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■ CHENNAI | THURSDAY 6 | AUGUST 2020 ■



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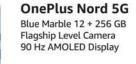
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# DECCAN nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

**CHENNAI | THURSDAY 6 | AUGUST 2020** 

**WEATHER** 



Max: 35°C Rainfall: Nill

ASTROGUIDE Sarvari: Aadi 22 **Tithi:** Thrithiyai Star: Sathayam/ Puratathi Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm Yamagandam:

> **PRAYERS** Fajar: 4.39 am Zohar: 12.20 pm Asar: 3.32 pm Maghrib: 6.36 pm Isha: 7.52 pm

6 am to 7.30 am

**CORONA CWUNT** 

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covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

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WORLD CONFIRMED CASES



worldometers.info

#### **MLA cocks a** snook at DMK

Chennai: DMK MLA representing Thousand Lights constituency, Ku Ka Selvam, cocked a snook at his party by visiting 'Kamalalayam', the BJP State headquarters in Chennai,

to a grand reception on Wednesday even while claiming that he continued to be in the DMK. Though DMK President M K Stalin cracked the whip, removing Selvam from the posts of headquarters office secretary and HQ executive committee and seeking an explanation as to why he should not be dismissed from the party, the MLA was hobnobbing openly with the BJP State leaders.

#### **MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan discharged**

**Bhopal:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was on Wednesday discharged from a Bhopal hospital after recovering from COVID-19, an official said. Doctors have advised Chouhan, who was in the hospital for 11 days, to be under home quarantine and self-monitor his health for a week, Chouhan, 61, who tested COVID-19 positive on July 25, had tweeted on Sunday that he was healthy and not showing any symptoms of the infection, adding he would be discharged if a sample collected for

COUNTER

tests during the day returns nega-



Not Arabian sea, sir... these are the main roads of Mumbai!

CITY | 5 Ramadoss sees a conspiracy in NEP



**FC | 8** Gold at new high, set to rally more

SPORT | 8 League in UAE will be challenging: Raina



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# PM Modi lays first brick of Ram Rajya

■ Ram Lalla set to move from tent he occupied for decades

YOJNA GUSAI | DC NEW DELHI, AUG 5

At 12:44 pm on the 'abhijit muhurut' on Wednesday, which many believe is the same auspicious time of the day when Lord Ram was born, Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the "bhoomi pujan" at the "garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum)" of the to be constructed "bhavya (grand) Ram Mandir," in Ayodhya which the Prime Minister said will be the 'modern symbol of India's tradition, its eternal faith, national spirit and collec-tive pledge of crores of peo-Mr Modi said Lord Ram

is a common thread of India's unity in diversity. The Prime Minister and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, who was also invited for the ceremony, asserted that "Ram Sabke Hain, Sab Main Hain Ram" as he said that the wait for centuries has

ended. Considered in political circles as a polarising issue, Ram Mandir will be completed ahead of the next general elections in 2024 and was one of the core demands of the RSSled Sangh Parivar and one of the poll promises of the

Before the Supreme Court's verdict last year, some portion of the temple complex was part of the disputed site where once stood the Bahri constructed in the 16th century and demolished in 1992 by karsevaks while the Hindus maintained that the mosque was built by demolishing the tem-ple, which was the birth place of Lord Ram.

Incidentally, bhoomipujan ceremony

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the first brick as part of the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya on Wednesday.

coincides with the first anniversary of nullifica-tion of the contentious Article 370 by the Modi government, another core issue of the Sangh Parivar and BJP's poll promise. "I believe that like Lord

Ram, the grand temple will be a symbol of Indian culture and tradition and will inspire humanity till eternity...Lord Ram teaches us to move forward with time, he favours change, he favours modernisation..one must never forget that when humanity believes in him it days oped, when it strayed it walked on the destructive path....through mutual affection and brotherhood we need to build the temple," said the PM while addressing saints and seers and other invitees after the ground laying

ceremony and began his

speech by chanting 'Jai Siya Ram.'

He also said that social principles of Lord Ram's governance and said it was a "historic and proud day for India." The PM asked people to make sure that teachings of Lord Ram, message of the Ram Mandir and India's thou-sands years old tradition should be spread across the world. He also paid respect to those who sacrificed their lives for the

Ram Mandir. The PM was traditional attire – golden coloured kurta and dhoti. He later tweeted: blessed day in Ayodhya. This day will remain etched in the memory of every Indian. May the blessings of Bhagwan Shri Ram always be upon us. May India scale new

heights of progress. May every Indian be healthy and prosperous.

■ Ram is everyone's, Ram resides in

everyone, PM says in his speech

Hailing the occasion as a "sabko saath lekar saath chalne ki vidhi ka adhisthan(establishment of a method to walk along with everyone)," RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, who was also one of the invitees by

Ramjanambhoomi Teeth Kshetra Trust, said the occasion marks the beginning of India, which is "paramvaibhav sampann aur sabka kalyan karne wala(glorious and welfare for all)." Mr Bhawat also said that it is a joyous occasion as it is a culmination of a pledge (for the temple construction) taken almost three decades ago and also a joyous occasion because Mr Modi was performing the

#### **ARCHITECT LEFT OUT IN** THE COLD

ANIMESH SINGH | DC NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

He was the architect of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement who catapult-ed the BJP from two Lok Sabha seats in 1984 to 120 in the 1991 general elec-tion. But on Wednesday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the Ram Mandir "bhoomi pujan" in Ayodhya, Lal Krishna Advani pos-sibly watched the ceremony on television as the party and organisers tried hard to "explain" his absence at the event.

In September 1990 Mr Advani began his rathya-tra from Somnath till Ayodhya to mobilise nationwide opinion for building a Ram temple at the "exact location" where Lord Ram was believed to have been born (and where the Babri Masjid stood). His "Mandir Wahin Banayenge" slogan was a nationwide chant during the Ram Janmabhoomi stir, that led to the Babri Masjid's demolition on December 6, 1992, making Mr Advani the party's Hindutva poster

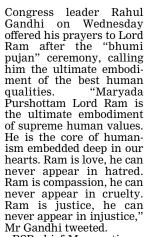
Ironically, though, nei-ther Mr Advani nor Murli Manohar Joshi, who was BJP president when the Babri Masjid was demolished, were on the dais with Mr Modi at Wednesday's bhoomi pujan ceremony.

# Rahul says Ram is love, justice

Vol. 16 No. 132 Established 1938 8 PAGES ₹3.00

**Monumental occasion!** 

DC CORRESPONDENTS



BSP chief Mayawati credited the Supreme Court for paving way for the construction of the Ram temple, while Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh



future generations will do well to sincerely follow the path shown by the "Maryada Purushottam". Trinamul Congress chief Mamata Banerjee called

for preserving brotherhood between communities and the age-old legacy of unity in diversity.

#### RSS chief says temple will make India self-reliant

Ayodhya, Aug. 5: The ground breaking ceremony of a Ram temple in Ayodhya has spread joy across the country and will establish the self confidence needed for making India self-reliant, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on

Recalling the three-decade-old struggle of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its ideological family members for the construction of the temple, he hailed the contribution of veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani, late VHP president Ashok Singhal and Mahant Ramchandra Das Paramhans.

There are many people who worked hard and some even sacrificed their lives for the temple, many may not be here physically, Mr Bhagwat said remembering Singhal and movement Paramhans.

"While there are some like Advani ji who led Rath Yatra but could not come due to the current situa-tion (Covid-19 pandemic). He must be watching this from his home on TV," he

#### **SINGER SPB TESTS POSITIVE FOR VIRUS**

**Chennai, Aug 5:** Veteran singer-actor SP Balasubrahmanyam on Wednesday said he has been admitted to a hospital after testing positive for coronavirus. The 74year-old singer, who has worked across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam film industries, shared the news in a video message on Facebook.

Balasubrahmanyam said he was feeling chest congestion, cold and "on and off" fever since two-three days, following which he got himself tested for Covid-19. "They said it is a very mild case of coronavirus positive. They said you can stay at home and self quarantine and asked me to take some medica-

# EWS quota issue referred to 5-judge top court bench

Supreme Court on Wednesday referred to a five-judge constitution bench pleas challenging central government's decision to grant 10 per cent quota to Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in jobs and admissions in the general category.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Justice (CJI) S A Bobde said that a larger bench will decide the pleas filed by 35 petitioners challenging Centre's decision.

The petitions filed by NGOs 'Janhit Abhiyan' and 'Youth For Equality' along with 33 others sought directions to

(103 Amendment) Act, 2019, saying that the economic criterion cannot be the sole basis for reservation.

Earlier, the top court had refused to stay the central government's decision to grant 10 per cent quota in jobs and admissions to poor candidates in the general category.

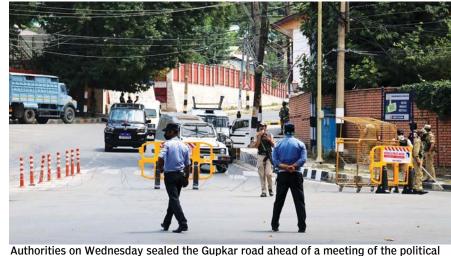
The centre had earlier defended its decision and contended that the Constitution amendments) Act, 2019 granted 10 per cent reservation to EWS is intended to uplift around 200 million people who are still below the poverty line.

#### **BISHOP FRANCO PLEA REJECTED IN NUN RAPE CASE**

New Delhi, Aug 5: Supreme Court Wednesday directed Bishop Franco Mulakkal to face trial as it dismissed his plea seeking discharge in the rape case lodged against him by a nun, saying that there is no merit in his petition.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde, A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian told the counsel for Bishop that the court is not saying anything on merit but is dismissing the plea on the issue of discharge from the case.

#### **OPPN MEETING FOILED**



parties called by National Conference parliamentarian Farooq Abdullah at his residence. Restrictions were imposed in other parts of Srinagar city in view of first anniversary of Article 370 abrogation.

## **More Covid-19 cases in** districts near Chennai

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, AUG 5

Fresh infections and fatalities due to Coronavirus

infection was on a high in the three districts adjoining Chennai on Wednesday when the total death toll was 112 and new cases 5,175 in the State.

