

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 6, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The state government - has decided to reopen the private ‘stand-alone’ gym facilities across the state from August 10, after a gap of almost five months.**
- ✓ The State government is expected to issue the standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the coming days
- ✓ However, it has made it clear that gyms will be able to allow only people below the age of 50.

NEW NORMAL

Though the state govt hasn't come out with the SOPs yet, TOI charts out the way forward for gyms

DOs	
➤ Only people below 50 will be allowed to make use of the gym facility	
➤ Footwear to be used for workout must be worn only after entering the gym	
➤ Members must carry their own towels and water bottles	
➤ Maintain social distance of 3-4 feet at all times	
➤ Consult medical professional before exercising with mask on	
➤ Equipment must be sanitized after each use	



DON'Ts	
➤ Members must not enter the gym if they are unwell	
➤ Must not share your kit with anyone	
➤ Visit the gym only in the time slot allotted	
➤ Sauna will be unavailable	
➤ ACs may not be allowed	

- ✓ The protocols to be followed includes temperature check at the entrance of the gyms, social distancing of atleast 3-4 feet between each member and discouraging the use of sauna baths and locker room
- **The Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam - has sent gold and silver coins, holy soil collected from the Kanchi Kamakshi Temple and the mutt, besides vastu materials for the bhoomi puja for constructing the Ram temple in Ayodhya.**

- ✓ The soil was specially obtained from temples like Ekambranathar Swamy, Kamakshi and other places of workshop
 - ✓ It was sent by a flight to Ayodhya ahead of the bhoomi puja
 - ✓ This was announced by Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamy, the 70th Acharya of the Peetam.
 - ✓ Two bricks were also sent with blessings of Sri Jayendra and Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati, as per the statement of mutt.
- **On August 5, Tamil Nadu – reported its highest ever death toll of 112, taking the cumulative casualties to 4,461**
- ✓ The state reported 5,175 new Covid-19 cases taking the tally to 2,73,460.
 - ✓ A total of 6,031 patients discharged on the day, taking the total active cases in the state to 54,184.
 - ✓ With this, the number of persons discharged till now gone upto 2,14,815.
 - ✓ Chennai continued to report the most new cases (1,044) and deaths (25).
 - ✓ Its neighbours, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur accounted for 487 and 472 cases respectively, while Kancheepuram reported 342 cases
 - ✓ Further, Theni and Coimbatore reported more than 200 cases with 278 and 228 fresh infections, respectively.
 - ✓ The number of samples tested in the last 24 hours stood at 61,166.
 - ✓ This took the total number of samples tested in the State to 29,53,561.
- **In a first in the state, Aavin dairy products with longer shelf life - are being sold through 140 ration shops in Coimbatore district.**
- ✓ Aavin products were sold only through its retail outlets and wholesale agents so far.
 - ✓ The move would enable Aavin products reaching interior parts of villages and increase the sales volume and revenue
 - ✓ As the ration shops in village lack refrigeration facilities, products with a shelf life of at least a month in room temperature would only be sold in ration shops.
 - ✓ Such products include ghee, palkova and milk powder.
 - ✓ The move is expected to bring ₹20 lakh to ₹25 lakh in the first month.
 - ✓ Recently, Aavin had started selling its products, except milk, through online food delivery platform Swiggy.

STATES

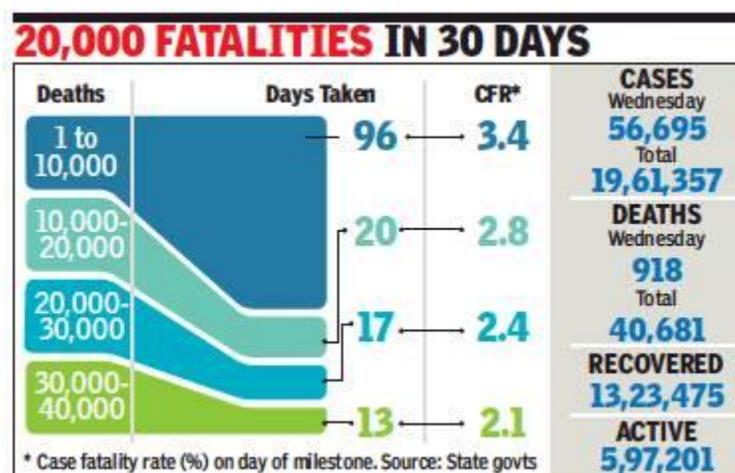
- **In a surprise development, Jammu & Kashmir's first lieutenant governor Girish Chandra Murmu - resigned on August 5**
- ✓ The day marks the completion of exactly a year of the nullification of Article 370 in the erstwhile state and barely nine months after he became the first LG of the newly created Union territory.



