STATETIMES

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Ram Mandir: Tale of Hindu Resistance

n 22nd January, Saga of fight for the Holy Land of the Hindus, the Birthplace of Lord Rama, at Ayodhya would come to an end when Prime Minister Narendra Modi attend the consecration ceremony at the Ram Janambhoomi Temple. It is not just another Temple. It is the Tale of Hindu resistance for 500 Yrs to save civilization from the barbaric Islamists. It's the story of resurgence of the Hindutva. It's the story of the legal Battle fought for almost 200 yrs to claim the birthplace of the

Rebuilding of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple would be a statement by the Hindus that it is our Indic civilization i.e Sanatan Dharma, which resisted and saved their culture. It is the statement to the world that all the cultures be it Romans, Persian or Egyptians withered to the Sword of the Islam but we stand tall and still fighting to the might to resist the Adharma

It is the heart wrenching saga of the sacrifices made by the Hindus since 500 yrs to reclaim their Holy Temple decimated by the Mir Baki, the commander of the forces of Turkish Invader Babur. It's the epoch of Hindu might that they had not surrendered to Invaders, infact laid their lives fighting for their Dharma to rebuild the Temple. B it the Naga Sadhus, Nihangs or those who fell prey to the bullets while decimating the Babri Masjid.

It is the story of the movement that changed the course of politics from appeasement of pseudo secularism to uniting Hindus from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Guwahati to Gujarat . No other event or movement has defined contemporary Indian history and politics more than the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. This movement paved way for the BJP to dethrone the 135 yrs old Congress from the New Delhi.

While Hindus across the world cherish this moment of return of King Rama to his Capital Ayodhya, lets recount 500 Yrs of struggle of Ram Janambhoomi in Chronological order

Ayodhya, if we translate it means the place which cannot be won. In Arthveda, Ayodhya was mentioned as heavenly place build by the noble men of Swarga. But if we look in to the struggle of this sacred land, every foreign invader from the Central Asia tried to Attack and win it over to erase the Birth Place of Lord Rama from our Psyche, to annihilate the Hindus and to force them to surrender to their faith

In Year 1528 Turkish Invader Babur's commander Mir Baki destroyed the Ram Janambhoomi Temple and raised Mosque over there, the Mosque would be called Babri Masjid in the later Years.

From 1528-1731 for almost 200 Yrs Hindus were in struggle for 64 Times with Islamic forces occupying the sacred land lead by Saints, Nagas and even the local Hindu Chieftains. It is believed the over 1 lakh people laid lives to reclaim the Temple.

Year 1822, Report submitted by officer of Faizabad court Hafizullah admitting the construction of the Masque over the Birth Place of Lord Rama became the first documentary evidence of destruction of the Ram Janambhoomi Temple by Turkish

Yr 1859 Britishers took over the place and to avoid further confrontation sanctioned inner circle of the Mosque to Muslims for offering Namaz and outer periphery for Hindus.

1860: Perturbed by the ousting of the Hindus from the disputed complex, group lead by Nihaang Sardars erected a Nishaan Sahib with saffron Flag in the centre of the Masjid Complex and raised Chabutra there. The complaint was submitted in the office of the Deputy Commissioner Faizabad by Mir Razzan Ali, caretaker of

15 January 1885 was the day when Mahant Raghubar Dass struction of the Ram Temple at the same Chabutra, named now as

17th March 1886: Col F E Cammier in his judgement to the appeal of the Mahant Raghubar Dass acknowledged the destruction of the Ram Temple by the Islamists but ordered the maintenance of status-quo giving no relief to the Hindus.

March 1934: Following the cow slaughter in Faizabad, the riots erupted in the Ayodhya resulted in the partial destruction of the one of the wall and dome of the disputed Mosque. Later the govt

23rd Dec 1949: the idols of the Ramlala along with his brothers



were found inside the Mosque. The Idols were installed by Mahan Digvijav of Gorakhnath Peeth, Mahant Abhiramdass of Nirmohi Akhara, Mahant Ramchander Paramhans of Digambar Akhada, Mahant Raghav Dass and Founder of Gita press Gorakhpur Hanumant Parsad Poddar.

