

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | THURSDAY 1 | OCTOBER 2020

## WEATHER



**Max:** 32°C  
**Min:** 22°C  
**Rainfall:** Nil

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Purattasi 15  
**Tithi:** Pournami  
**Star:** Uthirattathi  
**Rahukalam:**  
1.30 pm to 3 pm  
**Yamagandam:**  
6 am to 7.30 am

### PRAYERS

**Fajar:** 4.48 am  
**Zohar:** 12.04 pm  
**Asar:** 3.19 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6.00 pm  
**Isha:** 7.10 pm

**SUNSET TODAY 5.59 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.59 AM**  
**MOONRISE TODAY 5.55 PM**  
**MOONSET TOMORROW 6.11 AM**

## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+83,625)	(+1,136)
63,07,144	98,665

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+5,659 )  
TN: 5,97,602 9,520

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

3.40.60,963

### DEATHS

10,16,078

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 213

worldometers.info

**Cinemas can reopen from Oct. 15 under new guidelines by Centre**

**New Delhi:** The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday issued new guidelines for permitting more activities in areas outside the containment zones that include opening up cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity from October 15. States and UT governments have been given the flexibility to decide on reopening schools and coaching institutions after October 15 in a graded manner, and permitting social, religious and political gatherings beyond the limit of 100 persons, subject to certain conditions. However, the ministry said that restrictions on international travel, except those permitted by the Centre, will continue. In a statement, it said the activities permitted from October 15 in areas outside the containment zones include cinemas, theatres and multiplexes that can open with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity, for which the SOP will be issued by the Ministry of I&B. — *PTI*

## COUNTER POINT



**Pss! Don't overreact... our sons are also facing rape charges!**

# Rape victim cremated in dead of night

**Hathras/New Delhi, Sept. 30:** The body of the 19-year-old Dalit woman, whose brutal gangrape and death spotlighted once again the vulnerability of women in India, was cremated in the dead of the night on Wednesday with family members alleging they were forced by police to hurriedly conduct the last rites. “The cremation was done around 2.30-3 in the morning,” her father told PTI, a day after his daughter, who suffered critical injuries when she was allegedly gangraped and tortured by four

upper caste men a fortnight ago, gave up the battle for life. As protests broke out in several parts of the country and political leaders and activists voiced their protest over the manner in which the funeral was conducted near the woman’s home in a village in Hathras, a local police officer said it was carried out “as per the wishes of the family”. In the moments preceding the cremation of his sister in what seemed to be a night without end, the teen’s brother told PTI from his

● **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath constituted a three-member SIT to probe the case and asked that the trial be conducted in a fast track court**

home, “Police have forcibly taken the body and my father along with them for cremation. When my father reached Hathras (from New Delhi), he was immediately taken (to the crematorium) by the police.” Prime

Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and said strict action should be taken against the culprits, according to the Chief Minister’s Office. The chief minister constituted a three-member SIT to probe the case and asked that the trial be conducted in a fast track court. The SIT has been asked to submit its report in seven days, an official said. Adityanath also spoke to the father and assured him strict action against the

accused. Recalling the horrors of the Nirbhaya case, the Dalit teen was allegedly sexually assaulted by the men on September 14 and referred on Monday to the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi with spinal injuries, paralysis and cuts in her tongue. She died around 3 am on Tuesday. The men alleged to be involved in the crime are under arrest and will now face charges under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code, according to Hathras Superintendent of Police Vikrant Vir. — *PTI*



Indian Youth Congress (IYC) members stage a protest against the rape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in UP's Hathras, near UP Bhawan in New Delhi, on Wednesday. — *PTI*



### STATE | 3

**Hindu Munnani founder Ramagopalan passes away**



### WORLD | 5

**Don denigrates office of US Prez: Harris**

### SPORT | 8

**KKR beat Rajasthan Royals by 37 runs**



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# Accused walk free in Babri demolition case

■ All 32 acquitted for want of proof ■ Advani, Joshi, Uma relieved ■ Judge blames anti-social elements

**SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 30**

Nearly 28 years after the Babri Masjid was razed by a mob in Ayodhya, a special CBI court on Wednesday acquitted all 32 accused, including BJP veteran leaders L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharati, citing lack of evidence. Special judge Surendra Kumar Yadav said the destruction of the 16th century structure, which had triggered some of the deadliest riots since Partition, leaving about 2,000 dead, was not pre-planned and the accused had tried to stop “anti-social” elements.

The judgment comes 11 years after the government-appointed Justice Liberhan Commission had said in its 2009 report that the demolition of the Babri masjid on December 6, 1992, was “neither spontaneous nor unplanned”.

After his acquittal, Mr Advani said the trial court judgment has vindicated his and the BJP’s belief and commitment towards the Ram temple movement. Chanting “Jai Shri Ram”, the BJP leader said that the verdict has come in the “footsteps of another order which paved the way for my dream of seeing a



**It is a very important decision and a matter of happiness for us. When we heard the news of the court’s order, we welcomed it by chanting Jai Shri Ram,” LK Advani said in a video message**



**Former Union minister and BJP veteran Murli Manohar Joshi termed ‘historic’ the CBI court verdict and said, “I will say only one thing ‘Jai Jai Shri Ram, Sab ko sammati de bhagwan (May Lord, bestow wisdom on all).”**



**This is the CBI’s case and the court has given its ruling today. I appeal to Muslims not to take any further action in this. Just as they honoured the November 9 decision, this verdict too needs to be accepted similarly,” said Iqbal Ansari, the main litigant in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case**

Ram Mandir in Ayodhya”. Mr Advani himself was the face of the Ram Janambhoomi movement from 1990, when his Rath Yatra took off from Somnath temple, to Dec. 6, 1992.

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath tweeted, “Satyamev Jayate” before going on to accuse the then Congress government of acting with political bias, indulging in vote-bank politics and defaming BJP leaders, saints, VHP leaders and various social organisations by lodging false cases. “The people involved in the conspiracy (over Babri demolition ) should apologise to people of the country,” he said.

# Advani welcomes verdict, Joshi hails it as ‘historic’

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 30**

Acquitted in the almost three decades old Babri Masjid demolition case by a special CBI court on Wednesday due to “lack of evidence,” BJP veterans – LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi – two of the 32 accused in the case, hailed the court’s verdict, claiming that it has been proved that no conspiracy was hatched to demolish

the structure on December 6, 1992.

Mr Advani, who had undertaken the Ram Rath Yatra, as part of the RSS affiliate Vishwa Hindu Parishad led Ramjanambhoomi movement in the 1990, turning the religious movement into a political campaign, said he felt “blessed” as the judgement has come in the footsteps of another landmark verdict of the Supreme Court given in November

2019, which paved the way for his “long cherished dream of seeing a grand Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, the foundation laying ceremony of which was held on 5th August, 2020.” Dr Joshi termed the judgment a “historic decision” which proved that “no conspiracy was hatched for December 6 incident in Ayodhya” and that their “program and rallies were not part of any conspiracy.”

**“Truth triumphs. CBI court’s acquittal in Babri conspiracy case was long overdue. A malicious case against some of the most respected leaders of our nation has fallen aside finally after three decades,”**

**RAM MADHAV, BJP leader**

# ‘Travesty of justice,’ say Cong, Owaisi

New Delhi, Sept.30: The opposition has termed the decision of the Special Court to acquit all the accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case as “shocking” and a “travesty of justice” and said that it runs counter to the Supreme Court judgment and Constitutional spirit.

Congress’ chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said every Indian who has innate faith in the Constitution and in the spirit of communal amity and brotherhood expects and urges the Central and state governments to file an appeal against the verdict delivered Wednesday.

The governments must follow the letter of the law and the Constitution without any “partiality and pre-meditated prejudice” Surjewala said, adding this is the true calling of rule of law and Constitution.

“The decision of the Special Court to acquit all the accused in Babri Masjid demolition case runs counter to Supreme Court judgement as also the consti-

● **“The decision of the Special Court to acquit all the accused in Babri Masjid demolition case runs counter to Supreme Court judgement as also the constitutional spirit,” Congress chief spokesperson Surjewala said**

tutional spirit,” he said. Meanwhile, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday expressed outrage over the judgment of a CBI court in Lucknow acquitting all the 32 accused in the Babri mosque demolition case and demanded that the central investigating agency go for an appeal. Calling the judgement ‘obnoxious’, he claimed it contradicted the Supreme Court’s observations in its verdict on November 9 last year that the demolition of the Babri mosque was a calculated act of destroying a public place of worship and a violation of rule of law. — *PTI*

# Election panel removes Bihar Excise Commissioner

**Patna, Sept. 30:** The Election Commission on Wednesday removed Bihar Excise Commissioner B. Karthikey Dhanji from the post before the state assembly polls, while the seven-member poll panel headed by CEC Sunil Arora heard representatives of political parties on arrangements for conduct of elections during Covid-19 pandemic.

The Election Commission had announced three-phased election in Bihar, which has been billed as one of the biggest elections globally during coronavirus pandemic.

The commission ordered removal of the 2008 batch IAS officer from the post of the excise commissioner with immediate effect for not presenting an effective action plan on preventive measures, an EC release said.

The officer was also removed for the grossly inadequate preparedness during the review of enforcement agencies located in or headquartered in Bihar, an EC release said. The poll panel which is here to fine-tune arrangements for the conduct of

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The poll panel which is here to fine-tune arrangements for the conduct of

polls in the state amid surging Covid-19 cases met representatives of political parties.

The panel also held a meeting with police officials of the state.

Election commissioners Sushil Chandra and Rajiv Kumar are part of the high-level team to the state.

The EC panel will hold a press conference on Thursday evening before winding up its three-day trip to the poll-bound Bihar, an official said.

Voting for 243 assembly seats in Bihar will be held on October 28, November 3 and November 7. Counting of votes will take place on November 10. Representatives of JD(U), BJP, RJD, Congress, CPI and LJP among others presented their views before the poll panel. — *PTI*

## Victim’s cremation act of ‘destroying evidence’: Akhilesh

**Lucknow, Sept 30:** Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday lashed out at the Uttar Pradesh government over the cremation of the Hathras rape victim, accusing it of “destroying evidence”.

Taking to Twitter, the former state chief minister said cremating the



rape victim under the

administration’s “pressure” without the “consent” of her family was against the culture.

“This act of destroying evidence is condemnable,” he tweeted. The BJP government not only committed a sin by doing so but also committed a crime, Akhilesh said. — *PTI*



## SHORT TAKES

### IT firm manager house burgled

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

The house of an IT company manager in Ayyanchery was burgled when the family was away. Gold jewels worth 30 sovereigns and ₹15,000 in cash were stolen, police said.

The victim, Loganathan, 26, who lives with his family in Madurai Meenakshipuram in Ayyanchery near Guduvanchery, said he had locked the house and left to bring his wife and two children from his in-law's house in Kodungaiyur on Sept. 26.

When the family returned on Tuesday night, they saw the main lock of the house broken and the rooms ransacked. The family suspects that someone must have kept an eye on the family's movement and committed the burglary.

Based on the complaint filed by Loganathan, a case was registered at the Guduvanchery police and are looking at the CCTV footage to identify the suspect.

## Auto driver found dead with stab injuries

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

An autorickshaw driver was found dead with stab injuries in an empty ground at Medavakkam near Pallikaranai on Wednesday. Police suspect that the man could have been killed and his body dumped in the empty ground in the early hours. A police team collected CCTV footages from the locality.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that Delhi Babu, 23, a resident of Ramana-thapuram in Medavakkam, had left his house in the early hours of Tuesday and did not return. An armed gang followed him and hacked him to death, before dumping the body in the ground.

# Corpn's penalty on tax default draws flak

T. SUDHEESH | DC  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

The Greater Chennai Corporation's (GCC) decision to levy a two per cent penalty on property tax default amid pandemic has come under severe criticism from residents across the city.

B. Kannan, secretary, T. Nagar Residents Welfare Association, said the GCC had no right to slap penalty on property tax without providing good service to its citizens. "Instead of slapping a penalty, it's time to give citizens a tax-break at least for six months as the people have lost their livelihood due to the pandemic. I have already taken up the matter with the local legislator as well," he said.

V. Rama Rao of Nanganallur Residents Welfare Association said

"Firstly, the GCC needs to have an elected council. For a long time, the GCC is being run by a council of bureaucrats, who are not accountable to the electorate. That is why such bizarre decisions are being imposed on residents in this tough time"

the penalty on property tax was unheard of in the history of GCC. The GCC should desist from imposing penalty on property tax considering the hardships caused by the pandemic. "Firstly, the GCC needs to have an elected council. For a long time, the GCC is being run by a council of bureaucrats, who are not accountable to the electorate. That is why such bizarre decisions are being imposed on residents in the tough time," he added. "I

do endorse the right of GCC to collect property tax. But residents should have to be provided enough time to pay tax before slapping a penalty," said Paul Dhas, president, Ramapuram Social Welfare Federation. "The current time-frame for levying tax and collecting the penalty in the time of pandemic is deplorable. I think the new system can be implemented by the next financial year given the pandemic situation," he suggested.

V.S. Jayaraman, secretary, Motilal Street Welfare Association, has asked the GCC to upgrade its system to incorporate the penal charges. "The GCC needs to clarify whether the rebate will be available to those who have already paid the tax based on the general revision for 2018-19. It remains unclear whether

the residents should remit the penalty if the payment is delayed due to the lapses of the officials. This is the first time we come across a penalty on property tax default. The penalty system should be put off considering the pandemic," he said.