- ✓ His resignation comes in the midst of his recent controversies over his comments on restoration of 4G services at a time when the matter was in the Supreme Court and the Election Commission's objections to his remarks on the timing of the assembly polls in the J&K.
- ✓ The Election Commission had, in fact, objected to the LG's repeated remarks during media interviews regarding the time-table for polls.
 - ✓ The EC has clearly stated that any decision regarding polls and their timing comes under its mandate.
- ✓ On 4G restoration, too, the matter is pending in court and his support for restoration of 4G services in the UT was not in line with the Centre's submissions before the court
- ✓ Murmu, a 1985 batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer, worked closely with PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah in Gandhinagar as well as in Delhi.
- ✓ He was a secretary at Ministry of Finance prior to his appointment as LG.
- ✓ He had also served as secretary to PM Modi when he served as CM of Gujarat.

NATIONAL

- **On August 5, India – reported its biggest single-day surge of 918 deaths, taking the toll over 40,000 mark, the fifth highest in the world**



- ✓ The day also saw 56,695 fresh infections, the second-highest in a day so far, taking the total caseload to 19,61,357.
 - ✓ States reporting higher death numbers was topped by Maharashtra with 334 fatalities, followed by Tamil Nadu (112), Karnataka (100), Andhra Pradesh (77) and Bengal (61)
 - ✓ Delhi, on the other hand, reported 11 deaths, its lowest single-day toll in over a month.
 - ✓ Both Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh reported fresh cases in excess of 10,000 on the day, with Maharashtra reporting 10,309 and Andhra 10,128.
 - ✓ At least four states/UTs reported their highest jump in infections — Bengal (2816 cases), Assam (2,886), Goa (348) and Puducherry (286).
 - ✓ As on date, Maharashtra leads the infection list in the country with 4,68,265 and 16,476 deaths
- **On August 7, National Handloom Day, the Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI) - will launch its National Handloom Council, which will have chapters in every state.**
- ✓ The aim of the Council is to organise, promote, revive and uplift the handloom industry in India.
 - ✓ The weaving community has been badly hit by the lockdown and needs technological expertise to market their goods online
 - ✓ In the present scenario, with middlemen involved, handloom community became a niche product bought by higher income groups.
 - ✓ In this context, the WICCI handloom chapters are looking at ways to make handlooms affordable.
 - ✓ Every state handloom chapter will identify and work with clusters of weavers within each state to create better economic conditions.
 - ✓ They will work in association with the national council and government bodies
- **The railway ministry - has instructed its zones to complete the upgradation work of tracks and other associated facilities by March 2022**
- ✓ The fast tracking of the operations will enable passenger trains to run at 160kmph on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah routes.
 - ✓ Most sections of these railway corridors are likely to get barbed fencing which is required for allowing trains to run at that high speed
 - ✓ The respective divisional railway managers have been asked to avail longer blocks on tracks considering that currently very few passenger trains are being operated.
 - ✓ Currently the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors have potential speed of 130 kmph.
 - ✓ Also, the railways has instructed that the work to raise the speed of passenger trains to 160 kmph should be completed latest by September 2023 and preferably in the next 18 months

- ✓ The move follows the recent questions raised by the private bidders on how they could be expected to run trains at 160 kmph when the tracks are not ready.
 - ✓ The second pre-bid meeting is scheduled this week.
 - ✓ In August last year, the Union Cabinet had approved plans to upgrade the speed of trains on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Kolkata by 2022-23.
 - ✓ The railway ministry has also announced that private operated trains would be operational by April 2023.
- **A total of 179 professional colleges - have applied to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for shutting down their campus**
- ✓ While the maximum closures will be in Uttar Pradesh (31), Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are at the second spot with 22 institutes having applied to close down completely in each of the state.
 - ✓ In fact, several engineering, management, pharmacy and other professional colleges have either closed down or trimmed their capacity this year, reducing the number of seats by over 1.5 lakh