Compared to neighbouring districts - Chengalpattu 487 infections and seven deaths, Kanchipuram 342 cases and six deaths and Thiruvallur

472 cases and six deaths -Chennai's infection rate was low at 1.044 and death toll was 25. A total of 59,156 persons underwent the test through the State.

Advising people not to ignore feverish feelings but seek early medical help, State Health help, State Health Minister C Vijaybaskar said the government had improved the facilities for treatment in the government hospitals Chennai.

After inspecting the

Gandhi Government General Hospital and the Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, Vijaybaskar said there were 150 ICU beds in RGGGH, from where over 15,000 persons had been discharged following successful treatment. Rising to the needs of the

patients admitted to the hospital, the government had now appointed feeding nurses to help those who were unable to eat on

# Centre orders CBI enquiry into SSR death

New Delhi, Aug 5: The Centre on Wednesday issued a notification asking the CBI to probe the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, that occurred in June at his Mumbai residence, officials said. A copy of the notification has been sent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) asking it to probe the case, they

The move comes after the government on Tuesday recommended a CBI probe to the Centre in the sensational case at the request of Rajput's father. Rajput, aged 34, was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14 and since then Mumbai police has been probing the case keeping in mind various angles.

While hearing a case in connection with the actor's



on Wednesday said the death, the Supreme Court truth behind the death of

the "gifted and talented artist" should come out. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the court that the Bihar government's recommendation has been accepted and the case has been transferred to the CBI. Bihar police had registered a case against Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty and five others, including three of her family members, under IPC sections 306

(abetment of suicide), 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement), 380 (theft in dwelling house), 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating).
Besides Chakraborty, the

others named in the FIR are three of her relatives --Chakraborty, Sandhya Chakraborty and Shobhik Chakraborty, and two others – Samue Miranda and Shruti Modi. Samuel



SHORT

TAKES

#### **Gold worth** ₹34.5L seized

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, AUG. 5

Customs officials at the Chennai International Airport seized gold worth ₹34.5 lakh the passengers who arrived from Dubai on Tuesday. On Tuesday night, two passengers, Kasimani Kolanji(22) and Murugan Chandran(38) Thanjavur arrived from Dubai by Air India Express Airlines Flight No. IX-1644. They were intercepted by AIU officers at the exit on suspicion of carrying gold. On their search, four polythene pouches, two each containing gold paste were found concealed inside the belt portion of their jeans. On extraction by heat treatment 731 grams of gold of 24 K purity valued at ₹34.5 lakh was recovered and seized under the Customs Act 1962. Further investigation

#### **Indian medical students stranded** in Russia land in Chennai

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, AUG. 5

As many as 100 medical students, who were stranded in Russia due to coronavirus arrived in restrictions, Chennai by private flight on Wednesday.

The students were stranded in Moscow owing to Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant cancellation of flights. Bollywood actor Sonu Sood and the medical institute organised a chartered flight from Moscow to fly the students back to Chennai and reunite them with their loved ones.

As per the Health Ministry guidelines for international arrivals, the students will undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days at a facility at their own cost, followed by 7 days home quarantine. Around 328 Indians stranded in Gulf countries such as Bahrain and Dubai landed at Chennai in two Air India flights on Tuesday night.

# Fever clinics play key role in containing coronavirus

T. SUDHEESH I DC CHENNAI, AUG. 5

The fever clinics, introduced by the Greater Chennai Corporation across 15 zones for early detection of Covid-19 infection, have played a key role in the declining trend of virus transmission in the district during the last several

According to GCC, as many as 28,219 fever clinwere conducted across the zones in the last three months (from May 8 to August 3). At least 16, 20, 248 people were screened in the clin-

On Tuesday alone, 540 fever clinics were conducted involving 27,292 people. At least 1,740 symptomatic patients were tested for Covid-19.

DC CORRESPONDENT

THOOTHUKUDI, AUG. 5

Sterlite Copper, the

country's major copper

producer until it was

abruptly closed down in

May 2018, is reportedly

contemplating laying off

a major part of its work-

hoping for a legal reme-

dy in the case pending

at the Madras high

its first round of salary

cuts in October last year

and the second round in

January 2020 for the employees staying at

home during Covid-19

12

19

9. Ballot (4)

10. Squirm (6)

12. Say no (6)

19. Candour (9)

17 Exit (5)

14. Tapered tuck (4)

18. Walked in water (5)

**Word Mine** 

I D A

etters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the

letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine lette

word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

1.Cue and ball game (9)

6. Defensive effort (5)

7. Underwater gear (5)

Across

The company started

The employees were

According to GCC officials, the success of the fever clinic is due to the higher turnout of people to each clinic that helped in containing the spread of virus in

introduced in May after the city started seeing a spike in active cases leading to an increase in According to GCC offi-

Chennai

cials, the success of the fever clinic is due to the higher turnout of people to each clinic that helped in containing the spread of virus in the city which has a population of over 87 lakh.

As per the analysis carried out by the GCC administration, at least 20 percent of Covid-19

The company started

salary cuts in October

last year and the sec-

ond round in January

2020 for the employ-

ees staying at home

"The situation wors-

ened for the company

administration to take a tough decision," said

Pankaj Kumar, CEO of

Sterlite Copper. He added, "Sterlite Copper

is facing an extremely

grim situation, grap-pling with the dual

effects of the pandemic

**QUICK CROSSWORD** 

during Covid-19

lockdown

its first round of

Sterlite Copper mulls

layoff of employees

deaths in the city took place due to the failure on the part of residents in revealing symptoms to health workers who visited their homes as part of surveys.
The officials say that at

least 550 locations in the city have been identified could conduct fever clinics every day. Testing in the city too had doubled, increasing from 4,000 to 10,227. The GCC has so far

quarantined over seven lakh residents in the city. As per the GCC data, at least 3 lakh residents have completed 14 days of quarantine. Earlier, the state government came up with the containment zone plan, though the first case in the city was reported on March 9, following Tablighi Jamaat became cluster across the state in mid-

and awaiting the high

court's verdict on the abrupt closure. We have tried as much as possi-

ble to stand with our

employees as they have

"The survival of not just our company, but also our network of sup-

pliers and contractors is

now in question," said the Sterlite CEO, who regretted, "with reluc-

tance, we are forced to

adopt such drastic

measures." More than

100 ancillary units of

Sterlite will also have to

close down, chucking out around a thousand

of their employees, said

16

2. Not appropriate (5)

5. Lack confidence in (5)

16. Graceful water bird (4)

6. Reveals (anag) (7)

3. Board game (4)

4. Soak up (6)

8. Warned (7)

13. Panache (5)

15. Assistants (5)

11. Aft (6)

stood with us.'

The number of zones exponentially expanded since the Koyembedu vegetable market turned a super spreader of virus in the city last week of April. There are as many as 170 containment zones in the city now. As per the plan, the volunteers deployed by GCC carried out a door-to-door survey. The government allocated Rs 40 crore for 4,500 FOCUS volunteers in Chennai to monitor those in quarantine and help them get essentials.

The trend of active cases, as per the data, from 1007 till 18673 on June 24.

Ever since June, the number of active cases recorded a declining mid-July to 11,856 on August 4.

#### Ram temple a real symbol of secularism: HMK

R. VALAYAPATHY I DC KARUR, AUG. 5

Hindu Makkal Katchi (HMK) founder Arjumn Sampath said the proposed Ram temple at Ayodhya will be a real symbol of secularism as it has put an end to the 500-year-old battle. He said the Hindus across the globe are happy over the Ram temple construc-

Sampath participated in a special pooja organised in front of Sri Pasupatheeswarar temple and distributed sweets to celebrate the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Ram temple in



B. VIJAYALAKSHMI | DC

While several Tamil news channels gave a continuous coverage of the Ayodhya Ram temple bhoomi puja for more than four hours on Wednesday and interspersed it with commentaries and reactions from temple architects, mutt and religious heads, Harikatha exponents and experts, temples in the state organised lighting of lamps and special recitation of Rama puranam and

Tamil news channels pulled it off quite well by covering the event in a direct manner thoughts shared by religious scholars sans hype and razzmatazz.

Tamil orators and experts shared interesting facts about Ayodhya and various Ramayanas available in the world, elucidated centuryold legal battle, contemporary relevance of Rama and architectural significance of the upcoming temTamil orators and experts shared interesting facts about Ayodhya and various Ramayanas available

in the world, elucidated centuryold legal battle, contemporary relevance of Rama and architectural significance of the upcoming temple amid the live coverage

ple amid the live coverage. Meanwhile, several temples in the state had priests reciting the Ramayana throughout the day. Vaidya Veeraraghava Swamy temple at Tiruvallur had Raghuveera Gadyam recited by priests and two special lamps lit in all *sannadhis*, said temple honorary agent C.C. Sampath.

Kannan bhattacharya of the ancient Vaikuntavasa Perumal temple in Koyambedu said, "We had special *Tirumanjanam* done for the Lord to mark

the occasion. Temple sand and holy water were sent to

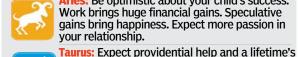
In a related development, security was beefed up in several temples across the state. Eri Katha Ramar temple in Madurantakam, considered one of the oldest Rama temples in the state, had police stepping up security since Tuesday Also, the devout shared pictures of Lord Rama with friends and relatives on WhatsApp and FB and urged them to celebrate the special day.

The 46th jeer of Sri Ahobila Math spoke about Lord Rama's valour and compassion in a video mesdevotees Sadhguru, founder, Isha Foundation, tweeted, "Peaceful Resolution of #RamTemple dispute put to rest a wound that had been unnecessarily festering. A lot of minds & hearts are cooler now. May the whole nation celebrate this resolution and resurrection of spirit of nationhood and unity."

# **COFFEE-BREAK**

court.

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



**Aries:** Be optimistic about your child's success. Work brings huge financial gains. Speculative gains bring happiness. Expect more passion in your relationship.

work opportunities. Long journeys, including foreign visits, will happen. Expand your busi-



ness and work harder. mini: Sudden severe financial losses may make you feel unlucky. You may also suffer a genitourinary tract disease. Finances will be



Cancer: You may lose a litigation case. You tend to get more interested in fine arts and more involved in family matters. You'll succeed in competitive examinations.

