology as a branch of knowledge draws sustenance from the science of learning, the wisdom of experience and the vision which underlies the process of interpretation...

Archaeology combines both science and art. As a science, it is based on the principle of objective evaluation. As an art, it relies on a vision which is realised through years of commitment to the pursuit of knowledge based on the histories of eras. Archaeology as a discipline cannot be belittled as unreliable...

The supposed distinction between science as embodying absolute truth and archaeology as unguided subjectivity is one of degree not of universes. Yet as in other disciplines of its genre, archaeology is as much a matter of process as it is of deduction.

The archaeologist must deal with recoveries as much as the finds from them. Interpretation is its heart, if not its soul. Interpretations do vary and experts disagree.

When the law perceives an exercise of interpretation it must recognize margins of error and differences of opinion.

Archaeological findings are susceptible of multiple interpretations... So long as we understand the limits and

boundaries of the discipline, we can eschew extreme positions and search for the often elusive median.

## UPHOLDING ASI CONCLUSION ON EXCAVATIONS AT THE DISPUTED SITE

It would be unfair to reject the conclusions, which have been arrived at by an expert team which carried out the excavation under the orders of the high court and has carefully analysed the recoveries from distinct perspectives. Yet the report must be read contextually, allowing for genuine divergences that arise on matters of interpretation... Having said this, we must also read the ASI report with the following caveats:

Though the excavation has revealed the existence of a circular shrine, conceivably a Shiva shrine dating back to the seventh to ninth century AD, the underlying structure belongs to twelfth century AD. The circular shrine and the underlying structure with pillar bases belong to two different time periods between three to five centuries apart; There is no specific finding that the underlying structure was a temple dedicated to Lord Ram; and

Significantly, the ASI has not specifically opined on whether a temple was demolished for the construction of the disputed structure though it has emerged from the report that the disputed structure was constructed on the site and utilised the foundation and material of the underlying structure.

Consequently, when the ASI report will be placed in balance in terms of its evidentiary value in the course of this judgment, it is crucial for the court to sift between what the report finds and what it leaves unanswered.

The ASI report does find the existence of a pre-existing structure. The report deduces 17 rows of pillar bases (a total of 85). The report concludes on the basis of the architectural fragments found at the site and the nature of the structure that it was of a Hindu religious origin.

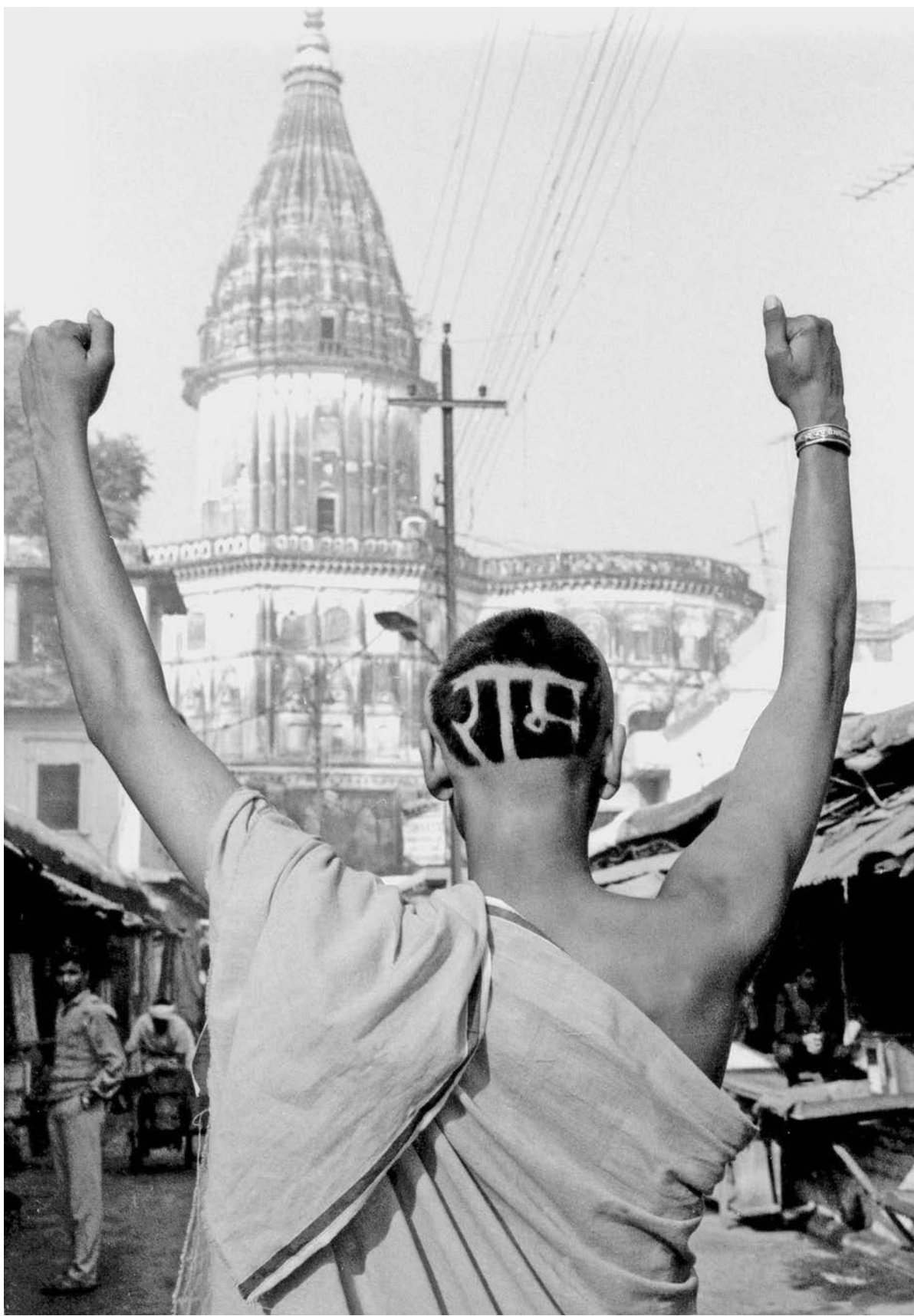
The report rejects the possibility (urged by the Sunni Central Waqf Board) of the underlying structure being of Islamic origin. But the ASI report has left unanswered a critical part of the remit which was made to it, namely, a determination of whether a Hindu temple had been demolished to pave way for the construction of the mosque. ASI's inability to render a specific finding on this facet is certainly a significant evidentiary circumstance which must be borne in mind when the cumulative impact of the entire evidence is considered in the final analysis.

## INTERPRETING HISTORY

Interpreting history is an exercise fraught with pitfalls. There are evident gaps in the historical record, as we have seen from the *Babur-Nama*. Translations vary and have their limitations. The court must be circumspect in drawing negative inferences from what a historical text does not contain. We are not construing a statute or a pleading. We are looking into historical events knit around legends, stories, traditions and accounts written in a social and cultural context different from our own...

Application of legal principles to make deductions and inferences out of historical context is a perilous exercise.

One must exercise caution before embarking on the inclination of a legally trained mind to draw negative inferences from the silences of history. Silences are sometimes best left to where they belong — the universe of silence.



## A kar sevak before Babri Masjid's demolition

In Ayodhya, December 1992, shortly before the Babri Masjid Structure was demolished by VHP, Bajrang Dal and RSS activists. — SONDEEP SHANKAR

## On documentary evidence

Prior to 1856-7 there was no exclusion of the Hindus from worshipping within the precincts of the inner courtyard;

The conflagration of 1856-7 led to the setting up of the railing to provide a bifurcation of the places of worship between the two communities; The immediate consequence of the setting up of the railing was the continued assertion of the right to worship by Hindus who set up the Chabutra in the immediate proximity of the railing.

Analysing the evidence advanced by Sunni Central Waqf Board, the court says "Though, the case of the Sunni Central Waqf Board is that the mosque was constructed in 1528 by or at the behest of Babur, there is no account by them of possession, use or offer of namaz in the mosque between the date of construction and 1856-7.

For a period of over 325 years which elapsed since the date of mosque construction until the setting up of a grill-brick wall by the British, Muslims have not adduced evidence to establish the exercise of possessory control over the disputed site. Nor is there any account in the evidence of the offering of namaz in the mosque, over this period.

On the contrary, the travelogues (chiefly Tieffenthaler and Montgomery Martin) provide a detailed account both of the faith and belief of the Hindus based on the sanctity which they ascribed to the place of birth of Lord Ram and of the actual worship by the Hindus at the Janmasthan.

**R.M.D. ENGINEERING COLLEGE**  
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**28<sup>th</sup> ALUMNI MEET**  
(Only for 2005-2018 passed out batches)  
The 28<sup>th</sup> Alumni meet of R.M.D. Engineering College will be held  
**on Sunday, the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 09.00 a.m.**  
**at Hotel Jayapushpam**  
Opp. Koyambedu Bus Terminus, Chennai-107.

**ALL THE ALUMNI ARE CORDIALLY INVITED**  
ONLINE REGISTRATION IS COMPULSORY TO ATTEND THIS ALUMNI MEET  
REGISTRATION WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, THE 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT 6.00 PM.  
[www.rmd.ac.in](http://www.rmd.ac.in) <http://rmd.ac.in/alumni/index.html>  
PRINCIPAL CHAIRMAN

FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)	
<b>RELEVANT PARTICULARS</b>	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	KEI-RSOS MARITIME LIMITED
2. Date of incorporation of Corporate Debtor	03/12/1999
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	RoC-Vijayawada
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U61100AP1999PLC032961
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	D.No.70-17A/29B Sasikanth Nagar Kakinaada Sunitar AP 533003 IN Odisha-751024
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	28-Aug-2019
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	10-Nov-2019
8. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Details can be sought by emailing at <a href="mailto:cirpkei@rediffmail.com">cirpkei@rediffmail.com</a>
9. Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	Available at website of IBI at <a href="http://www.ibbi.gov.in/webfront/legal_frame_work.php">http://www.ibbi.gov.in/webfront/legal_frame_work.php</a> or can be sought by emailing at <a href="mailto:cirpkei@rediffmail.com">cirpkei@rediffmail.com</a>
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	26-Nov-2019
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	6-Dec-2019
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	11-Dec-2019
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	21-Dec-2019
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	11-Dec-2019
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Details can be sought by emailing at <a href="mailto:cirpkei@rediffmail.com">cirpkei@rediffmail.com</a>
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	10-Jan-2020
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	In electronic mode form at the email ID: <a href="mailto:cirpkei@rediffmail.com">cirpkei@rediffmail.com</a> and by registered post/speed post/hand delivery at address mentioned at sl. No. 21
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	9-Feb-2020
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Anand Chandra Swain IBBI/PA-002/IP-N00162/2017-18/10431
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Anand Chandra Swain Expo Tower, Plot - 1307, Flat-4 (A&B), Nandankanan Road, P.O.-KIIT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751024 Email: <a href="mailto:anand.swain2@gmail.com">anand.swain2@gmail.com</a>
21. Address & email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Expo Tower, Plot - 1307, Flat-4 (A&B), Nandankanan Road, P.O.-KIIT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751024 Email: <a href="mailto:cirpkei@rediffmail.com">cirpkei@rediffmail.com</a>
22. Further Details are available at or with	Details can be sought by emailing at <a href="mailto:cirpkei@rediffmail.com">cirpkei@rediffmail.com</a>
23. Date of publication of Form G	10-Nov-2019

Date : 10/11/2019  
Place: Bhubaneswar  
Signature of the Resolution Professional- Anand Chandra Swain  
IBBI/PA-002/IP-N00162/2017-18/10431  
Expo Tower, Plot - 1307, Flat-4 (A&B), Nandankanan Road, P.O.-KIIT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751024  
For KEI-RSOS MARITIME LIMITED

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU NATIONAL CADET CORPS DEPARTMENT								
Sl. No.	Notification No. 521/SC/Adv <b>RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION</b>				Dated : 06 Nov 2019			
NCC Department invites applications in the prescribed format from the applicants for the following posts on regular basis as detailed below:-								
1. Details of Posts :								
Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Category					
			GT	SC (A) (OBCM)	BC (OBCM) (ESM)	MBC / DC	SC	Priority / Non Priority
1.	Driver	4	2	1	1	-	-	Priority/Non Priority
2.	Store Attendant	1	1	-	-	-	-	Non Priority
3.	Office Assistant	2	-	1	-	-	1	Non Priority
4.	Boat Keeper	1	-	-	-	1	-	Non Priority
2. How to Apply		Application format and other details such as minimum educational qualifications prescribed for the post, age limit, mode of selection and other information are available at <a href="http://www.tn.gov.in/departments/34">www.tn.gov.in/departments/34</a> or link <a href="http://cms.tn.gov.in/sites/default/files/documents/QR_NCC_100818_0.pdf">http://cms.tn.gov.in/sites/default/files/documents/QR_NCC_100818_0.pdf</a>						
3. Mode of Sending the Application		The filled in application complete in all respects along with Xerox copies of the required documents should be sent to the following address by post:- <b>13 (TN) Bn NCC, No. 161, Periyar EVR High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010. Tele : 044 - 28361013</b>						
4. Last date for receipt of application		<b>10 / 12 / 2019 up to 5 pm.</b>						
Note : Place of recruitment for the posts are appended below:-								
Name of the Office		Driver	Store Attendant	Office Assistant	Boat Keeper			
NCC Gp HQs, Madras 'B', Chennai		-	1 (NP)	1 (NP)	-			
1 (TN) Air Sqn NCC, Tambaram		1 (NP)	-	-	-			
13 (TN) Bn NCC, Chennai		1 (NP)	-	-	-			
3 (TN) Bn NCC, Kancheepuram		1 (P)	-	1 (NP)	-			
4 (TN) Naval (T) Unit NCC, Chennai		1 (NP)	-	-	1 (NP)			
*NP - Non Priority, P - Priority The candidate is liable to be posted to any NCC units within Tamil Nadu as per Tamil Nadu Government Servants (Conditions of Service) Act, 2016 as amended from time to time. Date: 07 Nov. 2019 Place: Chennai - 600 010. DIPR/ 1329 /DISPLAY/2019								
					Commander NCC Group HQs, Madras 'B'			

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## Ayodhya residents celebrate 'Deepavali'

Residents of Sadatganj area in Ayodhya burst fire crackers outside their houses on Saturday to celebrate the Supreme Court's judgement to give dispute land to Hindus for the construction of a Ram temple, ending decades-long litigation. — PTI

## IT'S MODI OR YOGI'S NAME EVERYWHERE

FROM PAGE 1

A "Peepli live" situation prevailed in the temple town today after the verdict.

A few hours before the judgment, some shops in Faizabad opened while others remained shut anticipating trouble. As one proceeded towards Sahabgunj and beyond to Ayodhya, all shops were closed while local residents were scattered, animatedly discussing the outcome of the verdict or the possible scenarios. Not a single discussion ended without the mention of "Modi" or "Yogi."

It was as if each knew what the verdict would be, and they even challenged one another. Others sat around on their terraces and balconies, watching each vehicle or passer-by with suspicion.

In front of barricades, national and local TV set up their bases and waited for the verdict.

In colonies with Muslim residents, green flags and bunting were visible, but the Milad un Nabi celebrations were subdued. The administration had cancelled the festivities due to security reasons, which disturbed many.

By afternoon, all streets were again deserted amidst a tight security vigil.

However, Ram Lalla remained available as usual, from 7 am to 11 am, a rest, and then again from 1 pm to 5 pm. But he had fewer visitors today.

While all roads leading to the temple were deserted, a man dressed up as Lord Hanuman walked past, chanting "Jai Shri Ram".

# Ram temple work to begin in April

YOJNA GUSAI | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

With the Supreme Court "facilitating" the construction of a "grand" Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is now hoping to lay the temple's foundation stone on the 'Ram Navmi' next April.

While the Sangh and its affiliate VHP gave a coordinated response on the verdict, asserting that "truth and justice" have prevailed and that the verdict is neither a victory nor a defeat, sources said the completion of the temple could coincide with the next Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh in 2022. For the past one week, the RSS has been appealing for peace and harmony over the Supreme Court verdict pronounced on Saturday.

The VHP, which spearheaded the Sangh's mandir campaign, has urged the Central government to set up a trust for the construction of the Ram Mandir and had asserted that almost 60 per cent of pillars and beams of the shrine are ready.

Preempting any move to take political mileage or communalise the verdict, the RSS had barred its leaders to react or act in any manner on the verdict. RSS leaders were also holding talks with Muslim religious leaders and influencers to check any move to aggressive response on the verdict.

It was RSS supreme Mohan Bhagwat, who first reacted, fol-

■ The VHP, which spearheaded the Sangh's mandir campaign, had asserted that almost 60 per cent of pillars and beams of the shrine are ready.

lowed by VHP working president Alok Kumar. They said the verdict "should not be seen as anybody's victory or defeat" and the "decision is in line with the sentiments of the whole nation." Even the BJP, whose top brass had held meeting with the RSS recently, echoed their views.

"We welcome this decision. This case was going on for decades and it reached the right conclusion. We wanted the issue to end, this has happened. All sides were evaluated and truth and justice have been highlighted," Mr Bhagwat said.

Mr Kumar said the verdict is a "decisive step towards construction of a grand Ram temple" and that it was a "day of happiness for Hindus the world over." He also noted that "Hindu has the nature to live in maryada, therefore "the expression of joy cannot be aggressive."

When asked about the other religious sites at Kashi and Mathura, Mr Kumar said the VHP is "currently focussed on construction "of the Ram temple and it has no time for other demands.

"About Kashi and Mathura, I must make it clear that the judgment is not the end of the story, it is the beginning," he said.

## Let us not stretch it further: Shahi Imam

ASHHAR KHAN | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) on Saturday expressed dissatisfaction with the verdict. All Muslim leaders appealed to the community to ensure that peace and harmony prevails and nobody takes law into their hands.

"We are dissatisfied with certain findings of the Supreme Court. We respect the Supreme Court verdict and respectfully disagree with certain aspects of it," said AIMPLB secretary Zafaryab Jilani.

Mr Jilani said they will study the judgement and may seek a review. "Even the inner courtyard has been given to the other party. It is not just," he argued, adding the working committee of the board will soon sit and discuss.

"Whatever legal recourse is possible we will take," Mr Jilani said. "We had hoped that the apex court will pronounce its verdict not keeping the faith factor in mind, but available historical facts and evidence," said AIMPLB member Kamal Farooqui.

However, Mr Zafar Ahmad Farooqui, the chairman of

■ We accept the court order and the Hindu-Muslim issue should come to an end now. Muslims of India want peace in the country. Before the court's order, all Muslims had said that they would accept the court's order, whatever it be.

— DELHI'S SHAHI IMAM

Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board which was one of the main litigants in the case, on Saturday welcomed the verdict and said it has no plans to challenge it. The Shia Central Waqf Board, whose appeal was dismissed by the apex court, has welcomed the verdict.

Accepting the verdict, the Shahi Imam of the Jama Masjid in Delhi, Syed Ahmed Bukhari, said on Saturday the matter should not be stretched further. "We accept the court order and the Hindu-Muslim issue, which had been going on for several years, should come to an end now Muslims of India want peace in the country. Before the court's order, all Muslims had said that they would accept the court's order, whatever it be."

## Muslims failed to prove possession

FROM PAGE 1

On the inner court yard on which Babri Masjid stood since 1528 till December 6, 1992 when it was demolished, the court said. "As regards the inner courtyard, there is evidence on a preponderance of probabilities to establish worship by the Hindus prior to the annexation of Oudh by the British in 1857."

Rejecting the Muslim claim over the disputed site under the three domes of the now demolished Babri Masjid, also described as inner court yard, the court said: "The Muslims have offered no evidence to indicate that they were in exclusive possession of the inner structure prior to 1857 since the date of the construction in the sixteenth century. After the setting up of the grill-brick wall, the structure of the mosque continued to exist and there is evidence to indicate that namaz was offered within its precincts."

Recalling that the Babri mosque was "desecrated" on the intervening night of 22/23 December, 1949, and the exclusion of Muslims from "worship and possession" of the mosque, the court said: "The ouster of the Muslims on that occasion was not through any lawful authority but through an act which was calculated to deprive them of their place of worship."

The court further noted that after the entire disputed site was taken over and receiver appointed

■ The Muslims have offered no evidence to indicate that they were in exclusive possession of the inner structure prior to 1857 since the date of the construction in the sixteenth century. After the setting up of the grill-brick wall, the structure of the mosque continued to exist and there is evidence to indicate that namaz was offered within its precincts."

— THE SUPREME COURT  
5-judge bench

in 1950, the worship of Hindu idols placed in the inner courtyard right under the central dome of Babri Masjid was permitted.

Saying that the Muslims have been "wrongly deprived of a mosque which had been constructed well over 450 years ago", the judgment says, "during the pendency of the suits, the entire structure of the mosque was brought down in a calculated act of destroying a place of public worship."

Noting that the Hindus have not brought on record any document showing the conferment of the title of the disputed site to them and had just produced records showing grants received by them for maintaining the mosque, the court said, "This document, even if it is accepted as authentic, indicates a grant for specific purposes and does not confer the title to the disputed land."

## SC verdict bolsters PM's Hindu image

FROM PAGE 1

As the Supreme Court's verdict yet again bolstered Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image as "Hindu Hriday Samrat," the original poster boy of Hindutva and the architect of the Ram Jannabhoomi movement, L.K. Advani, remained in the shadows. No one in the party talked about the old warhorse today.

Later in the evening, Mr Advani issued a short statement saying "I feel vindicated and deeply blessed that the Supreme Court has given its unanimous verdict paving the way for the construction of a magnificent temple for Lord Rama..."

A VHP functionary felt that the "closure" of the Ram Jannabhoomi dispute is bound to add to Modi's legacy of steering the nation towards the grand vision of establishing a Hindu Rashtra."

However, after taking over the reign of the nation, Prime Minister has always spoken of a united India and stressed on the mantra — *Sabke saath, Sabka vikas*.

He had also urged people of the country not to construe the Ayodhya verdict as a "matter of victory or loss."

Addressing the nation hours after the verdict, Mr Modi described "November 9 as a day to

■ WITH THE top court ruling in favour of the Hindu plaintiff, the BJP government has nearly ticked all the Hindutva boxes it had in its kitty — Abrogation of Article 370 and NRC.

■ THE ONLY major core issue remaining to be clinched is the Uniform Civil Code.

forget any bitterness one may have" and observed that "there is no place for fear, bitterness and negativity in new India."

With the top court ruling in favour of the Hindu plaintiff, the BJP government has nearly ticked all the Hindutva boxes it had in its kitty — Abrogation of Article 370 and NRC. The only major core issue remaining to be clinched is the "Uniform Civil Code." Some ultra right-wing outfits also want the word "secular" to be removed from the Constitution.

At a time when the economic slowdown has put the government on the backfoot and resulted in its poor show in Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Supreme Court's verdict came as a major boost for the party. Some of the BJP spin doctors felt that the verdict would offer the BJP a "fighting chance in Delhi and Jharkhand Assembly polls."