Yogi Adidyanath, present Chief Minister of the Uttar Pradesh is the present Day Mahant of the same Gorakhpeeth.

Both Muslim and Hindus filed suit against each other and Govt declared the site as disputed one.

1950: Gopal Singh Visharadh of Hindu Mahasabha and Mahant Ramchander Parmhans moved to Faizabad court for the ownership of disputed site and requested for permission of daily Puja-Archana i.e Rituals. Fiazabad court allowed the same and prohibits govt from the removal of the Idols from the Disputed site. But the inner part of the site remained in siege by the govt.

29th August 1964 on the occasion of the Janamashtami, day of the birth of the Lord Krishna, Vishav Hindu Parishad (VHP) was formed. RSS ideologue M S Golwalikar, Sant Tukoii Maharai . Master Tara singh of Akali Dal was amongst those present on the

It was the VHP in the later years lead the Agitation for the construction of the Ram Temple.

8th April 1984: Hindu organisations assembled in New Delhi and formed a "Ram Janmgnoomi Mukti Yagya Samiti' headed by Mahant Avedhyanath. This samiti organized the Rallies across the country and gave impetus to Ram Janambhoomi Andolan.

Ist Feb 1986: in a dramatic turn of events District sessions Judge Faizabad K. M Pandey in response to petition filled by Adv. Umesh Chander ordered the opening of the locks of the Babri Masjid and allowed Hindus to offer Puja Archana at the disputed site. The orders were executed within 40 minutes of the Judgement

23rd Dec 1986. In response to the opening of the disputed site, Babri Masjid coordination committee was formed by the Muslim organisations headed by Sayeed Shhabuddin in New Delhi.

Ist April 1989. VHP in its Dharamsansad resolved to lay foundation stone of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya on 30th September and planned to collect Rs 25 crore donation for the cause.

June 1989: BJP in its Palampur conclave took the Ram Temple pitation in its Agenda and pledged to build the Ram temple terming it as a matter of Faith.

Oct- Nov 1989: 350000 shillas i.e marvel stone Boulders engraved with Jai Shri Ram reached Ayodhya from every nook and corner of the Country.

9th Nov 1989: With the consent central Govt Led by Rajiv Gandhi and the parties of the dispute, ceremonial laying of Foundation stone i.e Shillanayas was done at the Singhdwaar of the Proposed Ram Temple but later on it came to foray that it happened at the disputed site.

June 1990: VHP in its conclave at Haridwar pledged to start the construction at the disputed site from oct 30. BJP leader L. \mathbf{K} Advani announced to start Rathyatra from Somnath Temple to Ayodhya

25th Sept 1990: L. K Advani started the Rathyatra from Somnath, which was scheduled to reach Ayodhya on October 30. Mr Narendra Modi at that time was the emerging leader of Sangh In Gujrat and was the part of the team holding the charge of the Rath Yatra arrangements.

23rd Oct 1990: Lalu Prasad Yadav, then Chief Minister of Bihar got the L. K Advani arrested at Samstipur. BJP in response to that withdraw support from the Janta Dal Govt headed by Prime Minister V. P Singh.

30th Oct 1990: 40 volunteers i.e Kaarsewaks got killed in police firing when they flagged Bhagwa Dhwaj atop the dome of the disputed Mosque and started demolishing it. Subsequent to killing Riots erupted in many parts of the country. Uttar Pradesh alone witnessed curfew in 42 districts.

7th Nov 1990: V. P singh govt failed to prove majority in Parliament and became the first causality of the Hindutva Wave. **1991:** In an election year, BJP voted to power in Uttar Pradesh riding the Hindutva wave . Congress Came to Power with PV Narsimha Rao as PM but BJP emerged at the second largest Party. The gain was momentous and set the ground for the BJP

to claim the New Delhi throne. 1992: With Kalyan Singh as Chief Minister, UP govt started building forewall across the disputed complex. In March 1992, state govt allotted 43 acres of land acquired by it in 1988-89 to Ram Janambhoomi Nyaas for the construction of Ramkatha

9th July 1992: VHP again started Karsewa at disputed site and build concrete Chabutra.