It was on September 28 Mr. G. Prakash, Commissioner, GCC, issued a statement asking the residents to pay the tax on time. The statement says that people can pay property tax within the given time and avail five per cent incentive, failing which they will have to pay two per cent penalty. According to Prakash, the penalty (imposed on property tax for the first time in the GCC) was slapped after the state government amended the Tamil Nadu Laws and Greater Chennai Corporation Municipal Act 1919.



Air passengers struggling to carry their luggage due to non availability of trolleys at Chennai airport.

## Domestic passengers fume at trolleyless airport

P.A. JEBARAJ | DC  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

With most of the lockdown curbs being lifted one by one, the 'trolleyless' situation at the Chennai airport domestic terminal leaves passengers with lugging their heavy bags themselves.

The problem has remained unsolved for the past four months, since the domestic flight operations resumed in the state.

The Centre resumed the civil flights services from

May 25 but with several restrictions. One of them was not to provide trolleys to domestic passengers, who were asked to travel with minimal luggage. Passengers arriving at the domestic airport are unhappy because of the trolleyless situation.

With the trolley unavailable, the domestic passengers are carrying their heavy luggages by themselves. This often leads to an argument between the passengers and the airport

authorities.

The domestic passengers allege that trolleys are given to International passengers, and sought similar facilities for them. However, the airport authorities are not ready to provide them with trolleys for safety measures. According to the airport authorities, trolleys are not provided to the domestic passengers due to the risk in the spread of the coronavirus and it is impossible to sanitize all the trolleys after each use.

<<<<<<

Ration cardholders across the state will have to carry out biometric authentication from October 1. A trial run being held at a ration shop in Pudupet on Wednesday.

— DC

## Teen drowns in sea off ECR beach

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

A 19-year-old boy drowned in the sea off ECR beach and his friend was rescued on Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Santhosh of West Mambalam. He was studying for B. Com in a

private college in the city.

"On Tuesday evening, he and his friends visited Tiger Caves beach alongside ECR road to take a swim and in a few minutes, Santhosh, and one of his friends, Naveen, 20, went missing," said a police officer.

The other friends, who noticed this, immediately rushed to rescue the duo. Based on the alert, local fishermen swung into action and managed to pull out Naveen from the waters, and rushed him to the hospital. Santhosh could not be reached. Meanwhile on Wednesday

afternoon, his body was washed ashore near Pattipulam Kuppam in Mamallapuram.

The Mamallapuram police recovered the body and sent it to the Chengalpattu hospital for post-mortem. A case of unnatural death was registered, police said.

# COFFEE-BREAK

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



**Aries:** You may experience some fatigue or tiredness. Family and money matters get most of your attention today. A good day to plan for that long delayed vacation.



**Taurus:** Trouble is brewing for you if you do not spend sufficient time with family members. If you feel like taking a break from your hectic schedule then a visit to the beach may help.



**Gemini:** The day is good for signing major contracts. Today your beloved would find it extremely difficult to deal with your erratic behaviour.



**Cancer:** Today you are likely to meet a long lost friend at the most unexpected place. Do not make financial decisions in haste. Consult your friends and family members.



**Leo:** You may take on new projects and challenges with ease. The day is full of love and laughter and you would feel emotionally attached to your partner.



**Virgo:** An abundance of love will keep you in a happy mood. Plan for something special with your partner in the evening. A short trip to some relative or a friend's place would be relaxing.

## You share your b'day with

Julie Andrews, English actress. She is best known for her roles in *The Princess Diaries*, *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*, *Mary Poppins* and *The Sound of Music* amongst others.



**Libra:** Today unexpected gains in terms of finances or kind is likely. Domestic environment will be peaceful and in harmony. Fluctuations in business and career is indicated. Stay away from gossip.



**Scorpio:** You will earn people's trust through sincerity and hard work. There may be legal complications for some of you. Try to finish your work within deadline.



**Sagittarius:** Communicate with colleagues to achieve the desired results in a short span of time. Watch financial issues carefully. You'll receive help from people at work.



**Capricorn:** You can have a difference of opinion over trivial matter with colleagues at work. It is not a good time for romance. Your partner might behave mysteriously.

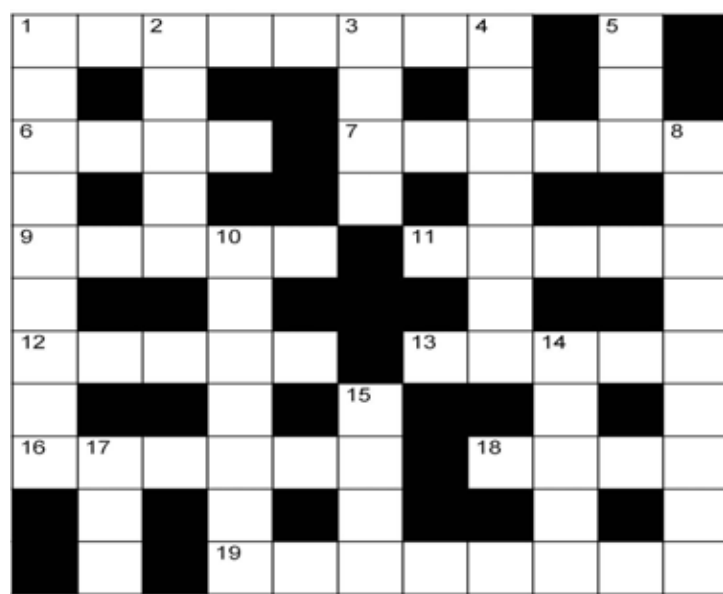


**Aquarius:** Minor arguments with close family members may spoil your peace of mind. Sincere prayers will help you to tackle difficult situations successfully.



**Pisces:** Long awaited loans may get sanctioned, and sick debts may be successfully recovered. Construction activities will progress smoothly after initial hiccups. Consult your well-wishers and make long-term investments plans.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



**Across**  
1. Laziness, inaction (8)  
6. Seethe with anger (4)  
7. Tropical lizard (6)  
9. Spread in America (5)  
11. Caper (5)  
12. Tusk material (5)  
13. Borders (5)  
16. Firstborn (6)  
18. Greel alcoholic spirit (4)

**Down**  
1. Unable to reproduce (9)  
2. Citrus fruit (5)  
3. Heinous (4)  
4. Cold-shouldered (7)  
5. University staff member (3)  
8. Extra (9)  
10. Precast (anag) (7)  
14. Dutch cheese (5)  
15. Astound (4)  
17. Diary (3)

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWER**  
**Across:** 6. Diabolical, 8. Inane, 10. Totem, 13. Consumption, 14. Plays, 17. Trust, 19. Endearment.  
**Down:** 1. Visa, 2. Able, 3. Flat, 4. Scot, 5. Eliminate, 7. Disciples, 9. Nasty, 11. Outer, 12. Imp, 15. Adds, 16. Scab, 17. Tame, 18. Ulna.

## Word Mine

**G R R S L A E G T**  
**TODAY'S RATINGS: 18 AVERAGE: 20 GOOD: 22 OUTSTANDING**  
How many words of four or more letters 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 letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

## jumble

SSLHO  
NUIGO  
LEDYIE  
CRUACE  
Jumble: HUNCH, DINKY, GATHUR, SIMILL  
Yesterday's Answer: He saw the cat's tail and pulled it. He shouldn't have done that — IN HINDSIGHT



## BALANCED HANDS NEED MORE CARE

If you go to musical concerts, who have you listened to the most often? For me, it is Mary Chapin Carpenter. She is a wonderful songwriter and singer. I have been to 13 of her concerts — and it would have been at least 14 if it weren't for COVID-19. So, it seems appropriate to feature a grand slam deal. How should South try to win all 13 tricks in no-trump after West leads the club 10?

When you are bidding a slam with a balanced hand, be circumspect because losers tend to stay losers forever. With two balanced hands, go with the recommended point-count guidelines: 33-36 for a small slam and 37-plus for a grand (if the three missing points are not a king). In this deal, South's jump to three no-trump showed 25-27 points, North plunged into seven no-trump, because he and his partner

had not met Super Gerber. (Then, a jump to five clubs would have asked for aces, and a subsequent six clubs for kings. Four clubs over three no-trump would have been Stayman.) South started with four spades, three diamonds and two clubs, so he needed four heart tricks. The finesse had to be working. But declarer might have had to take that finesse three times. If so, he needed three dummy entries, which had to

come from spades. South cashed the spade queen and led his spade three to dummy's king. When both opponents followed, declarer played a heart to his queen, overtook the spade jack with dummy's ace and repeated the heart finesse. Finally, he led the spade four to dummy's six and took the third heart finesse. Copyright United Feature Syndicate (Asia Features)

## CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



## THE 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

## Chennai woman devotee donates ₹1 crore to Tirumala shrine

Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Sept. 30: A woman devotee from Chennai on Wednesday made an offering of ₹1 crore to Lord Venkateswara temple at Tirumala near here.

She gave the sum with a request to utilise it for developing the temple-run TV channel 'Sri Venkateswara Bhakthi Channel (SVBC),' an official of the hill shrine said.

After worship at the temple, the devotee handed over a demand draft for the amount to the Additional Executive Officer of Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) A V Dharma Reddy, the official told. —PTI

## The Nilgiri link of Ryotwari system

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC OOTY, SEPT. 30

D. Venugopal, the director of Nilgiri Documentation Centre, has narrated an interesting story on the emergence of 'Patta' and 'Chitta' of land records system during the British Raj, which had Ooty connections.

Venugopal said that September end marks two important dates in the Nilgiri history connected with the ryotwari system of land revenue, the evolution of which was closely associated with John Sullivan, the builder of modern Nilgiris in early 1800s, and his father Rt Hon. John Sullivan, also an official of the East India Company.

September 29 marked the date on which Sir Thomas Munro, the author of the ryotwari system, stayed in Ooty as a guest of John Sullivan.

September 28 is the death anniversary of M. D. Cockburn, the builder of modern Kotagiri, who, as collector of Salem, was one of the first persons to implement the ryotwari system.

When the East India Company acquired most of north India firstly they introduced the zamindari system of collecting land tax. However, the zamindars misused the system and the farmers were not their concern. When the company acquired territories in the south, the administrators were expected to follow the same system. But Madras Presidency and the Bombay Presidency had the good fortune of having some good administrators, mostly Scots.

Four youngsters in their 20s who were posted to Salem district in the 1790s - Alexander Read, Thomas Munro, James Graham and William Macleod - decided to find an alternative system which will be fair to the farmers without affecting the revenue of the government. They invented the ryotwari system which assigned the land directly to the cultivator in the form of a "patta and chitta."

It took many years of sustained and detailed campaign with voluminous ground level data to convince the company and the British Parliament to accept the new system. Thomas Munro's posting as the Governor of Madras in 1820 speeded up the process.

Finally, in 1832, based on the evidence submitted by the Sullivans, Munro's ryotwari system was announced as the system of revenue administration both in Madras and Bombay Presidencies, Venugopal concluded.

## CMDA MEET



Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam chairs the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) meeting on Wednesday.

— DC

## Grama Sabhas to be held on October 2

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

Grama Sabhas, the meeting of the grassroots level democratic institution in the country, have been convened for Friday, October 2, in all the 12,620 village panchayats of the state to hold discussions on the schemes and activities of the government.

A letter from the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, KS Palanisamy, to all the district collectors, other than the one in Chennai, listed the precautions to be taken due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the conduct of the meetings and urged

them to send the reports by October 10 to the directorate.

If the normal public place where the grama sabai normally meets falls under a containment zone then the meeting should be postponed to a latter day with the Collector's permission, the letter said.

People with symptoms of coronavirus infection, those in isolation, aged persons and infants have been barred from attending the meetings, in whose venues, hand sanitizers and facilities for hand washing with soap should be provided, it said.

Thermal scanners should be used to screen

the participants, who should be seated at a distance of six feet from each other, besides adhering to all coronavirus prevention norms.

Grama Sabhas, in which all the people of the village gather to discuss issues concerning them, are a forum for the conduct of social audit of all schemes for the welfare of the people. It is convened in all villages four times a year — on January 26, May 1, August 15 and October 2.

Meanwhile, DMK President MK Stalin made an appeal to the people to pass resolutions against the passing of the three anti-farmer Bills in Parliament.

## TIPS-1 decommissioned

A. ARUL PALANI | DC CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

Employees and officials of Neyveli Lignite Corporation of India Limited (NLCIL) have accorded emotional farewell to an iconic first thermal power station — Thermal Power Station-I, an epitome of Indo-Soviet collaboration, on Wednesday.

The 58-year journey of TPS-I, which was dedicated to the nation in 1962, came to an end with its retirement this evening.

South Asia's first and only lignite-fired Thermal Power Station was set up following the discovery of lignite deposits in Neyveli. The 600 MW TPS-I, was an Indo-Soviet collaboration with Nine Units. It had 6 Units of 50 MW capacity each and 3 Units of 100 MW capacity each was commissioned between 1962 and 1970 in three stages with an initial Capital Cost of ₹77.81 crore.

The Unit 1 was synchronized with the grid in May 1962 and the last unit (Unit 9) was synchronized with the grid in

February 1970. The Unit 1 was dedicated to the Nation on August 5, 1962 by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then President.