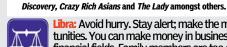


interests in you and helps you. Focus on work and pleasures increases. irgo: You may have fights over petty issues. Avoid

Leo: You'll be more attracted towards the opposite gender, with someone showing



head-on collisions with other family members. Mix business with pleasure in the second half of the week. Allow your partner to help you at your job.



ra: Avoid hurry. Stay alert: make the most of opportunities. You can make money in business and other financial fields. Family members are too demanding today. Try to balance both work and personal lives.

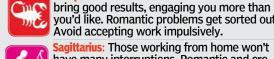
corpio: Zestful efforts towards estate affairs

Michelle Yeoh, Malaysian actress. She is best known for her

movies film Tomorrow Never Dies, Crouching Tiger, Hidden

Dragon, Memoirs of a Geisha, Reign of Assassins, Star Trek:

of close friends may surface.



you'd like. Romantic problems get sorted out.
Avoid accepting work impulsively. agittarius: Those working from home won't have many interruptions. Romantic and creative activities are highlighted. Hidden feelings



ricorn: It's a good day for romance and socialising. Those married have peaceful relations. You'll find maximum benefit from your



quarius: It's a good day for service personnel. Your enemies try to overcome you but fail. Some trusty friends may cheat you. Expect health problems.



Pisces: You find more support, helping you progress. It's a good time financially. Foreigners may help in the form of unexpected offers of financial associates or partnerships. Avoid risky deals. Enjoy your evening with family.



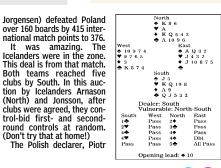
LONG ODDS **UNDERDOGS RARELY** 

**SUCCEED** 

Suppose that the final of a world bridge championship is between one highly rated team and one that has surprised everyone by getting so far. When that pens, the bookies will not take bets on the favorites However, in 1991, the underdogs did win. In Yokohama, Japan, Iceland (Gudmu ndur Arnason-Thorlakur Jonsson, Orn Arnthorsson-

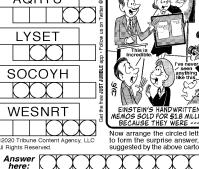
Gudlaugur Johansson and Jon Baldursson-Adalsteinn

Jorgensen) defeated Poland over 160 boards by 415 inter-national match points to 376. It was amazing. The Icelanders were in the zone. This deal is from that match. Both teams reached five clubs by South. In this auc-tion by Icelanders Arnason (North) and Jonsson, after clubs were agreed, they control-bid first- and second-



#### jumble **AQRTU**

Down



ELOPE POLICE himself with — "REEL" PEOPLE

lead. He won with his ace and immediately played the club queen. However, when West smoothly contributed the four, declarer, afraid of a diamond ruff, played "safe," going up with dummy's ace. Now he could no longer make his contract! Declarer contin-ued trumps, but had to lose two spades, one club and one diamond ruff: down two.

The Polish West, trusting his partner's lead-directing

double, led a spade. After East took the first two tricks in the suit. Jonsson had no option but to take the club finesse. He cruised home. The spade lead looked the worst for South, but it forced him into a winning line. In contrast, the apparently ben-eficial diamond opening gave declarer just enough rope to hang himself.

Across: 1. Pretence, 7. Unlit, 8. Stood, 9. Passed, 10. Cede,

12. Coop, 14. Potent, 17. Outdo,

Down: 1. Pales, 2. Entree, 3. Else, 4. Chose, 5. Suspicion, 6. Adventure, 11. Locate, 13. Octet, 15. Extra, 16. Cove.

18. Actor, 19.

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#### CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson









#### WIZARD OF ID|Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman





**BLONDIE** Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN|Edgar Rice Burroughs













**SHORT** 

TAKES

#### **Thirumavalavan** bereaved

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, AUG. 5

K Bhanumathi, the elder sister of Thol Thirumavalavan, the founder of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), passed away at the age of 62 in Chennai.

Besides Thirumavalvan, she leaves behind a daughter, two sons and lakhs and lakhs of cadre from the VCK, to whom she was closely attached to.

She was admitted to a private hospital three week ago after testing positive for Covid-19 and recovered well but suddenly passed away on Wednesday following a heart attack, a party statement said, adding that the party would observe a week's mourning.

#### Ramadoss sees a conspiracy in NEP

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, AUG. 5

PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss sees a conspiracy to close down the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai by merging it with some university as per the stipulations in the new National Education Policy

Many attempts had been done in the past to close down the institute that specializes in research on Tamil, its antiquity and its significance, Ramadoss said in a statement on Wednesday.

In 2017 there was a plan to convert the institute into a department of the Central University in Thiruvarur and it was dropped after protests from people, he said.
CICT, which functioned as
Centre for Excellence for
Classical Tamil as a part of
the Central Institute of Indian Languages in Mysore, was shifted to Chennai in 2008 to function as an independent institution, he said.
It should be an independent

organization not attached to any university and elevated to the status of a Central University, Ramadoss added.

#### **DMK MLA** moves HC

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, AUG. 5

DMK MLA L.Idayavarman and 10 others arrested on July 12, 2020, in connection with a firing incident that took place during a clash between his group and that of a real estate businessman over a land dispute at Thiruporur on July 11, 2020, have approached the Madras high court, seeking bail.

Justice N.Sathish Kumar before whom the bail applications filed by Idayavarman and others came up for hearing, directed the Thiruporur police to produce CD files relating to the case and adjourned to August 6, further hearing of the case.

When the case came up for hearing on Wednesday, opposing the bail plea, State Public Prosecutor A.Natarajan submitted that there was long standing land dispute prevailing between the accused Idayavarman and the de-facto complainant G.Kumar. On the day of occurrence, both parties organized a meeting and one group of persons was led by MLA Idayavarman and another group was led by Kumar. After a wordy duel, Idayavarman all of a sudden started firing at the rival gang from his weapons namely a pistol and a SBBL gun. The license for the pistol and SBBL, used for commission of the crime had already been expired on December 31, 2019 but the same has been used by Idayavarman, he

#### **Lawyers seek cashless** insurance scheme

Chennai: Highlighting the severe hardship being faced by the advocates due to Covid-19 pandemic crisis, the Madras High Court Advocates Association (MHAA) has appealed to Chief Justice A.P.Sahi of the Madras high court, to advice the Tamil Nadu government to introduce a cashless health insurance scheme to the practising advocates in Tamil Nadu.

According to G.Mohanakrishnan, President, MHAA, the representatives of MHAA met Chief Justice A.P.Sahi on Wednesday and gave a representation to this effect. In his response, Chief Justice said he would consider it immediately, Mohanakrishnan added.

#### Awareness on wheels



Greater Chennai Corporation flags off mobile vans to create coronavirus awareness

# Ku Ka Selvam cocks a snook at DMK

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, AUG. 5

DMK MLA representing Thousand Lights constituency, Ku Ka Selvam, cocked a snook at his party by visiting 'Kamalalayam', the BJP state headquarters in Chennai, to a grand reception on Wednesday even while claiming that he continued to be in the DMK.

Though DMK president M. K. Stalin cracked the whip, removing Selvam from the posts of head-quarters office secretary

"I do not care if the DMK throws me out of the party. I will continue to work for the people as an MLA," he told the media at Kamalalayam

and headquarters executive committee and seeking an explanation as to why he should not be dismissed from the party, the MLA was hobnobbing openly with the BJP state

"I do not care if the DMK throws me out of the party. I will continue to work for the people as an MLA," he told the media at Kamalalayam.

> the last 50 years but had to leave the DMK because the party was under family rule and everyone was expected to toe the line of Udhayanidhi Stalin, the Youth Wing secretary.

He said he had been part

of Dravidian parties in

'No one above the age of 50 has any respect in the DMK,' he said and invited others from the party to follow him to the BJP.
Perhaps the DMK is tion. If the party expelled him, he would continue as an unattached MLA till the end of the term but function against the interests of the party and if he

was allowed to be a pri-

mary member he would be a DMK MLA on paper and work against the party. The next course of action may depend on what explanation Selvam gives the party. But till then, he will continue to be a thorn in the flesh of

# Visually impaired candidate cracks civil services exams

SINDHIYA SAMUEL I DC

It was no less than a dream come true for Poorna Sundari, a visually impaired girl when she cleared UPSC Civil Services Examination-2019, the result of which

was declared on Tuesday.
She could not see with her eyes but that did not stop her from visualizing a dream and working hard to make it come true. The 25-year-old aspirant from Madurai bagged all India 286th rank and is one among the 60 candidates from Tamil Nadu to clear the exam.

Talking Deccan Chronicle, Poorna Sundarai sounded enthusiastic, happy over her huge achievement. Poorna Sundari had been preparing for UPSC at the All India Civil services Coaching centre in Adyar, the only Institute run by Tamil Nadu government for the civil service aspirants. She said it was her hard work and persever-ance that had brought her where she is today.

It was her father K. Murugesan who inspired her and always had a positive impact on her life. He taught her to 'never give



Poorna Sundari

came up with flying colours in her fourth attempt. Poorna Sundari lost her vision when she was studying in the first standard, but nothing stopped her from pursuing the dream of joining the Indian Administrative Service. Her mother was her pillar of strength and read her lessons to her and helped her to prepare for exams.
She said it all started while doing higher sec-

ondary when she understood the role of IAS officers in the betterment of the nation. She started to develop an interest in taking this up for a career and learnt more about the UPSC entrance exams. She graduated from Fatima College in Madurai with an English literature bachelor degree and went on to prepare for

## CM, Stalin greet civil service winners

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, AUG. 5

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and leader of the Opposition M K Stalin congratulated all the candidates from the State who had cleared the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission in 2019.

Quoting a couplet from Tirukkural that roughly translates into "Even if it is not possible for God, hard work will give its own rewards," Palani-swami acknowledged the efforts put in by the two visually challenged candidates, Poorana Sundari Madurai and Balanagendran from Chennai, for their hard won success

She did not clear even prelims on her first attempt and she worked even harder for the exam again, this time she cleared both prelims and mains. She said she lost by 10 marks in the

per follow up treatment

His conveyed his wishes to all triumphant candidates from the State and urged them to strive for the uplift of society and work towards taking the government's schemes to the masses.