ADMISSIONS GET TOUGHER		
Action	Colleges	Seats
THE SETBACKS		
Closure	179	34,553
Approval Withdrawn	44	8,832
Cut In Intake	62	69,965
Not Applied For Approval	134	40,578
THE POSITIVES		
New Institutions	164	39,656
Capacity Hike	1,311	1,02,397

- ✓ Also, several institutes that had the requisite government approval in 2019-20 have not renewed it for the academic year 2020.
- ✓ Pan-India, 72 undergraduate/postgraduate engineering colleges, 58 MBA schools, and 71 diploma-granting institutes and polytechnics are among those that have applied for closure.
- ✓ This will result in the reduction of 34,553 seats for 2020-21.
- ✓ Also, 762 colleges have decided to reduce 69,965 seats across various programmes
- ✓ On the other hand, the AICTE has approved the starting of 164 new colleges besides permitting an increased capacity in 1,311 colleges.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On August 5, the Supreme Court - decided to transfer, to the Constitution Bench of five judges, the petitions challenging the provision for**

reservations in jobs and education to the economically weaker sections (EWS).

- ✓ The Constitution Bench will now decide whether grant of 10% reservation to economically weaker sections of the society is unconstitutional and violates the 50% ceiling cap on quota declared by the court itself.
 - ✓ A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices R Subhas Reddy and B R Gavai said that the SC relied on the nine-judge bench judgment of the apex court in the case of Indra Sawhney, relating to the Mandal Commission recommendations
 - ✓ The three-judge Bench had refused to stay the implementation of the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, which provides the 10% quota, when it had reserved for orders a year ago.
 - ✓ The economic reservation was introduced in the Constitution by amending Articles 15 and 16 and adding clauses empowering the State governments to provide reservation on the basis of economic backwardness
 - ✓ The petitioners, challenging the reservation for EWS in jobs and education, cited that this quota exceeds the ceiling cap of 50%, which is a violation of the apex court judgment.
 - ✓ Attorney general K K Venugopal, representing the Centre, strongly relied on the judgment of SC in the case of Society for Unaided Private Schools of Rajasthan where the provisions of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 were upheld.
 - ✓ The bench had last year reserved its order on a batch of petitions filed by NGOs Janhit Abhiyan and Youth for Equality and others challenging the validity of Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019, on grounds that economic classification cannot become the sole basis for reservation.
- **On August 5, the Delhi high court - upheld the ban on social networking platforms like facebook for defence personnel**
- ✓ A Bench of Justices Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Asha Menon declined the plea of Lieutenant Colonel P.K. Choudhary, saying the policy was an outcome of constantly evolving intelligence on security threats.
 - ✓ The Bench also noted that it is a policy decision of the government based on feedback that social media usage by the Army can give the enemy an advantage.
 - ✓ Earlier, the Army directed all personnel to delete their Facebook accounts by 1 June this year.
 - ✓ It had also announced a list of 89 banned social media applications, including TikTok, WeChat and Instagram

INTERNATIONAL

- **On August 5, the global death toll from the coronavirus - surpassed 7,00,000, with the United States, Brazil, India and Mexico leading the rise in fatalities.**

- ✓ Nearly 5,900 people are dying every 24 hours from Covid-19 on average, as per the data from the past two weeks.
- ✓ Accordingly, 247 people are dying per hour or one person every 15 seconds.
- ✓ Latin America surpassed Europe to become the region with the highest novel coronavirus death toll on August 4.
- ✓ The region has now recorded more than 206,000 deaths, approximately 30% of the global total.
- ✓ Brazil, the Latin American country most affected by the coronavirus, had recorded a total of 95,819 deaths as on August 4.
- ✓ Mexico, the second-most hit country in the region, has 48,869 deaths.
- ✓ Outbreaks have also accelerated in Colombia, Peru and Argentina.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On August 5, the government - extended the tenure of Ajay Tyagi as Sebi chairman by 18 months till February 2022.**



- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved extension of Tyagi's term, with effect from September 1, 2020
- ✓ The extension comes at a time when the economy and the markets are passing through a tough phase, mainly induced by the coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ This is the second extension for the Sebi chief.
- ✓ Earlier this year Tyagi was given a six-month extension.
- ✓ Tyagi, a 1984 batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, took over as the Sebi chief on March 1, 2017, succeeding U K Sinha.
- ✓ He was then appointed for three years.
- ✓ Under him, SEBI set up 30 committees and working groups that drafted close to 60 discussion papers.
- ✓ Before taking over as Sebi chief in early 2017, Tyagi was an additional secretary in the department of economic affairs.
- ✓ In the ministry, he has handled the portfolios of capital market, investment, infrastructure and currency and coinage divisions.
- ✓ An engineer by training, Tyagi also holds a masters degree in public administration from Harvard University.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- On August 6, 2020, Japan - marks the 75th anniversary of the world's first atomic bomb attack on the city of Hiroshima



