

RAM TEMPLE CEREMONY: Only PM, 4 others to be on stage; entry through security code

# Oldest Babari litigant's son gets first invite

SANJAY PANDEY  
LUCKNOW, DHNS

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi will share the stage with only four people including Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during the Ram temple groundbreaking ceremony at Ayodhya on Wednesday.

The two others, who would be on the stage, are RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Shriram Janmabhoomi Teerth Trust president Mahant Nritya Gopal Das.

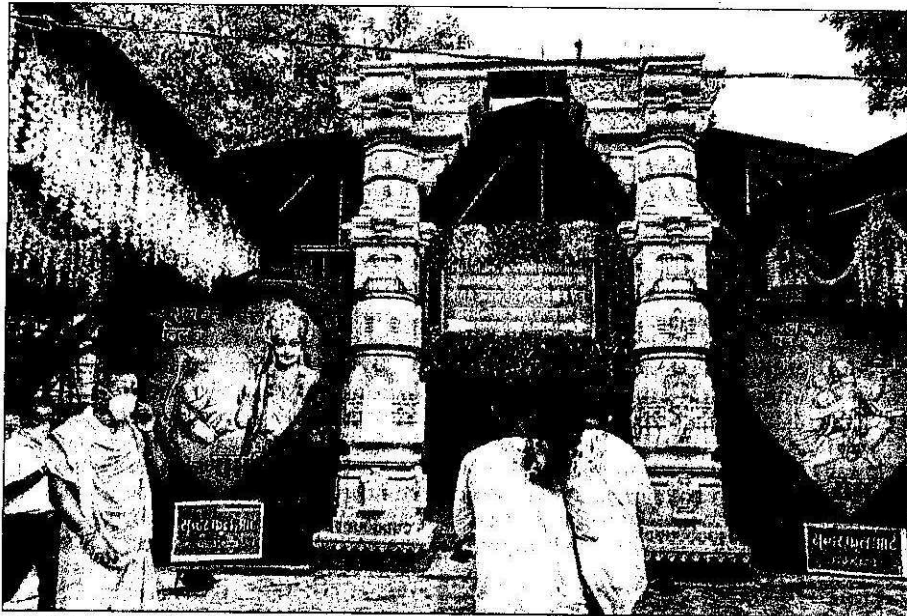
Interestingly, former UP chief minister Kalyan Singh, during whose regime the Babri Mosque was demolished in Ayodhya, will not be on the stage though he has been invited for the ceremony.

Two Muslims are among the invitees for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Iqbal Ansari, the son of the oldest Babri litigant Hashim Ansari, got the first invite for the ceremony.

"It was Lord Rama's wish that I got the first invite," an elated Ansari said in Ayodhya.

Speaking to reporters in Ayodhya, Trust general secretary Champat Rai clarified that senior saffron party leaders Lal Krishna Advani and Murlu Manohar Joshi were invited through telephone but owing to the age factor they would be witnessing the ceremony via vid-



Sadhus at the Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas workshop, ahead of the groundbreaking ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, on Monday. PTI

eo conference. Another senior party leader Uma Bharti would be in Ayodhya but would stay away from the event in view of the pandemic scare.

He said that in all 135 seers, including saints from Nepal, had been invited to attend the ceremony.

The invitation cards, which bore the names of Modi, Bhagwat and Anandiben Patel, have a security code to ensure that only the authorised persons gain entry into the venue.

## Temple look for Ayodhya station

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Indian Railways is working on building a new station at the temple town of Ayodhya modelled on the Ram temple structure.

The design of the station has tall domes and towering pillars. The design was prepared keeping in mind the temple town, said top railways official.

The government approved the model in 2017-18 at a cost of Rs 80 crore. But it enhanced the

budget to Rs 104 crore for the project after adding more facilities, which will be completed in two phases.

The first phase is expected to finish in June 2021 and the second phase by 2023-24. "For crores of devotees visiting the Ram temple, Railways is redeveloping the Ayodhya station under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Railway Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted.

## Time chosen inauspicious: Dignified Singh

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Senior Congress leader Dignified Singh on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to call off the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Ram temple contending that the time chosen for it was inauspicious.

Singh, a Rajya Sabha member, said that Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath should quarantine themselves as a UP minister had died due to Covid-19 and Home Minister Amit Shah too had contracted the infection.

Singh accused the BJP of playing with the sentiments of thousands of Hindus by ignoring the advice of religious leaders such as the Shankaracharya of Dwarkapeeth, Swami Swaroopananda Saraswati who had claimed that the time chosen for the foundation stone laying ceremony was inauspicious.

"The result of ignoring the tenets of Sanatan Hindu Dharma are there for everyone to see..." Singh said.

"How many more people do you wish to send to hospital by going ahead with the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Ram Temple at an inauspicious hour," he said.

## VHP for 'Ram Rajya' through Ram temple

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Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Monday said that the Ram temple was not merely "one more temple" but was aimed at establishing the 'Ram Rajya' in the country, where there is 'equality' and 'social harmony'.

"We believe that this massive effort is not only to build one more Temple... This campaign is for establishing Ram Rajya," central working president of VHP Alok Kumar said.

In a statement here, Kumar said that the construction of the temple was "embroiled in the hurdles created by various governments, the manipulations by political forces and the long delays in the Courts".

"We hope that in about three years, the devotees may be able to worship Ramlala in the sanctum sanctorum of the grand temple," he added. "The Ram Rajya will have a harmonious society based on equality, where every person will be treated with dignity... Everyone will be assured food, clothing and shelter along with education and gainful vocations... The family values will be respected," he said.

## CPM questions event during ban on gatherings

The CPM on Monday found fault with the government taking over the 'bhumi puja' ceremony for the Ram temple while questioning how a religious gathering could be allowed when the Centre's guidelines specifically bar religious gatherings due to Covid-19. It also said the taking over of the function by the UP government and the involvement of the Centre through the participation of PM Narendra Modi should not provide "retrospective legitimisation" of the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992, which the Supreme Court had described as a criminal act.

Kumar said that Lord Rama had seen the havoc caused by the terrorists' demonic activities and unsuitable alien culture. He had vowed to end the terrorists from the earth.