Stalin, in a separate statement, wished the visually challenged candidates who had made it to the civil services and also the two State toppers, Ganeshkumar Bhaskar from Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district, who is ranked seven in the All-India list, and Aishwarya of Marungur in Cuddalore district – ranked 47.

The successful candidates should utilize the opportunity for the better-ment of the community, Stalin said.

the UPSC exams 2019. Now

the brave lady is full of

determination and wants to be an inspiring officer. Poorna Sundari is highly inspired by U. Sagayam IAS and Udhayachandran Naduvattam

# Min Jayakumar gives it back to S Ve Sekar

DC CORRESPONDENT

Fisheries minister D. Jayakumar asked comedian S Ve Sekar to return the salary he drew as an AIADMK MLA from Mylapore and stop receiving the pension, reacting to the criticism of the party

by the former member. Sekar had put out video criticizing the AIADMK,

that it was just repeating what the DMK said. Sekar was referring to the AIADMK taking a stand against the imposition of a three-language system in schools under the new National Education

He had even said that the AIADMK can remove the name of C. N. Annadurai ing publicity.

Policy.

saying that the party had (Anna) from the party's no policy of its own and nomenclature and rename nomenclature and rename it after 'Amma.' Also the image of Anna could be taken off the party flag, Sekar, who is now with the BJP, said in the video.

"Did he not canvass for votes with the same flag in Mylapore?" Jayakumar asked, replying to a question from the media, and said Sekar was just seek-

## Rain woes continue in Nilgiris

**B. RAVICHANDRAN I DC** 

The southwest fury is continuing in the central and western Nilgiris for the fourth consecutive day as uprooted trees and electric poles added woes to the worsening rain scenario in the hills.

The rainfall across the

central and western Nilgiris was very heavy on Tuesday night as Avalanche, near here, a major catchment area, recorded 390 mm of rains on Wednesday morning. The rainfall (in mm) recorded in other places across the Nilgiris is as follows: - Upper Bhavani - 306, Pandalur - 161, Emarald

Glenmorgan-137, Cherangode-136, Gudalur-128, Devala-126, Balacola-III, Upper Gudalur-102 . Kundah-70 and Ooty-39.

The gusty winds that were accompanying the pouring rains uprooted trees in many places in

Ooty, Gudalur and Pandalur sector. This led to traffic snarls in quite a few places keeping the disaster management teams on their toes to clear the mess. The situation was challenging for the Tangedco field staff as they were sweating out in inclement weather conditions to restore power connections in many areas in Kundah, Ooty, Gudalur and Pandalur taluks after winds and rains uprooted electric poles, plunging many areas in Ooty and Gudalur into darkness While the hill vegetable crops in low lying areas have been damaged by the heavy rains and water stagnation, the good flow in the major catchment areas is helpful for the reservoirs around to brim The rains and overup. cast sky have made the conditions nippy in the Nilgiris.

The Collector of Nilgiris, Ms. J. Innocent Divya has appealed to the hill residents to remain indoors as the continuing rains were leading to frequent uprooting of trees and electric poles on Wednesday.

# HC directs jail officials to produce lifer before PIMS

threatened him. On a peti-

Pointing out that the protection under Article 21 of the Constitution of India (protection of life and personal liberty) is available not only to the free citizens but also those who are under incarceration and the jail authorities cannot violate the same, the Madras high court has directed the jail authorities to produce a life convict, who suffered grievous injuries while in jail. before the Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital and directed the Dean, PIMS Hospital, Puducherry, to constitute a Medical Board within three days and file a report regarding his health condition in a sealed cover before the court on or before Aug. 13, 2020.

A division bench comprising Justices N.Kirubakaran and V.M.Velumani gave the directives on Tuesday on a petition filed by D.Ramva, which sought a judicial inquiry into the alleged custodial assault on her husband Dhanakanthan, a life convict, aged about 42 years, in Central Prison, Cuddalore on July 16, 2020.

According to petitioner, her husband has been convicted in a 2007 case for life imprisonment and confined in Central Prison, Cuddalore, for more than 7 years. The bench said it was alleged by the petitioner that as the food served to the prisoners was not in good quality, the detenue questioned the authorities in the year 2018. Consequently, the petitioner's husband was assaulted by the jail authorities and no proper medical treatment was given to him and he was kept in a dark room for 24 hours and the authorities

tion filed by the petitioner to provide medical treatment to him, this court had directed the authorities to give proper treatment to him and file a report. Based on the report submitted by the authorities, the petition was closed on July 31, 2018. However, it was alleged that the prison doctors refused to give treatment and asked him to take treatment in the court. Therefore, she filed a petition to transfer her husband from Central Prison, Cuddalore to Central Prison, Puzhal, to conduct enquiry and file a report. Though the authorities submitted that the treatment was already given to him, this court directed the Medical Board to conduct enquiry and give a report about his health condition. By order dated September 16, observed that the Medical Board was of the view that the detenue has to be assessed by a neuro surgeon and since no neuro surgeon was available in Government Headquarters Hospital, Cuddalore, he should be transferred to Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital, Chennai. This court had also observed that the petitioner's husband suffered injuries in the spinal cord and the said injuries have been suffered only during the period of incarceration. By an order dated Sept. 16, 2019, this court directed the authorities to refer the detenue to PIMS hospital for medical treatment, the

bench added. The bench said the medical documents filed before this court showed that though the petitioner's husband was admitted in PIMS hospital, Puducherry and surgery was con-

was given. Hence, the petitioner was again compelled to approach this court by way of HCP for parole on health grounds. Hence, this court by order dated March 6, 2020, granted 10 days leave to the petitioner's husband. Again, an FIR has been registered against the petitioner's husband on July 16, 2020 based on the complaint given by one Abdul Rahman, jail staff stating that the petitioner's husband abused the authorities and he attacked himself by stoning his head. "The above said scenario would undoubtedly prove that the jail authorities have grudge against the petitioner's husband and that is the reason why the FIR has been registered. Further, the protection under Article 21 of the Constitution of India is available not only to the free citizens but also those who are under incarceration. The jail authorities cannot violate the said right. In this case, prima facie injuries have been caused when the convict is inside the prison and in fact it is the finding given by the Division Bench of this court in an earlier occasion. In view of above facts and circumstances, it is appropriate to direct the jail authorities to produce the convict in the PIMS Hospital and the Dean, PIMS Hospital, Puducherry, is directed to constitute a Medical Board, within a period of three days from the date of receipt of a copy of this order and file a report regarding the health condition of the petitioner's husband namely, Dhanakanthan, convict prisoner, in a sealed cover addressed to this court on or before August 13, 2020

#### Results of VIT B. Tech admission declared

CHENNAI, AUG 5

A total of 1,83,059 candidates from 28 states, 8 union territries (Middle East, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, UK and Singapore), have applied for Vellore of (VIT) Technology B.Tech. Admissions

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) Chancellor Dr G. Viswanathan, said that admissions would be only on merit, based on the normalised PCM/ PCB marks, JEE/ SAT scores obtained by the candidates while declaring the

ranks on Wednesday. These ranks are for admission to the 36 B.Tech. and B.Des. Programmes offered by VIT at its Vellore, Chennai, Andhra Pradesh and Bhopal campuses.

Candidates can view their results register for the online counselling process which will begin on August 10, 2020. Rank based counselling would be held in four phases, according to a press release.

Admission for other three -year Undergraduate and three 5-year Integrated programmes is also

Students can visit VIT's website for more information.

#### **Zero-delay service**

From P1

Among the new things introduced were the zero-delay admissions and zero-delay out patient service, through which patients were attended to immediately on their arrival at the hospital, he said. By utilising the prearrival intimation facility, patients can help the hospitals attend to them quickly,

PARADIP PORT TRUST e-TCN No. EM/IOHP-28/2020

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Iron Ore Handling Plant

reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website <a href="https://www.pspcl.in.sd/">www.pspcl.in.sd/</a>- Chief Purchase Officer/MM C250/2020

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Procurement of Water Cooler full steel body capacity 20/40 ltr & 40/80 ltr and Simple Water Filters(with UV) capacity 60 & 120 LPH conforming to the BIS specifications issue in this respect with latest amendments, if any and PSPCL. specification QQ-223. Short Description tart date for downloading 14.08.2020 f Specification/ tender ocuments from PSPCL's rebsite ttps://eproc.punjab.gov.in ast date for downloading 09.09.2020 upto 11:00 AM f Specification/ tender ocuments from PSPCL's ebsite ttps://eproc.punjab.gov.in ast date for Bid Submission 09.09.2020 upto 11:00 AM 14.09.2020 at 11:30 AM Bid Opening date. For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.ir Note:- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to an



Government of India Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Border Management

Appointment of Member (Planning & Development) in the Land Ports Authority of India

Applications are invited by the Government of India, Ministry of Home. Affairs, Department of Border Management to fill up the post of Member (Planning and Development) in the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI).

2. Complete information of posts, eligibility criteria, application format and other details are available on the website at http://mha.nic.in/vacancies, http://lpai.gov.in, www.ncs.gov.in

3. Last date for receiving applications therough proper channel is 21.09,2020. Incomplete applications and applications received after last date shall not be considered.