The power generated from this TPS-I had been supplied to Tangedco, the sole beneficiary. Consequent to the declaring of Commercial Operation of the Unit -1 of Neyveli New Thermal Power Station, the replacement plant, it was scheduled to decommission the units in phases from March to September this year. Accordingly, all the units of the TPS-I have been decommissioned.

## Voices against Babri demolition verdict

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

DMK president M.K. Stalin, TNCC president K. S. Alagiri and MDMK general secretary Vaiko were among those who expressed their displeasure over the Lucknow CBI court's verdict on the 1992 demolition of the 465-year-old Babri Masjid at Ayodhya, acquitting all those accused in the case.

Since justice has not been rendered in the case, the government should go on an appeal, said Alagiri, accusing the CBI of being a handmaiden of the BJP government at the Centre. The verdict, coming 28 years after the mosque was brought down by thousands of kar sevaks, mobilized by the BJP and the Sangh Parivar, is a shock to all those who believe in the rule of law, he said.

Stalin also said that it brought shame to the rule of law in the country as the Supreme Court had clearly said, "The entire structure of the mosque was brought down in a calculated act of destroying a place of public worship". He said that CBI failed to

## ‘Muslims disappointed by special court’s verdict’

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUNELVELI, SEPT. 30

"As usual, people yearning for justice are disappointed". This was the response of many of the Muslims in Melapalayam region to the Lucknow CBI special court's verdict acquitting all the 32 accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case.

"What else does the judiciary want, as the accused themselves had made an open confession, of course

in pride, about their role in the heinous crime committed 28 years ago," asked Nellai Mubarak, state president of Social Democratic Party of India.

Thronging the Bazaar Street at Melapalayam in Tirunelveli to show their resentment against the verdict of the CBI court, the protesters viewed the court verdict a pre-planned one like the demolition of the Babri Masjid, which they said was a pre-planned one 28 years ago by the

acquitted 'Hindutva' leaders including L.K. Advani and Murl Manohar Joshi.

"This verdict is a blow on the common man's faith in judiciary," said Sulfikar Ali, a participant in the protest organised by all Muslim outfits in front of the Kanyakumari district collector's office at Parvathipuram in Nagercoil. "As usual people yearning for justice are disappointed by our judicial system," regretted Sulfikar Ali.

While BJP leaders like L. K. Advani, M. M. Joshi, Uma Bharathi and the then UP Chief Minister Kalyan Singh were accused of inciting the Kar Sevaks to demolish the mosque the CBI failed to prove the allegations with evidence in the court, he said, adding the CBI had failed to investigate the case and bring to book the culprits.

## Next showdown likely at General Council

From P1

In the event of both the sides not coming to an agreement by October 7, the next showdown would be at the General Council meeting, to which both Palaniswami and Panneerselvam are said to be mobilising supporters.

The huge gathering at the General Council could help them sort out their differences by displaying their support bases and both are gearing up for that.

On Tuesday evening, Panneerselvam, who was planning to leave for his hometown near Theni, triggered rumours of his resignation from the Deputy Chief Minister post as his personal car with the party flag fluttering in the front was spotted driving up to the porch.

While he had asked for the personal car since it was a long drive to his hometown, onlookers speculated on his possible abandoning the official car with the national tricolor on the bonnet as a prelude to his abdicating office.

Also when the Deputy Chief Minister did not take part in the Chennai Corporation's function at Island Ground on Wednesday to launch a solid waste management project it gave rise to conjectures. Since the Chief Minister and a host of other ministers were present at the event, people started guessing if Panneerselvam was boycotting the event or was going to give up his post. However, when fisheries minister D Jayakumar was asked about it, he clarified that it was not a major government event and the Deputy Chief Minister was not invited to all events that happened in the state.



A bomb detection and disposal squad carrying out searches in Central railway station on Wednesday in the wake of a special court verdict in Lucknow giving verdict on Babri masjid demolition case.

— DC

## Govt's decision to pass arrear students against guidelines: AICTE in HC

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

The All India Council for Technical Education has informed the Madras high court that the Tamil Nadu Government Order dated August 26, 2020, (by which the State Higher Education secretary has declared all students as passed, who have arrears of University exam papers), is not in accordance with the guidelines of University Grants Commission, which was subsequently forwarded by it to all the Vice Chancellors of Technical Universities and Deemed to be Universities with a request to follow the guidelines of UGC.

M.Sundaresan, the Southern Regional Officer of the AICTE stated this in his counter affidavit filed in response to the petition filed by former Vice Chancellor of Anna

In his counter, Sundaresan submitted that the statement in Paragraph 3 of the G.O that the exemption for appearing for the semester and award of mark is being passed as per the guidelines of the AICTE is totally wrongly interpreted. This was based on a UGC circular for promoting students of the 1st and 2nd year (and 3rd year for Technical degree) to the next year for continuing the online classes of next year during pandemic and where formal routine examinations were difficult to conduct and different ways of evaluation were listed

University E.Balaugurusamy, which sought to quash the G.O dated August 26, 2020 of the Tamil Nadu government.

In his counter, Sundaresan submitted that the statement in Paragraph 3 of the G.O that the exemption for appearing for the semester and award of mark is being passed as per the guidelines of the AICTE is totally wrongly interpreted. This was based on a UGC circular for promoting students of the 1st and

2nd year (and 3rd year for Technical degree) to the next year for continuing the online classes of next year during pandemic and where formal routine examinations were difficult to conduct and different ways of evaluation were listed.

However, for the final year, conducting examinations is compulsory. Further, the degree will be awarded only to those students who have cleared all the examinations in the previous semesters/years,

he added.

He said the AICTE has not issued any exemption of the students from appearing for the examination and to pursue their studies for the next year without being assessed by conducting examinations. A degree cannot be awarded to a student, who has failed in large number of courses. This was not acceptable to industry too. In view of the said G.O, all the students even the students who have paid their fees for arrear examinations were declared to be passed which was totally against the guidelines and which cannot be made. Further, several students who have arrears were being now sought to be promoted to the next year without appearing for the examinations. The entire G.O declaring the students of the Graduation and Post Graduation studies in arts and also in technical

education except the final year students was without any basis and was not as per the guidelines of the UGC which were endorsed by AICTE, he added.

He said the UGC issued guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar in view of Covid-19 pandemic by order dated April 29, 2020. Subsequently, the AICTE by letter dated May 1, 2020 forwarded the guidelines of UGC to all the Vice Chancellors of Technical Universities, Deemed to be Universities, Secretary, State Technical Institutions, Director/Principal of Affiliated Technical Institutions in the country with a request to follow the guidelines of UGC. The AICTE subsequently issued revised guidelines on examinations and academic calendar for the Universities in view of Covid-19 pandemic by let-

ter dated July 6, 2020. In this letter, specific guidelines were issued for backlog of papers in respect of terminal semester(s) final year students stating that the students of terminal semester/final year students having backlog should compulsorily be evaluated by conducting examinations in offline (Pen and Paper) /online/blended (Online+Offline) mode as per feasibility and suitability, he added.

He said the Supreme Court by order dated August 28, 2020 in Praneet K case has interalia upheld the guidelines of UGC dated July 6, 2020 directing to hold examination of final year/terminal semester and further observed that the State and University cannot promote the student in the final year/terminal semester without holding final year/terminal examination.

## PHYSICAL TEST



Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board conducting physical test for SI aspirants at Egmore RR stadium on Wednesday.

— DC

## Hindu Munnani founder Ramagopalan no more

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

Hindu Munnani founder convenor Ramagopalan, 94, known for popularising Ganesh Chaturthi puja and immersion festival in Tamil Nadu, died here on Wednesday after testing positive for Covid-19, the organisation said.

Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister K. Palaniswami and DMK president M. K. Stalin, among others, condoled his death. Ramagopalan was not keeping well for some time and was admitted to a private hospital here on September 26 with complaints of pneumonia.

"The first test revealed he had no corona infection, but he tested positive in the second test. And since the last two days, the doctors attending on him tried their best to save him," Kadeswara C Subramaniam, state president of Hindu Munnani, said. Ramagopalan's end came on Wednesday evening.

Born on September 19, 1927, in Sirkazhi in then Tanjore district, Ramagopalan, an AMIE diploma holder, quit his job in the electricity department and became a full-time RSS volunteer in 1945. He was responsible for the gradual growth of RSS throughout Tamil Nadu and rose to the



statue of regional campaigner (states) of the saffron movement.

He later formed the Hindu Munnani, a religious and cultural organisation in 1980, under the guidance of the RSS. He survived an attack on his life at the Madurai railway station in 1984 which left him with severe cuts on his neck and head. He had always worn a saffron cap since then.

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami described Rama Gopalan as a freedom fighter and mentor for the Hindu Munnani and conveyed his condolences to his followers. Shocked and saddened to hear about his passing away, said Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, expressing his condolences to the Hindu Munnani cadre. Despite ideological differences, Rama Gopalan was a friend of M. Karunanidhi, said DMK president M. K. Stalin in his message. Calling himself a senior spiritual leader, who tries to spread his religious beliefs in Tamil Nadu and Kerala,

PMK founder S. Ramadoss said the deceased leader gave his voice against religious conversion. Senior RSS pracharak Rama Gopalan's passing away was a loss to Tamil Nadu, Hindu activists and Hindu devotees, said BJP state president L. Murugan, in his tribute. He said "our journey would continue on the path laid by him." In his condolence message, Governor Purohit said he was saddened to know about the demise of Ramagopalan. "Fondly known as Veera Thiruvai (brave saint), he dedicated his entire life span for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu," the governor said.



# VERDICT TO ENSURE TEMPLE MOVEMENT LEAVES BEHIND A 'PROUD LEGACY' FOR BJP

Verdict absolves the BJP of any responsibility from the most controversial aspect of the Ram Temple movement



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh welcomes the special CBI court's decision to acquit all the accused in the demolition of the controversial structure. After this decision, all sections of the society should come together in unity and harmony and work successfully to face the challenges before the country

**Suresh 'Bhaiyyaji' Joshi, RSS general secretary**



The (demolition) case in the special court lost its relevance after the Supreme Court's verdict on Ram temple and *bhoomipujan* of the temple performed by prime minister (in August). This verdict was expected. I, on behalf of Shiv Sena and party president Uddhav Thackeray, welcome this decision of the court

**Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena MP**



@sanjukta | Breaking news. #BabriMasjid self exploded on a cold December day.

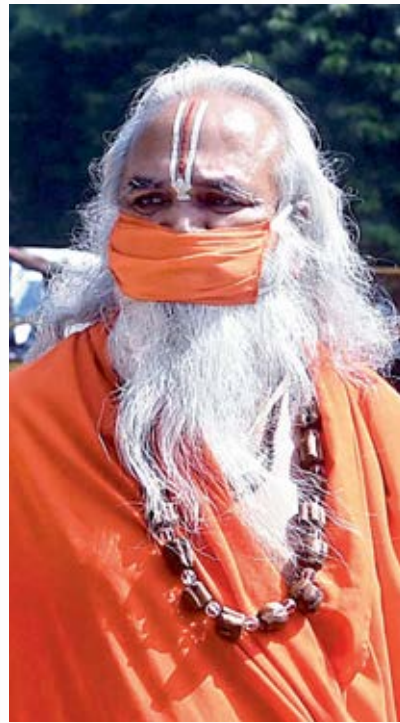
@frillfaze | Pragya Thakur: I had demolished the structure. UP courts: No you hadn't.

@imMAK02 | According to Indian system, Delhi riots were pre planned by Anti CAA protesters. But demolition of Babri was NOT pre planned, although L K Advani took out this bloody Rath Yatra across the Nation.

@vaish\_mufc | It was built against the will of the immortal gods, and so it did not last for long" - Homer, The Iliad. #BabriVerdict

@ARanganathan72 | There are only two kinds of people in a democratic nation. One, who respect the judiciary; and the other, who think they are the judiciary.

**Former CBI director P.C. Sharma on Wednesday said the acquittal of all the 32 accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case was a vindication of his decision of dropping criminal conspiracy charge against the then deputy prime minister L.K. Advani.**



**MAJOR RELIEF:** Senior BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi, BJP leader Vinay Katiyar, Sadhvi Ritambhara and Ram Vilash Vadanti, accused in Babri mosque demolition case, after the verdict was delivered in Lucknow on Wednesday. - PTI

**New Delhi, Sept. 30:** The acquittal of senior BJP leaders and Hindutva activists in the Babri mosque demolition case on Wednesday has come as a big boost to the saffron party, whose leaders have always insisted that the razing of the disputed structure in Ayodhya was a spontaneous act and not part of any conspiracy.

With the party set to intensify its campaign for the Bihar Assembly polls besides by-elections to one Lok Sabha and 56 Assembly seats, the court verdict has again brought the emotive issue, which has animated political

discourse for long, to the centre stage and given the BJP a handy plank.

The special CBI court's order effectively absolves the BJP of any responsibility from the most controversial aspect of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and what the Supreme Court had described as an "egregious violation of the rule of law" in its last year verdict that handed over the disputed site in Ayodhya to pro-temple parties in that dispute.

All the 32 accused, including BJP veterans L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Kalyan Singh besides

Uma Bharti and Vinay Katiyar, were acquitted by the court in Lucknow almost 28 years after the FIR was filed following the mosque's demolition on December 6, 1992 by 'kar sevaks'.