## Cops were ready to join kar sevaks

FROM PAGE 1

One person who was staying with me in the tent told me that all the arrangements had been made by the RSS. "We have planned the *rann neeti* (war strategy)," and the UP police is supporting us. We are sure of our victory," he said and even took me to a huge *bhojanalaya* for food.

At the site of the then disputed temple, the UP police and the Provincial Armed Constabulary were placed outside the structure, while the Central Reserve Police Force was inside. On the very first evening, I spotted a PAC constable shouting "Jai Shri Ram" slogans along with kar sevaks barely a few metres away from the disputed structure.

As I moved through the holy town wearing a two-day stubble and soiled clothes, I interacted with

many PAC men. Always, I was treated with respect, even deference. One night some *kar sevaks* and I spent hours chatting with a group of PAC personnel. "We are solidly behind you. Don't worry," said a policeman. "If we are ordered on December 6 to attack you, we will lay down our arms and join you," reassured another. "Come what may, we will force the paramilitary to surrender," said a third.

Some days ago a constable of the PAC had been suspended for removing bricks from the disputed structure, i.e. the Babri Masjid. A policeman told me that the PAC constable had removed 10 to 12 bricks when he was caught.

The bonhomie between the kar sevaks and the Uttar Pradesh policemen was striking. They bought us tea and, later, one of

them invited us over for breakfast to their camp, including many kar sevaks who were carrying arms.

The fact that I was a Kashmiri Hindu and had travelled to Ayodhya at my expense seemed to impress people no end.

A saint and a boy from Rajasthan bowed before me when they heard this. They said Hindus needed staunch supporters like me. The boy from Jaipur told me that he had been assigned the job of security, which probably meant being with the PAC or the Uttar Pradesh police.

A boy from Faridabad suggested that I join the RSS. He said a 20-day camp is held every year in three places in the country to impart training to Sangh activists. "This year we were taught how to handle explosives. Even some Kashmiris were there," he

added. Two boys from Hissar took me to their tent. They showed me a flick knife and taught me how to use it. I also saw some sadhus carrying wireless sets with them. A sadhu told me he was keeping an eye on those people who were moving suspiciously around the site. "We are keeping a close watch on journalists who are staying in Shaan-e-Avadh hotel in Faizabad," he said.

It was with great difficulty that I managed to leave Ayodhya. On my way to Faizabad, I was grilled again by kar sevaks. This time they wanted to know why I was leaving the holy town. An official posted at Faizabad railway station allowed me to leave only after I convinced him that I would be back with my Kashmiri Hindu friends who too were keen to perform kar seva on D-Day.



A file photo of L.K. Advani's rath yatra.

## Social media recalls Advani's yatra

FROM PAGE 1

In a statement, Mr Advani "wholeheartedly" welcomed the "historic judgement" and said he "stand vindicated and feel deeply blessed" that the apex court gave its unanimous verdict paving the way for the construction of a "magnificent temple for Lord Ram in Ayodhya."

Sidelined within the BJP, both Advani and his colleague, Murli Manohar Joshi are members of the party's 'margdarshak mandal,' which was formed in 2014 but has not officially held a single meeting since then.

Pictures of Mr Advani, flanked by Mr Joshi and some other BJP leaders during the Ratra Yatra were circulat-

ed in social media. Also, remembered on the day was late VHP stalwart Ashok Singhal, the crusader of the Ram jannabhoomi movement. Mr Advani and Mr Joshi are still facing trial in the 1992 Babri mosque demolition case.

Mr Advani noted that "Ram and Ramayana occupy an esteemed place in India's cultural and civilisational heritage" and the Ram Jannabhoomi in Ayodhya holds a "special and sacred place in the hearts" Indians, even those living abroad.

"Therefore, it is gratifying that their belief and sentiments have been respected...I also welcome the apex court's decision that five acres of land be given at a prominent place for the building of a mosque in Ayodhya....the time has come to leave all contention and acrimony behind and embrace communal concord and peace," said the BJP veteran.

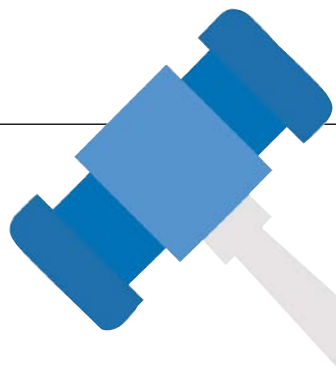
Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, who said November 9 will be written in "golden letters in the history of India," said "He (Advani) had taken out 'Rath-Yatra' for this. I will surely meet him and seek his blessings."

Earlier, Mr Joshi said the apex court's verdict should be accepted with an "open mind" by all communities.





People react after the Supreme Court verdict on Saturday. The judgment in the politically sensitive Ayodhya land dispute case is historic in more than one sense as it is perhaps for the first time in the 69-year history of the Supreme Court that a verdict was delivered on Saturday. — PTI



## Has the top court done its job?

*It can be said the court has picked peace over justice, and arguably, pragmatism over principles of fairness*



Valay Singh

Faced with an intractable dispute laden with politics and religion, layered with history and fiction, myth and propaganda, it has done what was widely surmised by many who have followed the dispute over the years. It can be said the court has picked peace over justice, and arguably pragmatism over principles of fairness and equity. Not many court verdicts are perfect and almost none that leaves every party satisfied. Given the significance of the Ayodhya issue to India's recent past, portentous present and future course as a multi-religious and richly diverse democracy, the Supreme Court had a rare opportunity to stamp its authority as the protector of justice, equity and rule of law. Has the court made good use of it?

Since 1855, when the issue first flared, over not the mosque but in fact, over the demolition of a mosque atop the nearby Hanumangarhi temple, each chapter of this sordid saga has reflected our country's evolution. It has also reflected the application of justice, initially by the British when suits asking for rights over the Ram Chabutra were dismissed by the Courts, and later in post-independence communally scarred free India, when the local magistrate allegedly connived and ensured that the mosque was locked and transferred to government custody once the Ram-Sita idols were forcibly implanted by a band of sadhus in 1949. At that time too, political considerations of the communal kind were the motivation but the staunchly secular, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru ensured that the new republic was enthralled more by socialism than narrow sectarianism. However, as the promise of a new and equal India proved hollow with every passing decade, and a new politics of identity and appeasement too root, the Ayodhya dispute emerged gradually on to the national centrestage. A toxic culture of elitism, apathy and vote-bank politics (of not just the religious kind) infected the body politic of the country by the mid 1980s and the sudden death of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi inadvertently precipitated the rise of religion-based politics centred around the Babri masjid-Ram Janambhoomi issue. At least, even if Nehru couldn't see the mosque restored back to Muslims, he didn't allow the ugly head of communalism to rear its head in mainstream politics. Consequently, even though justice was not done, more injustice was put in abeyance.

However, his grandson, Rajiv Gandhi who had to overnight turn from an aviation pilot to Prime Minister was neither as politically astute as his mother, nor ideologically committed as his grandfather. He was not even a politician like either. By the time Rajiv was thrust into the job, Indian politics was corrupted to the core and its government reduced to a club of industrialists and political dynasts who were often less trustworthy in the public's eye than even the government machinery they controlled. Unable to stand up to first the Muslim clergy he negated a SC verdict through an Act of Parliament. The RSS backed and VHP-led Ram temple movement, which was just two years old then, in 1986, Rajiv Gandhi widely arranged the opening of the locks of the mosque but only Hindus were allowed to worship there. A few years later, his party, in a desperate attempt to return to power launched its campaign from Ayodhya where Rajiv promised he would usher in Ram Rajya. During this time it was in this context that courts too played a role that was not above criticism, the admitting of the Ram Lalla Virajman, the deity suit in 1989 was certainly a decision that attracted criticism. What could have been resolved as a property dispute was allowed to fester till it became a chimera for pluralism and secularism. The destruction of the Babri masjid by Karsevaks despite the presence of thousands of security forces and SC's own monitors razed to the ground the already crumbling rule of law in the country.

All through the Ram temple movement, the pro-temple groups had asserted that matters of faith cannot be decided by courts. And on 6th December, the court's orders were flouted with the same impunity with which the three domes of the 16th century mosque were pulled down. In the subsequent decade and a half, India seemingly turned its back to Ayodhya and fixated over economic growth, corruption and misgovernance. The Allahabad high court verdict too had provided a compromise formula based on prioritising peace over justice, but failed to deliver on either. In the last few years, 'Jai Shri Ram' chants have instilled sadly been appropriated by criminals who wilfully terrorise Muslims and dalits.

The verdict been delivered on Barawafat, the day celebrated by Muslims to mark the birthday of Prophet Mohammad. In view of the sensitive nature of the case, the administration has imposed Section 144 and banned processions and celebrations of any kind and by any community. And although Muslims across the spectrum have welcomed the verdict, there is a lingering feeling among some once again the rule of law has been selectively applied to them. This is an impression that the Supreme Court should do well to correct in the future course by closely monitoring the implementation of its landmark verdict. Only then it would have finished the job.

*The writer is the author of Ayodhya: City of Faith, City of Discord*

# Shah reviews security

NSA Ajit Doval, home secretary Ajit Bhalla & IB chief Arvind Kumar also present

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Home minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a high level meeting to review security across the country in wake of the Supreme Court verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. Mr Shah personally spoke to some of the chief ministers to assess the situation in their states, directing them to put in place all security measures to ensure no untoward incident takes place.

National security advisor Ajit Doval, Union home secretary Ajit Bhalla, Intelligence bureau chief Arvind Kumar and some other senior security and intelligence officials were also present during the crucial meeting.

Senior officials gave the home minister a detailed presentation of the security situation in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, as Ayodhya was considered to be a sensitive area. Earlier, even Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior political and religious leaders had requested people to maintain peace and respect following the Supreme Court order.

Security agencies across the country had made elaborate arrangements to even monitor the social media posts to ensure that no inflammatory content was posted to trigger any violence. Security at all religious and other crowded places with high foot fall was beefed up in Uttar Pradesh. The state government directed that all educational and train-

## Assam Muslims to donate ₹5L for Mandir

MANOJ ANAND  
GUWAHATI, NOV. 9

In what has been seen as an attempt to strengthen communal harmony, 21 organisations representing indigenous Assamese Muslims have not only described the verdict on Ayodhya as historic but also decided to donate ₹5 Lakh to the trust that will oversee the construction of the Ram Mandir.

The organisations under the banner Jonogusthiya Somonnoy Parishad Asom (JSPA) said that the decision was an expression of solidarity among the indigenous Muslims to country's unity and to "cherished aspiration" of Hindus to see the temple is constructed in Ayodhya.

JSPA chairman, Syed Muminul Aowal said that all the 21 organisations will raise the money and donate it once the trust is formed. "We are happy that the protracted dispute has been resolved through the historic judgement of the Supreme Court. We will donate ₹5 lakh because we also want to be part of this historic decision that will further strengthen the spirit of unity and harmony in the

country," Mr Aowal, who is also senior BJP spokesperson, said.

The 21 organisations represent Gorla, Moria, Deshiya, Jalha, Maimal and Kachari Muslims, whose ancestries converted to Islam from different ethnic groups of the state. On the other hand, All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) chief Badruddin Ajmal said, "We respect the Supreme Court's verdict on the Babri masjid dispute. Our appeal is that post-verdict, people of Assam and across the country keep peace and harmony intact."

## IN AYODHYA SPECIALLY, A MASSIVE SECURITY CORDON WAS THROWN AROUND THE TOWN WITH MORE THAN 60 COMPANIES OF PAC AND PARAMILITARY FORCES

any kind of violence. State chief minister Yogi Adityanath also reviewed law and order in each district and appealed for peace. Home ministry on Thursday had also issued an advisory to all states and UTs to ensure adequate security arrangements are made. The railway police too had cancelled leaves of its personnel and stepped up vigil at 78 major stations. In the national capi-

tal, Delhi police had increased security across the city and stepped up patrolling in sensitive areas along with monitoring of the social media platforms. Delhi government had asked all private schools to remain closed on Saturday. Officials said that social media posts and WhatsApp messages that trigger hatred or violence would lead to severe punishment, including jail terms. In adjoining Noida, the police said that action could also be taken under the Gangsters Act and the National Security Act. The local police also conducted a flag march in sensitive areas of the state, including Noida. In Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra also, the police remained on high alert.

In Mumbai especially, the

## MEA briefs envoys on Ayodhya verdict

New Delhi: Top officials of the MEA, including foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale, on Saturday briefed envoys of certain influential countries, including some of the P-5 nations and the Islamic world over the verdict on the Ayodhya issue. Apart from foreign secretary Gokhale, the MEA's secretary (east) Ms Vijay Thakur Singh and secretary (West) Gitesh Sarma also briefed various envoys separately, sources said. It is understood that the briefings were part of the practice of briefing foreign envoys about "important developments."

police issued prohibitory orders against gathering of five or more persons till November 18. Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot also directed senior police officers to ensure law and order in the state. He asked the officers to make additional deployment in sensitive areas. In the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as well, prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC were issued, which bans assembly of more than four people. Schools and colleges also remained closed and all examinations scheduled for November 9 have been postponed. In Karnataka too, the state government declared that all schools and colleges will remain closed on November 9.

## SC says Akhara not Shebait of Ram Lalla

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

The Supreme Court on Saturday said in its verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute case that the Nirmohi Akhara, a litigant in the case, is not a "shebait" or devotee of the deity Ram Lalla.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said the Akhara's suit was barred by limitation. The bench in its order said the Akhara is not a shebait of the deity of Lord Ram and instead handed over the entire 2.77 acre of disputed area to Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas. The Nirmohi Akhara, which was awarded one-third of the disputed land by the Allahabad high court in 2010, had also made a claim to the entire disputed land stating that they were the original "pujaris" who worshipped Lord Ram at the temple at his birthplace.

However, the bench unanimously ruled that possession of Ayodhya's contested property will vest in a trust to be formed by the central government and also directed that representation in the trust may be given to Nirmohi

Akhara. "A 'shebait' is a person who is appointed by temple authorities to serve the deity, maintain the property and manage it.

The office of 'shebait' comes with rights. A pujari gains no independent right despite having conducted the ceremonies for a long period of time. Thus, the mere presence of pujaris does not vest in them any right to be shebait," said the bench and ruled that "at its highest, these exhibits show that the Nirmohis were present in and around the structure and assisted the pilgrims." It does not, however, evidence any management over the idols or the disputed site itself, said the bench.

The Akhara welcomed the apex court decision of giving it an "adequate representation in the trust". "Nirmohi Akhara is grateful that Supreme Court has recognised our fight," said an office bearer of Nirmohi Akhara. "Central government shall form in three to four months a scheme for setting up of a trust. They shall make necessary arrangements for the management of trust and construction of the temple," CJI Ranjan Gogoi said.

## ‘Rajiv blunders helped BJP rise’

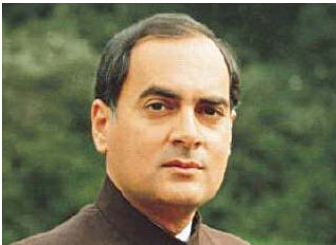
ASHHAR KHAN  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Former Union home secretary, Madhav Godbole, who quit after the demolition of Babri Mosque in 1992 was not far from the truth, when he described former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as the "second most prominent kar sevak, after Nayar, the district magistrate of Faizabad, who encouraged the clandestine placement of the Ram Lalla idol in the Babri Masjid on December 22, 1949."

It was Rajiv Gandhi's political blunders of conceding to the demands of the fundamentalists led to the resurgence of the BJP and revival of the Ayodhya dispute, which rekindled scars of partition and eventually completed the division between Hindus and Muslims in the country.

It was in 1985, Rajiv Gandhi reeling under various controversies, including the Bofors scam. In a bid to get out of the crisis, Rajiv began his mistakes of tinkering with India's socio-religious fabric.

The first was to overturn the Supreme Court verdict in the Sha Bano case on the triple talaq issue. This was an attempt to appease the Muslim fundamentalists and the Muslim Personal Law Board. Rajiv Gandhi enacted a law abolishing the alimony provision in conformity with the Sharia that principally gov-



Rajiv Gandhi

ern the Muslim personal laws. Rajiv Gandhi's "regressive" move upset the secular minded Muslim leaders and one of the prominent Muslim face in his Cabinet, Arif Mohammed Khan quit in protest against the move. This decision opened the can of worms. The Hindu fundamentalists, including the BJP launched a scathing and relentless attack on Rajiv Gandhi over the Sha Bano issue. Surprising many, Rajiv Gandhi in his so-called balancing act, ordered the locks on the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya to be removed. Until then, a priest had been permitted to perform puja once a year for the idols installed there in 1949. This step catalysed the rise of the right wing politics in India. And BJP, which that time had only two MPs, rose like a Phoenix.

In 1989, Rajiv Gandhi went ahead with negotiations with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and allowed Shilanayas, when the

first stone of the proposed temple was placed. At this juncture, Rajiv Gandhi riddled with troubles. His mishandling of the situation in Punjab, Kashmir and Sri Lanka had resulted into the rise of terrorist activities in the country. To make matters worse for him, V.P. Singh quit the Congress and started his own party. Rajiv Gandhi thought the pandering to the majority community could be the only way to consolidate his position. Toeing a Hindutva line, Rajiv Gandhi talked of a 'Ram Rajya' during his election campaigns.

The assurance of a "Ram Rajya" could not save Rajiv Gandhi, who lost the 1989 elections to V.P. Singh led Opposition. However, his move to open the locks benefitted the BJP, which stepped on the issue and in 1989 the party tally rose from two to eighty Lok Sabha seats. Then came L.K. Advani's repeated rath yatras for the construction of the Ram Mandir and the consistent rise of the BJP. If Rajiv Gandhi ushered in the rise of the BJP, the former Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao consolidate the Hindutva brigade with inaction during the demolition of the Babri Masjid by the Hindu fundamentalists in 1992. After the demolition, the Central government went ahead and dismissed the Kalyan Singh led BJP government in Uttar Pradesh and virtually made him a martyr.



## No untoward incidents

Chennai, Nov 9: The state remained peaceful, sans untoward incidents on Saturday.

The police made elaborate security arrangements and posted adequate armed personnel in vulnerable and sensitive locations, including places of worship. Key installations and major infrastructures like the over a century old Pamban rail bridge in Ramanathapuram district witnessed deployment of a posse of police personnel. Patrolling was stepped up, vehicle checking intensified and riot control vehicles stationed at vantage locations. Passengers were frisked and baggage screened at railway stations, including the Central Railway Station here. Also, sniffer dogs were pressed into service for surveillance and monitoring. Security was beefed up in areas, including the Big mosque point at Triplicane here ahead of the verdict and it continued to be on.

In Coimbatore and nearby Tirupur, perceived as communally sensitive, over 2,800 personnel from local and Central Armed Police Forces were deployed for a three-tier security. —PTI

## Ramadoss reacts

PMK founder S. Ramadoss said the verdict was not a victory or defeat for any side, adding it should by no means create a rift between Hindus and Muslims, whom he indicated, were like brothers. He urged the Centre to constitute on time a trust for the construction of a Ram temple as directed by the Supreme Court and also takes steps to provide five acres of land to Muslims to build a mosque. —PTI

## TWITTERATI

“The supreme court judgement on #AYODHYAVERDICT shows how all of us can coexist peacefully. This is the beauty of our great country, and I urge everyone to rejoice in the fact that we define ‘Unity in diversity’: #KanganaRanaut.”

Kangana Ranaut, Indian film actress, Director

SC bench has unanimously delivered the best possible verdict under the circumstances. Sensitive and balanced. Legal end to 70 yr RamMandir-BabriMasjid dispute.#MandirwahiBanega a , masjid awarded new spot in Ayodhya. #AyodhyaVerdict #AyodhyaJudgment

Kasturi Shankar, South Indian film actress

All religions teach us love. Don't let humanity to fall in the politics of success or failure, let's nurture love. Hail unity.. #AYODHYAVERDICT #AyodhyaHearing #hindumuslimbhaihai #BabriMasjid #AyodhyaJudgment.

Aari, South Indian film actor

# Respect verdict, say TN parties

G.SRINIVASAN | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 9

The reaction of various political party leaders in Tamil Nadu to Ayodhya verdict “was cautious and guarded”.

However all of them appealed to people to respect and accept the verdict. DMK president M.K.Stalin appealed to people of all sections to take the verdict with equanimity and move forward with religious harmony. “The Supreme Court found a solution to a long-standing issue on Saturday. As the constitution bench has passed the order, people should not show their hatred or liking towards it but show equanimity and move forward with harmony. They should not harm the pluralistic nature of the country,” Stalin said.

Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president K.S.Alagiri said, “in the name of God each of us worship, we must accept the Ayodhya verdict in full and without reservation”.

MDMK general secretary Vaiko said that our history has been that of majority protecting

## ‘Ours is peaceful state’

Chief Minister Edapadi K.Palaniswami said that Tamil Nadu is a peaceful state. People should prove this by maintaining religious harmony and setting an example to the whole country. He also said “Tamil Nadu government has been maintaining law and order well. People live in brotherhood cutting across caste, religious differences”.



Chief Minister Edapadi K.Palaniswami

minority people. Humanism cutting across religions is the hallmark and essence of our soil. So we should not harm religious harmony.

Thol.Thirumavalavan, founder of Viduthalaai Chiruthaigal Katchi, expressed shock over the verdict and said “it appears that the verdict has not been given based on the law but as a compromise formula to prevent law and order situation in the country.”

“The judges have said that placing Rama idol in Masjid in 1949 and later razing down it in 1992 were in violation of law. But Masjid had not been

built demolishing the temple. Violators of law have got the land.” Thirumavalavan said. He also said that when all democratic institutions are in danger, people had faith only in the judiciary. But the verdict has shattered this also. We have to be patient till a review petition is filed and its outcome known” he said.

Vedhantham, former international working president of VHP, welcomed the verdict. The verdict has helped building a magnificent Rama temple at Ayodhya, he said.



Police stand guard at Ice House mosque ahead of the verdict.