Address for sending applications : Mr. Manoj Kumar Jha, Deputy Secretary (BM-II), Room No. 13, 2nd Floor, Major Dhyan Chand \national Stadium, Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs,

New Delhi-110511 DAVP:19142/11/0001/2021



# **Chronicle**

**6 AUGUST 2020** 

# Ditching secular legacy won't protect Congress

olitical expediency cannot be blamed for All India Congress Committee general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra's volunteer-ing to pledge her support to the Ram temple project in Ayodhya and calling it a symbol of national unity. Even political novices are aware of the energy and efforts Hindutva forces have spent for the project, and the blood of innocent people they caused to spill across the nation after Lal Krishna Advani mounted the "Ramrath" in the 1990s. Even a distant observer of Nehruvian legacy, leave alone his political heirs, will not miss the objection the first Prime Minister of India raised when President Rajendra Prasad chose to attend the consecration of the renovated Somnath temple in Gujarat, for the celebration of a community is rightfully theirs, not of a secular state nor its head. That the temple is coming up on a spot where Babri Masjid once stood, and the apex court had sanctioned its construction there only after calling the vandalism at the Masjid, including damage done to it in 1934, placing of idols under its central dome in 1949 and its destruction in 1992, "egregious violations of rule of law", would have been reason enough for the Congress leader to hold back her horses, instead of joining forces with those who are out to display "triumphalist bigotry", as another senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor

Protagonists of the Indian National Congress, save Pandit Nehru, have displayed a congenital tragic flaw when they were told to act on the contentious Ayodhya issue, and Ms Gandhi can be seen as no exception. Rajiv Gandhi, then Prime Minister and Congress president, did it twice: in 1986 when he ordered opening of the locks of the disputed site which his grand-father had shut down and then allowing the *shilanyas* in 1989. P.V. Narasimha Rao, then Prime Minister and Congress president, watched in silence when karsevaks razed the minarets in 1992. The Congress attempts were clearly to hunt with the hounds and run with the hare, but it failed, miserably and naturally. The party that had placed itself at the secular liberal side of the polity lost pathetically when it chose to run the rightist course, for the people had a better lineup to represent that ideolo-

Ms Vadra and those in the Congress who smart at being not invited for the programme in Ayodhya owe the people an explanation how their interpretation of national unity as seen in the Ayodhya project squares with the 'the ideals Lord Ram epitomises: justice for all, righteous conduct, fairness and firmness in all dealings, moral rectitude and courage", as Shashi Tharoor would put it. It is time the Congress realised that secularism is not a standalone idea; it's very much part of a larger project which seeks to recognise every human being shorn of all the artificial classifications such as caste, religion, sex, region and so on. The party has to make a choice whether it sides with that grand project. Otherwise, the *bhajans* heard at Ayodhya could be the requiem for the grand old party of Indian politics as well.

### IPL must drop China firms

The IPL will have to look for a title sponsor now that the Chinese mobile phone maker Vivo is pulling out of the 2020 season. Otto ■ Bismarck said, "Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable," and Indian cricket seems to have taken to that path of reconciling competing interests. To say politics and sport must be kept separate is idealistic but it hardly applies to the current situation in which each Indian is sacrificing a lot in the time of the pandemic. Furthermore, he is sacrificing a lot in terms of nationalistic pride when the dragon is breathing fire on the border. China is, in fact, an aggressor now occupying chunks of Indian territories across the LAC.

Globally, pro sport sees itself as an entertainment industry and cricket in India is very much in that category. But it was extremely poor form on the part of a cash-rich league run by the BCCI to be seen to be so willing to accommodate Chinese sponsors on the premise that they are long term supporters who should be retained because, come what may, the show must go on. Not just Vivo, but Paytm, Alibaba and many others supporting the eight teams are also part of the game. The league must drop all of them and not wait conveniently for Chinese sponsors to walk out on their

TV rights and sponsorships drive the engine of modern sport more than spectators and jingoism. The IPL, an international smorgasbord barring only players from Pakistan, is more a medium of tribal loyalties than flagwaving nationalism. Even so, the IPL has to behave responsibly and always in the larger national interest. Sacrificing a little money is the least it can do now. The BCCI is morally obliged to filter out all Chinese companies from the forthcoming IPL edition lest it be seen as a selfish beast uncaring of the national mood when India is facing a Chinese threat.

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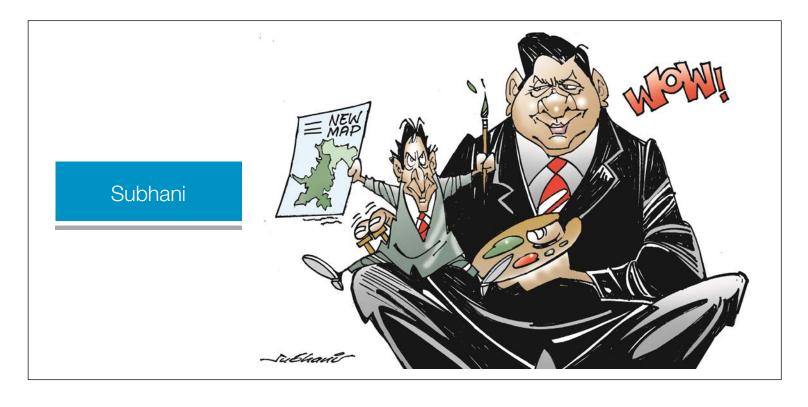
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# Puja at Ayodhya: Modi's bid to seal BJP's future?



Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

will be futile to bewail the violation of secularism with Prime Minister
Narendra Modi participating in the "bhoomi
pujan" of the Ram
Mandir a little after Wednesday Secularism has been squarely checkmated time and again from the 1989 Lok Sabha election onwards. The question now is how this would benefit the future of the BJP and Mr Modi him-

Will Wednesday's ceremony ensure that the BJP and Mr Modi will return to power in 2024? The BJP and Mr Modi would like to believe that it will, and they have taken all the pains to prove that the temple was now happening because the party had fought for it, turned a local property dispute in obscure Ayodhya into a political issue of national importance. But he did address to the limited gathering at the Ram Janmabhoomi site after the foundation stone-laying ceremony. He waxed about the eloquent

Ram of Valmiki and Tulsi, of Kabir and Nanak, of Mahatma Gandhi, though he deftly inserted the Hindutva narrative of undoing a historical injustice, which was a half-truth. He tried to project Ram as the symbol of national culture, of inclusiveness and modernity. But it was simply rhetoric in the service of BJP politics. He was careful enough to avoid mentioning the other part of the Ayodhya settlement as directed by the Supreme

Court in its November

2019 ruling — the allot-

ment of land for Muslims

to build a mosque in the

place of the Babri Masjid

that stood at the temple

site. Obviously, the

Prime Minister did not want to dilute the "Hindu civilisation and culture" line of his argument.

The dispute was settled in favour of the Hindu side by the Supreme Court and not by the Narendra Modi govern-ment. The BJP leaders know that they cannot take credit for what the court had done, because if they were to do it that would mean that the Modi government had influenced or arm-twisted the highest court in the land. But the nongovernment trust set up to build the temple as mandated by the court was handpicked by the BJP, as is evident in the choice of the former principal secretary to Prime Minister Modi as head of the panel of the temple construction committee, and to express their gratitude to the BJP and the Prime Minister, the members of the trust asked Mr Modi to be the chief guest at the stonelaying ceremony.

The BJP government in Pradesh under minister Adityanath had walked the extra mile to conduct the temple construction ceremony to make the bold declaration that this was a BJP event and that the temple trust was almost like a fig leaf to keep the separation between the BJP's Modi government and the tem-

Will Wednesday's ceremony ensure that the BJP and Mr Modi will return to power in 2024? The BJP and Mr Modi would like to believe that it will, and they have taken the pains to prove... the party had fought for it...

Did the BJP ever dare fight an election on the Ayodhya issue? It did not because its leaders, including Atal Behari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani, were not too sure that it would pay dividends

ple, between state and

As Mr Modi and his colleagues project them-selves to be admirers of the Constitution as the supreme philosophy of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, they are keen to maintain the fictional distance between the government and the Hindu faith. Mr Modi might have participated in the temple ritual like a believer — and he has every right to do so as a private citizen — but he did not keep it as an affair in the private sphere of Hindus, whether they are in India or abroad. The Prime Minister seemed to have got carried away by the emotion of the moment and said the temple marks a happy moment nationally and globally. Of course, he meant Hindus. He spoke as Prime Minister and for the nation, and he seemed to genuinely believe that Ram as a national symbol was acceptable to the followers of all religions in the country. But he would not want to say it because then he would lose the Hindu base of his party, and neither he nor the party can afford to do

Did the BJP ever dare fight an election on the Ayodhya issue? It did not because its leaders, including Atal Behari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani, were not too sure that it would pay dividends. Despite the 1990 rath yatra of Mr Advani, the party did not gain much in the 1991 Lok Sabha election, nor did it forge far ahead in the 1996, 1998 and 1999 general elections. After the defeats in 2004 and 2009, the party again

fought two general elections in 2014 and 2019 under the redoubtable Hindutva icon, Mr Modi. But it still did not dare fight the election on the issue of the temple in Ayodhya. It can be argued that the BJP leaders displayed sufficient political savvy in keeping silent on the temple issue, along with that of

the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. They were not whether they would be able to romp home based on these two evocative questions. Mr Amit Shah, when he was in charge of the BJP's election campaign in Uttar Pradesh in 2014 and as president of the party in 2019, followed the rule-book as it were. He said that the Ayodhya issue had to be settled either through mutual consent between the two communities —the Hindus and Muslims — or through the court's decision. Neither he nor his party said that if they get a parliamentary majority, they would bring in the necessary legislation to enable the construction

of the temple. The sense of triumph of Hindu nationalism is unmistakable, and it is useful to remember that the fall of the since Soviet Union in 1991, religion has been the defincharacteristic of national politics in many countries, in Russia and Turkey, and also partially in the United States of Donald Trump. India is following a global trend. The question is to see how if will play itself out because the politics of religion is generally based on hatred. It is sure to come in the way of India's economic progress and social wellbeing. Mr Modi wants modernism as well as divisive religious nationalism. But history shows that religion is beautiful and sublime if it is not

> The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and

made a national political

issue. However, the BJP

has chosen, like many

others elsewhere, to

make it a national issue.

#### **NEW ERA BEGINS**

August 5, 2020 will ostensibly go down as one of momentous days in the political history of India as it marks the beginning of construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya with Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself inaugurating the bhoomi pujan. If Ayodhya is associated with Hindu faith as the birth place of Lord Ram and Ram Rajya he presided over after his triumph over evil in country's history and mythology, it has a special place in country's politics as it was associated with mammoth Hindu political mobilisation, rise of BJP as a greater political force to be reckoned with, Hindu-Muslim tensions and communal violence. As Ayodhya gears up for a grand temple construction, it is an opportune occasion to make it as the beginning of a new era of pluralism, secularism and communal harmony.

> M. Jeyaram Sholavandan

#### **PAPER TIGERS**

HANY BABU and the likes of Varavara Rao are citizens of this country and claim themselves to be intellectuals or at least the media dub them so. When they propagate ideas detrimental to the interest of the country as a whole they cannot escape from the clutches of law since their intellectualism does not insulate or grant them any special exemption from the force of law. Naxalism is a menace to the peace and progress of this country and the country knows well the havoc and destruction the Naxalites have caused that had retarded the progress of the country both in the past and present. There is no point in wailing or get-ting angry with the Government if it arrests those who block the progress and development by deeds, speeches and writings. I find all these leftist elements that put up brave faces in public that they are not afraid of arrest etc. are very timid at heart! The facts that they try to get bail the very moment they smell arrest never hesitate, to knock the doors of every court. This reveals that the Indian leftists and intellectuals are in fact no more than mere paper tigers.