Atomic bombing of Hiroshima

August 6, 1945, 8:15 am



Little Boy explodes at 600 metres above **Hiroshima**, immediately killing 70,000 people
Wiped out 90% of city
A total of some **140,000 people** died as a direct result of the bombing



Little Boy



One piece of uranium fired into the other

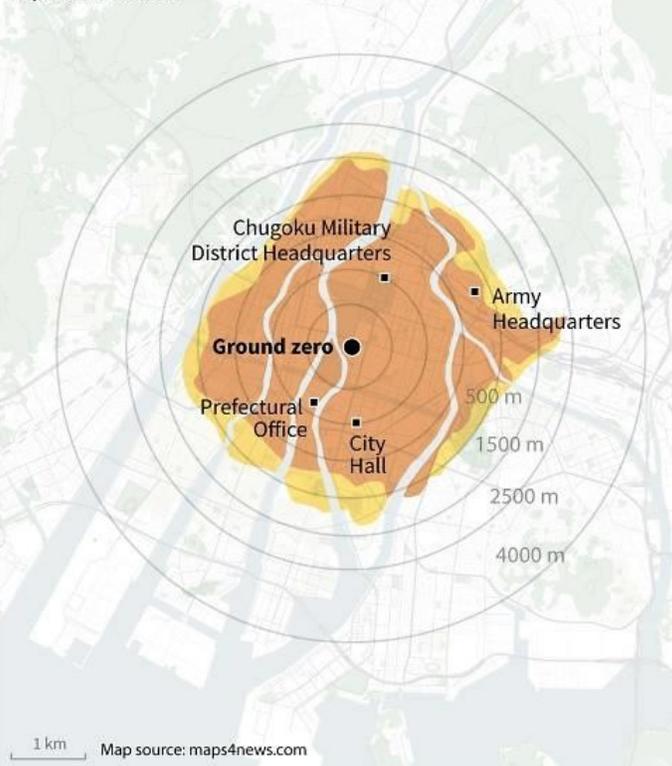
Height 3.0 m

Gun type
Uranium bomb, equivalent 13 to 16 kilotonnes of TNT

■ Fire and blast damage ■ Blast damage only

Hiroshima

Population 350,000



Source: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum/History.com/historylearningsite.co.uk



- ✓ In 1945, the United States warplane 'Enola Gay' dropped an atom bomb named "Little Boy" in the city of Hiroshima killing 140,000 people.
- ✓ Three days later, on August 9, the US dropped another atom bomb "Fat Man" in Nagasaki that killed more than 40,000 people.
- ✓ The survivors of the bomb are known as "Hibakushas", who have experienced long-term effects and elevated risks of thyroid cancer and leukemia.
- ✓ The relations between Japan and the USA deteriorated after the end of World War II in 1945.
 - ✓ This was mainly because, the Japanese forces decided to capture oil rich areas of the East Indies.
 - ✓ Then, US President Harry Truman authorised to drop the bomb to make Japan surrender in the war
- ✓ The USA chose the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki targeting military production of the country
 - ✓ Hiroshima was one of the army headquarters of Japan.
 - ✓ Also, it was the largest military supply depot for troops and supplies.
 - ✓ Nagasaki, on the other hand was one of the largest seaports in southern Japan.
 - ✓ It has a wide-ranging industrial activity in military equipment, production of ordnance, ships and other war materials
- ✓ Before dropping the bomb in the cities of Japan, the US had also tested its nuclear weapons at the Trinity site on July 16, 1945 as part of the Manhattan Project
- ✓ The Manhattan project was aimed to develop first nuclear weapons to be used in World War II.
- ✓ The project was a Research and Development programme led by USA in association with UK and Canada.

