

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the first brick for the shrine in Ayodhya; says the modern temple will be a reflection of India's culture and will inspire future generations; praises kar sevaks, but stops short of mentioning L K Advani, M M Joshi, Ashok Singhal

Harmony at core of Ram's ethos: PM

I-E 6/8/20

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the first brick of the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, ending the centuries-long wait of millions of devotees. Leading the Bhumi Pujan (foundation stone-laying ceremony), Modi extended gratitude to those who struggled to make the temple a reality.

Over 175 VVIPs and guests including RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat were witness to the historic moment at the Ram Janmabhoomi Sthal in Ayodhya, while people across the country watched the event on TV.

Addressing them, Modi said, "India is creating a golden chapter in Ayodhya and a wait of centuries end today. Many are hardly able to believe they are witnessing this day in their lifetime." He said the modern Ram temple will be a reflection of the culture, eternal faith, national spirit and collective will power of Indians and it will inspire the generations to come.

Praising the sacrifices of scores of Ram devotees in the course of the temple movement, Modi said, "The movement for Ram temple had dedication, struggle and resolve. I bow to those people whose sacrifice has made this possible.

However, the PM stopped short of mentioning the names of likes of LK Advani, MM Joshi and Ashok Singhal who had played a pivotal role in the temple movement in the 1990s.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi performs Bhoomi Pujan at Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir, in Ayodhya on Wednesday | PTI

Q With the construction of this temple, not only is history being made, but it is being repeated.

PM Narendra Modi

Modi talked about how the construction of a modern temple would catapult the town into one of the most happening destinations of religious tourism, adding that social harmony was the core principle of Lord Ram's governance.

"Lord Ram always stuck to the truth, and established social harmony as the cornerstone of his rule. He loved his subjects equally, but had a special kindness for the poor and the needy. There is no aspect of life where Shree Ram doesn't serve as an inspiration," Modi said.

He also lauded the dignity and restraint with which fellow countrymen responded, re-

specting the feelings of everyone, when the judgement was passed by the Supreme Court last year. "Similar dignity and restraint is visible today also," said the PM.

Modi is the first PM to offer prayers at the Ram Janmabhoomi. He had earlier visited the temple town with LK Advani in 1991 — a year before the demolition of the disputed structure on December 6, 1992.

However, since 2014, he has been maintaining a safe distance from Ayodhya and the issue of Ram temple.

In his address laced with emotions and sentiments, the PM promised a grand and divine temple saying the victory

OUR DREAM FULFILLED, SAYS BHAGWAT

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said a struggle of decades has met its moment of glory, referring to the 'bhoomi puja' ceremony. "The then RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras had told us that be prepared for a struggle of 20 to 30 years for realising this dream," he said

WHY MODI CHANTED 'SIYAVAR RAM' INSTEAD OF JAI SHREE RAM?

Of late, saffron fringe groups have been using 'Jai Shree Ram' to showcase their emboldened demeanor. The Prime Minister did not want to be seen as promoting it on the auspicious day

chant of today was not only echoing in Ayodhya but it could be heard by all Indians and Ram devotees across the globe.

For the first time speaking vociferously for the temple in Ayodhya after taking over as PM, Modi quoted a couplet from Ramcharitmanas: "Ram Kaj kinhe binu, mohi kahan vishram (How can I rest without doing the service of Lord Ram)," summing up the mood of his 20-minute speech.

The PM also used to the occasion to send out a strong message to hostile forces including China and Pakistan by reciting a couplet from Ramcharitmanas: "Bhaya bin hoye na preet..." (without fear there can't be love).