The court said there was no conclusive proof against the accused, which also included Sadhvi Ritambhara, Champat Rai and Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, who were all part of the movement. The verdict will ensure that the BJP while owning up the movement's success in ensuring the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, can legitimately disasso-

ciate itself with the demolition. It has also snatched a potent weapon from opposition parties, most of whom have targeted the BJP for the mosque's fall while either refraining from criticising or even welcoming the temple's construction.

It was the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and Advani's 'Rath Yatra' in 1990 to mobilise the masses in favour of building a temple at the disputed site, where believers hold that Lord Ram was born, that brought the issue to the center stage of national politics and helped the BJP emerge as an alternative to the

Congress. As part of the movement, Hindutva organisations had brought a large number of 'kar sevaks' at the site when the mosque was taken down by the mob.

A BJP leader said the judgment has ensured that the Ram Janmabhoomi movement leaves behind a "proud legacy" for the party without having any dimension to it about which it might have felt defensive.

Though the CBI has the option to appeal in a higher court against the verdict, it remains far from clear if the central agency will do so.

Top BJP leaders hailed the special CBI court order acquitting all the accused and described it as a victory of truth and justice.

The acquittal of all the accused in the case "is a vindication of truth and justice", said the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), which spearheaded the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. VHP international working president Alok Kumar said it took 28 years for courts to deliver justice.

The RSS welcomed the verdict and called for harmony in society to face challenges before the country. — PTI

## Jilani: Verdict will be challenged

**Lucknow, Sept. 30:** Senior lawyer and member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) Zafaryab Jilani said the verdict would be challenged in the high court.

There were hundreds of statements by the witnesses and in criminal cases these are very important, Jilani said, adding that among those who gave their statements were IPS officers and journalists who had said that the accused persons were sitting on the dais and inflammatory speeches were being given.

The special CBI court has given its verdict

ignoring the evidence and so Muslims will challenge it in the high court, he said. He also indicated that the board might also be a party. Jilani claimed that when the structure fell down, there was celebration and sweets were distributed but the court was of the view that there was no conspiracy.

There were clear evidences under 153-A (promoting enmity, hatred between different communities), 153-B (assertion prejudicial to national integration) against Advani and others and yet they were acquitted, he claimed.

When pointed out that it

was the CBI which was fighting the case, Jilani said the victims and the witnesses also have the right to appeal but the agency too needs to do so.

"We are victims, several of our people were witnesses in the case. I too was among them," he said. He said that from the Muslims' side both the victims and the witnesses would file appeal.

For the victims, Haji Mehboob and Hafiz Akhlaq would file. Others who would also be filing appeals would be decided later, he said.

"If there is an agreement on this point, then Muslim personal law

board would also be a party," he said. When asked if a meeting of the board would be convened on this issue, he said that there is no need for it.

**CBI yet to decide**

The CBI will decide on filing an appeal against the verdict in the Babri Masjid demolition case after consulting the legal department, its counsel said. "After a copy of verdict is received, it would be sent to the CBI headquarters where it would be studied by the legal department and a decision on filing an appeal would be taken as per its suggestion," CBI counsel Lalit Singh said.



Members of Muslim Mahila Foundation celebrate after the verdict in Varanasi on Wednesday. — PTI

## Video cassettes not sent to forensic labs: Court

**Lucknow, Sept. 30:** Video cassettes or footages, allegedly pertaining to the demolition of disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri masjid structure at Ayodhya, were neither sealed nor sent to forensic laboratories by the CBI to ascertain their veracity, a Special CBI court at Lucknow said on Wednesday.

Special CBI Judge S.K. Yadav, who acquitted all the 32 accused in the case, including BJP veterans L.K. Advani and M.M. Joshi, analyzed the video, audio evidence and the news reports of several newspapers to examine the charge of criminal conspiracy invoked by the CBI against the high-profile accused in the 28-year-old politically-sensitive case.

The judge lent credence to the testimonies of various wit-

nesses and said that journalists from all over the world wanted to get associated with the coverage of the December 6, 1992 incident. It noted that every news which is there in electronic and print media is not "necessarily correct" and said that whatever "video cassettes or footages" the CBI received during the investigation of the case were neither found in a sealed state by the probe agency nor sealed by the investigators.

Several video cassettes, audio evidence and news reports were used as evidence in the case to buttress the arguments that there was a deep-rooted conspiracy on the part of several leaders to bring the structures down.

However, the court recorded the finding that none of the video cassettes or footages were sent to forensic laboratories to ascertain whether they were tampered or not. — PTI

## Verdict should bring an end to issue: Joshi

**DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, SEPT. 30**

Acquitted in the almost three decades old Babri Masjid demolition case by a special CBI court, BJP veteran leader Murli Manohar Joshi said it has been proved that no conspiracy was hatched to demolish the structure on December 6, 1992.

"I will say only one thing *Jai Jai Shri Ram, Sab ko sanmatti de bhagwan* (May Lord, bestow wisdom on all)," he said, expressing happiness over the judgement.

He thanked the lawyers who appeared for

him in the matter. Joshi was the BJP chief during the period when *kar-sevaks* gathered in Ayodhya as part of the campaign for building a Ram temple, and the mosque was brought down.

He said, "I feel this controversy should come to end with the verdict. The entire country should be ready for the construction of a grand Ram temple."

**SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 30**

Ruling parties in Maharashtra on Wednesday reacted cautiously to the court verdict on Babri mosque demolition acquitting all accused persons. The principal ruling party Shiv Sena hailed the verdict, but also said that the trial had already "lost its relevance".

**Shiv Sena chief**

spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and the whole party welcome the verdict.

"The (demolition) case in the special court lost its relevance after the Supreme Court's verdict on Ram temple and bhoomi puja of the temple performed by the Prime Minister (in August)," Mr Raut said.

## HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

The verdict by a special court in the Babri Masjid demolition case comes 28 years after kar sevaks razed the 16th century mosque and almost a year after the Supreme Court settled the land case in favour of a Ram temple at the disputed Ayodhya site.

- **1528:** Babri Masjid built by Mir Baqi, commander of Mughal emperor Babur.
- **1885:** Mahant Raghubir Das files suit in Faizabad district court seeking permission to build a canopy outside the disputed structure. Court rejects the plea.
- **1949:** Idols of Ram Lalla placed under central dome outside the disputed structure.
- **1950:** Gopal Simla Visharad files suit in Faizabad district court for right to worship the idols of Ram Lalla. Paramahansa Ramachandra Das files suit for continuation of worship and keeping the idols.
- **1959:** Nirmohi Akhara files suit seeking possession of the site.
- **1961:** UP Sunni Central Waqf Board files suit for possession of the site.
- **FEB 1986:** Local court orders the government to open the site to Hindu worshippers.
- **AUG 1989:** Allahabad HC orders status quo in respect of the disputed structure.

## DEC 6, 1992: BABRI MASJID DEMOLISHED

- **DEC 1992:** Two FIRs filed in the case. One against unknown kar sevaks for demolition of the mosque. The other names BJP leaders L.K. Advani, M.M. Joshi and others for allegedly giving communal speeches before the demolition.
- **OCT 1993:** CBI files composite charge sheet accusing Advani and others of conspiracy.
- **MAY 2001:** Special CBI court drops proceedings against Advani, Joshi, Uma Bharti, Bal Thackeray and others.
- **NOV 2004:** CBI challenges before the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court the dropping of proceedings against BJP leaders on technical grounds. Court issues notices.
- **MAY 2010:** High court dismisses plea. Says no merit in CBI's revision petition.
- **SEP 2010:** In a 2:1 majority, HC rules three-way division of disputed area between Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.
- **MAY 2011:** SC stays HC verdict on Ayodhya land dispute.
- **FEB 2011:** CBI moves Supreme Court against high court order in the mosque demolition case.
- **MAR 2017:** SC indicates it may consider reviving conspiracy charge against the BJP leaders in Babri Masjid demolition case. SC suggests fresh attempts to resolve Ayodhya dispute.
- **APR:** SC favours time-bound completion of trial in the case and reserves order on CBI's plea.
- **SC RESTORES CRIMINAL** conspiracy charge against leaders including Advani, Joshi and Uma Bharti and clubs the trials in the matters pending against VIPs and kar sevaks.
- **NOV 2019:** SC grants entire disputed land in Ayodhya to deity Ram Lalla, directs govt to allot an alternative five-acre plot to Muslims to build mosque.
- **AUG 2020:** PM Narendra Modi performs *bhoomi puja* in Ayodhya, launches construction of Ram temple.
- **SUPREME COURT EXTENDS** by a month the deadline for completion of trial in the Babri Masjid demolition case.

**SEP 30:** Special Judge S.K. Yadav delivers judgment in the mosque demolition case, all accused acquitted.



SHORT TAKE

SC REFUSES TO STAY CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 30

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to postpone the Civil Services (Prelims) Examination, 2020, of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) slated on Sunday (October 4) as it turned down a batch of petitions seeking deferment citing Covid-19 pandemic.

A bench comprising Justice A.M. Khanwilkar and Justice Sanjiv Khanna declined the petitions and asked the UPSC to issue directions to the states to ensure that the candidates with admit cards are admitted in hotels near the sub-centres.

The court asked the UPSC to consider a concession of giving one more chance to appear for civil services examination to the candidates who are making a last attempt for the civil services entrance examination. Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju while assuring the court to give concession in age to only those who are on their last attempt, said that it cannot be made available to others.

COPS SUMMON ANURAG KASHYAP IN RAPE CASE

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 30

The Mumbai police on Wednesday issued summons to film-maker Anurag Kashyap in connection with a rape case filed against him by actor Payal Ghosh. The Versova police said that they have asked Kashyap to join the probe on Thursday and will record his statement in connection with the allegations in the case. After filing the police complaint against Kashyap on September 22, Ghosh has been raising questions over the police's inaction against the film-maker. She had even met Union minister Ramdas Athawale seeking his support to get the Union government intervene in the case.

China: Ready to take talks route

Envoy says impasse is in no one's interest

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 30

Holding out the olive branch to India in his latest remarks on Sino-Indian ties, Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong has said China is committed to seeking a solution through "dialogue and negotiation, and restoring peace and tranquility in the border areas at an early date", adding that the "current situation in the border areas serves no one's interests".

Pointing out that the two nations are "neighbours that cannot be moved away" and that therefore "living in harmony is the only correct choice", he added that "as long as the two sides adhere to this common goal and move in the right direction, China-India relations will eventually disperse the clouds and get back on the right track".

The Chinese envoy also said the two neighbours "need to remain rational and calm, and

● **THE ELECTION** Commission of India said that it has decided not to hold Assembly bypolls in seven seats across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal at this stage.

resist the talk of 'confrontation' and 'decoupling', so that we will not lose our way due to any individual incident or issue", a veiled reference to the bloody clash at the Galwan valley in June this year between troops of both sides. "Whenever the situation gets difficult, it is all the more important to ensure the stability of the overall relationship and preserve mutual trust," he asserted.

Seeking to calm nerves during his address at a Virtual event ahead of the Chinese National Day anniversary celebrations on October 1, the Chinese Ambassador also referred to the recent remarks of his President Xi Jinping before the United Nations that China would "never seek hegemony, expansion, or sphere of influence"

and that it has "no intention to fight either a Cold War or a hot war with any country".

The virtual event was held earlier on Tuesday but Mr. Sun's remarks were released by the Chinese Embassy only on Wednesday evening. The Chinese envoy's mention of the need to resist talk of "confrontation" is obviously a reference to the tense situation at the borders where thousands of heavily armed Indian and Chinese troops are deployed at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Ladakh sector.

Sounding an optimistic note despite raging tensions, Mr. Sun also expressed confidence that "the history of friendly exchanges between the two peoples lasting more than two thousand years will never be blocked by the pandemic or temporary difficulties.

MAHA NOT TO IMPLEMENT FARM LAWS FOR NOW

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 30

The contentious Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce Ordinance will not be implemented in Maharashtra, at least for the time being.

The Maharashtra government, facing flak from all quarters, on Wednesday stayed its own order of implementing the three farm laws.

Marketing minister Balasaheb Shamra Patil of the NCP said, "The laws need to be studied in detail due to its impact on the farmers and Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) in the state. We have sought legal opinion on it. Till then, they are being stayed."

Even before the new farm Bills were passed by the Parliament, Maharashtra government's Directorate of Marketing on August 10 had issued an order to implement the three Acts. The order said that the laws were to be "strictly implemented", thus making Maharashtra the first state to implement them before they became a law last week. After the farm Bills were passed, Maharashtra's ruling parties started questioning them.

Covid caseload up by 80K; big spike reported in Kerala

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 30

With 80,472 more infections being reported in a day, India's Covid-19 caseload raced past 62 lakh on Wednesday while the number of people recuperating from the disease surged to 51,87,825 pushing the recovery rate to 83.33 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total number of coronavirus cases mounted to 62,25,763, while the death toll climbed to 97,497 with 1,179 people succumbing to the disease in a day, the data updated at 8 am showed.

There are 9,40,441 active cases of coronavirus infections in the country which comprises 15.11 per cent of the total caseload. The case fatality rate due to COVID-19 stands at 1.57 per cent, the data showed.

The Covid-19 situation in Kerala is getting worse by the day with the state reporting the biggest single day spike of 8,830 cases even as 3,356 persons recovered from the infection.

Of the new cases, 7,695 contracted the infection through contact; 123 health workers also got infected. The total number of active cases in the state has now gone up to 67,061. Kerala reported 23 deaths on Wednesday taking the official death toll to 742.