—DC

## TENDERS / NOTICES

### S. E. RAILWAY TENDER

e-Tender Notice is invited by Chief Engineer (Con)/HQ/GRC. The Tender will be closed at 12.00 Hrs. on due date. e-Tender Notice No.: SERCON-GRC-CE-CO-79-19, dated 06.11.2019. e-Tender invited by the Chief Engineer (Con)/S/GRC, South Eastern Railway, for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work uploaded on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of works:** Execution of Additional Work of Phase-II for Formation, Permanent Way Linking, Ballast Supply, Modification of Station Structures and Other Allied Works in connection with the Yard Modification of Ranital Station Yard including Additional Up & Down Lines between Link Cabin to Ranital in connection with 3rd Line Work between Narayangarh and Bhadrak Section of Kharagpur Division, S. E. Railway. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 36.01 Crore; **EMD:** ₹ 19,50,500/- & **Completion Period:** 20 Months. Interested Tenderers may visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. **NB:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to participate in all other tenders." (PR-987)

### S. E. Railway Tender

e-Tender Notice No.: SERCON-GRC-CE-CO-79-19, dated 06.11.2019. e-Tender invited by the Chief Engineer (Con)/S/GRC, South Eastern Railway, for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work uploaded on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of works:** Supply & Loading into any type of Railway Wagon/Hoppers of 61500 Cum 50 mm Machine Crushed Hard Stone Track Ballast at BARHARWA/BAKUDIH/TALJHARI/SAHIBGANJ/PINARGARIA Quarry (For BARHARWA/BAKUDIH/TALJHARI/SAHIBGANJ/PINARGARIA) for Construction Projects of South Eastern Railway. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 5.36 Crore. **EMD :** ₹ 4,18,100/-. **Completion Period :** 24 months. **Due Date :** 04.12.2019. Interested tenderers may visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **NB :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to participate in all other tenders. (PR-977)

### District Rural Development Agency, Perambalur Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue - 2019-20 e-TENDER NOTICE No. AS/3814/19, Dated: 08.11.2019

- For details, visit [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)
- e-Bids are invited by the Project Director, DRDA, Perambalur District for Upgradation and Strengthening of Rural Roads, Package wise, under two cover system.
- The Package wise bid documents can be downloaded free of cost from [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) from 11.11.2019 to 26.11.2019.
- Important dates**
  - 1 Last Date and Time for downloading and online submission of the Bid Documents. : **26.11.2019 upto 3.00 PM**
  - 2 Date and Time of Online opening of the Technical Bid : **26.11.2019 4.00 PM on wards**
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Project Director, DRDA, Perambalur.

### REGIONAL OFFICE: Leelavathi Building, 69, Armenian Street, Chennai-600 001 Ph: 044 - 2521 9964, 2521 9965, 2521 9966 RECOVERIES CELL

### POSSESSION NOTICE

For Immovable Property [Appendix IV under the Act - Rule-8(1)] Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Syndicate Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 07.08.2019 calling upon the borrower M/s. Omkar Ply represented by Proprietor Mr.Amit Gupta, Surety Mrs.Sumitra Devi Gupta and owner of the property Mr.Amit Gupta and Mrs.Sumitra Devi Gupta, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,03,67,332.63 as on 31.07.2019 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Since the concerned parties have failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the owner of the property, other parties concerned, and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 04th Day of November of the Year 2019.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The parties concerned in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Syndicate Bank, Mylapur Branch, for an aggregate amount of Rs. 1,05,19,127.69 as on 21.10.2019 and future interest thereon from 22.10.2019 costs, etc.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

**Property 1 : Owned by Mr.Amit Gupta:** All that piece and parcel of vacant land to an extent of 1238 sq.ft., bearing Plot No 4/36, LG-Type II, forming part of the sanctioned plan of TNHB, namely, Manali Phase I Scheme, comprised in survey No 251 part of Sadayankuppam village, Madhavaram Taluk, Thiruvallur district situated within the limits of the registration district of Chennai North District of Suburban District of Thiruvottur, and bounded on the North by: 20 Feet Road, South by: Plot No 4/35, East by: Plot No 4/1, West by: 20 Feet Road, Measuring East to West on the Northern side: 45 feet, East to West on the southern side: 50 feet, North to South on the Eastern side: 25 feet, North to South on the Western side: 20 feet with the Northwest splay of 7 feet. The property is located within the limits of Corporation of Chennai.

**Property 2 : Owned by Mr.Amit Gupta:** All that piece and parcel of vacant land to an extent of 2480 sq.ft., bearing Plot No 30 Chellappuram Nagar, Nemmalim, comprised in Survey No 278/3B, Karanthalangal Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram district situated within the limits of the Registration District of Chengalpattur and Registration sub district of Sriperumbudur and bounded on the North by: Plot No 40, South by: 20 feet Road, East by: Plot No 29A, West by: Plot No 31, Measuring East to West on the Northern side: 40 feet, East to West on the southern side: 40 feet, North to South on the Eastern side: 62 feet, North to South on the Western side: 20 feet with the Northwest splay of 7 feet. This property is located within the limits of Corporation of Chennai.

**Property 3 : Owned by Mrs. Sumitra Devi Gupta:** All that piece and parcel of the undivided share of land to an extent of 422.88 square feet in the land admeasuring 3,91,830.13 sq.ft situated at No 3, Vengadamangalam Road, Melakottaiyur village, Kandigal, comprised in Survey No 172/1 and 172/2 of Melakottaiyur village, Chengalpattur Taluk, Kanchipuram district, situated within the limits of the Registration District of Chengalpattur and Registration Sub District of Suburban District of Thiruvottur, and bounded on the North by: 172/1 bounded on the North by: Vengadamangalam Road, South by: Poramboke and Advani Oreilikon Factory, East by: Ranganatha Naicker Land and West by: O-Flex Cables Ltd Land Survey No 172/2 bounded on the North by: Vengadamangalam Road, South by: Advani Oreilikon Factory, East by: O - Flex Property and West by: Advani Oreilikon Factory. Along with the residential apartment bearing Flat No.E, Phase-I situated in the 6th Floor in Tower-1 of the multi-storied complex, "Park Avenue" having a built up area of 900 square feet, inclusive of a proportionate share in common areas, together with one reserved open car parking space constructed thereon.

Place: Chennai Date : 04.11.2019

Authorised Officer Syndicate Bank

### RO CHENNAI-II: No.2/13, 2nd Floor, Sri Guru Misri Complex, Kamarajar Street, Tambaram West, Chennai-600 045. Ph: 22265127 NOTICE TO THE BORROWERS / GUARANTORS

**S.No.1 (Branch: Maraimalainagar):** Borrower: Mr.M.Dineshkumar, S/o.K.Madharaj, Door No.2/286, Perumal Koil Street, Andarkuppam-600103, Thiruvallur District, A/c.No.61087590000021, Surety: Mr.R.Baskar, S/o.E.Ramamoorthy, No.684, TNHB, Thirukuthur, Singaperumalokki 603204; NPA Date: 30.09.2018; Total Amount Outstanding: ₹ 27,59,546.41 as on 30.09.2019 along with interest from 01.10.2019 and costs etc.

### SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Kancheepuram District, Chengalpattur Registration District, Sub Registration District of Joint II Chengalpattur, Chengalpattur Taluk, Thirukuthur Village: All that piece and parcel of land with building bearing Plot No. 594 measuring an extent of 572 Sq.ft. in EWS 'A' type in the sanctioned plan of Tamilnadu Urban Development Project at Thirukuthur village comprised in Survey Nos. 531/4C part, 533/1 part & 533/2 part with RCC Residential house having plinth area of 318.93 Sq.ft. at ground floor and 318.93 Sq.ft. at first floor. Measurements: East to West on Northern Side 19 feet, East to West on Southern Side 1080 Sq ft flat at Vishnupriya Avenue bearing Plot No. 19B Portion, Vishnupriya Avenue, Phase II 2nd Main Road, Maraimalainagar 603209 with UDS 861 Sq ft measuring of East to West on Northern Side 35 feet, East to West on Southern Side 35 feet, North to South on Eastern Side 73 feet 9 inch and North to South on Western Side 73 feet 9 inch. Boundaries: North by Plot No 561, South by Plot No 595, East by Plot Nos 601, 602 & 603 and West by 6 feet wide road & Plot No 593.

**S.No.2 (Branch: Maraimalainagar):** Borrowers: Mrs.J.Banumathi, W/o K.Jayakumar, 2 Mr.K.Jayakumar, S/o Kanniah Naidu, Both at, No.55, Sengundaram Road, Singaperumal Kk 603204, Chengalpattur Taluk Kanchipuram District, Surety: Mrs.R.Lalitha, W/o V.Ravikumar, No.5/6 Ishwaryam Nagar, Rail Nagar Road, Kattankulathur 603203, Chengalpattur Taluk, Kanchipuram District; NPA Date: 31.10.2017; A/c.No.61087590000039; Total Amount Outstanding: ₹ 27,84,243.68 as on 30.09.2019 along with interest from 01.10.2019 and costs etc.

### SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Kanchipuram District, Chengalpattur Registration District, and Sub Registration District of Joint II Chengalpattur, Ninnakari village, comprised in Old S No 363/2 and New Survey No 363/2A1B, all that piece and parcel of land of 2581 Sq ft with a super built up area of plinth area of 1080 sq ft flat at Vishnupriya Avenue bearing Plot No. 19B Portion, Vishnupriya Avenue, Phase II 2nd Main Road, Maraimalainagar 603209 with UDS 861 Sq ft measuring of East to West on Northern Side 35 feet, East to West on Southern Side 35 feet, North to South on Eastern Side 73 feet 9 inch and North to South on Western Side 73 feet 9 inch. Boundaries: North by Sy.No.363/1, South by 30 Feet Road, East by Plot No 20 and West by Plot No 18.

In respect of loans availed by you which have become NPA with balance outstanding mentioned above. We have already issued detailed demand notice dated 25.10.2019 under Sec.13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with acknowledgment dated to you which has been returned undelivered, with following remarks, "Unclaimed - Return to Sender".

We have indicated our intention of taking possession of securities owned by you as per Sec.13(4) of the Act in case of your failure to pay the amount mentioned above within 60 days.

**You are advised 1)** To collect the original Notice/Cover addressed to you and returned by Postal Authorities from the undersigned for more and complete details and 2) To pay the balance outstanding amount with interest and costs etc. within 60 days from the date of notice referred to above to avoid further action under SARFAESI Act. Your attention is also invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Please take further note that this notice is served in cancellation of all the demand notices raised earlier under the SARFAESI act 2002.

Authorised Officer Syndicate Bank, Regional Office

### Government of Tamil Nadu Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department TENDER NOTICE No. A3 / 4362 / 2019 Dated: 08.11.2019 FORM OF CONTRACT : ITEM RATE (Two Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu Additional Collector (D) / Project Director, DRDA, Cuddalore District invites e-bids (Two Cover System) for Strengthening of Roads under SCARP - 2019-20 Scheme as detailed below:

S.No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value	Period of Contract
1.	Strengthening of Roads under and SCARP - 2019-20 Scheme	Rs.26.50 Lakhs to Rs.65.96 Lakhs	6 Months

- For details, visit [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)
- The e-bid document can also be downloaded free of cost from 11.11.2019
- Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the estimated value.
- Important dates:**
  - 1.Last Date and Time for downloading of e- Bid document : **26.11.2019 upto 3.00 p.m.**
  - 2.Last Date and Time for online submission of the Bid document : **26.11.2019 upto 3.00 pm**
  - 3.Date and Time of online opening of the Bid Document : **26.11.2019 upto 4.00 pm**
- Other details can be seen in the bidding document. Additional Collector (D) / Project Director, DRDA, Cuddalore District

### Government of Tamil Nadu Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department TENDER NOTICE A4.No.1810/2019 Dated: 09.11.2019 FORM OF CONTRACT : ITEM RATE (Two Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Joint Director / Project Director, DRDA, The Nilgiris District invites e-bids for the Execution of Road Works at the Nilgiris District under State Finance Commission 2019-20 as detailed below.

- For details, visit [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)
- The package wise bid documents can also be downloaded on free of cost from [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) from 11.11.2019 to 20.11.2019.
- Amount of EMD will be 1% of the Estimated value of each package.
- Any additional / further details and conditions related to these works can be had from the office of the Joint Director / Project Director, DRDA, The Nilgiris District.
- Important dates on Tender**
  - 1 Pre-Bid Meeting Conducted Date & Time : **13.11.2019 at 11.00 A.M**
  - 2 Last Date and Time for Download of Bid Documents : **20.11.2019 at 3.00 P.M.**
  - 3 Last Date and time for online Submission of Bid Documents : **20.11.2019 at 3.00 P.M.**
  - 4 Date and Time of Online opening of Bid Documents : **20.11.2019 at 4.00 P.M.**

Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Nilgiris District.

### Government of Tamil Nadu Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department District Rural Development Agency, Coimbatore Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue 2019-2020 Tender Notice

- Roc. No. 981/2019/D1 Dated : 09.11.2019**
- For details, visit [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)
  - E-Bids** are invited by the Project Director, DRDA, Coimbatore Districts for Construction of Panchayat Union office Building at Karamadai, Madukkarai, P.N. Palayam, Thondamuthur, Anamalai, Kinathukadavu, Pollachi North, Pollachi South, Sulur, Annur and Sulthanpet Block- package wise, in **two cover system**.
  - The package wise bid documents can be downloaded free of cost from [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) from 11.11.2019 to 26.11.2019
  - Last Date and Time:**
    - (i) Last Date and Time for downloading and submission of Bid documents : **26.11.2019 upto 3.00 p.m.**
    - (ii) Date and Time of online opening of Bid Documents : **26.11.2019 4.00 PM onwards**

Joint Director / Project Director District Rural Development Agency, Coimbatore

### Government of Tamil Nadu Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department Erode District Tender Notice No.318/2019/A11 Dt:08.11.2019 Notice Inviting Tender 14th Central Finance Commission Grant - 2019 - 20

For details, visit [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)

- e-Bids are invited by the Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Erode District for the Upgradation / Strengthening of Panchayat union and village panchayat Roads Package wise under 14th Central Finance Commission Grant-2019 -20 (two covers system)
- The package wise bid documents can be Downloaded free of cost from [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) from 13.11.2019 to 22.11.2019.
- Common date and time for downloading of Bid document, Submission and Opening Last date and time:
  - (i) Last Date and Time for downloading : **22.11.2019, Upto 3.00 PM** and Submission of Bid Documents
  - (ii) Date and Time of online opening of Bid Documents : **22.11.2019, 4.00 PM onwards**

Joint Director / Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Erode District.

### GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION Education Department E.D.C.No.A1/11413/2019 e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited for the following works by EDUCATIONAL OFFICER detailed below.

Name of the work	Tender Value	EMD	Eligible Criteria	Tender to be submission on Date / Time
Greater Chennai Corporation - Supply of 66 Set - Kinder Garden Materials for 31 Chennai Kinder Garden Schools	Rs.,01,64,000/-	Rs.,1,01,640	Refer Tender Document	Last Date 29.11.2019 3.00 pm

The bidders can participate in the e-Tender through the website <http://tntenders.gov.in>

e-Tenders will be opened on 02.12.2019 at 3.00 pm in the chamber of Educational Officer, Education Department, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai - 600 003.

Educational Officer

### Punjab State Power Corporation Limited Regd. Office: PS&B, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in

**E-Tender Enquiry No:** 247/P-3/EMP-W 11657 dt. 07.11.19 & ID: 46639

**Scope of Work:** Dismantlement of complete centrifugal unit with heating system and electrical control panel of type MAB-206 ALFA LAVAL make from stage-I (unit182) and erection and commissioning of same on stage-III units (i.e. units 586).

**Time period:** 30 days **EMD:** Rs. @2%

Date & time up to which tender shall be received: 12.12.2019 & 11:00 AM

Date & time of opening of tender: 12.12.2019 & 11:30 AM

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <http://tntenders.gov.in> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.

**Note:**

- In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and or M/s e-procurement Technologies Ltd. Contact No.+91-(79)-40016866/40/38/18/21. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.
- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official, PSPCL website [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in).

RTP-87/19 Dy.CE/Monitoring, GGSSTP, Rupnagar

RO : C-7789

### GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU KARUR MUNICIPALITY TENDER NOTICE - Form of contract : Item rate (Two Cover system)

1. Bids are invited in work for the ROAD SAFETY 2018-19 - as detailed below:

Package No	Works	Value put to tender (Rs. In Lakhs)	Period of Completion
1	Road Safety fund 2018-2019 (One Call) Erection of 310 No. of LED Electrical poles with fittings at center medians from Karur - Amaravathi bridge to Subash Chandra Bose Nagar (Vallani Road)	330.00	2 months

- The bid documents will be available from Karur Municipality. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website <http://tntenders.gov.in> at free of cost. 3. Bid documents can be downloaded upto 2.00PM on 26.11.2019 Online submission of tender will also be accepted. 4. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value put to tender for a Work 5. Any additional / further details and conditions related to this tender can be had from the office of the respective Commissioner of Municipality on 8 working days during office hours. 6. **Important dates**

1	Date and time of Pre bid meeting	15.11.2019 at 11.00AM
2	Last date and time for downloading bid documents	26.11.2019 upto 2.00PM
3	Last Date and time for submission of bid document, including online submission	27.11.2019 upto 3.00PM
4	Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid	27.11.2019 at 3.30PM
- In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. 8. Other details can be seen in the bid documents. (Roc.No.1329/2018/E1, Dated: 07.11.2019)

DIPR/4203/TENDER/2019 Commissioner (UC), Karur Municipality.

### தனி அலுவலர், கோடங்கிபாளையம் ஊராட்சி, பல்லடம் வட்டாரம், திருப்பூர் மாவட்டம், தன: 08.11.2019

திருப்பூர் மாவட்டம், பல்லடம் வட்டாரம், கோடங்கிபாளையம் ஊராட்சி பல்லடம் வட்டாரத்தில் உள்ள பற்றும் 2017-18 பற்றும் 2018-19 ஆம் ஆண்டு சிவியர்செரு நெடாக (75%) திட்டத்தின் கீழ் 02 ராசமகன் பெயர்ப்பு செய்தல் பணிகளை ஒரு குத்தியைவிட்ட ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளிகள் கடைசல் கதிப்பி: 1,53,99,000/- (ஒருபடி ஒரு கோடி ஐந்து லட்சம் ரூபாய்) ஒப்பந்தத்தினை வரவேற்கின்றது ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளிகள்

- ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளிகள் எப்போதெல்லாம் [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) என்ற இணையதள முகவரியினை 12.11.2019 முதல் பார்க்கலாம்.
- தனி அலுவலர்/வட்டார வளர்ச்சி அலுவலர்(கிளை) கோடங்கிபாளையம் ஊராட்சி பல்லடம் வட்டாரத்தில்



# Finally, deja vu moment

*Across many Muslim dominated localities in the twin towns, most confined themselves to their homes while groups of people were seen engaged in discussions. That they were dejected was something no one could have missed.*

VIKRAM SHARMA  
AYODHYA, NOV. 9

Gently running his fingers through his long white silky beard, Maulvi saab, as he is fondly known, sat in one corner of the deserted street gazing at the buntings erected for Milad Un Nabi in the Muslim-dominated Bhadarsa locality.

Ask him about the Ayodhya verdict that has come on Saturday, and the 74-year old smiles as he says that the judgment was on expected lines.

"Let's not act as if we'll not know what the verdict would be like. We all had anticipated that. First it was triple talaq, then scrapping of Article 370 from Kashmir and now this (Ayodhya verdict). Not many will like to say it openly but the designs of some powerful people is getting clear to us now," he says.

Reminded that it was the court's verdict and the government had nothing to do with today's judgment, Maulvi saab laughs it off, making clear his disagreement.

Minutes after the Supreme Court read out the historic judgment in favour of Ram mandir, Muslims across the twin towns, though remained calm, felt that the BJP had lost its last chance of winning the confidence of the community.

What was even more disturbing for them was that the verdict came on a day when the Muslim community was looking forward to celebrate Milad un Nabi — the birthday of prophet Mohammed. Due to security concerns, the Faizabad district administration has banned all kinds of processions and gatherings including the Milad un Nabi "juloos" or procession.

"We are not against any community. But since morning, have you not seen Hindu community crediting Modi government for the verdict? Even TV channels will do it soon. If we blame Modi government for it (verdict not coming in our favour) we are wrong, right?" asks Arif Muhammed, a college-goer and resident of Benigunj.

All of them base their argu-

ment on the saffron party's election manifesto which promises to construct a ram mandir at ayodhya.

Maulana Abdul Rashadi Madni, who runs a Madrasa in Azamgarh, says that the Muslim community was deeply hurt when the Babri masjid was razed and says he is equally hurt now. "All Muslims would have become BJP supporters had the verdict come in their favour. Now, it is difficult to trust the Supreme Court," he says.

It was back in 2012 that some BJP and VHP leaders had coined the slogan "*UP mein banega Gujarat, Faizabad se hogi shuruwaat*" — and many say that this is coming true now.

Among many muslims *Deccan Chronicle* randomly spoke to, almost all of them said they had anticipated the judgment and it did not surprise them one bit.

"You heard TV channels say even Muslims want a temple to be constructed at the site and they want an end to the dispute. Just because some Muslims who call themselves our leaders are in the payrolls of the BJP, it does not mean that all of us are of the same opinion. Faith is as important a matter for us as it is for Hindus," says Abdul Mateen, a small time trader in Sahabgunj.

Across Muslim dominated areas, a pall of gloom has descended soon after the verdict. Green flags, banners and buntings were everywhere but there were no celebrations.

"Leave alone the verdict, we are now not allowed to celebrate the most important event in Muslim calendar. We definitely did not see this coming," said Abdul Subhan of Rikabgunj.

Across many Muslim dominated localities in the twin towns, most confined themselves to their homes while groups of people were seen engaged in discussions. That they were dejected was something no one could have missed.

By evening, several locals celebrated by lighting diyas. Some burst crackers. It was like Diwali.



## The wait is getting over

Karsevaks resting on partially carved stone slabs to be used as pillars of the proposed Ram temple near Babri Masjid.

—Archive of Sondeep Shankar

# We respect the judiciary and its verdicts: Muslim League

*IUML leaders reminded the workers on the role the party played in the past to ensure peace in society during tough times including when Babri Masjid was demolished*

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KOZHIKODE, NOV 9

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), the prominent political party representing Muslims based in Kerala, said that it will respect the verdict in the Ramjanambhumi-Babri Masjid dispute though the party was not fully satisfied with it.

The party, which has been credited with ensuring peace during the turbulent days in the aftermath of the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992, was however non-committal on the future course of action it will take. Most leaders evaded questions on the merit of the verdict, saying that it is too early to give a statement as they are yet to access the verdict document. The party has convened a special meeting of its high-power committee at Panakkad, Malappuram on Monday to discuss the verdict in detail.

In an interaction with reporters at Malappuram, IUML supreme Panakkad Syed Hyderali Shihab Thangal said that the party respects the verdict. "We shall be able to comment more only after a proper evaluation," the Thangal said. He urged party workers as well as public to approach the verdict with composure.

IUML leaders also reminded the workers on the role of the party played in the past in the nation to

ensure peace in society during such times of communal tension. Even at the times when the Babri Masjid was demolished, the state remained without any communal violence due to the active role of IUML, the leaders pointed out.

IUML national secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty, MP, said IUML has its origin in the freedom struggle and hence the nation is very much important. "We respect the judiciary and will come out with a considered stand after due deliberations," he added. On a query on the move of Muslim Personal Law Board to approach apex court for a review of the verdict, Mr Kunhalikutty said it is too early to comment on decision of board.

"The IUML had passed a resolution in as early in 1989 to accept the verdict of the apex court in the Ramjanambhumi-Babri Masjid dispute. Whatever its legal impact, the party will abide by our earlier decision."



The Indian union Muslim League had passed a resolution in as early in 1989 to accept the verdict of the apex court in the Ramjanambhumi-Babri Masjid dispute. Whatever its legal impact, the party will abide by our earlier decision.