AYODHYA BHOOMI PUJAN – COMPLETE REPORT

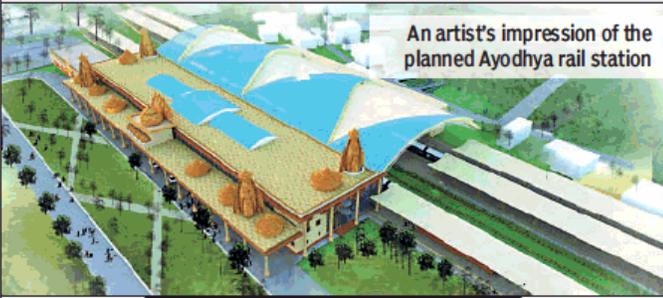
- **On August 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – performed 'bhoomi puja' [ground breaking] at the Ram Janmabhoomi site and formally launched the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part in the Bhumi Pujan along with UP CM Yogi Adityanath, UP Governor Anandiben Patel, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat and Ram Mandir Trust Chief Nriyha Gopaldas.
- ✓ During the event, the Prime Minister said that the Ram Mandir will become a modern symbol of our traditions
- ✓ The PM dedicated the Ram mandir to the struggle and sacrifice of hundreds of kar sevaks and compared the campaign for construction of the temple in Ayodhya with the struggle for India's independence.

- ✓ The PM said the occasion marked the end of centuries-long wait for a Ram Mandir and saluted those whose struggle and resolve “laid the foundation stone” for the temple.
- ✓ In his speech with elaborate quotes from Tulsidas’s Ramayan, the PM emphasised the centrality of Lord Ram to Indian culture and ethos, saying the Lord Ram remained an integral and inalienable part of India
- ✓ According to the PM, the Ram Mandir, which will be visited by devotees from across the globe, will transform Ayodhya’s economy into a vast religio-cultural complex along the lines of Vatican City
- ✓ He referred to versions of Ramayan in all Indian languages, including one written by Guru Gobind Singh, as well as the popularity of the epic in Indonesia, home to the single largest concentration of Muslims; Malaysia, another predominantly Muslim country; as well as Ajmer, the site of a revered Sufi shrine besides the Muslim-majority Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
- ✓ “Ram belongs to all, Ram lives in all,” the PM said.
- ✓ PM Modi further referred to the "Jai Siyaram" chant said that the call is resonating not only in the city of Lord Ram but throughout the world.
- ✓ The PM referred to non-Savarna figures in Ramayan, from forest-dweller Shabari to the boatman, and said Ayodhya was a holy place also for Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs.
- ✓ In the same vein, the PM said as a ruler, Lord Ram did not discriminate among his people, but gave special attention to the poor.
- ✓ PM Modi also released a commemorative postage stamp on the 'Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir' and unveiled the plaque of the Ram Temple.
- ✓ On the day, the PM Narendra Modi made history by becoming the first PM ever to visit and offer prayers at the Ram Janmabhoomi site.
 - ✓ Earlier, the then PM Rajiv Gandhi had launched the Congress Lok Sabha polls campaign from Faizabad, 7km from Ayodhya, on November 3, 1989, giving a call for Ram Rajya, without visiting Ram Janmabhoomi.
- ✓ Upon his arrival in Lucknow, the Prime Minister was received by UP CM Yogi Adityanath and then headed to 10th century Hanumangarhi temple where the PM offered prayers
- ✓ The PM was also gifted a headgear, silver 'mukut' and stole by Sri Gaddinsheen Premdas Maharaj, the chief priest of the temple.
- ✓ The PM then headed to the makeshift temple of Ram Lalla Virajman on the Janmabhoomi complex and did a 'sashtang pranaam' (lying prostrate in reverence) before the Ram Lalla idol.
- ✓ The PM performed a short puja and then drove down to the main Ram Janmabhoomi site for performing the bhoomi puja rituals.
- ✓ Just before entering, PM Modi planted a sapling of Parijaat tree, which is revered in the ancient Hindu scriptures.
- ✓ PM Modi used the traditional natural drip irrigation method to plant the auspicious 'Parijaat' sapling.