23rd July 1992: supreme court prohibits any kind of construction at Ram Temple.

30th Oct 1992: Dharam Sansad of all the Hindu religious organisations headed by VHP announced the start of the Karsewa from

6th Dec 1992: Comes the Day when VHP, BJP, Bajrang Dal, Shivsena supported Karsewaks demolished Babri Masjid aka disputed site brick by brick and the country witnessed the same on Television sets. By the day end the Karsewaks erected the temporary temple in a tented shed and installed the Ramlala Idols there Riots engulfed the whole of the country usurping more than 3000 lives. Kalyan Singh sacrificed his govt for the cause of the

L K Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti and Ashok Singhal are amongst the many who had been booked for the demolition of the Mosque under FIR no 198 in Ayodhya Police station.

7th Dec 1992: Central forces took Ram Temple in its control followed by the Ban on RSS, Bajrang Dal, VHP and Jamaat-e-

15th Dec 1992: All the BJP led Govts Including that of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh were sacked

and Presidential Rule was enforced in these states.

16th Dec 1992: LK Advani and six others were arrested and sent to Lalaitour Jail.

7th Jan 1993: Central Govt took control of the 67.7 acres of land of Ram Janambhoomi site including that of the temporary temple.

11th March 1993: India witnessed first of its kind terror attack with serial Bomb Blasts in the financial capital of the country Mumbai. The serial blasts were planned and executed by the Underworld Don Dawood Ibrahaim. The blasts were done to avenge the Babri demolition. Whole of the Mumbai witnessed riots killing thousands.

1998: BJP led govt came to power in New Delhi for the first time with L K Advani as Dy Prime Minister.

2002: Ram Mandir Movement took another turn when VHP gain started campaign to build Ram Temple and decided March 15 2002 as the Day to start again. Karsewaks from across the country again started there march to Ayodhya.

While returning from Ayodhya, the train coach of one such Karsewaks was attacked by Muslims at Godhra and were put to flames by Jehadi Mob. 58 Karsewaks were burnt alive. In reaction to such a ghastly act, whole of the Gujarat burnt with rage folowed by riots killing 1200 people.

The New Face of Hindutva was Born in all this. i.e Narendra Damodar Dass Modi.

2004: Congress came to power in the year 2004.

2005: 5 Armed Islamic terrorists attacked the Ayodhya and tried to infiltrate in to the disputed site but was gunned down by the Security Forces stationed there.

June 2009: Liberahan Commission, formed to investigate the demolition of the Babri Masjid submitted its report to govt creating pandemonium in Parliament as the commission held L K Advani and other BJP leaders responsible for the fate of the

Dispute ordered to divide the disputed site in three parts. One third to Ramlala, represented by Hindu Mahasabha, one third to Sunni Waqf Board and the remaining part to Nirmohi Akhaara.

2010: Allahabad High Court in its judgement in the Ayodhya

In Dec 2010 Sunni Waqf Board and Hindu Mahasabha moved to supreme court against the Judgement and in May 2011 supreme Court staved the division of the Land.

2014: New Mascot of Hindutva Narendra Modi Came to Power in New Delhi as Prime Minister followed which in yr 2015 VHP started the Construction of the Ram Mandir Shillas in Rajasthan. 21st March 2017: Supreme court ordered all the parties of the dispute to find the amicable solution out of the court as the mat-

ter is of sensitive nature. 8th Feb 2018: supreme court ordered the expedite the hearing in all the applications in the Ram Janambhoomi Case. CJI decided to her the case as a title suit deciding the ownership of the land

rights and prohibits any new petitioner in the case. 14th March 2018: Supreme court rejected the petition of the 32 petitioners and allowed only those petitioners as party in the case who were litigants in Allahabad High court.