— P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY, MP  
IUML national general secretary

# Why not a museum at Ayodhya?

*As a social science student, teacher I would say what was really needed there is a modern research institute or a museum instead.*



RAJAN GURUKKAL

As a student of history, the verdict of the Supreme Court on Ayodhya did not make me happy or gave me peace. However, this is a verdict given by the top court of the country and as a citizen, I am bound to accept by it. However, as a social science student, teacher and a person who wanted to the quality of the higher education sector in our country go up, I feel that this verdict is pushing us backward.

The court decided on this verdict-of allotting the disputed site for the construction of a Ram temple-keeping in mind one section of people and their beliefs. A small town such as Ayodhya can do without a grand temple; but what was really needed was a modern research institute or a museum instead. This is a period when we have been affected by environmental issues and climate change. An institution devoted to studying them would have been in order.

The Ayodhya issue started as a title dispute over 2.77 acres. It was only later that political, historical and socio-religious debates become the focal point of the dispute; political and religious angles were added to give weight to the argument.

Such issues cannot be settled by considering historic evidence alone. It is not prudent to decide on ownership of a plot of land with information on one period of the history.

There are Buddhist and Jain links to Ayodhya. According to the Jain tradition, five tirthankaras were born at Ayodhya, including Rishabhnanatha, Ajitanatha, Abhinandananatha, Sumatinatha and Anantanatha. It has been associated with Kosala kingdom, later to Maurya rule. It was also an important trade centre associated with various Sarthavaha communities. It has also been under sultanate and the Mogul rule later.

The issues that happened after 1992 were vital as they have several socio-political dimensions. But now that we have an order of the apex court on our hand, it is imperative that all sections of the people react to it in a mature way. Most of the people in the country believe in friendship and mutual respect. This was true even when some reacted in an impulsive way.

(The writer is vice-chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council) (As told to Sabloo Thomas)

# Time everyone worked for peace



K.T. JALEEL

Faith and places of worship are not meant to destroy the peace of mankind; instead, they are meant to forge strong friendship between them.

I wish the judgment of the Supreme Court on the Babri Masjid case will settle all the disputes forever. Let's all accept the final verdict in the case. Let's also hope that the dispute over Babri Masjid is the first and the last one over the ownership of various places of worship in our country.

I wish the Hindu and Muslim communities would work for lasting peace by strengthening their faith in the country's judicial system. My prayers are for that.

(Dr K.T. Jaleel is minister for higher education, minority welfare and waqf, Kerala)



M.A. BABY

The CPM would undertake an elaborate breakdown of the Supreme Court verdict in due course. We have various ideas about the verdict and they have been presented in a capsule form in the communique issued by politburo on Saturday.

For example, there is a reference that certain premises in the verdict are questionable. This means we have our reservations or questions about some of the aspects of the judgment.

The judgment speaks about the criminal violation of Babri Masjid, though not in the same term. It said the demolition of the Masjid was a violation of law. So the law should take proper action against the culprits. That legal action is not completed and the culprits have not been meted out the punishment.

The verdict has referred to the Places of Religious Worship Act, 1991. There cannot be a reopening of any other place of worship on similar lines in future. We have

stated this in our statement.

It is a sensitive matter. At this point of time we don't want to state anything which could create provocation. The issue which has been used for fanning up communal passions by various forces for long periods had to be settled at some point in a non-controversial manner. Such a dispute cannot be settled fully to the satisfaction of everyone. But still, it should be settled in a manner where nobody would feel defeated or triumphant.

We have our reservations in saying that this is a judicious decision. But still there has to be an end to this litigation.

The Sangh Parivar may go forward in a triumphant mood but it is for the democratic and secular forces to see they are prevented from doing that. It is a big task before them. We have to painstakingly spread the message among the masses. It is not an easy task, but we will have to take it up.

The RSS is notorious for double speak. They don't stick to what they say. That they refuse to give a categorical reply on the issue of Kashi and Mathura shows they are going to take up other matters.

**THE JUDGMENT SPEAKS ABOUT THE CRIMINAL VIOLATION OF BABRI MASJID, THOUGH NOT IN THE SAME TERM. IT SAID THE DEMOLITION OF THE MASJID WAS A VIOLATION OF LAW. SO THE LAW SHOULD TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE CULPRITS. THAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE.**

The judiciary is found wanting even in the case of all those who have criminally destroyed a place of historical importance. They have not pronounced the verdict and settled the issue yet. So there are many grey areas where systemic failure was evident in protecting democracy and secularism. The Indian political, social and cultural communities will have to stand up and discharge their responsibility to protect the secular and democratic values as enshrined in the constitution.

The only office that the communal forces attacked in Delhi was the CPM headquarters. They know

who is systematically exposing and opposing communal forces. But unfortunately the Congress does not have the courage to politically, ideologically and organisationally face communalism.

There are wide areas where the Left is almost non-existent and the Congress is the only opposition. But the Congress is not discharging the role of the opposition. This is also helping the BJP and RSS to be more bold and aggressive. The Left will never be found wanting in fighting the communal forces politically, ideologically and organisationally. We are doing it in Kerala.

The Left will continue to play its role within its limitations and influence in taking up secular positions and fighting communal forces. Whether the Left will develop as a leading force is something society also has to respond to. We cannot assume the leadership position on our own.

We have taken up positions about following a mass line and connecting with marginalised sections such as tribals, dalits, minorities and women. Problems such as agriculture distress, farmer sui-

cides, economic recession, retrenchments, layoffs, unemployment, atrocities against women and livelihood issues are problems which need to be taken up.

Only by doing so can you develop and evolve a mighty mass movement for secularism, societal problems and livelihood issues of various sections and that has to be the important pillar on which the fight against communalism can be developed.

Long march of farmers from Nashik to Mumbai and farmers struggle in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have been organised under the red flag. More such movements have to be built.

Today we may have different critical observations about the verdict. But we have to keep our cool and patience. We have to respond to the situation in a responsible and restrained manner and that is very important. Preserve the unity so that the struggle for social change and unity can be strengthened in the coming days.

(M.A. Baby is member of the CPM politburo) (As told to Gilvester Assary)

# Let's count the holes in the verdict later



**Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

It is a day of unity (*jode ka din*, referring to the opening of Kartarpur corridor, a historic event which opened access to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan for Indian Sikh devotees). The way each section of the society welcomed the verdict reflects India's ancient traditions of amity

**M. Venkaiah Naidu @VPSecretariat**

Further to today's unanimous verdict by 5-Judge bench of Supreme Court on Ayodhya issue, let's leave the past behind and move towards building an India of peace, harmony

**Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh**

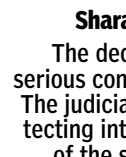
The Judgement will strengthen India's social fabric. I urge everyone to take the verdict with equanimity and magnanimity. I appeal to the people to maintain peace

**Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi**

Supreme Court has given its verdict. With the highest regard for the Court and the judgment, every one of us must maintain communal amity and peace

**H.D. Deve Gowda @H\_D\_Devegowda**

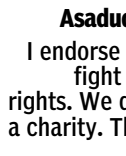
It is a balancing decision, which I welcome... What happened in the past, so that is a big issue. So I do not want to go to the past

**Sharad Pawar @PawarSpeaks**

The decision will help address a serious concern before the country. The judiciary has talked about protecting interests of all the sections of the society. It is a good thing

**Mayawati @Mayawati**

While respecting the decision by the SC as per the Constitution of Param Pujya Baba Saheb, all future action should only be taken in an amicable atmosphere

**Asaduddin Owaisi @asadowaisi**

I endorse the AIMPLB's stand. Our fight was for justice and legal rights. We don't need 5-acre land as a charity. There cannot be any compromise over a mosque

**Uddhav Thackeray @uddhavthackeray**

This is red-letter day in the country's history. I remember Bal Thackeray, Ashok Singhal on this day

**M.K. Stalin @mkstalin**

All sections should accept (the verdict) and I firmly believe it will be taken forward in a way upholding communal harmony, and without harming the country's plurality

**Manohar Lal Khattar @mlkhattar**

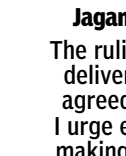
The verdict given by the Supreme Court on Ayodhya issue is historic. This verdict will help further strengthen the country's social fabric

**Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39**

Only when Lord Rama wanted the green light for re-building the temple is being given. Namo Govt must immediately announce Bharat Ratna for Ashok Singhal

**Tejasvi Surya @Tejasvi\_Surya**

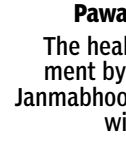
A civilizational wound is now healed. 490+ years of struggle has finally ended in victory. Let's bow down to all the Ram bhakts who relentlessly fought for this

**Jagan Mohan Reddy @ysjagan**

The ruling on Ayodhya has been delivered after all parties have agreed to abide by the verdict. I urge everyone to abstain from making provocative statements

**N. Chandrababu Naidu @ncbn**

The unanimous decision taken by the panel of esteemed judges must be respected. I request all to maintain peace and harmony #AyodhyaVerdict

**Pawan Kalyan @Pawankalyan**

The healing and historical judgement by Supreme Court on 'Ram Janmabhoomi' reflects the distilled wisdom of Indian Judiciary



## In memoriam

Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti applies tilak on a photo of Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader late Ashok Singhal at the VHP office in New Delhi on Saturday.

— PTI

# Keep calm and tweet

*The offline calm maintained by restrained citizens was palpable on Twitter too. The tone in which most Indians spoke was refreshingly delightful.*

**SRIRAM KARRI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 9

On many a day in the past marked as red-letter in Independent India's history, Indians have shamed it; with their words, and actions, individually and collectively. On November 9, on a medium that often is an exemplar of level of hatred citizens spew on each other over political differences, Indians, largely, made India feel proud. The offline calm maintained by restrained citizens was palpable on Twitter too, where numero uno amongst the largest trending hashtags was a secular, wilfully detached and objective by choice coinage was #AYODHYAVERDICT (which crossed 709K tweets by 10 pm). The greatest sentiment was a sane stance, so alien of Twitter throughout the year, of welcoming the verdict and requesting all citizens to remain calm. Any attempt to put up any showy celebration was put down respectfully, but firmly.

A juvenile tweet smacking of bravado, communally instigating in intent, and superficially celebratory in tone was put down quickly, with replies like 'the only winner is Indian democracy, and all Indians,' being liked and re-tweeted most. On #AyodhyaJudgment, a similar trending thread, also in the top three, the mood was cautious, guarded, and respectful. People congratulated the judiciary, alone. 'Oh, my god. Such a detailed, long judgment - what effort it takes. Respect five judges, heroes.' The two hashtags I suspected could be senseless, vituperative and acidic, #RamMandir and #JaiShriRam too remained largely humane, empathetic and reasonable. Not too many liked or shared pictures or videos of ostentatious celebrations, nor did those who felt a surge of joy unleash it in the usual ugly

banter characteristic of social media exchanges. The sadness and sense of dejection reflected in another popular #BabriMasjid completed the circle of rising the occasion. Many complaints of being disappointed, of having a feeling of being let down, or of even having felt anger were measured. Far from any potential disrespect for judiciary, there was a regard for the process, if not outcome. Many expressed their sense of hope in India, its democracy, and its secular characteristic. The most significant exception, and a noteworthy discordant note, revolved around the comments of MIM chief, Asaduddin Owaisi. Several users expressed their disagreement with his views, again with respect. While Wasim Khan @wazkhaz30 said, "Owaisi sahib, Allah

ne yeh nahi kaha hai ki Babri Masjid mein namaaz padhoge toh he tumhari namaz qabool hogi. Political agenda mat banao. #PeaceAndLove Baato," another user, Zishan Alam @zishanalam2212, said, "We absolutely accept this judgement because we have trust in Indian Constitution and Supreme Court." Respect, considerate and moderate views dominated the Twitter discourse, but not completely missing the usual calumniating and contumelious digs, and taunting retorts. It was a mature discourse to a large extent, and the exception was ignored by people more often than not. There were obvious exceptions, but the tone and style in which most Indians, by and large, spoke and behaved, with such a decorous becoming manner, expressing such hope for the future, was refreshingly delightful. Maybe, we have already taken our first step towards healing, reconciliation, and appreciating a fellow citizen who disagrees. Maybe, we have taken a first step in trying to be a better nation. Hopefully not!

**A JUVENILE TWEET SMACKING OF BRAVADO, COMMUNALLY INSTIGATING IN INTENT, AND SUPERFICIALLY CELEBRATORY IN TONE WAS PUT DOWN QUICKLY, WITH REPLIES LIKE 'THE ONLY WINNER IS INDIAN DEMOCRACY'**

**Chetan Bhagat @chetan\_bhagat**

Thank you to the entire Muslim community for your grace and generosity. Thank you to the Hindus for patience. India remains intact, as does the birthplace of Ram. Jai Shri Ram

**Huma Qureshi @humasqureshi**

My dear Indians, please respect the Supreme Court verdict on #AyodhyaCase today. We all need to heal together and move on from this as one nation

**Farhan Akhtar @FarOutAkhtar**

Humble request to all concerned, please respect the Supreme Court verdict on #AyodhyaCase today. Accept it with grace if it goes for you or against you. Our country needs to move on from this as one people

**Taapsee Pannu @taapsee**

#AYODHYAVERDICT hail Supreme Court! Let the needful be done. Now moving towards working on issues that will help our nation become the BEST place to LIVE in

**Madhur Bhandarkar @imbhandarkar**

Welcome the fair verdict over the #AyodhyaCase by Hon. Supreme Court. Finally the long pending issue will be resolved now

**Mohan Bhagwat, RSS chief**

We welcome this decision of Supreme Court. This case was going on for decades and it has reached the right conclusion. This should not be seen as a win or loss. We also welcome everyone's efforts to maintain peace and harmony in society. #AYODHYAVERDICT

**All India Muslim Personal Law Board @AIMPLB\_Official**

The judgment is against our expectations. Our legal committee will review the judgment. We have sincerely tried to fulfill our responsibility to restore the demolished #BabriMasjid

**Sri Sri Ravi Shankar @SriSri**

I wholeheartedly welcome the historic judgment of the Hon. Supreme Court. This has brought joy and relief to people of both communities from a long-standing dispute.



**Rajinikanth @rajinikanth**

Members of all faiths should strive for the welfare of the country and its growth without any religious differences



**Anand Mahindra @anandmahindra**

5 men. A decision that 1.3bn people were awaiting. What extraordinary courage it required to be on this bench



**Minhaz Merchant @MinhazMerchant**

Babri Action Panel's Zafaryab Jilani says Muslims dissatisfied with #AYODHYAVERDICT, likely to file review petition. With 5-judge SC judgement being unanimous that could prove infructuous



**Barkha Dutt @BDUTT**

This is significant. Supreme Court declaring itself unable to be arbiter of established Faith #AYODHYAVERDICT

**Kanchan Gupta @KanchanGupta**

Among editors who refused to toe the line of least resistance and stood by their journalists: Sunanda K Datta-Ray, Vinod Mehta, Girilal Jain, Arun Shourie and @MadhuTrehani On this day, gratitude to them. #AyodhyaJudgment

**Jayanta Ghosal @jayanta\_ghosal1**

Previous Prime Ministers were happy to keep #RamMandir in cold storage. @narendramodi had the courage and acumen to take the issue head on and steer it to conclusion despite attempts of the opposition to scuttle the legal process

**Srinivas B.V. @srinivasiyc**

As our founding fathers accepted the Constitution as the guiding light of India, we honour the judgement of Supreme Court on the #AyodhyaVerdict



**Priyanka Chaturvedi @priyankac19**

Gratitude. Hon Supreme Court - Hon CJI Ranjan Gogoi. - Justice S A Bobde. - Justice D Y Chandrachud. - Justice S Abdul Nazeer. - Justice Ashok Bhushan

We welcome the verdict and we respect it. With this judgment, the dispute between Hindus and Muslims has come to an end. I appeal to all not to indulge in anything which will ignite passions

— IQBAL ANSARI, one of the litigants

Truth never gets defeated and the Supreme Court's verdict proved that. The construction of Ram Mandir will begin soon. It is like Deepavali and it is victory of the entire country

— NRITYA GOPAL DAS, president, Ram Janmabhoomi

We welcome the Supreme Court verdict. We are committed to maintaining peace and unity across the state. Everyone should support unity and amity in the country

— YOGI ADITYANATH, UP Chief Minister

We are dissatisfied with certain findings of the Supreme Court. We respect the verdict and respectfully disagree with certain aspects of the verdict. We will study the judgment and may seek a review

— ZAFARYAB GILANI, secretary, AIMPLB

Satya ki vijay hai. Isko Jeet ya haar ke roop mein nahi dekhna chahiye. Court ne satya ko azad kiya hai. No juloos and no naara

— SHARAD SHARMA, VHP spokesperson, who played a key role in ram mandir movement





# Babri razed, Sena rose

*The Shiv Sena came to power in Maharashtra in 1995 riding on the public sentiments fomented by communal riots in 1992-93. Balasaheb Thackeray was “proud” of Babri demolition.*

BHAGWAN PARAB  
MUMBAI, NOV. 9

A jubilant Shiv Sena on Saturday welcomed the Supreme Court’s verdict, which cleared the way for the party’s long-standing demand for a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Party chief Uddhav Thackeray hailed the Supreme Court judgement and said that the day would be written in golden words in Indian history.

The party, currently engaged in a bitter power struggle with the BJP, even hinted that it was ready to put its ambition of forming the government in Maharashtra on backburner for the sake of constructing a Ram Mandir at Ayodhya.

Senior Sena leader Sanjay Raut, in a tweet, said, “Pehle Mandir Phir Sarkar!! Ayodhya mein Mandir, Maharashtra mein Sarkar... Jai ShriRam.”

While emphasising the importance of the long-pending issue to his party, Mr Thackeray announced that he would visit Ayodhya on November 24 to offer his prayers.

“I had visited Ayodhya on November 24 last year and offered prayers. I also participated in ‘aarti’ on the banks of river Sarayu there. I had then taken along with me soil from the Shivneri fort, the birth-place of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and prayed for a miracle to ensure construction of a Ram temple. I am happy that that miracle happened within a year,” he said.

During the Lok Sabha campaign earlier this year, Mr Thackeray had categorically

demanding that a temple should be constructed at the disputed site in Ayodhya. He had also urged the BJP-led Union government to introduce a law to ensure construction of a grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

The Shiv Sena has used Ram Mandir issue in the past to corner its long-time ally BJP.

Mr Thackeray’s Ayodhya visit in November last year was also seen as part of his efforts to put pressure on BJP as the party

**THE UDDHAV THACKERAY-LED PARTY, CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A BITTER POWER STRUGGLE WITH THE BJP IN THE STATE, EVEN HINTED THAT IT WAS READY TO PUT ITS AMBITION OF FORMING THE GOVERNMENT IN MAHARASHTRA ON BACKBURNER FOR THE SAKE OF CONSTRUCTING A RAM MANDIR AT AYODHYA. “PEHLE MANDIR PHIR SARKAR!... JAI SHRI RAM,” TWEETED SANJAY RAUT.**

had failed to resolve the issue politically despite being in power in Uttar Pradesh and Centre.

He said he would visit L.K. Advani, who had undertaken a Rathayatra. The veteran BJP leader has been sidelined in the BJP ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge of the party.

Crediting Mr Advani on Ram Mandir issue, the Sena chief added, “Ram Janmabhoomi

SENA’S ROLE IN RAM MANDIR ISSUE		
▶ After Babri Masjid’s demolition, late Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray claimed that his organisation had played a key role in the bringing down of the mosque.	▶ Current Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray kept pressurising its ally BJP for the construction of Ram Mandir. On Friday Uddhav said BJP-led Union government cannot take “credit” for the Supreme Court’s much-awaited Ayodhya verdict.	
▶ In June this year, Uddhav Thackeray went to UP and offered prayer at Ram Lalla temple in Ayodhya.	▶ For the January 1993 riots, Srikrishna Commission report blamed Bal Thackeray and Sena of taking the lead in organising attacks on Muslims and their properties.	▶ The Commission also stated that by the time the Shiv Sena realised that enough had been done by way of “retaliation”, the violence and rioting was beyond the control of its leaders, who had to issue an appeal to put an end to it.

movement was a big agitation. Some people are not with us now. Some have lost their lives in the agitation. I salute them all.” Uttar Pradesh and Centre. ation. I salute them all.”

The Shiv Sena owes its electoral success in Maharashtra to the Ram Mandir issue. The party came into national limelight in the nineties when its chief Balasaheb Thackeray claimed credit for Babri masjid demolition. In fact, the party did not even hesitate to shed its original tag of being a pro-Marathi party to become a Hindutva party.

The Shiv Sena organised events like Maha Aartis in nook and corners of the city to keep the issue burning.

The deadly riots, which followed in Mumbai and other

parts of the state after the Babri Masjid demolition, further ascertained Sena’s image as a hardline Hindu nationalist party in the country. The party also faced allegations of orchestrating the violence during the riots.

However, the Ram Mandir issue also benefited the Shiv Sena immensely as it propelled to power in Maharashtra in 1995.

Riding on the wave of a strong religious polarisation that soared after the riots, the Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alliance won the polls and formed the first truly non-Congress government in Maharashtra.

Since then the party has been aggressively pursuing the issue, in the Parliament as well

as outside of it.

“The contribution of Balasaheb in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement is immense,” said Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant, who is also the Union minister of heavy industries and a Member of Parliament from Mumbai South.

“When no one was willing to speak after the Babri Masjid demolition, Balasaheb openly came out to say the he was proud of Shiv Sainiks if they had demolished the Masjid. During the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, he also coined the popular slogan ‘Garv Se Kaho Hum Hindu Hai’. The construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya is a matter of country’s pride,” the Sena’s lone minister at the Centre added.

## Babri Masjid dispute: A brief recall

*The demolition propelled the BJP to electoral significance. In 1996, the BJP tasted political power at the Centre for the first time.*

Ram Puniyani

With the Supreme Court pronouncing a unanimous judgment, allotting the disputed Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi land to the Hindus, one long chapter of recent political imbroglio came to a halt on Saturday. Most of the concerned organisations, in a welcome move, have asked the communities to keep calm.

A brief recap of the dispute is necessary in order to understand how the Babri Masjid issue turned controversial and what was the political fallout of the demolition.

The first Mughal emperor Babar’s trusted general Mir Baqi built the Masjid in 1528. There was no dispute over it till 1855, when a clash took place between Bairagis and Muslims on the issue of Chabutara (raised platform) outside the Masjid. The matter never raised its ugly head during the freedom struggle, when the nation came together to fight against colonial forces.

After Independence, the issue came to the fore on the night of December 22-23, 1949, when some elements forcibly broke the locks of the Masjid and installed Ram Lalla idols inside it.

After the idols were illegally installed, fearing future trouble, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to G.B. Pant, erstwhile chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, to get the idols vacated. However, the local district collector, K.K. Nayyar, did not comply.

In the 1980s, after the Shah Bano judgment was reversed by the Parliament, the Centre decided to open the locks of the Masjid. Buoyed by the move, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) took up the campaign of constructing a grand Ram Temple at the site, claiming that Lord Ram was precisely born where the Masjid stood.