Ernakulam reported the highest number of cases among districts with 1,056 cases followed by Thiruvananthapuram (986), Malappuram (977), Kozhikode (942), Kollam (812) and Thrissur (808).

**K'taka tally crosses 6 lakh mark:** The total number of coronavirus infections in Karnataka breached six lakh mark as the state on Wednesday reported 8,856 new cases, the health department said. The state recorded 87 Covid-19 deaths, taking the toll to 8,864. The day also saw

INDIA TEST-FIRES BRAHMOS SUPERSONIC MISSILE VERSION

AKSYHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 30

India on Wednesday successfully test-fired an extended range version of surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos off Odisha coast.

The missile was tested from Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR) at 10.30am in Balasore district, nearly 250 km from here.

The missile is capable of hitting targets at more than 400-km range. Source said that the airframe and booster of the missile have been developed indigenously.

The test was conducted with an indigenous booster and airframe under PJ-10 project of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture between DRDO and Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya of Russia.

The missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircrafts, as well as from land platforms. BrahMos is regarded as the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world. It is operational with Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

**Venus mission in 2025:** ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025 and France will participate in it, French space agency CNES said on Wednesday.

The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS laboratory has been selected by the ISRO after a request for proposals, it said in a statement.

WORLD

IN BRIEF

Pak government to push for Nawaz's deportation

**Islamabad, Sept. 30:** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has asked relevant authorities to take steps to bring back PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif from London and to ensure that he faces the corruption cases pending against him in the courts, according to a media report on Wednesday. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Khan asked the authorities to pursue the matter vigorously, the paper said. According to the Cabinet member, the government had earlier sent a request to the British government for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader's repatriation.

Armenia, Azerbaijan fight for 4th day

**Yerevan (Armenia), Sept. 30:** Heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh continued for a fourth straight day on Wednesday, in the biggest escalation of a decades-old conflict in years that has killed dozens and left scores of others wounded.

The UN Security Council called on Armenia and Azerbaijan Tuesday to immediately halt fighting over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and urgently resume talks without preconditions.

The UN's most powerful body strongly condemned the use of force and backed Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' earlier call to immediately stop fighting, deescalate tensions and return to meaningful negotiations without delay. The two neighbors have been locked in conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region of Azerbaijan that has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a war there ended in 1994.

— AP

Don won't condemn white supremacists

A hot mess of a debate: Goodwin

**Washington, Sep 30:** A hot mess does not make for a great debate. Or an interesting one or even an entertaining one, said political columnist Michael Goodwin who added that America was mistreated Tuesday. A highly anticipated showdown in a deeply fought presidential election in a deeply divided country had the potential to be a clarifying moment.

Instead, it was a sweaty, formless flop. Worse, it was annoying. Neither the candidates nor moderator

Chris Wallace acquitted themselves well.

Joe Biden was sharp and coherent enough, though he relied heavily on notes in front of him. He didn't exactly raise the bar of decorum with his name-calling, alternately labeling President Trump a clown, a liar and a racist. Ho hum.

Yet the bulk of the blame falls on Trump, who came with a clear plan and executed it flawlessly. Unfortunately, it was a very bad plan.

— Agencies

UNDECIDED VOTERS DESCRIBE TRUMP AS A 'CRACKHEAD', 'ARROGANT'

**Washington, Sept. 30:** The first presidential debate left undecided American voters in agreement about at least one thing: President Trump's negativity. Republican consultant and pollster Frank Luntz asked his focus group to use one word to describe the president and basically "every single word was negative," observed *Politico's* Tim Alberta.

One respondent from Wisconsin called Trump

obnoxious and un-presidential, while a Pennsylvania voter said he behaved like a "crackhead." Others described the president as being "un-American" and "arrogant."

In all, from 17 voters in swing states, 15 used negative words and just two used positive words or phrases to describe the president (that is, if you consider "an ass but a confident ass" to be a compliment).

— Agencies

INDIAN-AMERICAN SUPPORTERS IN US PREZ ELECTION DIVIDED

**Washington, Sept. 30:** Indian-American supporters of President Donald Trump said the Republican leader "sealed the deal" at the first presidential election debate while the community members supporting his Democratic challenger Joe Biden asserted that the former vice president made a "successful case"

to occupy the White House for the next four years. Indian Americans, who account for one per cent of the country's population, but are increasingly getting active in domestic politics, organised watch parties, mostly virtual, to watch the first of the three presidential debates between Trump and Biden.

— PTI



US President Donald Trump and Democratic Presidential candidate and former US Vice-President Joe Biden take part in the first presidential debate at Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, on Tuesday.

— AFP

Trump won't say when he'll make taxes public

**Washington, Sept. 30:** President Donald Trump won't say when he will finally make his personal taxes public as he has long promised. During the first presidential debate Tuesday, Trump was asked specifically about a report in *The New York Times* that revealed he paid only \$750 in personal income taxes each of those years.

All presidents except Trump have publicly released their taxes since the presidency of Richard Nixon. Trump has said since 2016 that he would eventually release them. But when asked by moderator Chris Wallace when,

he said only: "You'll get to see it." Democratic nominee Joe Biden quickly used that as a point of attack, saying Trump "does take advantage of the tax code" and "pays less tax than a schoolteacher." Trump shrugged off the attack, saying that all business leaders do the same "unless they are stupid."

Trump has asserted that he paid millions of dollars in income taxes and dubbed a recent media report that he paid just \$750 in income tax in the year he was elected US president as "wrong." "And let me just tell you, there was a story in one of

the papers," Trump said. Biden interrupted, asking Trump to show his tax papers. "I paid \$38 million one year. I paid \$37 million one year. You'll see it as soon as it's finished. You'll see it," Trump said, with Biden insisting on him showing his tax papers.

"You know if you wanted to, go to the Board of Elections. There's a 118 page or so report that says everything I have, every bank I have I'm totally underleveraged because the assets are extremely good and we have built a great company..." he said.

— Agencies

facing the US.

"It's about equity and equality. It's about decency. It's about the Constitution. And we have never walked away from trying to require equity for everyone, equality for the whole of America, but we've never accomplished it. But we've never walked away from it like he has done," Biden said.

— PTI

man's done virtually nothing...You have to look at what he did. And what he did has been disastrous for the African-American community."

Biden charged. Defending his record as president, Trump attacked Biden for his role in crafting the 1994 crime bill.

"I'm letting people out of jail now," Trump said to



# DECCAN Chronicle

1 OCTOBER 2020

## In Hathras, don't lose sight of justice goal

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, rapes have continued to take place in Uttar Pradesh. Throughout the lockdown, imposed in March, rape cases have mounted. In most, the accused was not arrested, even after being identified, as in Hapur, where the six-year-old sufferer had to undergo surgery to repair her wounds but still managed to spot the culprit.

The three features that distinguished the Hathras gang-rape from countless other crimes involving gendered violence against women were (a) its particularly gruesome nature, (b) the fact that it was a caste crime, and (c) the fact that the victim also belonged to a rural background and a low income family. It was the perfect opportunity for a progressive media to create opinion and influence change.

In this case, too, the dalit teenager had named her four rapists from the hospital bed in the national capital where she was brought and admitted by activists of Bhim Army. But the big media continued its prurient speculations on the drug habits of Rhea Chakraborty. It was only her death followed by a hasty midnight cremation that her immediate relatives were reportedly barred from attending that brought the case under spotlight.

The UP police had quickly disposed of the body, pre-empting a second autopsy. It was in keeping with a trend seen whenever a lower caste woman is the victim. In India, that is sadly most often the case. The perpetrators have the social and financial support that the victim and her family hasn't. So it raised suspicions of shielding the accused.

Now the Aligarh IG has come out with a statement saying that rape had not taken place at all; the medical examination report did not confirm it. Earlier, the police had tied the crime to an old family quarrel. These are attempts to dilute the gravity of the offence. The fact remains that had she survived the girl would have been disabled for life. Desexualising rape does not lessen its immorality.

Was the victim targeted because she was bright and she stood out, as most liberal, young women do and are made to suffer for, and more so in rural India, where the churning is at its strongest? It belies the comfortable and contradictory middle class notions of the heartlands being a regressive idyll, but is a distinct possibility.

Following the media furore, the Uttar Pradesh government has constituted a three-member Special Investigation Team to probe the case. It inspires little confidence, given the record of impunity of the government and the state police force.

Which brings us to another controversy, freshly brewing. Some people have named the victim on the social media without the express sanction in writing through a recognised organisation of the next of kin of the victim, as required by Section 228A(c) of the Indian Penal Code, the law governing the disclosure of identity of rape sufferers. It is the duty of citizens and the media to educate the people about this law and proactively seek consent because there should be no stigma or shame attached to victims of sexual assault. Removal of the stigma will, in fact, deter conspiracies to commit the crime. However, in bypassing the law just for the sake of virtue-signalling, if of a less obvious kind and especially in case of poor or dalit victims, as in the Jisha case of 2016, publishers are not only committing a crime in the eyes of the law but also stand to trivialise the cause.

## First among equals

The current standoff in Tamil Nadu's ruling party, the AIADMK, over the chief ministerial candidate for the 2021 Assembly elections smacks of nothing but gross political imprudence on the part of the entire set of dramatis personae. Though deputy chief minister, O Panneerselvam, who wants his dispute with chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami sorted out now itself has a point to make as elections are just about eight months away, the whole exercise seems to be a farce, only providing a comic interlude to the people caught in the vagaries of the lockdown.

In fact, the acrimony with which Mr Panneerselvam and his bete noire fought it out at the executive meeting on Monday led to a dark party secret tumbling out, raising a stink. Their differences apart, they agreed that both were chosen for the prized chief minister's job at different points of time by V.K. Sasikala, the confidante of late chief minister J. Jayalalithaa. So, was Ms Sasikala, who never ever stood for an election or held any official or party position when Jayalalithaa was alive, functioning as a de facto chief minister?

Besides confirming that through their exchanges, the quarrelling chief ministerial aspirants also came across as immature politicians more obsessed over the post they coveted and least concerned about the interests of the party or the people or the state. Also cheering them was the bunch of party leaders, who were split down the middle. While Mr Palaniswami says that it's not wise to rock the boat when the sailing has been smooth in the past four years, Mr Panneerselvam is just seeking his pound of flesh.

Well, one of them will blink and the first among equals will be known on Wednesday, October 7. But for the AIADMK, particularly the winner of the ongoing tussle, it could be a pyrrhic victory. For at the end of it all, it will be the people who will be picking the party that would rule them.

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Subhani



## How to deal with Covid: Some S-E Asian lessons



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

The Covid-19 pandemic has dealt a body blow to societies and economies across the world. India's Covid-19 death tally has crossed 96,000; stories of doom, gloom and heart-breaks abound. There is a flicker of hope with the number of daily cases coming down a little. However, we are certainly not out of the woods. No one knows what the future holds.

Can the coronavirus pandemic be a teachable moment? Can we step back from our immediate contexts and preoccupations and learn from other countries in the neighbourhood which were better prepared and better-equipped to deal with the new virus?

Here are a few things I picked up while looking at country responses around the world. We all know how well and swiftly countries like New Zealand, Iceland or Germany responded. The political leadership in these countries deserve all the praise they are getting. But these nations also have the advantage of affluence and relatively small populations.

Another region that seems to have done fairly well in these trying times is Southeast Asia. There is a good reason why—most countries in this region learnt from past epidemics—the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and to a lesser extent the H1N1 avian flu in 2009-10.

A recent essay—“An Asian Pandemic Success Story: What SARS Taught Governments About Fighting Infectious Disease”, by Swee Kheng Khor and David Heymann in *Foreign Affairs*—points out that as the world struggles with the coronavirus pandemic, Southeast Asian countries lead the way in both control and recovery.

Many countries in this region have consistently reported lower death rates from Covid-19 than coun-

tries in Europe and North America.

“At the root of the efficacy of this response lie the hard-won lessons of the region's experience with SARS,” write Khor and Heymann.

Some people who are aware of the different responses to the pandemic point out the cultural differences between Southeast Asia and South Asia and India's humongous heterogeneity. Arguably, these are factors. But there is no getting away from the fact that doing relatively well in the time of a pandemic has a lot to do with being better prepared. And being better prepared is a function of learning the hard lessons from one's past.

“Asian governments spent the 17 ‘peacetime’ years between SARS and Covid-19 addressing the very problems that now plague other countries. They built public health infrastructure and did the hard political work of clarifying the roles and power structures that would take hold during a crisis,” point out Khor and Heymann.

What does this mean on the ground? As the writers point out, it means building systems and institutions that can marshal the full power of government to confront the next epidemic. It means designing and building new infrastructure for disease surveillance, case reporting and contact tracing, and developing decentralised networks of laboratories.

And it means prioritising human resources—investing in the personnel that would be needed to run these new systems.

Take two examples, Thailand and Vietnam. Thailand, which has about 69 million people, has around 3,500 confirmed Covid-19 cases and 59 deaths. Vietnam, with a population of almost 100 million, has just over 1,000 confirmed cases and 35 deaths.

Vietnam, one of the poorest countries in the world, has increased its

per capita spending on public health by an average of nine per cent every year between 2000 and 2016. In 2009, it set up a central database for reporting disease cases in real time. This required public health physicians, information technology specialists and a vast network of field-based epidemiologists.