- ✓ **The auspicious moment came at 12.45pm when Modi placed the first brick, a 40 kg silver brick, for the Ram temple amid chants of vedic mantras by 21 priests** and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat clapping in appreciation.
- ✓ The bhoomi puja for the Ram temple at Ayodhya was performed during the same “muhurat (auspicious time)” as the one in which Ram is said to have been born.
- ✓ Members of the 300-year old Kashi Vidvat Parishad (KVP) — a body of Vedic, Puranic and Hindu religious scholars that plays a role in the appointment of the Shankaracharya as well — conducted the ceremony.
- ✓ The main priest, Gangadhar Pathak, led the puja performed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The group of priests comprised former BHU dean Ram Chandra Pandey, BHU astrology department head Vinay Pandey, Jai Prakash Tripathi and Arun Dixit from Varanasi, and Chandra Bhanu Sharma from New Delhi.
- ✓ The bhoomi puja ceremony for a grand Ram temple at Ayodhya saw a limited number of invitees because of the Covid-19 pandemic and was restricted to 175 official guests, including 135 seers
- ✓ Invitations are only for the residents of Ayodhya and the first invite has been sent to Iqbal Ansari, one of the Muslim litigants of Ayodhya Ram Mandir case.
- ✓ Mohammad Sharif, Padma Shri recipient, who was honoured for cremating over 10,000 unclaimed bodies has also been invited.
- ✓ Hindu seers from neighboring country Nepal have also been invited, as Janakpur has relations with Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Ayodhya.
- ✓ Salil Singh, who is a nephew of late VHP leader Ashok Singhal, was the Yajmaan (ritual patron) at the ceremony
- ✓ Nine bricks were laid as a part of Bhumi Pujan at the site.
 - ✓ The bricks were sent by devotees of Lord Ram from around the world in 1989.
 - ✓ There are 2,75000 such bricks, out of which 100 bricks have 'Jai Shri Ram' engraved on them, as per the priests.
 - ✓ Besides this, soil from over 2000 pilgrimage sites and water from more than 100 rivers was brought for the rituals.
- ✓ All the guests who had been invited for the Ram Mandir 'Bhumi Pujan' ceremony were gifted a silver coin as 'prasad'.
 - ✓ The silver coin has the image of Ram Darbar on one side, which includes Lord Ram, Sita, Laxman and Hanuman and the insignia of trust on the other side.
 - ✓ The guests were also given 'Raghupati Laddoos' as prasad.
- ✓ Chandrakant Sompura, the Ahmedabad-based architect whose design has been adopted by Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra for construction of the Ram temple, did not visit Ayodhya because of the novel coronavirus pandemic.
 - ✓ Chandrakant Sompura belongs to a celebrated temple architect family that has been designing temples for 18 generations.

- ✓ The father-son duo of Chandrakant and Ashish have so far designed 131 temples across the country and abroad.
- ✓ The famous Somnath and Ambaji temples have been designed by Chandrakant Sompura's father, Prabhashankar Sompura, while Chandrakant Sompura's grandfather, Ramjibhai Sompura, has designed the temples of Palitana, in Gujarat.
- ✓ One of the gates of a Palitana temple is called Ramji Gate.
- ✓ The formal start of the temple's construction comes almost 28 years after Babri Masjid was demolished by a mob of 'kar sevaks' on December 6, 1992.
- ✓ In November 2019, the Supreme Court of India had announced that the 2.77-acre site will be handed over for building a temple and an alternative 5-acre site will be given to Muslims.

Shilanyas of Ram Mandir was conducted on Wednesday. What next? TOI brings you the slew of projects lined up in and around the temple town



An artist's impression of the planned Ayodhya rail station

PROJECTS IN PIPELINE

<p>CONNECTIVITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expediting construction of airport to be named after Shri Ram ➤ Makeover of Ayodhya railway station ➤ National Highway-30 between Azamgarh and Bahraich via Ayodhya (₹252cr) ➤ New bus station (₹7cr) ➤ 2-km elevated road from NH 27 bypass (Ayodhya) to Ram Janmabhoomi (₹275cr) <p>RELIGION & CULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ram statue, 251m high, on the banks of Saryu ➤ Modernisation of Tulsi Smarak Bhawan (₹17cr) ➤ Expansion of Ram Katha Park (₹3cr) ➤ Lighting of Hanuman Garhi, Dashrath Mahal, Kanak Bhawan, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janki Mandir, Digambar Akhara and Rajdwar Mandir (₹4cr) ➤ Widening of road from Saryu Ghat to Ram Janmabhoomi ➤ Widening of Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg <p>EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rajarshi Dashrath State Medical College <p>ONGOING PROJECTS ₹350cr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Queen Ho Memorial Park ➤ Development of Ramayan circuit ➤ Renovation of Lakshman Qila Ghat ➤ Renovation of Guptar Ghat ➤ Re-modelling of Ram Ki Paidi on lines of Hari Ki Paidi in Hairdwar ➤ International Ram Leela Centre
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66 Once the temple is constructed, not only the grandeur of Ayodhya become multi-fold but the entire economy of this region will undergo transformation. There will be new avenues and more opportunities in every sector. Imagine people from across the world will come here for darshan of Lord Ram and Goddess Sita. How radically things will transform here!