The Sangh Parivar popularised the notion that Babri Masjid was a symbol of ‘foreign rule’ and Muslim atrocities. That there was a temple at the spot and it was a part of the communal historiography introduced by the British. A.F. Beevridge, a British officer, while translating Babar’s memoirs had put a footnote that there may have been a temple on which the mosque was built.

The campaign turned political in the late 80s, when the BJP took over from the VHP.

Then BJP president L.K. Advani began a Rath Yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya. The Rath Yatra was followed by communal violence across the country. Mr Advani was arrested in Bihar as per the orders of the then chief minister Lalu Yadav. Yet, many were able to reach the Masjid. To prevent any damage to the structure, erstwhile Uttar Pradesh CM Mulayam Singh Yadav ordered the police to fire at the mob.

After the then PM V.P. Singh announced the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations, the movement got a new lease of life.

The Sangh Parivar decided to perform ‘Kar Seva’ on December 6, 1992. The then UP CM Kalyan Singh had given a written undertaking to protect the Masjid. However, with nearly three lakh Kar Sevaks in Ayodhya on the fateful day, the security forces withdrew from the site. The Masjid was demolished, in a span of just five and a half hours. The cheering crowd, led by Mr Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharati, raised the slogan, “*Ye to Keval Jhanki hai, Kashi, Mathura Baki hai*” (This is just the beginning, Kashi, Mathura will follow)."

The demolition was investigated by Liberhan Commission, which opined that it was a planned act led by Mr Advani and company. Those guilty of demolishing the Masjid have not yet been punished. The demolition was followed by massive violence, particularly in Mumbai and also in other cities.

The demolition propelled the BJP to electoral significance. In 1996, the BJP tasted political power at the Centre for the first time.

## ’92 riots signalled Bombay’s transformation to Mumbai

Kaniza Garari

December 6, 1992 was a special Sunday for the L o k h a n - dwala-Mantri family at Firdaus Apartments in Kurla. Six families in two adjacent apartments were preparing for a wedding during Christmas. My mother had gone to Karachi, her maiden visit to Pakistan, to meet her only sister.

There were few TV sets those days. But by noon, there was a commotion in the building. In the 21 flats, whoever had a TV was watching the news. In my house, there was no TV. The news trickled in through my father, my uncle and my grandfather. My sisters were told that there would not be any college or school for a few days. The Masjid in Ayodhya had been demolished and the situation was tense.

I was a student at Somaia College of Science and Commerce in Vidyavihar, and I had a project to complete. However, I was certain that as I had classes in the morning, I would be back home by noon. But it was not to be. The morning saw angry protests, and by afternoon, the streets were

re filled with stone pelters.

A group of boys ran with sticks and stones. A police van on the main road did not cross to our side of the lane. My only view to the incidents was a single window of our home that was kept open. The rest were shut tight and no one was to venture out.

There was a commotion as men ran up and down the building. There was a Masjid opposite the building. The lane adjacent to it had small settlements and the men were all crowded in the front homes. A group of men stood on the terrace situated of our building to keep an eye.

For a Bombay-bred girl, this was the first-hand experience of violence up-close. The annual family visit to Godhra during summer vacations had a strict set of rules to be followed, in which we could not venture out without an escort during the day to the other side where the Hindus lived. After 6 p.m. it was an absolute no.

But that was Godhra and this was Bombay. How come we were witnessing this behaviour in a civilised and modern city? A naive thought. Huddled in the house, the narrative of violence came in the form of expression. My grandfather, who had witnessed such incidents in his life, was standing guard at the apartment gate. Night was

critical and scary.

Every morning, my neighbours who had their extended family of eight in Madanpura, South Mumbai, called to inform that they were alive, and vice-versa. We could not call my mother as international calls would raise doubt. Night vigils became the order of the day.

On December 10, the Kurla office of the local corporator, Firoze Mantri, blasted late at night. Our building was the residence of his family and cousins. My father worried the building would be targeted. The compound gates the building gates were also locked. The ten-day ordeal was only a glimpse of the turmoil brewing across the country.

The Christmas wedding celebrations were cancelled. My mother was back in town. The New Year in 1993 came with a new set of riots. January was the month of burnings. The wood scrap-yard in Kurla depot, Kapadia nagar and Hall Road were burnt. Bottles were filled with petrol and fired with rags or sent like rockets from one locality to another.

We were not sure if we would see the next morning. It was the beginning of the change in mindset: From Bombay to Mumbai.

## A temple won’t heal wounds

Meena Menon

The country’s oldest land dispute has been resolved today and a temple will be built at

Ayodhya, but few will know about a case that continues in a Mumbai sessions court, related to the communal riots in the aftermath of the demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992.

In the Suleman Usman bakery firing case, witnesses are still being examined. The demolition of Babri Masjid became a pivot for unprecedented violence in the city, revealing the communal character of the police and the influence of parties like the Shiv Sena. Even police jeeps had the “Jai Shree Ram” stickers on their windshields. The riots changed the cosmopolitan character of Bombay, sharpening the divide between Hindus and Muslims.

There are no memorials to the over 900 lives lost (officially) in the two months of riots. The violence is clear as daylight for some while others have moved on.

Back in 1992, it was a Sunday and I watched the Kar Sevaks climbing the Masjid on TV. My Muslim neighbours watched with me. I still recall the faces of the young boys, pale with fear. I was a reporter at The

Times of India. By the time I reached office, I heard on the radio that many people were killed. Justice B.N. Srikrishna, who headed the commission of inquiry into the riots, has in his reports outlined the beginning of tensions on December 6 and 7, 1992.

Wading through police logbook entries of wireless communications, he found trouble brewing in the city at various points. By 11.34 am, trouble was reported in South Mumbai. At around 4.40 pm, local Shiv Sena leaders took out a cycle rally in Dharavi passing through several “sensitive” areas, culminating in a public meeting. The first instances of stone throwing and firing was reported at Minara Masjid in Pydhonie, at night.

There was little indication that the violence would spiral out of control and spread over two months, with the army conducting flag marches. After all, this was Bombay. I remember the anger on Mohammed Ali Road after Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao’s whistle-stop tour.

As Muslims poured out of the Mosque, the army officer in-charge asked us to leave quickly. We left only after being accosted by groups of people who were in no mood to answer any questions. We had to get curfew passes to travel through desolate streets, and the city that never

**THE LEGACY OF THE GHASTLY VIOLENCE WITNESSED BETWEEN DECEMBER 1992 AND JANUARY 1993 WEIGHS HEAVILY ON MUMBAI (THEN BOMBAY) AND A RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA IS NOT GOING TO ASSUAGE ITS WOUNDS.**

slept, was funereal.

The barbaric violence had barely subsided in December when the infamous Gandhi chawl incident revived it in January 1993. Two members of the Bane family and four of their neighbours, including a handicapped girl, were burnt to death at night. Naina Bane, who survived, became the “face” of the second phase of the riots. But the Shiv Sena, which exhorted Hindus to take revenge, hardly supported the Bane family later. Naina’s brother Sudarshan said the party didn’t even provide Naina with a house and all of them had to fend for themselves.

The scale of violence that swept the city was massive: People were killed inside homes and shops; many were burnt to death in taxis or in public places; shops were looted and establishments belonging to Muslims were targeted. A

city, which had provided refuge to many, became a hell on earth.

The timber godowns burnt for days at Reay Road and every day brought renewed clashes. I remember hiding while hearing the short bursts of gunfire in a Vikhroli slum. At night, we would travel home in office cars for safety, passing tense neighbourhoods where evidence of the day’s arson was still smouldering.

Opposite The Times of India office, Victoria Terminus (now CSMT) was bursting with people fleeing in trains packed beyond capacity. Some of them were never to return. Hospitals were packed with those injured from bullet and knife wounds. As reporters, we visited and counted the dead in Cooper and JJ Hospital. In long corridors or courtyard, yellowing bodies of young men were piling up, their religion no longer relevant. That was when we realised that nearly 500 had been killed in December 1992 - the police figure were much lower as it depended on the number of post-mortems they did in a day.

On the 25th anniversary of the riots in 2017, I got a message from Taher Wagle. “Happy Diwali. Mere bete Shahnawaz Wagle ka abhi tak kuch faisla nahi hua pls. Ap Moji sarkar ya phir CM sahib se milkar Shahnawaz Wagle ka case

open karne ke liye kuch raste nikale or pls koi faisla nikale (sic) (Happy Diwali, There is no justice in the case of my son Shahnawaz Wagle. Can you meet PM Modi or the chief minister and ask him to find a way to open the case and do something)."

Shahnawaz was allegedly shot dead by policemen, according to his sister Yasmin. It was only in August 2007, when citizens groups demanded justice, that Taher was called to record his statement.

The police registered 2,267 riot cases, of which, 1,371 were closed as true but undetected. A Special Task Force was formed to act on the Srikrishna report and the cases were re-examined by a committee headed by the director general of police.

Only 112 cases were reinvestigated. In only eight cases, fresh chargesheets were filed. Some 894 chargesheets were filed in courts. In 2007, 16 cases were expedited through special courts, while 93 dormant ones were revived. In 539 cases, the accused were acquitted or discharged. In 2010, 202 cases were sent to fast track courts, where some are still dragging on. Yet, justice remained elusive for many families.

The legacy of the 1992-93 violence weighs heavily on Mumbai and a temple is not going to assuage its wounds.



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# ‘Supreme, not infallible: Faith wins over facts..’

Asaduddin Owaisi  
Q&A

On a day so historic that it is guaranteed to significantly remain in the nation’s collective memory, impacting not only the people of today but all Indians to come ahead, perhaps changing the psyche of its two significant communities — Hindus and Muslims — forever, and establishing new contours and balance between the two, one voice that stood out as distinct, separate, sui generis, and perhaps the only one that sounded in discord, even a trace of dissent was the stand backed by a lifetime’s conviction, the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM), ASADUDDIN OWAISI. Mr Owaisi, himself a lawyer trained in Britain, intrepidly called out the judgment, saying it seems to be a “victory of faith over facts”, and tweeting

minutes after highlights of the judgment were reported widely on the media, a cover of a book, titled, “Supreme, Not Infallible” — echoing what was left unsaid by many in the community he represents and leads. This judgment, besides its impact on the case that was a source of strife, mistrust and conflict between people, communities, and a legal challenge before India, the AIMIM chief argued, will become a precedent for other disputes of mandir and masjid. On such a day, Mr Owaisi spoke with **ATHER MOIN** of this newspaper and gave out his views strongly on a slew of contentious issues:

The case brings to a closure a contentious issue of the past several decades, in fact, since the nation became independent. What is your response to it? Do you have any apprehensions?

There are many cases in front of our courts, including the site disputes in Kasi and Mathura, which are pending. Though the Supreme Court had mentioned the Places of Worship Act 1991, other parties will refer to this judgment as a precedent.



AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi

A masjid caught up in legal contention exists in Varanasi, the Lok Sabha constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Sangh people will now argue that we accept the 1991 Act, but we have a right on the undercroft of the masjid.

In Lucknow, there is dispute on Teele Wali Masjid. Some day, they (Sangh) might tell you that they do not have dispute on the masjid itself, but we have claims on cortile area. I have apprehension that the Sangh Parivar will drag many mosques to court now, claiming that temples existed in those places centuries ago. We will all realise only in future,

when other courts start reacting to those cases, in the light of this judgment, of its fullest consequence.

Will either the AIMPLB or you as a leader of a political party or as an individual seek a further review of this judgment?

As the national president of the AIMIM, I will respect any and all decisions that the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) might take in response to the Supreme Court verdict on the Babri Masjid-Ram Jannabhoomi dispute. As far as the future course is concerned, the Muslim Personal Law Board and its counsels had presented their stand with

I have to accept the Supreme Court judgment. But I have a right to also respond to it, critique it, give my opinions about it. Don’t I have a right to comment on the judgment and express my dissatisfaction with it?

sincerity. Our counsels presented their contentions in full length, backed with strong research and facts. The AIM-PLB may choose to file a review petition, but I can’t say whether the court would reconsider the judgments and its findings in response to a review petition.

In the past you had categorically stated you would accept any judgment of the Supreme Court. What has changed now?

I have to accept the SC judgment. But I have a right to also respond to it, critique it, give my opinions about it. Don’t I have a right to comment on the judgment and express my dissatisfaction with it?

Is it or is it not permissible any more, in keeping with the rights bestowed by the Constitution, to express my views? Is it a contempt of court? I have a right to freedom of expression in India.

Should not the Muslim community accept the verdict in the larger interest of the

community and creating harmony?

The question of accepting the verdict for the sake of amity does not arise, because I would like to ask you first — was this judgment delivered for the sake of brotherhood? The judgment must deliver and uphold justice, based on evidence, on the title dispute. Who told you we are against harmony? Though the judgment of the Supreme Court is final, according to the Sharia, there was a mosque there, and it will always remain a mosque.

What do you have to say about the Sangh Parivar today?

I want to inform all people of the Sangh Parivar that we, Muslims of India, are respectable citizens of India and we will always remain. We will tell our generations to come that there was a masjid for 500 years, which the Sangh demolished in front of the eyes of the world, with conspiratorial collusion of the Congress Party on December 6, 1992. We were ditched by the Supreme Court judgment. Describing the demolition of Babri Masjid as vandalism is an understatement. Why should we forget the killing of Mahatma Gandhi and the demolition of the Babri Masjid?

How do you feel about the Congress Party?

It is very unfortunate, and late, but finally the true colours of the Congress have been exposed. If not for the

hypocrisy of the Congress, then those idols would not be placed inside a mosque in 1949. Had the idols not been placed, the masjid would have still existed. It was Congress PM Rajiv Gandhi who unlocked the Babri Masjid. It was Congress PM P.V. Narasimha Rao who failed to save the masjid from demolition. Muslims were deceived by all these so-called secular political parties. Now, Muslims have to emerge as politically strong, without depending on these parties.

Why are you asking for rejection of five-acre land for building a new mosque?

I do not know whether the Muslim Personal Law Board would proceed to file a review petition or not. I don’t know whether it would accept the five acres for the mosque or not. But in my personal opinion, we should reject the stand of giving us five acres of land for a new mosque.

Muslims of India have full faith in the Constitution. We were contesting the case for our legal rights, not some land given to us as alms. Though Muslims are very poor and weak, even though we have been discriminated against, no one can deny this simple truth — Muslims are not so miserable that they could not buy a piece of five acres of land for a masjid. If I ask the people of Hyderabad, they will donate so much that we can build a mosque in Uttar Pradesh. We need no alms from anyone. We do not need patronage from any corner.

## Ayodhya, 1992, left Muslims shaken; in 2019, the hate has become normal

Mir Quadir Ali

Though more than half of my life has gone by since the fateful events of December 6, 1992, memories of the day are as vivid as it was yesterday. I had climbed up the biggest of the guava trees in our courtyard, and had already consumed one of the fruits and eyeing another ripe one just out of reach when I heard the news wafting over the air, from a radio blaring in a neighbourhood home. My ears could hear the newsreader saying something about “extensive damage” to one of the domes of the Babri Masjid. It was too stunning, too unbelievable. Safely ensconced in a neighbourhood that was predominantly Muslim, I was too young to realise the significance of what had transpired. Still, a sudden, indescribable darkness enveloped me. The only other time I experienced a similar darkness was when my father passed away. Hyderabad, especially the Old City, had in its history seen and withstood communal riots, it had withstood an invasion, and before that a flood that took the life of thousands. But never a threshold such as this had been crossed, never had our faith been crushed, nor had the faith of others trampled, subverted and vanquished the law. Curiously, nobody ran out on the streets, there was no slogan shouting, there was no outward reaction as such. Perhaps everyone in my locality was too stunned to react. Or perhaps they did not know how to react, since this was something unimaginable, unprecedented and like a bolt from the blue. By dusk, the roads were empty and the only movement was of stray dogs. Every home that had a TV was crowded with neighbours; ears were glued to the radio, hoping to catch any and all news. At 9 pm that day, Doordarshan repeated what had already been claimed over the radio — “extensive damage to one of the domes of the Babri Masjid”. A dour-looking P.V. Narasimha Rao came on TV, and we heard him promise that the masjid would be rebuilt at that very spot. I remember the words “President’s Rule” being imposed in Uttar Pradesh after Kalyan Singh resigned and his government was dismissed. I remember curfew being imposed the next day. Like all other times curfew

was imposed earlier, we vaulted over the wall and onto our neighbour’s terrace where the men used to play dominoes or carrom. In the days that followed, the discussion invariably was “what next”. In my locality, the Muslim Personal Law Board, and especially the sitting MP from Hyderabad, Sultan Salauddin Owaisi, was declared guilty of failing to protect the masjid. The “guilty” label was ultimately erased when he swore on the Holy Quran after Friday prayers in the Macca Masjid that he was innocent and a victim of circumstances. P.V. Narasimha Rao was cursed, and was branded a stooge of the RSS. Some even said that under his dhoti, he used to wear the famous RSS knickers. Though many Muslims may not openly say it, Narasimha Rao remains the most reviled of all Congress leaders, years after his death. Ironically, the Hindu community at large was never blamed; it was only the leaders of the BJP and P.V. Narasimha Rao who were cursed. As days went by, the community began feeling the impact of the aftermath. The Mumbai riots that followed, and the increasingly vitriolic comments by Shiv Sena leader Bal Thackeray, left us shaken. Thackeray’s vitriol ensured that there would be no negotiated settlement vis-a-vis the Babri Masjid, since every Muslim believed that a firm stand alone could stop Hindutva’s onward march. I remember reading a report by a Muslim columnist how he was shunned at a public meeting. I also remember a columnist, I believe it was Shobhaa De, writing in the *Deccan Chronicle* how in casual conversations at parties, Muslims were being insinuated as “they” or “them”, as if we were second-class citizens. Till December 6, 1992, despite numerous riots, Muslims in Hyderabad, especially in the Old City, had never felt unsafe. Perhaps it was because the Old City had always been predominantly Muslim, or perhaps because the riots were limited to pockets and it was business as usual after the flare-ups subsided. The demolition of the Babri Masjid left us, like all Muslims across India, shaken to the core. Our trust in the Constitution, our belief in the system, our conviction in our loyalty to this country, our reliance on the official

**The dawn of the Modi era saw Muslims being targeted like never before. While mentally the community was prepared for violence, no Muslim was prepared for being branded ‘anti-national’ and having to prove his/her love for India.**

machinery being our shield, were all razed that day. We began to feel alienated, and for the first time, victimised in our own land. The BJP’s political ascendancy in the days that followed strengthened this feeling. For the first few days, speeches by Muslim politicians were devoted to claims that they would give their life and ensure that the masjid would be rebuilt at the very spot. Initially, these claims evoked optimism, but gradually, they were taken less and less seriously. Like every other community before us, the sadness faded and was replaced by hope. Hope in the judiciary, in the law and hope that one day, we will get back what is ours. The hope failed to dull our hatred for Advani and Co. Anyone even talking positively about the BJP was mentally branded an enemy, without a second thought. It was this hatred that led to many Muslims rejoicing in Narendra Modi upstaging L.K. Advani and becoming the BJP’s prime ministerial candidate, though the former was far more reviled. The hope also failed to stop ghettoism in the Old City. The handful of Hindu families in our neighbourhood moved away to new localities. We tried to persuade them to stay, saying that the worst was past, and they would remain unharmed, but to no avail. Similar instances of Muslim families migrating from Hindu neighbourhoods were heard of, and the community at large clucked its collective tongue, expressed sadness and accepted it as a fact of life. The demolition of the Babri Masjid brought some positives too. More and more Muslim youth in the Old City began to realise the futility of petty business and began to study harder. The elders of the community turned their focus to education, exhorting the youth to study well. Study centres were set up, and some well-off Muslims began to streamline the system using Zakat collections. The overwhelming sense of loss also created a bond of brotherhood, of unity and of tolerance. In the late 1990s, when N.

Chandrababu Naidu first spoke of “equidistance” from both the BJP and the Congress and later offered “outside” support to the Atal Behari Vajpayee government, he immediately became the most despised person, replacing even Mr Advani on the list. This was because Mr Advani, despite his infamy, was someone far away on the horizon while Mr Naidu was a familiar figure and was someone who had gone to great lengths to portray himself as secular. Mr Naidu was to be replaced on top of the list of most hated politicians very soon by Mr Modi in 2002, in the aftermath of the Gujarat genocide. Interestingly, the rabble-rousers were never reviled; they were always seen as what they were — a nuisance. News of the deaths of the kar sevaks in the Sabarmati Express fire on February 27, 2002 was immediately met with suspicion that it was the handiwork of politicians. While Gujarat was in flames, Muslims everywhere burned. Some months after the Gujarat riots, the Muslim Personal Law Board organised a mammoth public meeting in Hyderabad, where speaker after speaker vowed justice to the victims. The speakers also made it clear that they were anointing Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi as the undisputed political leader representing the community in the country. The Gujarat riots also saw the community gather its wits, realise that it was time that individuals became one and stand up to face an enemy that brooked no dissent, offered no quarter and had absolutely no sense of humanity. The dawn of the Narendra Modi era saw Muslims being targeted like never before. While mentally the commu-

nity was prepared for riots and violence, no Muslim was prepared for being branded “anti-national” and having to prove his or her love for the country at every step. Attempts to defend ourselves by pointing out that we opted to stay on in India and not leave for Pakistan were brushed aside casually and more often than not ridiculed. Anyone standing up for the rights of the community was painted with the same brush of “anti-national” or accused of appeasement. While these changes took place, one question that no one has attempted to answer remains: To what ends? Hindutvawadis obviously are intelligent enough to realise that they cannot rid the country of at least 30 crore Muslims. This community can be subjugated only so much and not more, since the Constitution empowers it, like it empowers all citizens. Some Muslims with more foresight than others see the situation as an opportunity that will make the community stronger, better and more productive. American author Lafayette Ronald, in the early 1950s, said: “Man thrives, oddly enough only in the presence of a challenging environment”. For Muslims in India, this is the perhaps the biggest challenge the community has faced. It has been punched, kicked and is down on the ground. There is no place to go but rise and stand firm. Oddly enough, it was business as usual on Saturday, November 9, when the Supreme Court gave its verdict on the Babri Masjid title dispute. Going by the open shops and traffic on the roads of the Old City, it is clear Muslims had at the back of their minds accepted the verdict and have moved on. The city was bustling as usual.