The Mekong countries never thought they were immune from a problem in China. And they have vivid memories of the 2003 SARS epidemic. They took the Covid-19 threat seriously from early on and responded with a SARS strategy, not a seasonal flu strategy, points out an essay by Dominic Meagher in *The Interpreter*, published by The Lowy Institute, a Sydney-based independent think tank.

Thailand has a well-developed public health infrastructure and began screening all airport arrivals for fever on January 3, two days before China confirmed to the World Health Organisation that it had identified a “pneumonia of unknown cause”.

From the start, the Thai government strongly encouraged people to avoid crowds and confined spaces, and to always wear cloth masks when they left home. Masks are a familiar accessory in the region, often worn to reduce pollution inhalation, and people remember SARS and other coronavirus epidemics. So, the public was quick to respond, says Meagher.

Countries like Thailand and Vietnam went early and hard, prioritising health over other concerns. South Korea, which had one of the largest initial outbreaks outside China, is another success story. It has managed to slow down the spread of new coronavirus cases without lockdowns. This

country, of around 51 million, tests more than 20,000 people every day at designated testing sites and uses widespread contact tracing and isolation to break virus transmission.

The essay in *Foreign Affairs* makes a fundamental point which goes to the heart of the political economy of what we now see as resilience. The countries that suffered through SARS learned that to fight a pandemic requires not only top-down systems but also attention to the broader health of the populace. “Partly for this reason, and partly for political purposes, many of the SARS-affected countries—including Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand—have worked since the early 2000s to finance universal health coverage or to enhance existing coverage. Thailand has extended health insurance coverage to documented and undocumented migrants,” it notes.

Universal health coverage is a key part of this resilience story. It has helped countries fight epidemics by bringing the population to a healthier baseline, reducing barriers to treatment. It is not just about spending money. An extremely important takeaway is the need to build trust in government services. Today, 95 per cent of Thais and 94 per cent of Vietnamese are likely to wear a mask.

This doesn't happen overnight or by magic. It needs social cohesion and solidarity. Government directives are harder to implement in hyper-polarised societies where trust has broken down.

There is a fundamental lesson for India here—bottom-up approaches that guarantee high quality universal healthcare and where empowered and equipped frontline professional healthcare workers take the decisions on how to confront Covid-19 are the ones that work. That is also the way to foster trust in the government healthcare system. It is still not too late to follow that path.

*The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com*

**Bottom-up approaches that guarantee high quality universal healthcare and where frontline healthcare workers take the decisions on how to confront Covid-19 are the ones that work**

### LETTERS

#### BABRI VERDICT

The acquittal of all the 32 accused, including the senior leaders of BJP LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharti, in the Babri Masjid demolition case by the Special CBI court in Lucknow on the grounds of lack of concrete evidence against them has drawn the curtains on one of independent India's most sensational cases. But few could deny the role played by BJP leaders in cohorts with several Hindu fundamentalists groups such as VHP and Bajrang Dal in creating an atmosphere of communal frenzy through Ayodhya Rath Yatra and thus leading to the das-tardly culmination of Babri Masjid demolition. The photographs of beaming BJP leaders when Babri Masjid was being razed to the ground by the mobs cannot be easily erased from the consciousness of people of the country.

**M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan**

#### VULNERABLE FARMERS

THE FARM bills are here to haunt the nation for a long time yet. The policy approach of government to agro-sector was clear from the Shanta Kumar Committee report of 2014 and government's intent to dilute its involvement in food procurement and shed the burden. If only government had seeded farmer cooperatives that would grow in size and clout to negotiate in the open market from a position of strength with the help of these Acts, we would have had a few Kuriens in the Agro arena today. As it stands, the Acts have taken away protection from the farmer against an inclement market as there is not one whiff of an MSP and a mechanism of price discovery or of oversight, to pre-empt farmer's exploitation by purchaser cartels.

**R. Narayanan, Chennai**

#### A REPEAT OF NIRBHAYA

THE RAPE incident of a Dalit girl in Hathras is very cruel and reminds one of the Nirbhaya of Delhi because of the similarities found. The memory of the cruelties inflicted on Nirbhaya is still green in the minds of many. The culprits of Hathras are to be nabbed at the earliest and subject to maximum punishment. I plead that no woman irrespective of her caste or creed or clan of India be subject to any kind of cruelty by men with barbarous mindset and instincts. The torture and sufferings are the same to all women at the hands of men devoid of sense and scruples.

**B.S. Jayaraman, Coimbatore**

Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu



## 2 yrs after retiring, culture secy back in the same post

While senior bureaucrats often get re-employed with the government after they retire, it is certainly rare for a retired babu to be reappointed as secretary to the government to the same post he retired from two years earlier. But the Modi sarkar has many firsts (and in this instance, seconds) to its credit.

So, there were some puzzled faces when former bureaucrat Raghvendra Singh was recently appointed as culture secretary, replacing Anand Kumar, who was shifted as secretary of the National Commission for Backward Classes as part of a high-level reshuffle. Mr Singh, who belongs to the 1983-batch of the West Bengal cadre, is CEO of the Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces under the ministry of culture and will continue to hold that post as well. Mr Singh has been appointed

on a contract basis for one year. Interestingly, Mr Singh was the culture secretary from December 2017 till August 2018. So, the new culture secretary is the old culture secretary!

Before Mr Singh's (re)appointment, there was Parameswaran Iyer, who returned as secretary, drinking water and sanitation, in 2016 on contract although he had resigned from the IAS in 2010 to join the UN and then the World Bank. Interestingly, he did not complete his term but resigned last month for “personal reasons”.

#### A DIVIDED FORCE

If Delhi Police was feeling cornered and unloved after several retired top cops criticised its investigation of the riots in northeast Delhi in February this year, it has now found support in 26 retired IPS officers who have come out in defence of their Delhi brethren.

Delhi Police Commissioner S.N. Shrivastava was left scrambling for allies when the widely respected retired IPS officer Julio Ribeiro, a former Mumbai police commissioner and former DGP of Gujarat and Punjab, and former envoy to Romania, questioned the Delhi Police's handling of the probe into the riot cases. He accused the Delhi cops of taking action against “peaceful protestors” while ignoring the actual perpetrators of the riots and also noted that Mr Shrivastava was not addressing the issues that he had raised in his letter to the Delhi Police Commissioner.

Mr Ribeiro's broadside found resonance in many minds who see the police investigation as vilification of peaceful protesters and a politically motivated campaign. But it has also brought the venerated top cop in the line of fire of those who see this as an attempt to “demor-

alise the Indian Police Service”. However, Mr Ribeiro's detractors come across as attempting a rear-guard action that will do little to change the public perception about Delhi Police. And by pitting cop against cop, the force in khaki is split right down the middle.

#### IRS OFFICERS FEAR LOSS OF STATURE

Last month, the Modi sarkar announced reforms in the taxation system with the aim of making the system seamless, painless and faceless. The faceless assessment scheme will eliminate human interface between the taxpayer and the tax officials and has been largely welcomed by all. But not every IT babu is happy with the development.

According to sources, the IRS association of the Northeast region views the decision as one that will reduce the stature of the service.

The association members have reportedly proposed a complete make-over of the IRS including cadre restructuring, a new transfer and deputation policy, and creation of cadre posts in other ministries and departments. Apparently, the resentment among the IRS officers is due to their belief that faceless taxation will reduce the service to “cyber policing”.

Under faceless assessment, AI and data analytics-based systems will be used to identify taxpayers and send notices in a transparent manner. This will inevitably require a change in how IT officials will function. The NE IRS officers are perhaps jittery about this change from the “normal”.

*Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.*



## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	38,067.93 0.25
Nifty 50	11,247.55 0.22
S&P 500*	3,378.91 1.30
Dollar (₹)	73.75 0.14
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.64 0.49
Euro (₹)	86.50 -0.28
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,372.26 0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	40.80 -0.23
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.015 -0.022
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.668 0.023

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

## FY19 tax filing date extended to November 30

The Income Tax Department extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for 2018-19 by two months till November 30. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in an order said in view of the genuine difficulties being faced by the taxpayers due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the date for furnishing the belated and revised return for Assessment Year 2019-20 is being further extended to November 30.

## Govt cuts gas price by 25% to lowest on record



Natural gas price touched the lowest rate on record after the government slashed the price by 25 per cent to \$1.79, denting revenues of producers like ONGC. The price of gas has been cut from the current \$2.39 per million British thermal unit for six months beginning October 1, an order of the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell said. This is the third straight reduction in rate in one year.

## Mazagon Dock IPO subscribed 7.52 times on 2nd day

The IPO of defence firm Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders was subscribed 7.52 times on the second day of bidding on Wednesday. The IPO to raise about Rs 444 crore, received bids for 23,01,16,111 shares against 3,05,99,017 shares offered. The portion reserved for retail investors was subscribed 15.53 times, non-institutional investors 4.96 times and that for qualified institutional buyers was subscribed 2.83 times.

## NTPC targets ₹98,000 crore revenue in FY21

NTPC is eyeing Rs 98,000 crore revenue from operations and about 15 million metric tonne of coal output from its mines in the current fiscal year. The state-owned power giant is also aiming 340 BU (billion units) of electricity generation in 2020-21 as part of its MoU with the Ministry of Power, a company statement said. The MoU was signed by power secretary Sanjiv Nandan Sahai and NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh.



## ■ Nifty IT Index delivers 61% return Sensex adds up 10,000 pts in H1

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD**  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 30

The Sensex has gained 10,000 points, or 35 per cent, in the first half of fiscal year 2020-21 in the sharpest recovery seen after the coronavirus attack dampened market sentiments.

The Sensex has risen from 28,265 points on April 1 to 38,067 on September 30.

After a precipitous fall from the mid-February high of 41,500 level to 25,000 levels in the third week of March, the Sensex has seen sharp recovery, along with big sectoral shifts in investors' investment strategy.

Over the last six months, since the stock market crash of March, the Nifty IT Index has delivered a remarkable 61 per cent return, highest among the sectoral indices.

The IT sector has benefited the most from the paradigm shift in the way the world operated in post-Covid times.

"Owing to the Covid -19



pandemic, IT and related services are expected to witness an uptick in business prospects and margins. With work from home (WFH) becoming the new normal, IT companies are reassessing their cost structures and manpower requirements and renewed efforts on new technologies & products to address client's needs. The business narrative of many large-cap IT companies is very positive and is expected to reflect in the upcoming quarterly results," said Gopal Kavallireddi, head of research of stock broking firm Fyers.

Apart from IT, pharma &

healthcare, telecom, online retail and speciality chemicals, among others, have seen big investments coming in.

The BSE Healthcare Index is up 39.54 per cent since April 1.

Market heavyweight Reliance Industries has gained big on the back of a rush in US private equity investment into its unlisted subsidiaries in the digital and retail sectors.

The RIL stock has moved up from Rs 1,070.92 on April 1 to Rs 2,233.75 on September 30 and its market capitalisation has more than doubled to over Rs 15.10 lakh crore.

## SELLER TO COLLECT TCS IF TURNOVER EXCEEDS ₹10 CR: CBDT

**New Delhi, Sept. 30:** The CBDT on Wednesday said a seller would be required to collect tax collected at source (TCS) from October 1 only if his turnover exceeds Rs 10 crore in the last financial year.

The Finance Act, 2020 has amended the TCS provisions with effect from October 1, 2020 to provide that a seller of goods shall

collect tax at the rate of 0.1 per cent (0.075 per cent up to March 31, 2021) if the receipt of sale consideration from a buyer exceeds Rs 50 lakh in the financial year. "... this TCS shall be applicable only on the amount received on or after 1st October, 2020," the CBDT said.

In a statement, the Central Board of Direct

Taxes (CBDT) clarified that TCS shall be applicable only on the amount received on or after October 1, 2020 and a seller would be required to collect TCS only if his turnover exceeds Rs 10 crore in the last financial year. Moreover, the export of goods has been exempted from the applicability of TCS provisions. —PTI

## Govt sticks to revised target, to borrow ₹4.34 lakh crore in H2

**FALAKNAAZ SYED**  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 30

The government has retained its market borrowing target and will borrow Rs 4.34 lakh crore via bonds in the second half of the current fiscal to meet its expenditure requirement despite expectations that it may raise more funds to support the pandemic-hit economy.

The government is sticking to the Rs 12 lakh crore borrowing target for the current fiscal, economic affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj told reporters.

The government's market borrowing for October-March would be Rs 4.34 lakh crore, or about 36.16 per cent of the total borrowing slated for the year, said Bajaj. This would be done through 16 weekly auctions of Rs 27,000-28,000 crore per week, he said.

The government had envisaged to raise 58 per cent of the total borrowing target of Rs 6.98 lakh crore from the dated securities in the first half of the current fiscal. Against this, it has borrowed Rs 7.66 lakh crore during April-September, or 63.83 per cent of its total market borrowings, and was



expected to raise its market borrowings as it required funds to pep up the economy that contracted 23.9 per cent in April to June.

Aditi Nayar, principal economist, Icra Ltd said, "The unchanged borrowing calendar may turn out to be a case of postponing the inevitable, given the considerable fiscal stress that is building up amid the unrelenting pandemic. It is possible that the government may prefer to exercise green shoe options as has been done in several recent auctions. Nevertheless, the expectations of further fiscal support to prop up the arduous recovery, should be tempered, in our view.