—PM Modi at Ayodhya

1949 | Idol of Ram Lalla found inside what was then Babri Masjid

1959 | **Nirmohi Akhada moves Faizabad civil court, claiming right of worship and ownership of Babri Masjid site**

1961 | Sunni Central Waqf Board moves court, saying Babri Masjid was property of Board

1989
Then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi allows shilanyas (ground-breaking ceremony) at a nearby undisputed site

Sept 25, 1990
Then BJP president LK Advani begins rath yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya



Sept 30, 2010 | Allahabad HC rules that the site should be split, with Sunni Waqf Board getting a third of it, Ram Lalla Virajman another third and Nirmohi Akhada the rest. Order stayed by Supreme Court in 2011

Nov 9, 2019 | Supreme Court verdict paves way for construction of temple. Court awards Sunni Waqf Board 5-acre land in Ayodhya for mosque

Dec 6, 1992
Babri Masjid demolished

MODI'S AYODHYA YATRA

11.30 am | Lands at Saket college ground in an IAF chopper from Lucknow

11.40 | Visits Hanumangarhi temple. Offers prayer for 10 minutes along with UP CM Yogi Adityanath

12 noon | Reaches Ram Janmabhoomi premises. Offers prayers to Ram Lalla Virajman for 10 minutes

12.15 pm | Plants a

Parijat sapling near bhoomi puja site

12.30 | Bhoomi puja starts

12.44-12.45 | Lays the foundation brick for the temple

12.55 | Unveils plaque to mark the ceremony, releases a commemorative postage stamp on 'Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir'

1.30 | In his speech, recalls the sacrifices made for the temple movement and calls for a strong nation



FINDING RAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about the spread of the Ramayana tradition outside India and also mentioned some of the versions prevalent within the country. **TOI** looks at some of these examples

THE INDIAN RAMAYANAS



The idol of 'Ram Lalla' at the Ram Janmabhoomi site in Ayodhya

The PM mentioned **Kambaramayanam** in Tamil, **Raghnatha** and **Ranganatha** Ramayana in Telugu, **Kumudendu** Ramayana in Kannada, **Ramavatara Charita** in Kashmir, **Ramacharitam** in Malayalam, **Krittivasi** Ramayana in Bengali, **Gobind Ramayana** by Guru Gobind Singh

There is also the **Saptakanda Ramayana** in Assamese, the **Bhavartha Ramayana** in Marathi, **Ramayana** in Konkani, the **Dandi Ramayana** in Odia, the famous **Rama charitmanas** in Avadhi and the **Pothi Ramayana** in Urdu

There are also versions of Ramayana as Sanskrit plays. Some notable ones are Prasanna-Raghav, Raghu-Vilasa, Ramabhyudaya and Balacharita

The Persian Ramayana was commissioned by Mughal emperor Akbar in the 16th century

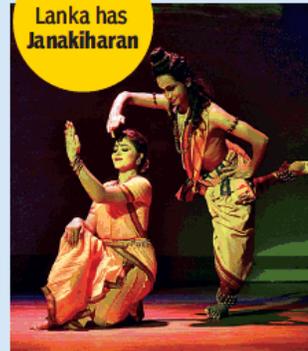
RAMAYANAS WORLD OVER

PM said Indonesia with the largest Muslim population in the world has the **Kakawin Ramayana** (Java), **Swarnadip Ramayana** (Sumatra), and **Yogesvara Ramayana** (Java); Cambodia has **Reamker Ramayana**; Laos has **Phra Lak Phra Lam**; and Malaysia has **Hikayat Seri Ram**. He said even in Iran and China, tales of Ram are available, while Nepal is connected to Ramayana because of it being Sita's birthplace

Thailand has Ramakien



Sri Lanka has Janakiharan



But Nepal also has its own Ramayana called **Siddhi Ramayana** Japan knows it as **Ramaenna** or **Ramaensho** Myanmar calls it **Yama Zataw** or **Yamayana** Philippines calls it **Maharadia Lawana**

Text by: Manimugdha Sharma

BEIRUT EXPLOSION – A REPORT

- **The massive explosion that rocked the nearby areas of the port of Beirut – killed 135 and injured more than 5,000 people**
- ✓ Beirut governor Marwan Abboud described the disaster as “an apocalyptic situation” that has made an estimated 3,00,000 people temporarily homeless and would cost the nation in excess of \$3 billion.