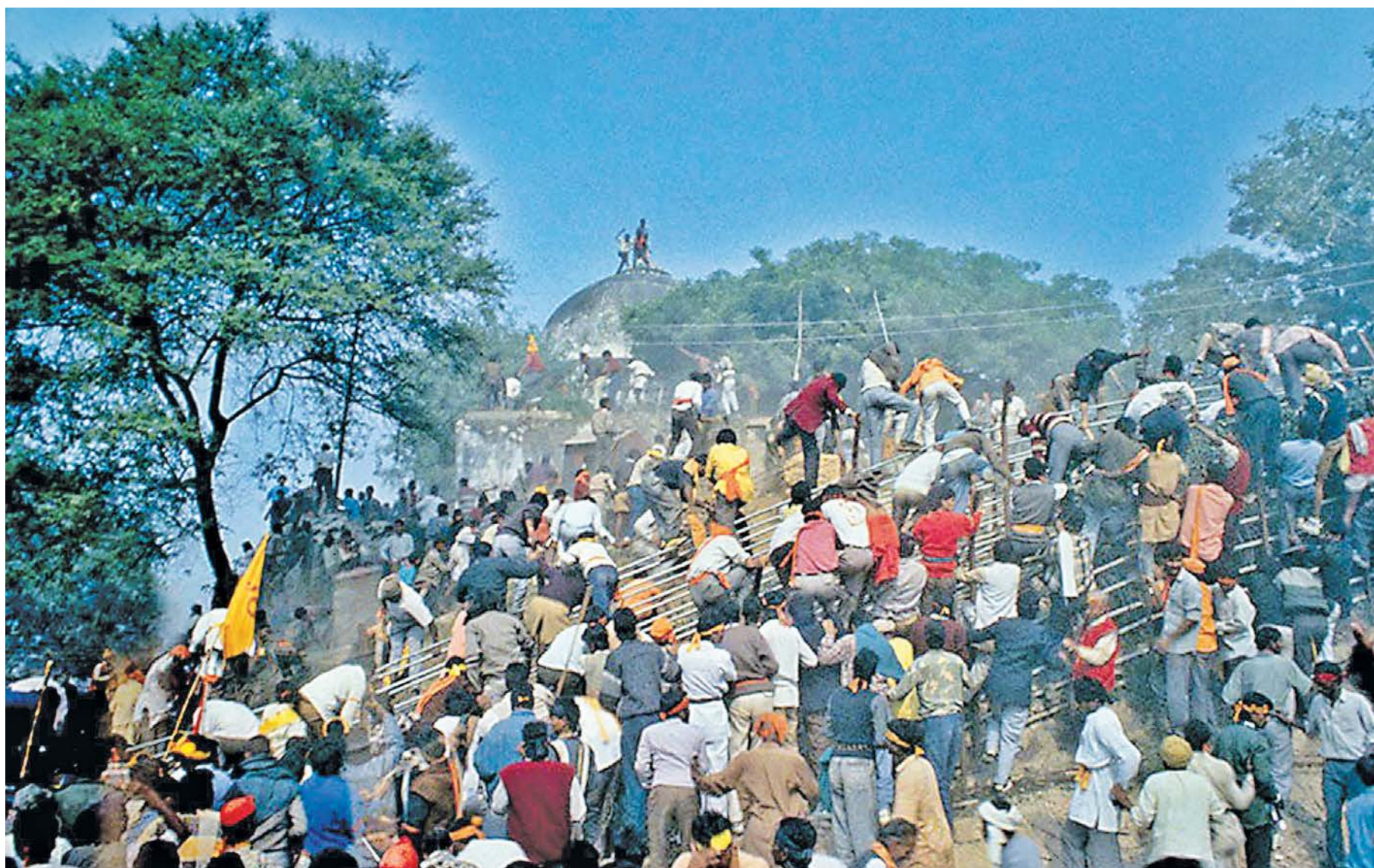


Aakar Patel

The Ayodhya judgment has reminded one of our judicial history. On the Indian subcontinent, the judiciary has invoked something called the Doctrine of Necessity. In Pakistan, this happened 65 years ago. Just a short while after Independence, the Pakistan Army took over charge of the country in a sequence of events that made Gen. Ayub Khan the leader of the country. The sequence was triggered by the governor-general, a man named Ghulam Muhammad. He was a partner of the Mahindra group of India in a company that was originally called Mahindra and Muhammad (later renamed Mahindra and Mahindra). He was a clever man, a chartered accountant by training, who was named to run the finance ministry. After the death of Jinnah in 1948, and the assassination of Jinnah’s deputy Liaqat Ali Khan in 1951, the Pakistan Muslim League was leaderless and in this space Muhammad became governor-general. In 1954, he unlawfully dismissed the Pakistan Constituent Assembly which was taking much longer than India to frame its Constitution. Those who were dismissed went to court where it was determined that Ghulam Muhammad’s actions were unlawful. However, he and the new ministers who had taken power with him went into appeal. Here the Supreme Court backed Muhammad, justifying his illegal action. The judgment reads: “Thus the issue raised refers to the extraordinary powers of the governor-general during the emergency period and not to powers which vest in the governor-general during normal times when the vital organ of the Constitution, namely the legislature, is functioning, and the question that we have to consider is whether there is any provision in the Constitution governing such a situation or any other legal principle within, outside or above the Constitution Acts which entitles the governor-general to act in case of necessity of such a nature”. Basically, since there was an emergency (and it didn’t matter that the emergency was a creation of the governor-general), he had to be allowed to do whatever he wanted. The court added: “If nothing should be done but what is according to law, the throat of the nation might be cut while we send for someone to make the law”. This

is a quote from Oliver Cromwell, winner of the English Civil War. The court added that it “found that the governor-general’s actions prevented the breakdown of the political and constitutional institutions of Pakistan”. And so the court overlooked wrongdoing and justified it. To my mind it appears that the Ayodhya judgment also comes out of similar thinking and a reliance on necessity. I am absolutely unclear about why the court felt it essential to hand over the entire land to the temple after saying that it could not conclude that the Babri Masjid was built on a demolished structure. The Supreme Court accepts that the breaking down of the mosque after the mobilisation by the BJP was a violation of the rule of law and a crime. It also accepts that the act of putting idols in the mosque was that of desecration. But it nonetheless gives the land over to those who desecrated, saying that: “Whether a belief is justified is beyond judicial inquiry. Once faith is established, courts should defer to it.” It has become clear that legally India has done what the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the BJP were demanding all this time. When I was a student 30 years ago, Arun Shourie came to our university in Vadodara to speak on the issue. This was three years before the mosque was demolished. Mr Shourie (who was then a supporter of the BJP) said that Muslims should take the mosque and go somewhere else, because for Hindus the land was sacred. What we are going to do now is the same thing except that it has legal cover. We should know that the Pakistani court’s actions had long-term repercussions. The form of law that we have in India and Pakistan relies on precedent. A few years later, by when Ghulam Muhammad had died, the court used the same reasoning to validate the military takeover of the government by Gen. Ayub Khan. And then again when Gen. Zia-ul Haq hanged Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and became President — the courts were fine with it because there had already been a precedent. Closer to our time, Gen. Musharraf was validated in the same fashion. All the dictators have operated under legal cover, and their actions have been seen as legitimate. What the long-term repercussions of the Ayodhya judgment are will unfold in time. But there will be repercussions of course. And I hope that the consequences are not going to be as damaging to us as they were to Pakistan. **Aakar Patel is a writer, columnist and executive director of Amnesty International (India)**





PICS: SONDEEP SHANKAR

## The Ram Katha...

While most people familiar with the destruction of the Babri Masjid in December 1992, know that the inscriptions on the mosque state that it was built in 1528-29 by Mughal emperor Babur's general Mir Baqi, how many are familiar with the many twists and turns in the history of a site that has been at the heart of a dispute for over 500 years. It may have only bubbled to the fore when after years of relative quiet, a Sant Digvijay Nath from the Gorakh-nath math - which incidentally is the alma mater of the current UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath - organised a nine-day recitation of the Ramcharitmanas, at the end of which, idols of Rama and Sita appeared inside the mosque. The then district magistrate in charge of Faizabad district K.K.K. Nayar refused to remove the idols and police promptly locked the premises, with only Hindu priests allowed entry to perform daily rituals. Without further ado, the mosque was now a temple. The Sunni Wakf board objected. The ABRM filed a suit. But it wasn't until right-wing groups like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad began a movement to reclaim the site for a Ram temple, and it snowballed into a huge protest that led to the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992, that the Ramjanmabhoomi movement brought the BJP from the sidelines to national prominence. And with today's verdict, etched their name in the history books.

**1528** | Babri Masjid built by Mir Baqi, commander of Mughal emperor Babur.

**1885** | Mahant Raghubir Das files plea in Faizabad district court seeking permission to build a canopy outside the disputed structure. Court rejects the plea.

**1949** | Idols of Ram Lalla placed under central dome outside the disputed structure.

**1950** | Gopal Simla Visharad files suit in Faizabad district court for rights to worship the idols of Ram Lalla.

● Paramahansa Ramachandra Das files suit for continuation of worship and keeping the idols.

**1959** | Nirmohi Akhara files suit seeking possession of the site.

**1961** | UP Sunni Central Waqf Board files suit for possession of the site.

**1986** | **Feb. 1** | Local court orders the government to open the site for Hindu worshippers.

**1989 Aug. 14** | Allahabad HC orders maintenance of status quo in respect of the disputed structure.

**1992 Dec. 6** | Babri Masjid demolished.

**1993 April 3** | 'Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act' passed for acquiring land by Centre in the disputed area.

● Various writ petitions, including one by Ismail Faruqi, filed in Allahabad HC challenging various aspects of the Act.

● SC exercising its jurisdiction under Article 139A transferred the writ petitions, which were pending in the High Court.

**1994 Oct. 24** | SC says in historic Ismail Faruqi case mosque was not integral to Islam.

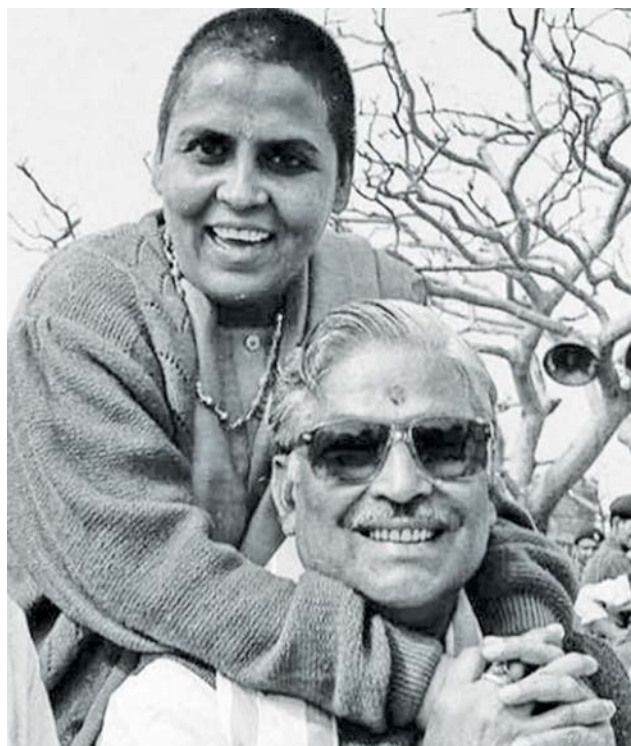
**2002 April** | HC begins hearing on determining who owns the disputed site.

**2003 March 13** | SC says, in the Aslam alias Bhure case, no religious activity of any nature be allowed at the acquired land.

**2010: Sept. 30** | HC, in a 2:1 majority, rules three-way division of disputed area between Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

**2011 May 9** | SC stays HC verdict on Ayodhya land dispute.

**2017 March 21** | CJI J.S. Khehar suggests out-of-court settlement among rival parties.



BJP leaders Uma Bharti with Murali Manohar Joshi on the day the Babri Masjid was brought down on Dec. 6, 1992

**Aug. 7:** SC constitutes three-judge bench to hear pleas challenging 1994 verdict of the Allahabad HC.

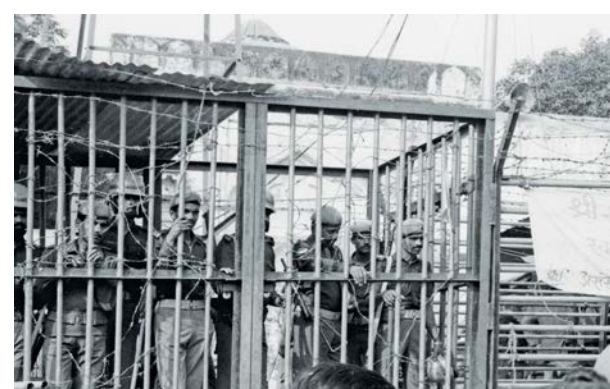
**2018 Feb. 8** | SC starts hearing the civil appeals.

● **July 20:** SC reserves verdict.

● **Sept. 27:** SC declines to refer the case to a five-judge Constitution bench. Case to be heard by a newly constituted three-judge bench on October 29.

● **Oct. 29:** SC fixes the case for the first week of January before an appropriate bench, which will decide the schedule of hearing.

● **Dec. 24:** SC decides to take up petitions on case for hearing on January 4, 2019.



### 2019 Jan. 4

SC says an appropriate bench constituted by it will pass an order on January 10 for fixing the date of hearing in the title case.

● **Jan. 8:** SC sets up a five-judge Constitution Bench to hear the case headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and comprising justices S A Bobde, N V Ramana, U U Lalit and D Y Chandrachud.

● **Jan. 10:** Justice U U Lalit recuses himself prompting SC to reschedule the hearing for January 29 before a new bench.

● **Jan. 25:** SC reconstitutes 5-member Constitution Bench to hear the case. The new bench comprises Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S A Nazeer.

● **Jan. 29:** Centre moves SC seeking permission to return the 67-acre acquired land around the disputed site to original owners.

● **Feb. 26:** SC favours mediation, fixes Mar 5 for order on whether to refer matter to court-appointed mediator.

● **March 8:** SC refers the dispute for mediation by a panel headed by former apex court judge F M I Kalifulla.

● **April 9:** Nirmohi Akhara opposes in SC Centre's plea to return acquired land around Ayodhya site to owners.

● **May 9:** 3-member mediation committee submits interim report in SC.

● **May 10:** SC extends time till Aug 15 to complete mediation process.

● **July 11:** SC seeks report on "progress of mediation".

● **July 18:** SC allows mediation process to continue, seeks outcome report by Aug 1.

● **Aug. 1:** Report of mediation submitted in sealed cover to SC.

● **Aug. 2:** SC decides to conduct day-to-day hearing from Aug 6 as mediation fails.

● **Aug. 6:** SC commences day-to-day hearing on the land dispute.

● **Oct. 4:** SC says it will wrap up hearing on Oct 17, judgement by Nov 17.

- SC directs UP govt to provide security to state Waqf Board Chairperson

● **Oct. 16:** SC concludes hearing; reserves order.

● **Nov. 9:** SC grants entire 2.77 acre of disputed land in Ayodhya to deity Ram Lalla, possession of land will remain with Central government receiver. SC also directs Centre and UP govt to allot 5 acre land to the Muslims at a prominent place for building mosque.

### Nov. 9, 2019

SC grants entire 2.77 acre of disputed land in Ayodhya to deity Ram Lalla, possession of land will remain with Central government receiver. SC also directs Centre and UP govt to allot 5 acre land to the Muslims at a prominent place for building mosque.



<< Jabalpur: Students of the Sanskrit Veda Vigyan Kendra watch Supreme Court's verdict on the Ayodhya case on a phone, in Jabalpur, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019. The apex court on Saturday cleared the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site at Ayodhya, and directed the Centre to allot a 5-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque. - PTI



# Nuanced verdict brings closure: Prince of Arcot

The Prince of Arcot, Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, has welcomed the Supreme Court of India's verdict on long-pending Babri Masjid-Ramjanambhoomi dispute.

Describing it as a nuanced judgement, the Prince said it has finally brought closure to what looked like an intractable dispute between the two major communities of India. He sincerely appealed to Muslim parties and the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) not to file a review petition against the Supreme Court's verdict. He said that the Muslim bodies must honour their promise of abiding by the court's ruling if it were to go against them, in all fairness to God and man, he said.

The Muslims must find solace in the fact that the Supreme Court did not agree with the contention that the Babri Masjid was built after demolishing a Hindu temple. He praised the Supreme Court for reiterating the fact that both the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 and the surreptitious placing of idols in 1949 in the structure were illegal. Therefore, those responsible for the demolition must be brought to book.

The Prince also appealed to the people of India, irrespective of caste, creed or religion, especially the Hindus and Muslims to work together for

the steady progress and development of the country, which can be achieved only by improving the socio-economic conditions of the masses, not by creating conflicts over places of worship.

India today is a diverse and pluralistic society: multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, multi-religious and multi-cultural. That is its great strength. It must be preserved. We are part of humanity with all its rich diversity of religions, languages, cultures, traditions and experience and India forms a large microcosm of the contemporary world, he said.

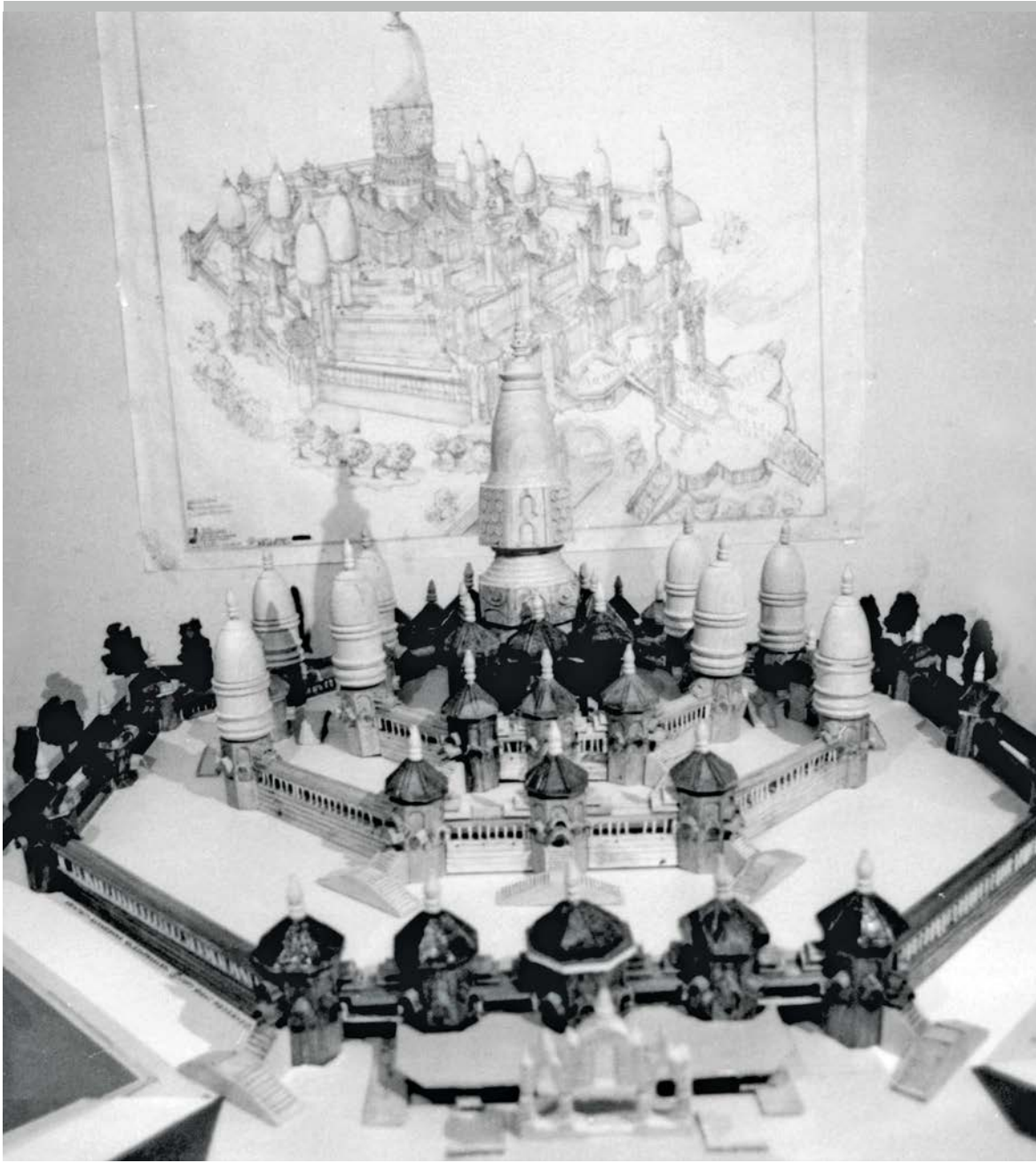
Let us remember, communalism brings death, destruction and horror in an expanding way. Indian law specifically prohibits the practice of communalism, the promotion of disharmony, enmity and ill-will between different religious communities and exploitation of religion.

The Prince appealed to all fellow citizens and said in a statement that "India's future is in your hands. Promote the spirit of tolerance and national integration. Let us not give any quarter to communalism and pseudo-nationalism. We must together resist all attempts to exploit religious sentiments for political purposes."

He called upon the people to join hands and stand up for communal harmony, secularism, fraternity and human solidarity. Let us build a strong, united, democratic, just and prosperous India, he emphasised.

India's future is in your hands. Promote the spirit of tolerance and national integration. Let us not give any quarter to communalism and pseudo-nationalism. We must together resist all attempts to exploit religious sentiments for political purposes

—PRINCE OF ARCOT



Model Ayodhya temple

One of the models of Sri Ram Temple displayed in New delhi.

— Archive of Sondeep Shankar

● The family of a karsevak Sadashiv Jadav who was killed in the 2002 Godhra train burning incident hailed the verdict. "Today, I am happy....My father's dream of Ram temple being constructed in Ayodhya will be fulfilled," said Jadav son Vilas.

● Deendayal Parisar, the BJP's headquarters in Madhya Pradesh, was decorated with earthen lamps on Saturday to "express gratitude" following the verdict.

● A Muslim organisation in Madhya Pradesh announced the cancellation of the traditional annual procession to mark Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday of Prophet Mohammed, to be held on Sunday. An organiser said the decision was taken in view of the verdict.

● The historic verdict of the Supreme Court coincided with the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

● The ministry of information and broadcasting issued an advisory to all television channels and cable TV operators in the wake of the verdict to adhere to programme code and ensure that debates, discussions and visuals do not incite any "divisive" or "anti-national" feelings

## Shun differences, says Rajini

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV 9

Superstar Rajinikanth welcomed the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya and said just as he respected the order, all people irrespective of religion and region should respect it in national interests.

Quick to provide the sound bytes on the Ayodhya verdict to TV cameras outside his Poes Garden bungalow, Rajini stressed the importance of maintaining peace and camaraderie among people of all religions "for the sake of the welfare and economic growth of our country".

"I appeal to all to shun religious differences and work together for the sake of our country. Vanakkam. Jai Hind", he



Sporting a large saffron-sandalwood paste kumkum on his forehead, superstar Rajinikanth addressed the media outside his Poes Garden bungalow to make a statement on the Ayodhya verdict by the SC on Saturday.

said and hastened to get back into the house - perhaps to avoid getting into another bout of provocative exchanges with the media persons since his

Friday statement on the 'saffron trap' had created big buzz in the media and political circles, even leading to the quick and easy conclusion that he was distancing himself from the BJP.