Kooduthuraiyan

# Aakar Patel

### How the media, like politics, has become bigoted and intolerant

mainstream media refers to the established houses of journalism, mostly newspapers but to some extent also television. Newer sources of media like websites or apps that don't have a physical presence in the form of a printed product or broadcast channel are not yet thought to be mainstream media even though some of them have quite a deep presence. In India, websites like *The Wire* and Scroll have been around for about a decade or so and have large reader-

However, these new places don't have the size of reporting resources that the mainstream media does. And at least so far, they haven't been able to fill the space that the mainstream media is rapidly giv-

ing up.
The media space in India is funded primarily by advertising. The reader or viewer pays very little by way of subscription and our newspapers are the cheapest in the world. But the share of print in the overall advertising pie is shrink-

ing. In 2019, for the first time, digital jumped over print in India, and by a lot. Digital got 27 per cent of advertising money spent in India, while print got 22 per cent. Television remained number one at 43 per cent, but both TV and print were expected to shrink further in 2020 and give up share to digital. The Covid crisis has accel-

erated this process.

We should understand that "digital" means essentially two companies, Google and Facebook, which now take more advertising money in India than the Times of India or Hindustan Times or any other large Indian newspaper. This process will continue, and newspapers will continue to fade away. This trend is visible and is happen-

ing before our eyes.

There is a second trend that is also visible and has also come before our eyes. It's that the media has taken a majoritarian, Hindutva edge. What is meant by Hindutva or majoritarianism? The idea that one part of society is privileged and entitled to primacy. Conversely, that the others must exist on suf-

ferance and have to be tolerated. Of course this has happened hand in hand with a change in the politi-cal language and narrative of the State in India. During the Congress period, whether or not you agreed with the party, the fact is that the tone and tenor was inclusive. It was not trying to divide Indians on the basis of the background they were born into.

The BJP exists precisely because it was successful at mobilising on the basis of division. It has nothing else that is markedly different from any other party except the fact that it is willing to be openly bigoted.

This view is now mainstream and acceptable in the media. It's acceptable to blame one religion for spreading a virus that has infected the entire world. It is fine to look away when members of another religion go ahead with their events despite the same threat of spread.

The media can look away today from the government's failures at the actual business of governance. The enemy occupies land that 3,000

Indians died fighting to defend in 1962. But we are being regaled with shlokas about the landing of five warplanes. Are they going to be used to kick the invader out? No, the story is merely that they have

Last Saturday brought the news that there was 70 per cent more demand for MNREGA work in July 2020 than July 2019. More than three crore households had asked for it, meaning that at least 15 crore Indians were dependent on it. Another piece of news was that the government was considering extending the "moratorium" on defaulting loans. Companies had been allowed to skip EMIs on their term loans and individuals with house and automobile loans had also been given this opportunity to not pay now and pay with more interest later.

The finance minister said it was possible this facility would be extended because of demand from some sectors that were still, four months after the lockdown began, unable to make their regular payments. Automobile and two-wheeler sales in India have been declining year-on-year for 18 of the last 19 months. Commercial vehicle sales have not grown since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014, meaning that industrial growth has been hammered.

But the media is focused on the suicide of one young man. The misuse by the Prime Minister's Office of the Enforcement Directorate even in this matter is not a problem or issue of concern. The story is that people of one religion have captured the entertainment industry.

A decade ago, even though that sentiment might have been felt in large parts of the media, it was not expressed. There was a reserve and there was a culture that adhered to the principles enshrined in the Constitution. That we were a diverse and secular nation. That has ended now in politics, and it has ended in the media too.

Aakar Patel is a senior journal-

1528-29 Babri masjid is built by Mir Bagi, commander of Mughal emperor Babar, at the site that is believed to be the birthplace of Lord Ram.

1855 First recorded instance of communal violence near the site after Hindus tried to take possession of the place.

1885 a suit is filed by Raghubar Mahant Das which confined to claim

for Ramchabutra which was dismissed by the Sub-Judge, Faizabad 1857 Fence is erected to allow separate access to both community members.

December 10: Waqf Inspector Mohd Ibrahim submitted a report to the secretary of the Masjid stating that Muslims were being prevented from offering namaz Isha (the namaz at night) at the mosque, due to the fear of Hindus and Sikhs and there was an apprehension of danger to the mosque 1949: December 22-23 night Ram and Sita idols were placed inside the site by

1949: On 12 November a police picket is posted in the area. On Nov. 29, SP Faizabad writes to his superiors saying several hawan kunds have been

constructed around the mosque and bricks and lime was found in the area.

a group under the central dome outside the disputed structure leading to protest from Muslim community. The government declares the site disputed

1950: Government takes charge of the disputed site on January 5.

1950: Gopal Simla Visharad and Paramahansa Ramachandra Das file different suit in Faizabad district court for rights to worship the idols of Ram.

1959: Nirmohi Akhara files suit seeking possession of the site.

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

1984: A committee is created to build a temple on the site.

1986: District court of Faizabad orders to remove the lock and open the site for Hindu worshippers.

1989: On July 1 a title suit is instituted by a next friend on behalf of the deity Bhagwan Shri Ram Virajman and the birth-place of Lord Ram (Asthan Shri Ram Janmabhumi) represented by "next friend" Deoki Nandan Agarwala, a former judge of the Allahabad High Court. More title suits are filed and on July 10, 1989, all suits were transferred to the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. On July 21, 1989, a three-judge Bench was constituted by the Chief Justice of the High Court for the trial of the suits. On an application by the state of Uttar Pradesh, the High Court passed an interim order on August 14, 1989, directing the parties to maintain status quo with respect to the property in

1989: VHP begins campaign for the construction of Ram temple.

1990: Then BJP chief L.K. Advani builds up the momentum, undertakes Rath Yatra from Somnath on September 25 for Ram Temple.



Dec 6, 1992: Babri Masjid is demolished by kar sewaks that led to a communal riot.

1992: Union Government sets up Liberhan Commission to probe the destruction of the disputed structure of the Babri Masjid.

# Temple work to be over in 3 yrs: VHP

1934: Another communal incident in the

the mosque which was subsequently

1946: Hindu Mahasabha's wing Akhil

course of which damage was sustained to

Bharatiya Ramayana Mahasabha starts an

agitation for the possession of the site.

#### Original model slightly changed to give Ram Temple grand look

**Indore, Aug. 5:** The construction of the grand Ram temple at Ayodhya, whose bhoomi pujan was performed on Wednesday, is expected to be completed in the next three years, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) said.

VHP international president Vishnu Sadashiv Kokje said there is enthusiasm among Hindus across the world over the foundation stone laying ceremony for the

Ram temple.

He blamed the Congress for the delay in the temple's construction.

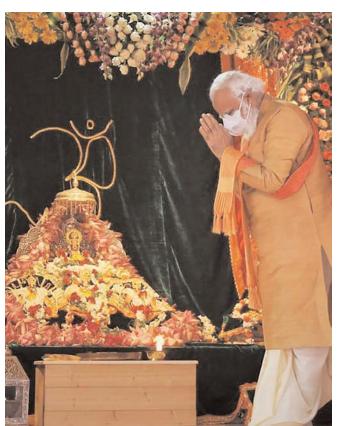
Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the groundbreaking ceremony in Ayodhya for the temple at the spot where many devout Hindus believe Lord Ram was born, marking the beginning of its construction.

Kokje said, "There is enthusiasm among Hindus across the world over the foundation stone laying for the Ram temple in Ayodhya. "The smooth manner in

which the work of temple construction has been going on after the formation of Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra by the central government is amazing.

He said, "We hope that the Ram temple in Ayodhya will be completed in three years."

Kokje, a former judge of the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan high courts, said the temple will be constructed with a slight change in the model prepared by the VHP under which stones were being carved for the last three



Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers while attending the foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on Wednesday.

"Our model has been modified slightly to give the Ram temple a grand appearance. We have already carved stones for two floors which tion of the temple," the VHP

leader said.
The VHP, which spearheaded the Ram temple move-ment, started carving stones for the structure at its workshop in Ayodhya in 1990. Kokje said post-Independence, the plan to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya lagged behind due to "vote bank" politics of the Congress. He said, "Now Congress leading are twing Congress leaders are trying to show themselves as friendly towards Hindus in the changed atmosphere in the country.

Meanwhile, BJP Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya said that control of state power by Hindus is absolutely essential for sustenance of Dharma.

His comments, in a series of tweets, came on a day when Prime Minister performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the Lord Ram temple at Ayodhya. "Dear Hindus, Most important lesson is that control of State power by Hindus is absolutely essential for sus-

tenance of Dharma.

"When we didn't control
State, we lost our temple.
When we regained, we
rebuilt. The 282 (seats) in 2014 and 303 (seats) in 2019 to Sri Narendra Modi made today possible!", Surya, who is also the party's BJP youth Wing state general secretary, tweeted. He also said that the survival of India depends on the survival of Sanatana Dharma. "The Sanatana Dharma, that is national-ism," Sri Aurobindo had said

in his Uttarapara speech. But what does it mean? Along with Jai Sri Ram, the purohits also chanted *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* - That is Dharmic nationalism. If Dharma survives, India survives," he said

#### happy with PriGa's views **GILVESTER ASSARY I DC** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG. 5

IUML not

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) which is the second largest constituent of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) in Kerala has expressed its dis-pleasure over Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi's statement welcoming *bhoomi pujan* at Ayodhya in connection with construction of Ram temple.

The IUML national leadership which met in Panakkad in Malappuram district of Kerala on Wednesday, passed a resolution against Ms Gandhi's statement supporting the Ayodhya event.
"We have expressed our dis-

pleasure over Ms Gandhi's statement as we believe it was out of place," said IUML national leader and Lok Sabha Mr P. K. Kunhalikutty.

Priyanka Gandhi had stated that the programme being held with the blessings of Lord Ram and his teachings, should become a symbol of national unity, brotherhood and cultural amalgamation.