Hard-pressed for funds to combat rising coron-

avirus infections, the government in May increased its market borrowing programme for the current financial year by more than 50 per cent to Rs 12 lakh crore.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2020-21 budget had pegged the gross market borrowing, which is also a reflection of fiscal deficit, for the current fiscal at Rs 7.80 lakh crore. The amount was up from Rs 7.1 lakh crore in 2019-20. The government raises money from the market to fund its fiscal deficit through dated securities and treasury bills. The budget has pegged fiscal deficit at 3.5 per cent for the current fiscal, down from 3.8 per cent of the GDP in the last financial year.

Five months of data reveal a sordid tale, with the government of India's fiscal deficit ballooning to Rs. 8.7 lakh crore in April-August 2020 from Rs. 5.5 lakh crore in April-August 2019, and printing well above the budgeted target of Rs. 8 lakh crore for the full year. On a year to day basis, the contraction in revenue receipts remained uncomfortably deep at 38.6 per cent in April-August 2020, Nayar said.

## Special export package for MMF, tech textiles soon

**SANGEETHA G.**  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

The government is contemplating a special export package for top 40 man-made fibre (MMF) product HS lines and 10 technical textiles HS lines in order to grab a bigger share in the global market.

The global market for these products is over \$250 billion, said Ravi Capoor, secretary, Ministry of Textiles. He said the ministry wants to increase the share of Indian products in the global market as the country's current share is miniscule, at less than 0.7 per cent.

He asked the industry stakeholders to focus on value added MMF segment, technical textiles, scaling up of the operations and indigenising textile machinery manufacturing facilities to make Indian textiles and clothing industry to become globally competitive and grab the post-Covid-19 opportunities.

"The share of MMF based textiles and clothing products would account 90 per cent by 2030 while the share of cotton segment will get reduced to 20 per cent. Indian textiles and clothing manufacturers have to gear up and meet the growing global demands rather than focusing on conventional commodity products that yield very low value-added price realization," he said.

## Dhanlaxmi shareholders vote out CEO Gurbaxani

**FALAKNAAZ SYED**  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 30

In another coup in the banking sector, shareholders of Thrissur-based Dhanlaxmi Bank on Wednesday ousted the bank's managing director and chief executive officer Sunil Gurbaxani, little over seven months after he assumed charge.

The development comes a day after the Reserve Bank of India appointed its general manager D. K. Kashyap on the board of Dhanlaxmi Bank for two years. In a similar incident last week, shareholders of Lakshmi Vilas Bank had voted out seven directors, including its promoters and the newly RBI-appointed CEO S. Sundar at the annual general meeting (AGM).

Dhanlaxmi Bank, in a regulatory filing, said that over 90 per cent of the shareholders voted against the appointment of Gurbaxani as MD & CEO at the 93rd AGM while the rest were in support of its resolution. All the votes that were cast against the resolutions



Sunil Gurbaxani

were by public non-institutional investors, who own 87.67 per cent of the outstanding shares of the bank, including retail investors.

However, the shareholders approved appointment of four independent directors—P. K. Vijayakumar, G. Rajagopalan Nair, Suseela Menon R. and G. Subramonia Iyer. Re-appointment of Gopinathan C. K. as a director on the bank's board was also approved.

On Tuesday, RBI appointed Kashyap, general manager at the central bank's Bengaluru regional office as an additional director on Dhanlaxmi Bank's board till

September 27, 2022 after the bank saw several exits over the last few months, including of part-time chairman and independent director Sanjeev Krishnan, who resigned from his roles in June, with eight months of his term still remaining.

Gurbaxani assumed office as CEO in February this year. A veteran banker, he has 35 years of experience with the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur and Axis Bank.

The RBI usually does not appoint its nominee on the boards of private banks unless there are exceptional circumstances to avoid any conflict of interest.

Dhanlaxmi Bank was put under the Prompt Corrective Action framework by RBI in November 2015 due to deteriorating financial health but came out of PCA last year after its financials improved.

Bank unions—Aiboc and Aibea—had flagged concerns over few developments at Dhanlaxmi Bank and also sought immediate corrective measures by the RBI.

## GENERAL ATLANTIC TO INVEST \$498 MN IN RIL'S RETAIL ARM

**Bengaluru, Sept. 30:** Reliance Industries Ltd said on Wednesday private equity firm General Atlantic will invest Rs 3,675 crore (\$498.31 million) for a 0.84 per cent stake in its retail arm.

The deal underscores growing investor interest in the Mukesh Ambani-led company's expansion plans as it diversifies from

its mainstay oil-and-gas business. Reliance is being seen as a formidable rival to Amazon.com and Walmart's Flipkart as they battle for market dominance in India.

Wednesday's investment gives Reliance Retail a pre-money valuation of Rs 4.29 lakh crore (\$58.17 billion), the company said.

Reliance, which in May

launched an online grocery service, also operates around 12,000 brick and mortar stores.

Chairman Mukesh Ambani said Reliance would leverage General Atlantic's "extensive expertise at the intersection of technology and consumer businesses" to expand its new commerce venture.

—Reuters

## Fiscal deficit, core sector growth add to worry lines

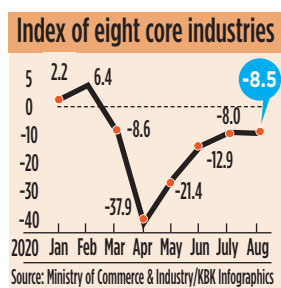
**SANGEETHA G.**  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

As the first half of the fiscal wound to a close, a disconcerting set of data emerged on the health of the economy. The fiscal deficit for the five months till August has already crossed 109 per cent of the budgeted target and analysts fear the deficit for the whole year could spike to Rs 14 lakh crore against budgeted target of Rs 8 lakh crore. Besides, the output of eight core sectors broke off from the sequential recovery with the contraction deepening in August.

On the brighter side, the government is sticking to its revised borrowing programme for the second half and the country's current account surplus increased to \$19.8 billion, or 3.9 per cent of GDP, in the June quarter as merchandise imports declined.

In the five months till August, the fiscal deficit stood at Rs 8.7 lakh crore, or 109 per cent of the fiscal year target of Rs 7.96 lakh crore. The fiscal deficit for the April-August period of the previous fiscal was Rs 5.5 lakh crore.

The government had initially estimated the fiscal deficit for the year to be 3.5



per cent of the GDP and economists predict it could go above 8 per cent this year due to the pandemic and economic slowdown.

Net tax receipts were Rs 2.84 lakh crore against total expenditure of Rs 12.5 lakh crore. "On a year-to-date basis, the contraction in revenue receipts remained uncomfortably deep at 38.6 per cent in April-August 2020, whereas the growth in revenue expenditure stood at a moderate 7.1 per cent and capital spending slipped into a year-on-year decline of 1.3 per cent. In the month of August 2020, the sequential revenue and capital spending recorded a double-digit contraction, which may reflect the impact of the expenditure management measures that had previously been put in place," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist, Icra.

The combined index of eight core industries, meanwhile, declined by 8.5 per cent year-on-year. The index's cumulative decline during April to August was 17.8 per cent. The core industries continued their contraction for the sixth consecutive month in August.

Having declined to - 37.9 in April, the index has been on a recovery path till July but returned to -8 per cent in August.

Among the core industries, steel production declined by 6.3 per cent in August and 33 per cent during April-August. Electricity generation declined by 2.7 per cent in the month and 10.5 per cent during the five-month period.

"With the underlying sectors reporting divergent trends, the contraction in the core sector deepened to 8.5 per cent in August 2020 from the revised 8 per cent in July 2020, a sudden stalling the momentum of the recovery seen since May 2020. The sequential worsening in the core sector's performance in August 2020 was led by the deeper decline in refinery products, crude oil, electricity and cement, even as coal recorded a turnaround to a growth in that month," said Nayar.

## Housing sales reach 65% of pre-Covid level



**SANGEETHA G.**  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 30

Housing sales and new launches in the September quarter have rebounded to 65 per cent and 79 per cent of the pre-Covid-19 levels respectively. Online sales of residential properties have also seen a surge in tier II and III cities.

The top seven cities witnessed housing sales of around 29,520 units in Q3 2020, which was 65 per cent of 45,200 units sold in the pre-Covid-19 quarter of Q1 2020. But sales were 132 per cent higher than 12,730 units of the pandemic-hit preceding quarter.

NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune together accounted for 84 per cent of the sales in the quarter. Mumbai sold nearly 9,200 units, Bengaluru 5,400 units and NCR 5,200 units.

In terms of new launches, the top 7 cities witnessed supply of 32,530 units in Q3 2020 as against 41,220 units in Q1 – reaching over 79 per cent of the pre-Covid-19 quarter levels. Cities like Hyderabad, Kolkata and NCR saw a growth in new supply over the first quarter.

New launches in Hyderabad grew 45 per cent to 4,900 units in Q3 against Q1. NCR added 6,810 units vs 6,190 units.

Meanwhile, a surge in virtual residential demand and was observed in tier-II and III cities, overshadowing the metros, as per Housing.com.

Its recently launched Virtual Resident-tial Demand Index states the demand from small cities has been increasing steadily and saw a significant spike in August. The index jumped to 210 points for the smaller cities compared to 150 for the metros since Unlock Phase 4.0. These cities include Amritsar, Chandigarh, Vadodra, Nagpur, Vijayawada and Coimbatore.

### PREVENTION | & CURE

## Firm testing anti-inflammation drug canakinumab for Covid

## Novartis chief says vaccine won't shield everyone

**NAOMI KRESGE**  
SEPT. 30

Vaccines alone won't be enough to fight Covid-19, Novartis AG chief executive officer Vas Narasimhan said.

Treatments will also play a crucial role. Significant supplies of highly effective vaccines probably won't be available until the end of next year, according to Narasimhan, who headed development for Novartis's former vaccines unit before it was sold to GlaxoSmithKline Plc five years ago.

Even once such a vac-

cine is on the market, he said, it probably won't protect everyone -- as is the case with seasonal flu. "At minimum, therapeutics are a bridge to those high-volume, high-efficacy vaccines," Narasimhan said in an interview. "Likely even beyond the point of vaccines being broadly deployed, we will need therapeutics for those patients who still become ill from the virus."

Some of the biggest strides against the pandemic so far have come from therapies, with the use of drugs such as steroids to help prevent



Vas Narasimhan

serious damage to the lungs. The verdict is still out, meanwhile, on the first vaccines. Early data from front-runners will probably come this fall,

with Pfizer Inc predicting it will have results as soon as October.

Novartis expects data from a large study showing whether its anti-inflammation drug canakinumab can help patients with severe Covid-19 by the end of October or early November, Narasimhan said. Together with partner Incyte Corp, the company is also studying a blood and bone marrow cancer medicine called ruxolitinib in Covid patients whose immune systems have gone into overdrive and begun to attack their own bodies.

The Swiss pharmaceutical company and 15 other drugmakers issued a joint pledge with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on Wednesday promising, among other things, to support fair allocation of vaccines and therapies globally. Suppliers will decide on their own whether to use donations, not-for-profit supply or tiered pricing.

They also called for "removing unwarranted political considerations" from the process to approve drugs, vaccines and tests.

— Bloomberg





## SHORT TAKES

## Mustafizur rues missing IPL

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman rues missing out on playing in the IPL and the perks that come with it after the postponement of his national team's tour of Sri Lanka amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

On Monday, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hasan had asked Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) to reschedule the three-match Test series next month, as the board wasn't willing to comply with the 14-day quarantine rule proposed by the host nation in view of the pandemic.

"It would have been great to play the Test series. Sri Lanka's proposal to have us quarantined for 14 days didn't seem possible for us," Mustafizur was quoted saying by *Cricbuzz*.

The pacer was not given the NOC to take part in the IPL due to national commitments after Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders contemplated signing him. — *PTI*

## Bairstow loses grip on Test deal

**London:** England wicketkeeper-batsman Jonny Bairstow lost his Test central contract on Thursday but Ollie Pope, Zak Crawley and Dom Sibley have been rewarded for impressive performances by being added to the red-ball retainer list. The move by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) was not unexpected as Bairstow, 31, has played just one of the past 12 Test matches since the 2019 Ashes. The World Cup winner has been handed a specialist limited-overs deal, with Pope, Crawley and Sibley all promoted after scoring their maiden Test centuries over the past year. Mark Wood, thought to be a key part of England's plans to retain the Ashes, has also been named in the white-ball only list. There are a dozen names in each group, with just five — Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, Jofra Archer and Chris Woakes — appearing in both. — *AFP*

## Easy openers for Srikanth, Saina

**Odense:** Olympic hopefuls Kidambi Srikanth and Saina Nehwal were on Wednesday handed decent draws at the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament which will mark the restart of the adjusted international calendar after a coronavirus-forced hiatus of seven months. Former world number one Saina and Srikanth will resume their hunt for valuable ranking points to inch closer to their Tokyo Olympics dreams when the \$750,000 tournament, the only event to take place since the All England Championship, begins on October 13.

Srikanth, a Rio Olympics quarterfinalist, will open against England's Toby Pentty and may face fellow Indian Subhankar Dey in the second round. For world number 20 Saina, France's Yaelle Hoyaux awaits her in the women's singles opener and she is likely to meet local favourite Mia Blüchfeldt, seventh seed, next. — *PTI*

## Spurs beat Blues with last penalty

**London:** Tottenham staged a second-half comeback before eliminating Chelsea on penalties to reach the quarterfinals of the League Cup. The first nine penalties were all successfully converted before Chelsea's Mason Mount missed the target to ensure Tottenham advanced 5-4 in the shootout after the game ended 1-1. Tottenham was completely overwhelmed by Chelsea in a first half when Timo Werner scored his first goal for the west London club.