- ✓ The explosion was the most powerful ever to rip through Beirut, a city still scarred by civil war and reeling from an economic meltdown.
- ✓ The blast rattled buildings on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, about 160 km away.
- ✓ As per the initial estimates, it appeared that the blast had been caused by the detonation of 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, a chemical used in fertiliser and bombs, which had been stored in a warehouse at the port since it was confiscated from a cargo ship in 2014.
- ✓ Gulf Arab states, the US, Britain, Germany, France and other Western nations offered help.
- ✓ Even Israel, officially in a state of war with Lebanon, offered assistance.
- ✓ Lebanon has declared a two-week state of emergency, effectively giving the military full powers during the period
- ✓ The government has also put an unspecified number of Beirut port officials under house arrest pending a probe into how 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate came to be stored at the port for years.
- ✓ The move comes amid speculation that negligence was to blame for the explosion
- ✓ The explosion of ammonium nitrate can happen in two ways.
 - ✓ One, when the stored chemical comes in contact and the other is due to fire that starts due to extensive oxidation process.
 - ✓ The Beirut explosion is due to oxidation at large scale
- ✓ Under the UN classification of dangerous goods, ammonium nitrate is classified as an oxidiser.
- ✓ However, it can be used as an explosive when mixed with other contaminants.

- ✓ Ammonium Nitrate when used as with RDX or TNT can create catastrophic effects
- ✓ Ammonium Nitrate is a white, crystalline chemical that is soluble in water.
- ✓ Earlier, in 2015, an explosion due to Ammonium nitrate killed 173 people in Tianjin port, China.

BLAST OF THE CENTURY: WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT IT

Investigators are trying to zero in on the cause of the massive blast in Beirut that has killed more than 100, but the terrifying footage has led to speculation about the involvement of everything from high explosives to fireworks while officials blame a huge stash of ammonium nitrate, a chemical fertiliser. Here's what we know

It Was Heard In Cyprus

That's more than 200km away across the Mediterranean. The blast ripped through buildings in a 10-km radius, blowing out windows and walls and bringing down ceilings. Debris was found miles away and buildings in the vicinity faced severe damage. Cars on the road were flipped by the intensity of the blast



It Set Off A Seismic Wave

The US Geological Survey said the explosion in Beirut created seismic waves equal to a magnitude 3.3 earthquake. But it pointed out that the event was not exactly comparable to an earthquake since it was a surface blast and the energy produced is dispersed in the air and buildings



There Was A Mushroom Cloud: It is the hallmark of a nuclear blast but experts said a mushroom cloud doesn't mean any blast is a nuclear one. Experts say any big blast will form a mushroom cloud. A big blast releases hot gas that quickly rises, but the colder air above tries to push down this sudden surge of gas, "forming the distinctive cap" of a mushroom cloud



How Red Tape Led To Tragedy

Reports say the Beirut blast was an avoidable tragedy. Officials were repeatedly alerted about the presence of the dangerous stock of ammonium nitrate but they took no action

September 2013

Cargo ship Rhosus carrying 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate from Georgia to Mozambique docks in Beirut after developing technical problems. Crew abandons the ship after Lebanese officials prevent it from sailing out. Ammonium nitrate offloaded and placed in Hangar 12



June 2014

Officials flag dangerous cargo. Recommend exporting it, handing it over to the army or a private explosives company. Five more letters sent over the next three years – the latest one in October 2017 – but no action taken



What May Have Triggered The Explosion

- Ammonium nitrate is a chemical compound most widely used as fertiliser. It's not explosive until it's mixed with fuel and detonated
- Ammonium nitrate is often used in mining or construction as an explosive. When exposed to fuel and heated, it breaks down into nitrogen, oxygen and water vapour, in a process that releases a lot of energy
- However, it can be hazardous if not stored properly, and has caused industrial disasters
- Images and video footage appear to show smoke rising from Beirut port before the explosion. Experts say the smoke could have come from a fire that eventually set off the ammonium nitrate explosion
- The Tianjin port blast in August 2015 that killed 173 people resulted from an explosion of ammonium nitrate. Two tonnes of the chemical was used in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 that killed 169 people

Source: NYT, Popular Mechanics, media reports