The IUML leaders had taken up statements made by Congress leaders including Kamal Nath, with the state

# **Tropic storm Isaias**

whips up, 6 killed

SHORT TAKES

**INDIA'S COVID** 

**19 LAKH** 

**TALLY CROSSES** 

New Delhi, Aug. 5: India's Covid-19 infection tally raced past 19 lakh on Wednesday,

two days after it crossed the 18-lakh mark, with 52,509 people testing positive for the

novel coronavirus in a day, while the recoveries have mounted to 12,82,215, according to the Union Health

The total coronavirus cases in the country surged to 19,08,254 while the death toll climbed to 39,795 with 857

people succumbing to the dis-

ease in a span of 24 hours, the

data updated at 8 am showed.

The recovery rate among Covid-19 patients has risen to

67.19 per cent while the fatal-

ity rate has further dropped

to 2.09 per cent, the data stat-

ed. There are 5,86,244 active

cases of coronavirus infection in the country presently which contribute 30.72 per

The total number of con-

firmed cases also includes foreigners. This is the sev-enth consecutive day that

Covid-19 cases have increa-

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research

(ICMR), a cumulative total of 2,14,84,402 samples have been

tested up to August 4 with

6,19,652 samples being tested

Covid-19 cases continued to be high in the districts as Telangana's s tally crossed

the 70,000 mark. A total of

2,012 Covid-19 cases were reg-

istered on Tuesday, and the

tally stands at 70,958. The number of tests conducted rose again, with 21,118 sam-ples collected, and results of

According to the state

health department bulletin

issued on Wednesday, which contained data for Tuesday,

Medchal Malkajgiri district

1,167 are awaited.

on Tuesday.

sed by more than 50,000.

cent of the total caseload.

Ministry data.

Windsor (US): At least six people were killed as Tropical Storm Isaias spawned tornadoes and dumped rain Tuesday along the US East Coast after making landfall as a hurricane in North Carolina, where it caused floods and fires that displaced dozens of people. Two people died when Isaias spun off a tornado that struck a North Carolina mobile home park. Another person died in Pennsylvania when their vehicle was overtaken by water and swept downstream. Two others were killed by falling

died in Delaware when a tree branch fell on them. authorities said **Brazil firemen rush** to stop Wetland fire

trees toppled by the storm

in Maryland and New York

City, and a sixth person

Pocon: A tractor cuts a firebreak through the vegetation of the Pantanal, the world's biggest tropical wetlands, as firefighters race to contain the blazes that have been devastating one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth. The **Brazilian Pantanal suffered** a record 1,684 fires last month, triple the number from July 2019, according to satellite images. It was the worst month on record for fires in the region, which sits on the southern edge of the Amazon rainforest and stretches from Brazil into Paraguay and Bolivia. Firefighters have been working around the clock to contain the blazes, with the help of residents of the city of Pocone and the surrounding

# Beirut blast toll over 100, PM seeks help

2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate stored at port since its seizure in 2014 were triggered by fireworks

**Beirut, Aug. 5:** An official with the Lebanese Red Cross says at least 100 people were killed and more than 4,000 wounded in the massive explosion in Beirut on Tuesday. The official, George Kettaneh, says the toll could rise fur-ther. The blast in Beirut's port appeared to have been triggered by a fire. It was the most powerful explosion ever seen in the city, which has endured civil war, conflicts with Israel and terror attacks.

Residents of Beirut awoke to a scene of utter devastation on Wednesday, a day after a massive explosion at the port sent shock waves across the Lebanese capital, killing dozens of people and wounding thousands.

It was unclear what caused the blast, which appeared to have been triggered by a fire and struck with the force of an earthquake. It was the most powerful explosion ever seen in the city, which was on the front lines of the 1975-1990 civil war and has endured conflicts with neighboring Israel and periodic bombings and ter-ror attacks. "L'Apocror attacks. "L'Apocalypse," read the front page of Lebanon's French L'Orient Le Jour newspaper. Fireworks and ammonium nitrate appear to have ignited the explosion, experts and videos of the blast suggest.

Lebanese interior minister Mohammed Fahmi, in comments to a local TV station, made no mention of fireworks but said the blast was caused by detonation of more than 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate stored



An aerial view shows the massive damage done to Beirut ports grain silos and the area around it on Wednesday, one day after a mega-blast tore through the harbour in the heart of the Lebanese capital with the force of an earthquake, killing more than 100 people and injuring over 4,000.

#### Trump: Generals suspect an attack explosion.

**Washington, Aug. 5:** President Donald Trump said US military generals have told him that they seem to feel" the massive explosion that rocked Beirut on Tuesday, killing at least 70 people, was a "terrible attack" likely

caused by a bomb. Trump was asked why he called it an attack and not an accident, especially since Lebanese officials say they have not determined the cause of the

reporters at the White House: "It would seem like it based on the explosion. I met with some of our great generals and they just seem to feel that it was. This was not a some kind of a manufacturing explosion type of a event. ... They seem to think it was a attack. It was a bomb of some kind, Trump offered condolences to the victims and said the United States stood ready to assist Lebanon.

"It looks like a terrible attack," he said. Pentagon spokesman declined to comment on the matter Tuesday night, referring questions back to the White House. The explosion flattened much of a port and damaged buildings across the capital, sending a giant mushroom cloud into the sky. In addition to those who died, more than 3,000

other people were injured, with bodies buried in the

rubble, officials said. The cause of the blast was not immediately known, but initial reports suggested a fire had detonated a warehouse at the port. Abbas Ibrahim, chief of Lebanese General Security, said it might have been caused by highly explosive material that was confiscated from a ship some time ago and stored at the port.

## Global leaders reach out to help Lebanon

**Beirut, Aug. 5:** Russia's emergency officials say the country will send five planeloads of aid to Beirut after an explosion in the Lebanese capital"s port killed at least 100 people and injured thousands on Tuesday. Russia's Ministry for

Emergency Situations will send rescuers, medical workers, a makeshift hospital and a lab for coronavirus testing to Lebanon.

International aid in the form of emergency workers and medical personnel is heading to Lebanon a day after a massive explosion devastated Beirut's port, killing at least 100 people and wounding thousands.
France says it is sending

two planes with dozens of emergency workers, a mobile medical unit and

15 tons of aid. French President Emmanuel Macron's office says the aid should allow for the treatment of some 500

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday offered condolences and medical medical support to Lebanon after a huge blast at Beirut port devastated entire neighbour-

hoods of the city. Tehran "is ready to offer medical and medicinal aid and help treat the injured and other assis-

#### **LEBANON'S MAIN GRAIN SUPPLY TO LAST A MONTH**

Beirut: Lebanon's main grain silo at Beirut port was destroyed in a blast along with the wheat inside, leaving the nation with less than a month's reserves of the grain although other vessels with supplies are on the way, the economy minis-

ter said on Wednesday. Raoul Nehme said, a day after Tuesday's devastating blast that Lebanon needed reserves for at least three months to ensure food security and was looking at other storage areas.

He said reserves now stood at "a bit less than a month". The explosion was the most powerful ever to rip through ever to rip Beirut. Agencies

tance", Rouhani\_wrote in

a message to his Lebanese

counterpart, according to the government website. Qatar began flying field

hospitals and medical aid to Beirut on Wednesday, to ease pressure on Lebanon's strained medical system after the previous day's devastating explo-

SHORT TAKES

#### **Babar shines in** first Test vs Eng

Manchester: Pakistan's Babar Azam underlined his status as one of the world's leading batsmen with a fine unbeaten fifty before rain stopped play on the

opening day of the first Test against England at Old Trafford on Wednesday. Pakistan were 121-2, with Babar 52 not out, when the

umpires ordered an early tea in Manchester. Together with left-handed opener Shan Masood (45 not out), he had put on an unbroken 78 for the third wicket before the weather intervened

Pakistan were 43-2 when Babar came in to bat after captain Azhar Ali, who had won the toss, fell lbw for a duck to Chris Woakes

After the interval the 25-yearold, who had scored four hundreds in his five previous Tests, unfurled an array of stylish attacking shots.

**Brief scores: Pakistan 121/2 in** 41.1 overs (Shan Masood 45, Babar Azam 52, C. Woakes 1/14) vs England.

#### **Stirling, Balbirnie** star in Irish win

Southampton: Paul Stirling and Andrew Balbirnie starred as Ireland claimed only a second win over England in its history after overcoming the world champions in the final over. **Brief scores: England 328 in 50** overs (Morgan 106, Banton 58, Willey 51, Young 3/53) lost to Ireland 329/3 in 49.5 overs

#### Regd. No. TNENG/2010/35692

(Stirling 142, Balbirnie 113).

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22254751 Editor: **ADITYA SINHA** 

New Delhi, Aug. 5: The IPL teams want a threeday quarantine for their players arriving in the UAE instead of the six days mentioned in the BCCI draft SOP and have also sought the board's permission to organise team and family dinners "ådequate"

advanced notice. "These points, along with their request to have food ordered from outside via contactless deliveries to the hotel, will be discussed in the team owners' meeting with IPL offi-cials on Wednesday evening, a BCCI official

As per the existing BCCI SOP which can be tweaked, the players and support staff will be tested on Day 1, Day 3 and Day 6 of their quarantine in the UAE and after clearing that, they will be allowed to train. After this, they will be tested every fifth day during the 53-day event beginning September 19.

"Most players have not had much game time in the last 6 months and are looking forward to as much practice as possi-

ble," the official said. The BCCI has told the teams to leave for UAE not before August 20 though some of the teams, including CSK, wanted to leave

early.
"Can teams be allowed to arrive anytime post August 15, instead of August 20 as mentioned to accommodate the quarantine period and still have enough time for practice and preparations of players?. Currently the SOP suggests that they cannot interact with the squad, unless they are a part of the bubble. Owners will not be able to spend 3 months in a bubble" read

During the quarantine in the UAE, players will not be even allowed to interact with other team members and can only do so after clearing at least three Covid-19 tests.

Teams will be staying at separate hotels and since it is a long tournament, they want the players to

# SOP OPERA

IPL franchises want procedures tweaked



IPL teams want three-day quarantine instead of the proposed six days by BCCI.

Franchises also seek permission to organise family dinner with adequate notice.