Another interesting element noticed in this Ayodhya reaction from the superstar was his sporting a large tilak during the brief session before the TV cameras. Such a 'loud' statement of faith during a media interaction is rather unusual for Rajini - perhaps he was conveying a message that he has not really strayed away from saffron or, maybe, he had just done his pooja in the house and stepped out for a short statement since the journalists were pressing for

his reaction to the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya.

In fact, even his Friday statement alleging attempts to get him into the saffron trap and his assertion, amid that loud signature laughter, that he would not be caught in it just as Thiruvalluvar would not get caught, was all in response to pointed questions from the media persons and not made suo motu with a view to drive in a political message that he is not saffron. Some have also interpreted that statement as his anguish at the opposition politicians and some media persons rubbing saffron on him because of his pro-Modi comments in the past, and not aimed at the BJP leadership.

## 2nd of 3 core promises by BJP done

NARASIMHAN  
VIJAYARAGHAVAN

Hand it to Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi. He is "Man of the Match" and now a man of history too. He was aware it would be a miracle if he could conclude the hearings for a verdict. He has performed a higher miracle in accomplishing a unanimous one. Just to capture the potency of the sensitivity of the issue, the 1,045 page verdict, including the Addendum, is authored by all five judges 'anonymously' - a never before occurrence.

The first appeals were kept boiling in the apex court for a decade. Mentions were made before one Chief Justice after another. None had the gumption, gall and confidence to list it. But Gogoi was made of sterner stuff. And from the pulpit, he carried authority. The judges met dissent, even personal barbs, but ignored them for a higher cause.

In a moment of "utter judicial madness", as a twitter handle put it, Ranjan Gogoi chose to bite the bullet. After heated

arguments were rudely brought to an end with Rajeev Dhavan tearing up a map, just 3 days were given to all sides to furnish their submissions in relation to 'moulding the reliefs'. It is from these suggestions, and also from the contemporaneous mediation process led by Justice Ibrahim Khalifullah, the gentleman judge from Tamil Nadu, that the Supreme Court picked up its cues in the grant of reliefs. Truth to tell, reference to mediation has turned out to be a masterstroke, in appropriating the generosity of the Muslims, with an imprimatur from the Supreme Court.

Lord Ram may (as the Hindus believe) or may not (as the Addendum dissent suggests) have been born in Ayodhya. The top court said 'continued worship across centuries was no myth but real'. Equally, the Supreme Court did not dismiss the 'namaz practices of Muslims in the Babri Masjid'. The idol Ram accepted as juristic person (not Ram Janmabhoomi itself, as urged) was favoured with 'a decree of



**THE FIRST APPEALS WERE KEPT BOILING IN THE APEX COURT FOR A DECADE. MENTIONS WERE MADE BEFORE ONE CHIEF JUSTICE AFTER ANOTHER. NONE HAD THE GUMPTION, GALL AND CONFIDENCE TO LIST IT. BUT GOGOI WAS MADE OF STERNER STUFF. AND FROM THE PULPIT, HE CARRIED AUTHORITY. THE JUDGES MET DISSENT, EVEN PERSONAL BARBS, BUT IGNORED THEM FOR A HIGHER CAUSE**

entire 2.77 acres of disputed land'. And the Sunni Waqf Board's worship claims allied with illegal demolition of Babri Masjid got them 5 acres of alternate land in a prominent place in Ayodhya.

Coming to the 'moulding of reliefs', the Supreme Court embraced that panacea for all ills - provision in Art.142 of the Constitution which our forefathers had thoughtfully provided for, 'to do complete justice'. Supreme Court religiously tucked into it, based on the 'continued and unimpeded pos-

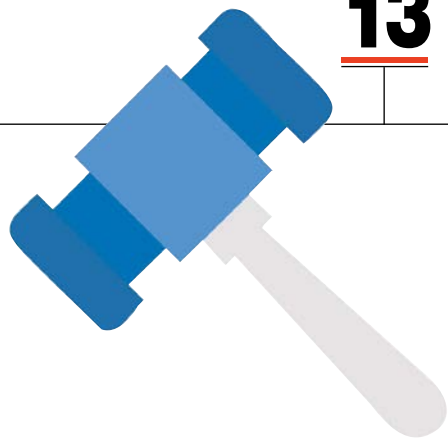
session and worship of believers in Ram's birth place', to vote on the entire 2.77 acres. However, they ruled that demolition of Babri Masjid being illegal, SWB would be entitled for reparation in '5 acres of alternate land' to be given by Central/State governments, for construction of a mosque.

Modi, it appears, is destiny's child, for BJP, to fulfil their three core manifesto promises. Art.370 through Parliament, now, building of a grand Ram temple, via judicial benevolence and a Uniform Civil Code,

in part achieved through the Triple Talaq legislation. What next? A party that was branded as communal, came down to 2 MPs in 1984, could not last 13 days and 13 months, in government, in their early forays, today stands on the cusp of turning real each of the 3 impossible dreams. The opposition parties must be gasping for breath and Shiv Sena may have chosen an inopportune moment to test an ally.

Muslims may feel peeved that Art.142 was invoked to render 'complete justice' when it may be injustice to them, as the Supreme Court had conceded proof of their 'vested right' in worship and illegality in demolition of Bari Masjid. Therein lies the seeds of dissent and a possible review, but the score line being 5-0, it may turn out to be an exercise in futility. If peace and harmony reign, in the wake of this "wise and sagacious compromise like verdict", as a retired judge said, we may yet have the closure we deserve.

(The writer is a practising advocate in Madras HC)



## 'Bhismacharya' won it for Ram Lalla

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 9

"CJI: Do u want to sit & argue?"

92-yr-old Parasaran: It's ok. You're too kind. The tradition of the Bar has been to stand & argue, and I'm concerned about the tradition. My last wish before I die, is to finish this case."

That's one of many posts in social media to hail Senior Counsel K Parasaran, who at an advanced age of 92, fought the case for Ram Lalla in the Supreme Court, exhibiting awesome energy of mind and body through the 40 grueling days of final arguments, often dipping into his deep knowledge of the ancient scriptures to win all-round accolades.

The twitter post by @SirJadeja was recalling a widely reported incident in the court when Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi politely asked Parasaran, considering his advanced age more than his professional fame, if he would like to sit and argue his case. 'Padma Vibhushan' Parasaran, who had served as Attorney General of India for six long years till 1989, was even more polite in thanking the CJI and telling him he would rather not seek exemption from the "tradition of the Bar to stand and argue".

Such has been his deep commitment towards practising the right court manners while propounding his legal knowledge and professional competence, not to forget his famed practice of drawing heavily from the Upanishads, Gita and other scriptures to buttress his case arguments with traditional Indian values.

Some of those awestruck followers of the court events have tweeted a multitude of requests to the Union Government that this 'Bhishmacharya' of India's legal profession, this 'guru from Tamil Nadu' must be decorated with Bharat Ratna. "Periyar broke Ram statue in TN, Kalaigarnar said there is no proof for existence of Ram. But today, we have from the same TN (Srirangam), Shri Parasaran as leading counsel appeared for Ram Lalla Virajman. Lord Ram returns after 491 years of exile & we are blessed to see this", said one among the multitude of admirers on twitter.

The extensive media reportage during the 40 days of intense arguments in the court had a liberal dose of Parasaran's submissions before the Bench, his responses to the clarifications sought by the judges. He would go well prepared every day for the sessions that began at 10.30 in the morning and closed around 4 or 5 pm. And during those sessions, he would often face the mercurial Rajeev Dhavan representing the Muslim side. The veteran would forever stay calm, even when Dhavan tore up pages or termed as foolish' someone from the Hindu side. One media report refers to how when the arguments concluded on October 16 and the court reserved orders, Parasaran waited outside for 15 minutes to meet Dhavan and take a photograph with him. That was a great lesson not just for Bhishma's team but to the entire lawyer community.

"My last wish before I die is to see a logical end to this case", Parasaran had said during his court arguments, pleading with the Constitution Bench that the entire disputed land belongs to his client, Ram Lalla. Well now, he has achieved victory in the court and going by his robust physical and mental health, the grand old man of Mylapore is sure to score the century while getting several more cases to their logical end.



Parasaran

## In a first, SC order delivered on Saturday

New Delhi, Nov. 9: The judgment in the politically sensitive Ayodhya land dispute case is historic in more than one sense as it is perhaps for the first time in the 69-year history of the Supreme Court that a verdict was delivered on Saturday.

Judges held court five

days a week, from Monday to Friday, and in extraordinary circumstances hold hearing in courtrooms on Saturdays or any other holidays. But it was rare that Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi chose Saturday to deliver such an important judgement, a senior official of the apex court said.





## Maintain peace

All should accept the SC ruling on Ayodhya and maintain peace

# State

PAGE 14

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SUNDAY | 10 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI



Every Indian would find the Ayodhya ruling to be satisfactory

— Pon Radhakrishnan, former Union minister

## SHORT TAKES

### House burgled in Avadi

**Chennai:** Around 11 sovereigns of gold jewels were burgled from a house in Avadi in broad daylight on Friday. Police said, the victim, Manikandan (30), a resident of Amirthapuram in Kattur near Avadi, is a carpenter while his wife works at a private company in the city. On Friday morning, they locked the house and left for work. When the couple returned home around 8 pm, they found that their house had been broken into. They rushed inside only to find the bureau open and valuables missing. Based on a complaint by Manikandan, the Avadi Tank Factory police registered a case. —DC

### 3-day custody to shooting accused

**Chennai:** The Thalambur police have taken custody of Vijay who shot his friend at his house in Vengadamangalam, Kancheepuram on November 5. Thalambur police inspector, Palani filed a plea for his custody in the Chengalpet court and was granted three days for an inquiry. A food delivery executive, Vijay (21) shot his friend Mukesh (19), a third year EEE student of a polytechnic college in the city. Mukesh succumbed to injuries on the same day. Vijay was missing for a day after the incident before surrendering to the Chengalpet court while being accompanied by his lawyer. Magistrate Gayathri Devi remanded him in judicial custody for 15 days and he was lodged at Puzhal central prison. On Friday the magistrate granted the police three days' custody and asked that he be produced before the court on Monday. —DC

### Girl student of IIT-M ends life

**Chennai:** An 18-year-old girl from Kerala, pursuing her first year undergraduate course in the humanities stream at IIT Madras committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan in her hostel room, police said on Saturday. The girl, who was last seen on the night of November 8 by other hostel inmates, did not answer her mother's calls this morning, a police officer said. "The girl's mother later called one of the hostel inmates and requested to look for her daughter," the official told PTI adding that the student, along with others, went to check her room and found her hanging from the ceiling fan. The inmates broke open the door and informed police, who removed the body to the Royapettah GH. —PTI

## ■ 'Direct dept officials to cancel permits for violations'

# PIL seeks regular bus fare checks by officials

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 9

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in Madras high court, to direct all the Regional Transport Authorities (RTA) and State Transport Authority (STA) to carry vigorous checking for excess bus fare and suspend/cancel the permit of the violators who collect fares in excess of the fares approved as per a G.O. dated January 28, 2018.

A division bench comprising Justices M.Sathyanarayanan and N.Seshasayee before whom the PIL filed by Coimbatore Consumer Cause represented by its secretary K.Kathirimahiyon, came up for hearing, ordered notice to the State Transport Secretary and Commissioner and the Regional Transport Authority Coimbatore and posted to December 6, further hearing of the case.

Petitioner's counsel S.Sathiachandran submit-



ted that the Transport Department issued a G.O. dated January 28, 2018 by which the upward revision of fares for various categories of buses was made. In the notification, the fares for the stage carriages plying as 'City and Town services' other than in Chennai Metropolitan area on routes/area in the state of Tamil Nadu shall not exceed the fares calculated at the rates given in the G.O. As per the notification, the fares for the stage carriages plying as 'ordinary services' on routes/areas in the state of Tamil Nadu shall not exceed the fares calculated at rates given in the G.O, he added.

Sathiachandran said the

G.O. issued under section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act was applicable for both private and state owned buses. Further, they were under obligation to adhere to the fares as fixed by RTA and STA and stipulated under the above said G.O as one of the conditions for permit, as per section 84 © of the MV Act. Both government and private buses indirectly and illegally collect bus fares far in excess of the fare approved by RTA and STA fixed based on the said G.O. The phenomenon was not new. For instance, the Tamil Nadu State

Transport Corporation, Coimbatore division as that of other Division has been regularly violating the fares approved based on the G.O.s issued earlier regarding fare fixation. The RTI replies, the petitioner obtained from the year 2015 would themselves show that the said State Corporation has been illegally collecting bus fare in

stage carriages i.e., in city and mofussil buses, ranging from ₹10 to 20 in excess of the fixed fare, in gross violation of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of the MV Act and the G.O, he added.

He said the petitioner obtained a list of excess fare check reports in Coimbatore region for both government and private buses from the year 2011 under the RTI Act. The excess fare check report furnished to the petitioner clearly reveals that in most cases, the fares collected in excess were double the original fare fixed as per the permit. As regards action taken for the said violation, the violators have been imposed only a meager amount and a nominal fine of ₹100 only in almost all cases. It was ironical that when the excess fare collected by the permit holders runs to lakhs of rupees in a month, the meager fine imposed occasionally had no deterrent effect at all, he added.



FIRE MISHAP

As many as three huts were gutted in a fire that broke out on Govindhan Salai in West Saidapet on Saturday morning, engulfing the area with a thick cloud of dark fumes. Though any casualty or injuries were not reported in the accident, properties worth lakhs were reduced to ashes. —DC

## HC denies bail to SA man in heroin smuggling case

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 9

The Madras high court has dismissed a second bail petition from a South African National, who was arrested in the city on January 30, 2014 in connection with a case relating to attempting to export 350gms of heroin to Canada, South Africa, New York and other countries.

Justice R.Subbiah who dismissed the second bail application filed by Kenneth Stanley, directed the trial court to speed up/expedite the trial and complete the trial without adjourning the trial for one reason or the other at the behest of either side, and dispose of the case within six months.

The prosecution case was that on January 27, 2014, on information from M/s Aramex India Private Limited, the NCB officials went to the company and opened two International Consignment boxes, declared to be bangles and found 250gms of heroin in the boxes. On further enquiry, it was revealed from Aramex India Private

Limited that the seized parcel was booked at Flying Express Services in Adyar. On the next day, the NCB officials visited the said office and found that an African, by name Kenneth Stanley had booked the consignments and he may come back to book a foreign destined consignment likely to contain drugs on January 29, 2014, on which date, the NCB officials went to the office of Flying Express Services and at around 730 hrs, the said Kenneth Stanley came to the office with card-board box. On enquiry, he revealed that the said box contains concealed heroin and the officials seized 100gms of heroin. He gave confession statement and admitted his guilt in procurement, possession, transportation and attempt to illegally export out of India to Canada, South Africa, New York and other countries, thereby entered into a criminal conspiracy for trafficking of the contraband. On the next day he was arrested and remanded to judicial custody. His first bail application was dismissed on April 16, 2015.

Nearly after four and half years, he filed the present petition.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner was a South African National, bearing South African Passport and he came to India under student visa, worked in Delhi and therein, he married a Tamil girl belonging to Tanjore and both of them got re-located to Chennai and they were even having a baby. He was in jail for five years and 8 months. For completion of trial, it would take further considerable time, he added and prayed to grant bail.

Citing a judgment of Madras high court, the judge said a reading of the judgment would show that only if the court was satisfied that there were reasonable grounds for believing that the accused was not guilty of such offence and that he was not likely to commit any offence while on bail, bail could be granted. This court could not find any such situation in the present second bail petition of the petitioner, the judge added and dismissed the petition.

## SPECIAL PRAYERS



Devotees offering prayers and milk on Sani Pradosham at Gangadeeswarar temple in Purasawalkam, Chennai, on Saturday. —DC

## Thanjai medical college hosp gets latest facilities

DC CORRESPONDENT THANJAVUR, NOV. 9

Tamil Nadu health minister Dr. C. Vijayabaskar on Saturday inaugurated the state of the art facilities at the medical college here.

The facilities include Tamil Nadu Accident and Emergency Care Initiative (TAEI) department, state of art modular operation theatre in department of orthopaedics under the Chief Minister's comprehensive health insurance scheme, state of art modular operation theatre in multi super speciality building (CSSD), state of art central sterile department, 56 bedded state of art high-end super speciality intensive care unit, cath lab, biplanar cath lab, 128 slice CT, digital x-ray etc.



The minister later told presspersons that the Thanjavur medical college hospital is now having facilities of international standards, and these will be helpful to people in Thanjavur and surrounding districts.

"This is a red letter day in the annals of TMCH. We have inaugurated facilities that will provide medical care under one roof without delay," he said. He also said that through the medical services recruitment board, 2,945 nurses, 1,234 village nurses, 90 physiothera-

pists and adequate number of doctors will be soon appointed.

Later, Dr. Kumudha Lingaraj, Dean of TMC, told Deccan Chronicle that TAEI will have x-ray unit, pharmacy, blood bank, all in one place, and there will be no delay in treating accident victims and providing trauma care.

R.Vaithilingam, MP, said that cardiology department in the TMCH is now providing all kinds of treatment like angio, stent, even by-pass surgery.

## Bid to break ATM foiled in Tiruchy

**Tiruchy:** An attempt to break open an ATM of the State Bank Of India (SBI) near the OBT bus stop at suburb Navalpattu here by a miscreant, was foiled in the wee hours of Saturday. Police said the intruder, wearing a black coat and covering his face with a mask, attempted to break open the ATM after applying a paste on the CCTV camera. But before he could proceed, he heard the rustling sound of a man who was sleeping in a nearby bus shelter, rush towards the ATM. Hence, the intruder fled the spot.

Further investigations are on. —DC

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, NOV. 9

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) strongly condemned the Union Government's decision to withdraw the SPG security cover provided to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, AICC leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi.

The AICC said the decision reflected the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led, Home Minister Amit Shah-driven BJP government at the Centre was working on the basis of political vendata, said AICC Secretary Sanjai Dutt, in-charge of the party's Tamil Nadu and Puducherry affairs.

Following discussions with party's state working president Vasanthkumar, MP, Tiruchy district presidents Jawahar, Govindaraj



AICC secretary in-charge of the party's Tamil Nadu and Puducherry affairs addressing the media, in Tiruchy on Saturday. —DC

and Kalai, on party building activities, Dutt told newsmen here on Saturday that the government's decision was to physically eliminate Rajiv Gandhi's family.

Recalling the assassina-

tion of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, Dutt said both the leaders had sacrificed their life.

Terming the government's action as totally unjustified, Dutt urged the

● AICC termed Union government's decision to revoke the SPG cover for Congress leaders as unjustified and that it reflected the political vendata of the ruling party

government to immediately restore the SPG security cover for Sonia Gandhi, her son and daughter.

He said, the country on November 8 observed the third anniversary of the BJP government's demonetisation which sent the country's economic growth into a worse state, and it is due to the BJP government's anti-people and anti-poor policies, and faulty GST implementation that there is an increase in the country's unemployment percentage, FDI growth rate etc, he added.

## Kovai temple poojaris get court reprieve

J.STALIN | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 9

Declaring that the Arulmighu Mariamman Temple in Coimbatore district, alone is entitled for compensation at 100 percent including interest, solatium etc., the Madras high court has set aside an order of a lower court, apportioning the compensation amount awarded under the land acquisition proceedings in the ratio of 25 percent to the Temple and 75 percent to the Hereditary Poojaris.

A division bench comprising Justices R.Subbiah and T.Krishnavalli made the declaration while allowing the first appeal filed by the Executive Officer, Arulmighu Mariamman Temple.

According to petitioner, an extent of 22.21 acres of dry lands in Udumalpet village were granted to the Temple under the Tamil Nadu Minor Inams (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act. The

We are of the opinion that the Hereditary poojaris have no right in the lands in question, though have been rendering service as 'Service Inam' in lieu of the remuneration for the service done by them in the temple, coupled with the fact that they are not cultivating the lands and this shows that the hereditary poojaris have no right whatsoever in the lands in question

— THE BENCH

temple was in possession and enjoyment of the lands for several decades. Even the Inam Register Entry made in the year 1936 discloses that the lands belonged to the Temple. While so, notices were issued by the Special Tahsildar, Pollachi, in 1997 proposing to acquire the lands for the purpose of providing house-sites to the people belonging to Adi Dravidar Community. The land acquisition officer selected 12 acres and the district collector also sent the notice to the parties

concerned. After completion of the acquisition proceedings, award was passed on March 6, 1998 granting compensation of ₹34.52 lakh including solatium. The Hereditary Poojaris of the Temple claimed that they were entitled for the compensation amount. Since there was dispute between the Temple and the Hereditary Poojaris, the land acquisition officer referred the matter to a civil court. On consideration of the oral and documentary evidences, the Subordinate Judge came to

the conclusion that the Hereditary Poojaris were doing service to the Temple without getting any remuneration and they were in enjoyment of the lands in lieu of their service to the Temple and therefore, they were also entitled for compensation, apart from the Temple and apportioned the compensation. Aggrieved by the same, the Temple filed the present petition.

The bench said it was no doubt true that it was the Settlement Tahsildar proceedings, the names of Hereditary Poojaris have been included as "represented by poojaris for the time being". But their names were entered temporarily to represent the Temple and individually their names were not included, more so, when the Ryotwari Patta was issued in favour of the Temple, which was evident from the Settlement Tahsildar proceedings, mentioning that the "Kudivaram rights" vest in the Temple. Further, in the

year 1992, it appears that without the knowledge of the Temple authorities, the Hereditary Poojaris have included their names in the patta and have also made an attempt to alienate the lands. Moreover, in the suit filed by the Temple the Hereditary Poojaris remained ex-parte. Subsequently, the execution proceedings were initiated by the Temple and the possession was also taken from the Hereditary Poojaris. Further the names of the Hereditary Poojaris were subsequently deleted from the patta. The Hereditary Poojaris have not produced any relevant documents before the court below to substantiate that they were the tenants under the Temple. But the court below came to the conclusion that the Hereditary Poojaris were tenants, and hence, they were also entitled for the compensation, which was contrary to the pleadings of the Hereditary Poojaris themselves, the bench added.



BLISSFUL WEATHER

People walking on the streets of Periamet in heavy rains on Saturday. —DC

## 'Chennai is now water secure'

**Chennai:** Thanks to northeast monsoon rainfall, Chennai has now entered the 'water secure' club. The Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), in a tweet on Tuesday said the total state capital is officially out of water shortage.

On June 19 this year, CMWSSB announced that the city had completely run out of water. But, in a wel-

come turn of events, incessant spells of northeast monsoon and southwest monsoon rains have replenished the city's major water bodies to adequate levels.

On Saturday, CMWSSB announced that the total water capacity of Chennai as of now stood at 650 MLD (million litres per day).

As of Saturday, storage at Poondi stood at 1,518 mcf against its full capacity of

3,231 mcf. Water levels at Cholavaram stood at 205 mcf against its full capacity of 1,081 mcf, while Red Hills recorded 1,045 mcf against 3,300 mcf.