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Kings XI Punjab vs Mumbai Indians from 7:30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## TENNIS

**French Open:** Matches from 2:30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

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## KNIGHTS' DAY

## Kolkata clip Rajasthan wings with clinical performance

**Dubai, Sept. 30:** Kolkata Knight Riders beat Rajasthan Royals by 37 runs in their IPL match here on Wednesday.

Batting first, the Knights made 174 for 6 and then restricted the Royals to 137 for 9, Tom Curran being the top scorer with an unbeaten 54.

Earlier, Jofra Archer (2/18) hit the deck hard and clocked the fastest delivery of the tournament (152.1 kph) in a fiery spell, taking two key wickets of KKR — in-form opener Shubman Gill (47 from 34 balls) and skipper Dinesh Karthik (1) — after the Royals opted to field.

With Archer triggering a mid-innings collapse, the big-hitting Andre Russell (24 from 14) too was dismissed cheaply and it was left to England World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan (23-ball 34 not out) to stay till the end.

Archer bowled the first over of the match and there was full pace in display in the range of 145-150kph mark and it needed Gill's brilliance to see him off with just one run from it.

With Gill looking well set for a second successive fifty, Archer was reintroduced in the 12th over and he dismissed the set opener straightway with a leading edge.

In his next over, Archer dismissed Karthik with a beauty, full of pace that went straight with a bit of inswing and the KKR skipper was forced to play, edging straight to Jos Buttler.

— *PTI*

Kamlesh Nagarkoti (centre) of the Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates taking the wicket of Riyan Parag of Rajasthan Royals in their IPL match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. — *BCCI*

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	3	2	1	0	4	+0.483
Kolkata Knight Riders	3	2	1	0	4	+0.117
Rajasthan Royals	3	2	1	0	4	-0.219
Royal Challengers Bangalore	3	2	1	0	4	-1.450
Kings XI Punjab	3	1	2	0	2	+1.498
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	0	2	+0.654
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	1	2	0	2	-0.228
Chennai Super Kings	3	1	2	0	2	-0.840

Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

## SCORECARD

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** Shubman Gill c & b Archer 47, S. Narine b Unadkat 15, N. Rana c Riyan Parag b Rahul Tewatia 22, Andre Russell c Unadkat b Rajpoot 24, Dinesh Karthik c Buttler b Archer 13, Eoin Morgan (not out) 34, Pat Cummins c Samson b Tom Curran 12, Kamlesh Nagarkoti (not out) 8. **Extras:** (LB-3, W-8) 11. **Total:** (for 6 wickets, in 20 overs) 174. **FoW:** 1-36, 2-82, 3-89, 4-106, 5-115, 6-149. **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-18-2, Ankit Rajpoot 4-0-39-1, Jaydev Unadkat 2-0-14-1, Tom Curran 4-0-37-1, Gopal 4-0-43-0, Riyan Parag 1-0-14-0, Rahul Tewatia 1-0-6-1. **Rajasthan Royals:** Jos Buttler c Varun b Shivam Mavi 21, Steve Smith c Karthik b Cummins 3, Sanju Samson c Narine b Shivam Mavi 8, Robin Uthappa c Shivam Mavi b Nagarkoti 2, Riyan Parag c Shubman Gill b Nagarkoti 1, Rahul Tewatia b Varun 14, Tom Curran (not out) 54, Shreyas Gopal c Karthik b Narine 5, Jofra Archer c Nagarkoti b Varun 6, Jaydev Unadkat c Nagarkoti b Kuldeep Yadav 9, Ankit Rajpoot (not out) 7. **Extras:** (LB-6, W-1) 7; **Total:** (for 9 wickets, in 20 overs) 137. **FoW:** 1-15, 2-30, 3-39, 4-41, 5-42, 6-66, 7-81, 8-88, 9-106. **Bowling:** Sunil Narine 4-0-40-1, Pat Cummins 3-0-13-1, Shivam Mavi 4-0-20-2, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 2-0-13-2, C. Varun 4-0-025-2, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-20-1.

## DELHI CAPITALS CAPTAIN FINED FOR SLOW RATE

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 30:** Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer has been slapped with a fine of ₹12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL match here.

"Delhi Capitals Captain Shreyas Iyer has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their Indian Premier League match match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on 29 September 2020. As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr. Iyer was fined ₹12 lakh," an IPL release stated.

Last week, RCB captain Virat Kohli was found guilty of his team maintaining a slow-over rate against Kings XI Punjab and was also fined ₹12 lakh. — *PTI*

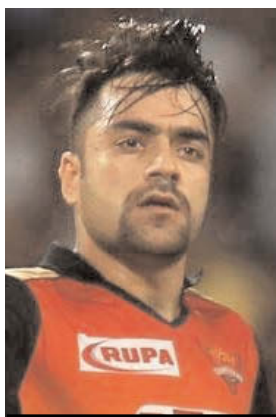
## Rashid pays tribute to late mom after top class show

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 30:** Sunrisers Hyderabad's strike bowler Rashid Khan struggled to hold back tears, dedicating his Man of the Match performance against Delhi Capitals in the IPL to his mother and biggest fan who died earlier this year.

Rashid's triple strike made all the difference, allowing Sunrisers to defend 162 for their first win of the IPL season, on Tuesday.

"It has been a tough one and a half year for me, first my dad expired and then my mom (in June this year). And it took a bit of time for me to come back. My mom was my biggest fan, especially in the IPL and when I was the MoM, she would always talk to me through the night," recalled an emotional Rashid at the post-match presentation.

Rashid said he did not feel the pressure going into the field and reaped the benefits of bowling quicker than usual on a slow surface. "I bowled quicker today, when I started and bowled my first ball, I realised it. You need two three balls to know what the right pace is. In these conditions you need to bowl back of a length to the



**It has been a tough one-and-a-half year for me, first my dad expired and then my mom (in June this year). And it took a bit of time for me to come back. My mom was my biggest fan, especially in the IPL and when I was the MoM, she would always talk to me through the night.**

— **RASHID KHAN**  
Sunrisers Hyderabad player

batmen. Warner always backs me and tells me that you know what's best for the team. Only when things aren't going my way I go and ask the captain what to do," Rashid added.

Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer said his team did not read the conditions well in their first game here. — *PTI*

## HYDERABAD OUTPLAYED US: COACH RICKY

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 30:** Delhi Capitals coach Ricky Ponting had no qualms in admitting that they were "outplayed" in all departments in the IPL game against Sunrisers Hyderabad and refused to blame the pitch, saying it played better when his team batted.

"This was Delhi Capitals' first loss of the season. Chasing 163 for win and to maintain a clean slate, DC were restricted to 147 for seven at the Shaikh Zayed Stadium on Tuesday night. Asked if the conditions made the difference in the game, Ponting insisted that SRH executed their plans better than his team.

"I don't think the conditions were that different. The grounds are bigger, there are bigger square boundaries here. (But) At the end of the day, we were just outplayed by SRH," Ponting said. — *PTI*

## Wounded KXIP face gutted MI

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 30:** Coming off heartbreaking losses, the Indian Premier League game between Mumbai Indians and Kings XI Punjab will be a test of character for both sides as they look to regain momentum here on Thursday.

KXIP were at the receiving end of the highest successful run-chase in the tournament history as Rajasthan Royals overhauled a target of 224 with three balls to spare on Sunday.

While Kieron Pollard and Ishan Kishan led a remarkable fight-back, chasing 202, before Mumbai went down to Royal Challengers Bangalore in a Super Over.

KXIP have failed to tighten the screws when it mattered most. In their two losses, they were in a good position but could not grab the moments.

Their bowling looked out of sorts against Rajasthan as they failed to defend a big total with Rahul Tewatia hitting pacer Sheldonn Cottrell for five sixes in an over to win the match for his team.

Mumbai Indians are blessed with a splendid batting firepower with the likes of Rohit,

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

**OVERALL:**  
● Matches: 24  
● Mumbai won: 13  
● Punjab won: 11

## MEETING IN 2019

● Kings XI Punjab beat Mumbai Indians by 8 wickets at Mohali  
● Mumbai Indians beat Kings XI Punjab by 3 wickets at Mumbai

## FOR THE RECORD

● Rohit Sharma who scored 4998 runs at an average of 31.63 and a strike rate of 130.97 in 186 innings of 191 matches, needs just two runs to become the third batsman to score 5000 or more runs in IPL.

● Lokesh Rahul with 222 runs at an average of 111.00 and a strike rate of 156.33 in three innings is the highest run-getter in this IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan at the top-order, followed by the big-hitting Pollard and Hardik Pandya. A major cause of concern for them will be pace ace Jasprit Bumrah's inconsistency. So far he has picked up only three wickets for his team. — *PTI*

## Warner 'extremely proud' of Natarajan

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 30



**T. Natarajan**

Sunrisers Hyderabad left-arm pacer T. Natarajan's stupendous show against Delhi Capitals has earned him plenty of attention and adulation. Natarajan fired in a barrage of yorkers in the death and also took the big wicket of Marcus Stoinis to help Sunrisers post their first win of the season.

Natarajan will surely cherish the tweet by former Aussie speedster Brett Lee. "That's how you bowl at the back end of an innings ! Outstanding Natarajan," tweeted Lee.

Lee has been tracking Natarajan's career since the bowler emerged on the scene at the Tamil Nadu Premier League. IPL has produced many a rags-to-riches story and Natarajan's journey from a dusty Chinappampatti (in Salem) is one of them. Hailing from humble beginnings, Natarajan was snapped up by Kings XI Punjab for Rs. 3 crores in 2017 before he moved to Sunrisers in 2018.

Sunrisers captain David Warner showered praise on Natarajan for his performance against Delhi. "Tonight we are extremely proud of the way Nattu (Natarajan) bowled. We are going to need someone to come in and bowl at death

or doesn't matter what time of the game it is. The way you executed in the middle, it was simply outstanding. I am proud of you," said Warner as the dressing room clapped in unison.

After being benched throughout the last two seasons, Natarajan has featured in the playing XI of SRH for three consecutive matches and he seems to have cemented his spot.

Abhinav Mukund, under whom Natarajan made his Ranji debut, said he wasn't surprised at the precision with which Natarajan produced his yorkers. "Coming from tennis ball cricket, Natarajan has always been confident of bowling yorkers. It comes naturally to him. I think the new support staff of Sunrisers has a lot of faith in his ability," said Abhinav.

## BOLSTERING THE MIDDLE ORDER IS WARNER TRICK

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 30:** Bolstered by the inclusion of Kane Williamson, Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner is focussed on adding depth and power to his team's fragile middle-order as it moves forward in the Indian Premier League. Opener Jonny Bairstow's sublime fifty was complemented by Williamson's 26-ball 41 and a stellar bowling effort from Rashid Khan as SRH outplayed Delhi Capitals by 15 runs in the IPL match here on Tuesday. "We were on track to get 170-180, there is talk of our middle order not being that good, but we put our game together against Delhi and we backed ourselves, we played fluently and we got ourselves a good total," Warner said. — *PTI*

## Djokovic, Nadal on a roll in Paris

**Paris, Sept. 30:** Defending champion Rafael Nadal took another step closer to a 13th Roland Garros title on Wednesday with a 6-1, 6-0, 6-3 win over Mackenzie McDonald of the United States.

Second seed Nadal claimed his 95th career win at the tournament and next faces either Kei Nishikori of Japan or Italy's Stefano Travaglia for a place in the last 16.

Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic's bid to become the first man in half a century to win all four Grand Slam titles twice got off to a convincing start. Djokovic eased to a 6-0, 6-

2, 6-3 victory, reaching the second round in Paris for a record-equalling 16th time.

It was also his 32nd win in 33 matches in 2020, his only loss coming when he was defaulted from the US Open.

Tuesday's demolition was the not the first time Ymer, the World No. 80 had faced Djokovic who is chasing a second French Open title and 18th career major.

In the immediate aftermath of his US Open retreat, he went to Rome where he captured a record 36th Masters title. Djokovic will meet Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis for a place in the last 32. — *AFP*



Novak Djokovic serves against Mikael Ymer of Sweden in the first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on Tuesday. Djokovic won in straight sets 6-0, 6-2, 6-3. — *AP*

## Injured Serena out of French Open

**Paris, Sept. 30:** Serena Williams withdrew from Roland Garros on Wednesday as the American's bid for a 24th Grand Slam title suffered another blow, sparking further doubts over the 39-year-old's long-term future in the sport.

Williams, a three-time champion in Paris, had arrived at the tournament carrying an Achilles tendon injury which she suffered in a gruelling US Open semi-final defeat to Victoria Azarenka.

"The Achilles didn't have enough time to heal after the US Open," said Williams who had been due

to face Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova in the second round at Roland Garros later Wednesday.

"I was struggling to walk and that is a tell-tale sign that I should try to recover," she added.

The injury likely means she will miss the rest of 2020 leaving the Australian Open in 2021 as her next chance to equal Margaret Court's all-time majors record.

The tennis ace Williams, now into her fourth decade on tour, has not won a Slam since capturing a seventh Australian Open in 2017 when she was pregnant. — *AFP*