Sides want access to facilities like golf among others to unwind during the league.

Requests have also been made for cont-

actless food delivery options at hotels.

unwind by playing golf and attending team and family dinners.

"One big area of concern is the wellbeing of the players as they stay in a bubble for 80+ days. The

pressures of competitive sport do not make it any easier. Can IPL consider this with advice of medical professionals?" the note read.

— PTI

# No champ Nadal show at US Open

Madrid, Aug. 5:
Defending champion
Rafael Nadal will skip the
U.S. Open because of the
coronavirus pandemic,
putting on hold his bid to
causal pages Fodoror's equal Roger Federer's men's record for Grand

Slam titles.

Nadal explained his decision in a series of tweets sent in Spanish and English on Tuesday.
The situation is very

complicated worldwide, the Covid-19 cases are increasing, it looks like we still don't have control of it, Nadal wrote. The 34-year-old from

Spain called sitting out the tournament scheduled to begin Aug. 31 in New York a decision I never wanted to take, but added that he would rather not travel.

Rafa is one of the greatest champions in our sport and we support his decision," U.S. Open tourna-ment director Stacey Allaster said.

The current No. 1-ranked woman, Ash Barty, already had announced she would be missing the U.S. Open. The U.S. Tennis Association's entry list announcements Tuesday noted that 2019 women's champion Bianca Andreescu is in the field.

**NAGAL IN MAIN DRAW FOR GRAND SLAM** 

New York, Aug. 5: Young Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal is set to compete in his second Grand Slam main draw after receiving a direct entry into the US Open, which several top players will miss due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The world number 127 is the last man to receive a direct entry, according to the tournament website.

It will be Nagal's second appearance at the US Open, starting August 31, and he is the only Indian in the men's field with Prajnesh Gunneswaran, ranked 132, missing out.

"It feels good to make a main draw of a Slam again since I have only made one main draw yet. I understand the situation is not the same this year. I am looking to fly to USA after my challengers in Czech Republic," Nagal said. Last year, Nagal reached

his maiden Grand Slam at the US Open.



women's singles match at the Palermo Ladies Open on Wednesday.

# # FINANCIA

# Chronicle

#### INDICATORS -0.07 37.663.33 Nifty 50 11,101.65 0.06 S&P 500\* 3,327.08 0.14 Dollar (₹) 74.94 Pound Sterling (₹) 0.14 97.85 Euro (₹) 88.47 -0.04Gold (10gm)\* (₹) 56,181▲1,365 Brent crude (\$/bbl)\* 46.06 1.63 IN 10-Yr bond yield 5.826 -0.007 US 10-Yr T-bill yield\* 0.539 0.026

### Ajay Tyagi gets 18 months' extension at Sebi

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

Ajay Tyagi was given an 18-month extension, till February 2022, as the chairman of Sebi, a Personnel Ministry order said. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Modi has approved extension of Tyagi's term for 18 months, with effect from Sept. 1, 2020 up to Feb. 28, 2022, it said. Tyagi, a 1984 batch IAS (retired) officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, was appointed as the Sebi chairman in March 2017 for three years.

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## ■ Precious metal races past \$2,000-mark

# Gold at new high, set to rally more

CHENNAI, AUG. 5

Gold in the international market breached the psychological level of \$2,000 per ounce as the dollar continued to weaken amidst a gloomy global economy. In the international

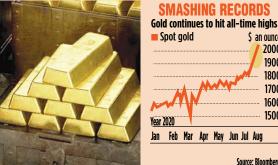
market gold made a new high of \$2,043 per ounce after crossing the crucial level. This took gold prices to record high on the Multi Commodity Exchange to Rs 55,280 per 10 gm. In the Delhi bullion market, 24 carat gold was seen trading above Rs 57,000 per 10 gm.

In the international market, gold has provided handsome year-onyear return of 34 per cent and year-to-date return of 29.7 per cent. In the Indian futures market, gold has given returns of 40.7 per cent since the beginning of the year. The weakening US dol-

lar provided the necessary trigger for gold to move up above \$2,000. Falling US treasury yields and expectations of another stimulus package have been pulling down the US dollar, which has an inverse correlation with gold.

From 103 levels in March, the dollar index has come down to 92.5 levels and was seen trad-ing around 92.9 on Wednesday as the market kept guessing on another stimulus, said Himanshu Gupta, vice president and head of commodities and currencies research.

Globe Capital. "We believe that a \$1



trillion (stimulus) or something along those lines has already been priced in. At the same time, we also believe that markets could be looking close to \$3 trillion in the next round of stimulus. However, in order for gold prices to move much higher, substantially more additional stimulus would be needed from the Federal Reserve," said Sriram Iyer, senior research analyst at

Reliance Securities.

Most of the central banks have been adopting an accommodative monetary policy, supporting safe haven demand in

"The liquidity push by central banks across the globe has been a deciding factor for premium in gold prices as the pandemic continues to ravage the global economy. The easy money policy is resulting in to chasing higher yields on asset classes which are considered to be safe in times of uncertainty, and nothing like gold, the safe haven asset which has historically been a go-to invest-

1700 1600 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Source: Bloomber

ment for investors," said Prathamesh Mallya, AVPresearch, Angel Broking. Technically, a resistance is seen for August gold at \$2,055 and a break above that could push prices to \$2,088 and a break above the second resistance could push prices to \$2,125, says Iyer. "A possible level of \$2,200 in the medium term might see gold moving above Rs 58,500 in the Indian market," said

Gupta.

A Bloomberg report said gold could extend gains as governments central banks id to slowing respond with vast growth amounts of stimulus. Goldman Sachs Group Inc. forecasts a rally to

\$2,300. "The stage has been set for gold to continue to climb higher," Paul Wong, market strategist at Sprott Inc., said in a report. "We see increased fiscal spending ahead, extremely accommodative monetary policy in place for years and a challenging economic recov-

#### CHALLENGING: RAINA Mumbai, Aug. 5: Chennai Super Kings' star allrounder Suresh Raina believes the upcoming Indian Premier League, to be played in the UAE amid the

**LEAGUE IN UAE WILL BE** 

Covid-19 pandemic, will pose a lot of new challenges for the players, and clarity of thought would be key for a player to succeed.

"This IPL would be very interesting to see how the players are thinking," Raina said in a webinar after being named as the global brand ambassador for a sporting app.

"You are playing in different circumstances and you have a lot of protocol from ICC and at the same time you are going to go through (Covid-19) tests every two-three weeks," he added.

# Italian tennis player Camila Giorgi returns to during her

# more apps from Xiaomi, Baidu

**SANKALP PHARTIYAL** & ADITYA KALRA

The government has banned some mobile apps of Chinese compa-nies such as Xiaomi Corp and Baidu Inc, three sources told Reuters on Wednesday. The government in outlawed 59 June Chinese apps for threatening the country's "sovereignty and integrity", including ByteDance's video-sharing app TikTok, Alibaba's UC Browser and Xiaomi's Mi Comm-

unity app. Another ban was imposed in recent weeks on about 47 apps which mostly contained clones, or simply different versions, of the already banned apps, the sources said. Unlike its June move,

the government did not make its latest decision public, but there are a few new apps that have made it to that list, including Xiaomi's Mi Browser Pro and Baidu's search apps, the sources said. It wasn't immediately

clear how many new apps have been affected. India's IT ministry and the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi did not respond to a request for comment.

A spokesman for Xiaomi in India said the

company was trying to understand the development and will take appropriate measures.

- Reuters

# Ban to cover Hotel occupancies stay below 20% in June qtr

**SANGEETHA G** CHENNAI, AUG. 5

Occupancies of hotels in key cities remained well below 20 per cent in the June quarter as the revenue per available room (RevPAR) dropped by more than 80 per cent. Goa hotels witnessed

the lowest occupancies at 9.4 per cent. The highest occupancy was recorded in Mumbai at 23.2 per cent in June quarter, as per JLL's Hotel Momentum India Q2 2020

Vande Bharat Mission remained a major demand generator for hotels in key cities. Under the mission, Indians who were repatriated from other countries were kept under quarantine in hotels of

their respective cities.
All key markets in India reported a decrease in RevPAR performance in Q2 2020 over the same period last year. Mumbai remained the RevPAR leader in absolute terms, despite a decline of 81 per cent compared to Q2 2019. Goa saw the



sharpest decline RevPAR in Q2 2020, with a 93.9 percent drop. Other cities such as Kolkata (88.9 per cent), Bengaluru at 88.5 per cent, and Ahmedabad (88.9) (85.5 per cent) also witnessed sharp decline in performance.

According to another report by global hospitality consultancy HVS and Anarock, in the month of June, average occupan-cies across the country were down 67 per cent against the same month last year. This led to an 80.5 per cent decline in RevPAR.

Driven by the weak numbers of Q2, the hos-pitality industry report-ed a decline of 43.5 per cent in RevPAR for the first half of the year over the same period of 2019, found JLL.

Average daily room rate (ADR) too was the

highest in Mumbai and the lowest was in Jaipur. While Jaipur saw a decline of 54 per cent in ADR, the lowest decline was seen in Gurugram at 29 per cent.
"Whilst hotels in cer-

tain cities opened in early June, guests have not yet returned. We believe that demand in business cities will take time to recover and it will only happen when companies allow their employees to travel through their revised travel advisories. Leisure demand may pick up around large cities wherein close friends and family groups may start traveling by road in the coming months," said Jaideep Dang, managing director, Hotels & Hospitality Group (India), JLL.

## Airtel partners Amazon to grow cloud biz

New Delhi, Aug. 5: Bharti Airtel Ltd and Amazon Web Services (AWS) will join forces to develop the Indian telecoms firm's cloud business, allowing it to offer a wider range of products to its enterprise clients, the two companies said on

Wednesday.
Airtel Cloud currently provides data centre and cloud services to companies and governments via different partnerships. "AWS with the depth and

breadth of our platform, and Airtel with its deep reach and expertise and focus, I think together we can build a set of really differentiated cloud products and go serve cus-tomers at scale in India," Puneet Chandok, president, India and South Asia Amazon Internet

Services told a virtual news conference.

New products could include data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and security services among others, the two companies

The public cloud services market in India is expected to be worth \$7.1 billion in 2024, up from \$3.4 billion this year.