Chembarambakkam currently holds 281 mcf against its full capacity of 3,645 mcf. The total storage in the four reservoirs put together stands at 3,049 mcf. —DC





## Sexual abuse

A French former model and actress accused Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski of raping her in a Swiss ski resort when she was a teenager

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SUNDAY | 10 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI

# Nation

PAGE  
15

## Form govt: Maha Guv to Fadnavis

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, NOV. 9

Amid the tussle over chief ministership between the Shiv Sena and the Bharatiya Janata Party, Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Saturday invited the latter, the single-largest party to stake claim to form the new government.

Speaking to *The Deccan Chornicle*, senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar said, "A decision will be taken in a meeting of party's core committee on Sunday."

The communication from the governor's office said, "The Governor of Maharashtra Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari today asked the leader of elected members of the single largest party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri Devendra Fadnavis to indicate the willingness and ability of his party to form the government in Maharashtra. (sic)"

Noting that no party or alliance has come forward to form the government despite the passage of 15 days, the communiqué further added, "The governor has therefore decided to explore the possibility of formation of government and today asked the leader of the elected members of the single largest party, that is BJP, to convey its willingness and ability to form the government, (sic)."

While the Shiv Sena has still not committed its support to the BJP, Congress and NCP will vote against the BJP in case it comes to floor test. "The NCP will think of an alternative if the Shiv Sena votes against the BJP on the floor of the House and the government collapses," NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik said. Meanwhile, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that the Governor's decision to ask the BJP to indicate its willingness to form government was a welcome step and the move follows laid-down procedure.

## Kolkata airport shut over 'Bulbul'

New Delhi, Nov. 9: Operations at the Kolkata airport, the busiest in eastern India, was suspended for 12 hours beginning 6 PM on Saturday due to severe cyclone 'Bulbul', home ministry officials said.

The severe cyclone was expected to make a landfall on the West Bengal coast on Saturday evening. "Due to very severe cyclone 'Bulbul', operations at Kolkata airport are being suspended from 1800 hours on November 9 up to 0600 hours on November 10," an official said.

Severe cyclone 'Bulbul' lay about 90 km south-southeast of Digha, 85 km south of Sagar Islands and 185 km Southeast of Kolkata.

Heavy to extremely heavy rainfall, accompanied by winds reaching up to 120 kmph and tidal waves up to one to two metres, is expected while the cyclone is expected to make a landfall on the West Bengal coast at around 2000 to 2200 hours on Saturday.

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), the country's apex body to handle any emergency, reviewed the preparedness to deal with 'Bulbul' over the Bay of Bengal which is likely to affect coastal districts of West Bengal and Odisha.

The meeting of the NCMC, headed by cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba, was informed by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) that the cyclone has now intensified and is likely to cross the West Bengal coast. —PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi eats langar after inaugurating the passenger terminal building of the Kartarpur corridor on the Indian side, also known as Integrated Check Post, in Gurdaspur on Saturday. — PTI

## PM opens Kartarpur corridor

Modi flags off first 'jatha' of pilgrims, Manmohan Singh among visitors

Dera Baba Nanak, Nov. 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the Kartarpur corridor, flagging off the first batch of over 500 Indian pilgrims here, including former prime minister Manmohan Singh and union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal. The corridor links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in this Punjab district.

Modi flagged off the first batch of pilgrims led by Akal Takhat Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib through the corridor, which was thrown open days ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev on November 12. The Prime Minister inaugurated the passenger terminal building of the corridor on the Indian side, also known as the Integrated Check Post, where pilgrims will get clearance to travel through the newly-built 4.5 km-long corridor.

■ THE state-of-the-art passenger terminal has been constructed on 15 acres of land

■ THE FULLY air-conditioned building, akin to an airport, has over 50 immigration counters for facilitating about 5,000 pilgrims a day

India had signed an agreement with the neighbouring nation on October 24 on the modalities for operationalisation of the corridor at 'Zero Point' of the international boundary at Dera Baba Nanak. The first batch of pilgrims included Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal, Sukhbir Singh Badal and Navjot Singh Sidhu. Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee members and all the 117 MLAs and MPs from Punjab were also part of the 'jatha' (delegation).

Before dedicating the corridor to the nation, Modi partook langar (community kitchen) along with Punjab Governor V P Singh Badnore, Amarinder Singh and state Congress president Sunil Jakhar. Modi, who donned a saffron coloured turban was shown a model of the Kartarpur corridor.

At the time of flagging off the jatha, Modi met Manmohan Singh, who was accompanied by his wife Gursharan Kaur. The state-of-the-art passenger terminal building, with a design inspired by 'Khanda', a symbol of faith in Sikh community, has been constructed on 15 acres of land.

The fully air-conditioned building, akin to an airport, has over 50 immigration counters for facilitating about 5,000 pilgrims a day. —PTI

## PAKISTAN USES OPPORTUNITY TO RAKE UP KASHMIR ISSUE

VINEETA PANDEY | DC  
KARTARPUR, NOV. 9

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and his foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday used the Kartarpur Corridor opening as an opportunity to raise the issue of Kashmir.

Mr Khan said that India and Pakistan need to sit and resolve the issue to make a new beginning just the way Karatarpur Corridor dream of the Sikh community has been fulfilled. However, no one from the Indian side talked anything controversial or mentioned Kashmir. In fact, Navjot Singh Sidhu and Giani Harmeet Singh, head of the Indian jatha were the only two who spoke at the event.

The Indian delegation, had travelled through the Kartarpur Corridor



Imran Khan

inaugurated on the Indian side by PM Modi.

"Today what has happened is that our relationship (India and Pakistan) has come to a halt. If Narendra Modi is listening to me then he should understand justice brings peace. Give justice to Kashmir. If borders are opened then think of progress and peace it will bring. Leaders unite people. They do not spread hatred. Those who spread hatred for votes are not leaders," said Mr Khan.

## WORLD

### Tensions soar in HK over arrests

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police said they have arrested three pro-democracy lawmakers over a brawl in parliament, deepening the city's crisis a day after the death of a student sent tensions soaring. The international finance hub has been upended by five months of huge and increasingly violent pro-democracy protests but Beijing has refused to give in to most of the movement's demands. With the city bracing for a 24th consecutive weekend of rallies, police brought charges against three key pro-democracy lawmakers while four other lawmakers said they had been ordered to attend a police station to be booked. They face up to a year in jail if convicted. Rallies and prayer vigils are expected on Sunday evening. A shut down is planned on Monday.

### OZ BUSHFIRES DESTROY 150 HOMES, 2 DIE

Melbourne, Nov. 9: Two people have died, five are missing and at least 150 homes have been destroyed as bushfires rage across eastern Australia, authorities said on Saturday. The New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) confirmed two people had been killed by a fire near Glen Innes. One body was discovered in a vehicle and a woman died after being found suffering from burns. Five other people remain unaccounted with Prime Minister Scott Morrison saying he feared the number of deaths could rise. "These fires have already claimed two lives and as we get access to further areas that have been cut off we are expecting worse news again," Morrison said. Reserve members of Australia's armed forces may be used to assist emergency services.

### BLOOMBERG MAY BE IN U.S. PREZ RACE

Concord, Nov. 9: New York business tycoon Michael Bloomberg has paved the way for a shot at the US presidency, registering as a candidate in the Alabama Democratic primary race before deadline. Although the 77-year-old billionaire has not publicly announced his run, his inclusion among a crowded field kept his options open for mounting a concerted bid to topple a fellow New Yorker, President Donald Trump. Analysts say a Bloomberg candidacy could do the most damage to the prospects of frontrunner Joe Biden, but the former vice-president put on a brave face and said he was not worried Bloomberg would draw away centrist voters. Bloomberg's name was posted among 17 candidates on the Alabama Democratic Party's website, just hours before the deadline. —AFP

### TAKEAWAYS FROM TRUMP IMPEACHMENT

A rough transcript of the call on July 25 between Trump and Zelenskiy confirmed the whistleblower's most damaging allegation: that Trump asked Zelenskiy to investigate whether Biden.



■ Text messages show that pressure was exerted on Zelenskiy to make a public statement committing himself to investigating Burisma before he would be allowed to meet with Trump at the White House, part of the "quid pro quo" — that is at the heart of the impeachment inquiry.

■ Top US diplomat in Ukraine, William Taylor, said Trump made the release of US security aid to Ukraine contingent to Biden investigations

■ Trump has contended that he did not hold up the \$391 million in US military aid to pressure Zelenskiy.

■ Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, acknowledged that the aid to Ukraine was linked but later contradicted himself in a statement from the White House that ruled out a quid pro quo.

■ Volker, the former special envoy to Ukraine, testified that he had helped to connect Giuliani with a top aide to Ukraine's president as the president's personal lawyer continued to seek information damaging to the Bidens.

■ Michael McKinley, a former adviser to Pompeo, testified that he quit a few days before his appearance before congressional committees because of departmental leadership's unwillingness to defend Yovanovitch from the attacks on her.

■ Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton said he will not testify until a federal court decides whether current and former administration officials like him must cooperate with the investigation.

■ US national security. Army Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman said he heard Sondland pressure Ukrainian officials to investigate the Bidens in order to get a coveted meeting with Trump

NEW | HIGH

The plane is among the proud experiments Nasa has performed

## Nasa unveils first electric plane X-57

Edwards Air Force Base, Nov. 9: Nasa, most prominent for its many Florida-launched exploits into space, showcased an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft, the X-57 'Maxwell', at its lesser-known aeronautics lab in the California desert. Adapted from an Italian-made Tecnam P2006T twin-engine propeller plane, the X-57 has been under development since 2015 and remains at least a year away from its first test flight in the skies over



Edward Air Force Base. But after attaching the two largest of 14 electric motors that will ultimately propel the plane — powered by specially designed lithium ion batteries — Nasa deemed the Maxwell ready for its first public preview.

While private companies have been developing all-electric planes and hovercraft for years, Nasa's X-57 venture is aimed at designing and proving technology according to standards that commercial manufacturers can adapt for government certification.

Nasa also showed off a newly built simulator that allows engineers, and pilots, to get the feel of what it will be like to manoeuvre the finished version of the X-57 in flight, even as the plane remains under development. The Maxwell is the latest in a proud line of experimental aircraft the Nasa has developed over many decades for many purposes, including the bullet-shaped Bell X-1 that first broke the sound barrier and the X-15 rocket plane flown by Neil

Armstrong before he joined the Apollo moon team. The Maxwell will be the agency's first crewed X-plane to be developed in two decades. Those will include standards for airworthiness and safety. —Reuters

## Wealth of world's richest people falls

Zurich, Nov. 9: The world's richest people became a little less well off last year, according to a report by UBS and PwC, as geopolitical turmoil and volatile equity markets reduced the wealth of billionaires for the first time since 2015. Billionaires' wealth fell by 4.3% globally to \$8.5 trillion last year, the UBS/PwC report found, with a sharp decline in Greater China, including Hong Kong, and the Asia-Pacific region more broadly. Private wealth in Hong Kong fell 4% in 2018 to \$319.8 billion, the report showed, with months of anti-government protests in the Chinese-ruled city and an economic recession clouding the outlook

this year. Some Hong Kong tycoons have begun moving personal wealth offshore, *Reuters* reported in June, as concerns deepen over the protests. "We haven't seen any significant outflows, we have been tracking some of these numbers on a regular basis," said Amy Lo, UBS co-head of Asia Pacific wealth management. "Our clients have been diversifying all along, it's not in the last one year." Private banks including the world's largest wealth manager UBS have felt the effects of US-China trade tensions and global political uncertainties, as clients shied away from trading and taking on debt in favour of hoarding cash. —Reuters





## Support for BCCI

The BCCI has got a shot in the arm after England Board chairman Colin Graves intimated ICC that they will not support the global body's bid to have a flagship event every year from 2023 to 2031

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SUNDAY | 10 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI

# Sport

PAGE  
16

3



There is a hint of MS Dhoni in his captaincy. He uses part-time bowlers like Dhoni.

— Irfan Pathan on Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah Riyad

## SHORT TAKES

### BCCI AGM to be held on Dec. 1

**New Delhi:** The BCCI will have its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in three years under Sourav Ganguly's leadership in Mumbai on December 1 where the old guard of the BCCI would like to revisit the amended constitution as per Supreme Court's August 9, 2018 order. Since it's the prerogative of an elected body to call an AGM, the BCCI had to wait for the newly-elected set-up under Ganguly to take charge at a General Body meeting in Mumbai on October 23. "We have received a circular from the BCCI that the AGM will be held on December 1 in Mumbai," an office-bearer of a prominent state unit said on conditions of anonymity. Among the points that the members would like to revisit are age-cap of 70 years, cooling off period of three years after a period of six years along with curtailing powers of the executives including the Chief Executive Officer. However for any amendment in the registered constitution as per Supreme Court judgement on August 9, 2018, the BCCI will have to appeal to the Apex court for the particular change. "Obviously the old guard of BCCI wants to come back in power. Therefore all the principal points of Lodha Reforms will be reviewed," said a member of the state association. — PTI

### Barty crush Garcia to level Fed final

**Perth:** Ashleigh Barty played the "best match of her life" to crush Caroline Garcia 6-0, 6-0 and haul Australia back into contention at the Fed Cup final Saturday after France's Kristina Mladenovic whipped Ajla Tomljanovic. The world number one, fresh from winning the WTA Finals in China, came on court in Perth under pressure after the nervous Tomljanovic was thrashed 6-1, 6-1. But in searing 38 Celsius (100 Fahrenheit) heat she kept her cool to embarrass a stunned Garcia in a rare double bagel, with the Frenchwoman having no answers to the Barty armory in front of 13,000 fans. It left the tie evenly poised at 1-1 ahead of Sunday's reverse singles and a doubles clash if needed, with Australia targeting an eighth title and first in 45 years, while France are seeking a third, their first since 2003. — AFP

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### SATWIK-CHIRAG GO DOWN TO WORLD NO.1 PAIR IN SEMIS

**Fuzhou, Nov. 9:** The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's impressive run came to an end after they lost to three-time defending champions Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo of Indonesia in the semi-final of \$ 700,000 China Open here on Saturday. The world number 9 Indian pair lost 16-21 20-22 to the top seeds and world number one Marcus and Kevin to bow out of the BWF World Tour Super 750 tournament here. This was the eighth successive loss for Satwik and Chirag against the Indonesian pair. Satwik and Chirag, who had won their maiden

Super 500 title at the Thailand Open in August before reaching the finals at the French Open Super 750, played their hearts out during the 40-minute final but it was not enough in the end. This was Satwik and Chirag's third loss this year against the world number 1 pair. The Indian duo opened up a 7-4 lead early on but they lacked the angles in their attack as their opponents managed to enter the break with a 11-9 lead after Satwik faltered with his return. Kevin was simply brilliant near the net as the Indonesian duo quickly jumped to 14-9. The Indonesian pair dominated the fast-paced rallies. — PTI

### India and Bangladesh face off in T20 decider today

**Nagpur, Nov. 9:** India will be eyeing their first T20 International series win at home this season when they take on Bangladesh in the decisive third game here on Sunday, with the hope that their fringe players contribute significantly to a victory.

In the absence of some senior players, including skipper Virat Kohli, India's primary objective of the T20 series was to identify the core of players for the T20 World Cup next year. Not much was achieved on that front in the first two games barring the successful comeback of leggie Yuzvendra Chahal, who once again proved his wicket-taking ability in the middle overs.

After Chahal and Co. restricted Bangladesh to 153 for six in Rajkot, skipper Rohit Sharma blew the opposition away with a sublime 85 to level the series 1-1. Washington Sundar, who has been



Rishabh Pant



(From left) India bowling coach Bharat Arun, captain Rohit Sharma and head coach Ravi Shastri are in an animated discussion during a training session in Nagpur on Saturday.

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preferred to chinaman Kuldeep Yadav, has kept things tight but has not been as threatening as Chahal. Pacer Khaleel Ahmed leaked runs in both the games, increasing the possibility of Shardul Thakur partnering Deepak Chahar on Sunday.

Krunal Pandya, who has been a regular in the Indian T20 squad for a

team in Delhi and Rajkot, leaving the likes of Manish Pandey, Sanju Samson and Rahul Chahar to warm the bench.

If not in Nagpur, they could get an opportunity in the following home series against the West Indies next month. Even when the senior players return after this series, India will have plenty to

ponder over their team composition, especially in the batting department where they lack the firepower in comparison to teams like Australia and England.

Shreyas Iyer has looked impressive in the limited time he has spent in the middle while K L Rahul is yet to make an impact, just like rookie all-rounder Shivam Dube. — PTI

## Please leave Pant alone: Rohit

**Nagpur, Nov. 9:** Stand-in India captain Rohit Sharma on Saturday strongly backed an under-fire Rishabh Pant, urging critics to "leave him alone" as he is only trying to execute the team management's strategy.

Pant, whose shot selection has come under the scanner on several occasions, became the centre of unwanted attention due to his poor

glovework in the second T20 against Bangladesh in Rajkot.

He botched up a stumping of Liton Das with the third umpire ruling that his hands were slightly in front of the stumps, when he dislodged the balls. "You know there is a lot of talk happening about Rishabh Pant every day, every minute. I just feel that he needs to be allowed to do what he wants to do on the field. I would

request everyone to keep their eyes away from Rishabh Pant for a while," skipper Rohit said.

"He is a fearless cricketer and we (team management) want him to have that freedom. And if you guys take your eyes off him for sometime, it will allow him to perform even better," added Rohit.

Not so long ago, Pant was the preferred choice in all three formats but Wriddhiman Saha played

ahead of him in the three Tests against South Africa at home last month only on the basis of superior glovework.

"He is a young guy, 22, trying to make his mark in international cricket. Every move he makes on the field, people start talking about him. It is not fair. I think we should allow him to play his cricket which actually he also wants to do," Rohit said. — PTI

## Tejaswini seals India's 12th Olympic quota

**Doha, Nov. 9:** Veteran Tejaswini Sawant secured India's 12th Olympic quota in shooting but missed out on a medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event in the 14th Asian Championship here on Saturday.

Provided she is picked in the final shooting squad for next year's Tokyo Games, it will be her maiden Olympic appearance, having missed the bus in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

The former world champion bagged the quota for next year's Tokyo Games by virtue of making the finals of the 50m rifle 3 positions event in the championship.

Out of the eight finalists, six of them were ineligible for various reasons, giving India one of the three available quotas in the event.

The 39-year-old from Maharashtra's Kolhapur reached the final at fifth position after shooting 1171 in the 12-shot qualifi-



Tejaswini Sawant

cations across the three positions of kneeling, prone and standing. However, in the finals, Sawant fought well but had to be satisfied with a fourth-place finish.

The seasoned Indian shot 435.8 in the finals at the Lusail Shooting Range. India also won

nine medals in all competitions through the day including three more gold.

Sawant's score was way above her previous best score in qualification in the new longer format introduced only in this current Olympic cycle, helping her finish fifth and ease into the eight-

woman final. It also helped secure a quota place as six other finalists had either booked their individual quotas or their respective National Olympic Committees (NOC) had already exhausted their limit of two quotas per event. Though she could not win

an individual medal, she combined with Kajal Saini and Gaayathri Nithyanadam to bag the team bronze.

Sawant was third after the second series but fell behind in the later attempts, finishing with an 8.8. Sawant, who also competes in the 50m rifle prone, has won many medals, including gold at the World Championship, World Cup and the Commonwealth Games.

In 2010, she became the world champion in the 50m rifle prone event in Munich with a world-record equalling score. She was the first Indian woman shooter to win a gold medal at the Worlds.

China's Mengyao Shi won the gold medal with 457.9, while the silver went to Yesugen Oyunbat of Mongolia (457.0). The bronze and the second available quota was won by Japan's Shiori Hirata (445.9).

— PTI

## BOXING OLYMPIC QUALIFIER

# No trials, coach for consistency

GANDHARV KAMALA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 9

The Boxing Federation of India may be lining up a trial bout between Mary Kom and Nikhat Zareen to settle the high-profile selection dispute but it may not be all about them. There are two more boxers in fray who will vie to win the four-woman contest to be held on December 29 and 30 in New Delhi and make it to the first Olympics qualifying event in China.

The much debated trials in the women's 51kg category will have Mary Kom pitted against three boxers — gold and silver medalists from the senior nationals, and another pugilist picked by coaches based on her performance at the national camp and boxing league. Currently, Mary is No.1, Nikhat second, Vanlal Duati third and a fourth one would be named by the coaches. The semifinals will see No.1 vs No.4 and No.2 vs No.3, which means Mary and Nikhat can only clash for the coveted Olympic Qualifier spot if they make the final at the Trials.

BFI's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva preferred consistency over trials though. "I don't believe in selection trials. It's a mere waste of time and energy to be honest. If boxers want to train in India or overseas they will not be able to give their 100 per cent either in the gym or in the ring. The constant burden of having to prove themselves at a trial and not in the ring, adds pressure," Santiago told this newspaper from Goa.

"Let's say there is a major tournament in a month's time and a boxer is preparing for the same. Will the



Mary Kom

boxer have a single-minded dedication towards training or would she/he be worried about trials? And what happens if the boxer is injured during trials? You lose your best boxer in that weight category to an injury. What next? You send the second or the third best but not the best boxer in that weight! So I think we should do away with the selection trials and reward the consistent performer at international events," the Argentine explained.

"In August, 2019 both Rafael Bergamasco (foreign coach of the women's team) and myself suggested a road map for 2020 Olympics. We proposed that gold and silver medalists in the women's categories at the Worlds will get a direct entry for the first Olympics qualifiers in China. So, world medalists Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) will not have to attend trials," he said.

"A spot in the rest of the six men's categories (57kg, 69kg, 75kg, 81kg, 91kg, +91kg) and all the weight categories in women's (51kg, 60kg, 64kg, 69kg, and 75kg) are up for grabs," Santiago informed.



Bangladesh players during a training session at Nagpur. — AP

## Chelsea's sixth win on the spin

### Weakened City offer Liverpool chance to increase EPL lead

**London, Nov. 9:** Chelsea secured a sixth straight Premier League win to move up to second as the inform Tammy Abraham and Christian Pulisic struck to beat Crystal Palace 2-0.

Abraham ended Palace's dogged defensive resistance with a simple finish from William's deft through ball seven minutes into the second half before Pulisic headed home a loose ball 11 minutes from time to seal all three points.

Chelsea edge a point clear of Manchester City and to within five of leaders Liverpool, who host City in a highly-anticipated clash on Sunday.

**Liverpool, Nov. 9:** Liverpool have lived through many false dawns in the 29 years since last lifting a league title, but the class of 2019/20 have the chance to prove they are the real deal when champions Manchester City visit Anfield on Sunday.

City's relentless hunger to push the bar to new heights under Pep Guardiola has kept Liverpool waiting.

Despite posting the third highest points tally in English top flight history last season with 97, Liverpool lost out by a solitary point as City backed up their 100-point campaign with 98 to retain the title. — AFP

Blues free flowing football under Frank Lampard was met with a brick wall of a Palace defence for the first 45 minutes. — AFP



Crystal Palace's defender James Tomkins (left) vies with Chelsea's striker Tammy Abraham — AFP