

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Other State Matter (Religious)

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 05/08/2020

Ayodhya turns fortress ahead of bhumi puja

Trust likens event to I-Day, PM set to launch Mandir work

Ram belongs to all: Cong

The Congress finally shed its inhibitions and backed the construction of the Ram temple with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asserting that Lord Ram belonged to everyone. Priyanka issued a statement on Tuesday, wholeheartedly supporting the construction of the temple. Details on Page 8

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

5/8/20
Temple town Ayodhya was virtually turned into a fortress ahead of Wednesday's 'bhumi puja' for the proposed Ram Temple, likened to Independence Day by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Trust, which was overseeing its construction.

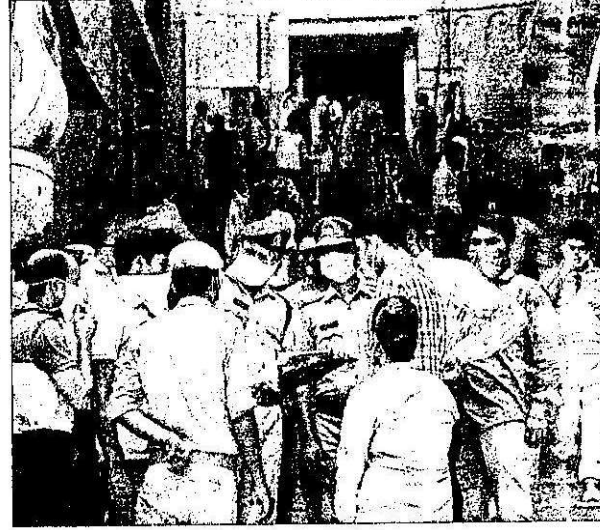
The borders of the town have been sealed and entry of outsiders, without passes, has been banned. The residents of the town have been asked to keep identification proof.

The area around the Janmabhoomi has been declared a red zone and no one is being allowed in without specially-

sued security passes.

Movement of buses and other commercial vehicles would also be banned on NH 24 between Barabanki and Ayodhya, said police sources.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the temple in the presence of prominent saints. ► Ayodhya, Page 5



Police inspect the Hanuman Garhi temple ahead of the ground breaking ceremony of the Ram Temple, in Ayodhya on Tuesday. PTI

ANALYSIS

Is BJP set for UP 2022?

ANAND MISHRA

'Ram Mandir' has been a central theme of the BJP's politics for over three decades. Now that one of its long-time promises is close to fulfilment, it's worth charting out how the event will fetch the BJP dividends in Uttar Pradesh and on the national scene. Uttar Pradesh goes to the polls in 2022.

PAGE 2

Ayodhya turns fortress ahead of bhumi puja

AYODHYA, FROM PAGE 1

Trust general secretary Champat Rai sought to liken the 'bhumi puja' day to Independence Day. "It is as historic as the Independence Day...the people of the country are as happy as they must have been on winning the Kargil War or after the nuclear test," he said.

Terming the Babri Mosque a symbol of 'slavery', Rai said that for the first time, a 500-year-old symbol of slavery was removed with the concurrence of the judiciary.

A festive atmosphere prevailed in Ayodhya with loudspeakers atop important temples and ashrams as well as shops blaring couplets of the Ram Charit Manas, the Hindu epic penned by Goswami Tulsidas.

The temple town has been decorated with colourful arch-

es leading to the Ram Janmabhoomi while yellow and saffron flags fluttered on the rooftops of houses and shops.

The illuminated temples, ashrams, mutts and houses radiated a 'Diwali' atmosphere.

Over 5,000 coloured pitchers, which would be decorated with green mango leaves, would be placed from Saket Degree College to the Janmabhoomi on Wednesday. Modi will land at the specially made helipad inside the college and from there drive to the venue.

A 'mahaarti' (a ritual with earthen lamps) would be held on Wednesday on the bank of the holy Saryu river with 2,100 earthen lamps, the NGO, which was organising the event, said in Ayodhya on Tuesday.

Guests would be given silver coins engraved with the portraits of Lord Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman.

All the temples, ashrams and mutts in Ayodhya were sanitised on Tuesday as a precaution owing to the Covid-19 scare.

Officials said that social distancing would be followed strictly during the ceremony.