27th Sept 2018: CJI Deepak Mishra headed three member bench rejected the Muslim side demand of taking Ismail Farookhi case in consideration while deciding the title suit. CJI in its judge-

ment said that the suit would be treated as title suit only and proceedings in the case would be as per the civil suit. 9th Nov 2019: 5 member Bench of Supreme Court of India headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi in its landmark judgement

ordered to handover disputed land of 2.77 Acres to the trust to be created by Goyt to build Ram temple at Ram Janambhoon In 1045 Page judgment has gone through various kinds of evidence- archaeological, documentary and witness statements- to

show that there was a "continuing and undisputed belief" of the Hindus in the existence of the Ram Janmabhoomi at Ayodhya. While developing the legal reasoning for their decision, the

judges, who gave a unanimous 5-0 judgment in favour of the claims of the Ram Lalla, noted that the Muslim petitioners were not able to show they were in possession of the property in an 'exclusive and exclusionary" manner. On 5th August Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay foundation

stone of the Ram Temple.

Urmila to Kewat: 5 lesser-known characters from the Ramayana



amayana, the ancient Indian epic, reveals a multitude of characters beyond the well-known protagonists. While Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, Hanuman, Vand Ravana take center stage, there exist lesser-known but equally intriguing characters who play significant roles in shaping the narrative. Here is a look at the hidden gems of the Ramayana, introducing readers to five lesser-known characters whose stories contribute to the depth and complexity of this timeless epic.

These characters, often overshadowed by the main cast, offer unique perspectives and enrich the tapestry of the Ramayana with their lesser-explored tales.

Jambavan, the esteemed king of bears, emerges as a crucial and wise figure in the Ramayana. Initially Sugreeva's advisor, Jambavan plays a pivotal role in aiding Rama's quest to find Sita and ultimately triumph over Ravana. Serving as a guiding force throughout the search mission, Jambavan suggests to Hanuman the daring journey to Lanka, encouraging him to locate Sita. He reinforces Hanuman's strength by narrating the story of his birth.

Kewat, a devoted boatman, dedicates his life to serving Lord Rama. When Rama



needs to cross the Ganga River during his exile, Kewat becomes the ideal companion. Interestingly, before allowing Rama onto his boat, Kewat requests that the Lord wash his feet. Carrying Lord Rama, Lakshmana, and Goddess Sita across the Ganges River, Kewat graciously declines Rama's offer of a ring upon their arrival at the riverbank. Kevat said he could not accept it. When asked by Ram why he could not, he replied,"Lord, two people of the same proffesion do not exchange tokens such." Ram asked,"But how are we of the same proffesion?" Kevat smiled and replied,"Lord, I ferry people from one bank to another. And you ferry people from the bank of Sansaar to the bank of Mukti." Ram was pleased at this answer of his and told him that in the pages of history he would be immortal and that he would attain Mukti.

Sampati

Sampati, the elder brother of Jatayu, plays a crucial role in Sita's quest in the Ramayana. While soaring closer to the Sun, Sampati and Jatayu realize the intense heat, leading Sampati to shield his younger brother with his wings.

Unfortunately, Sampati's wings are burned in the process, leaving him unable to fly. When Lord Rama, Lakshmana, and Hanuman search for Sita, Sampati reveals



her location in Lanka, guiding the army towards their destination.

In the epic, Urmila, wedded to Lakshmana, is a heroine often overshadowed by the more prominent figures like Sita. Tagore aptly recognizes her as a forgotten heroine of Indian literature, acknowledging her greatness as an ideal wife. Urmila exemplifies unparalleled sacrifice, spending 14 years apart from Lakshmana during Rama's exile. Some versions suggest that, aware of Lakshmana's vigilance, she slept in his stead for the entire period. Urmila's character gains depth as she opposes Rama's decision to exile Sita, showcasing her unwavering loyalty and strength in adversity.

Mandodari

Mandodari, the wife of Ravana, holds a revered position as one of the Panchakanyas in Hindu epics. Her life unfolds as that of a captivating apsara, depicted as both beautiful and virtuous. Despite her disagreements with Ravana's choices and actions. Mandodari, a righteous and pious woman, remains steadfastly by his side. Her counsel goes unheeded, and as the Queen witnesses the fabled Kingdom of Gold crumble to ruins, she stands helpless amid the destruction.