

Timeline of India's Ayodhya dispute

The construction of a long-awaited Hindu temple at the site of a demolished 16th century mosque in northern India is expected to take three-and-a-half years to complete

■ **1528: Babri Mosque** built by Mughal emperor **Babar** at Ayodhya site, claimed by Hindus to be birthplace of their god-king **Rama** and where earlier temple existed



■ **1853:** First recorded instance of religious violence near site

■ **1859:** Fence erected to separate Muslim and Hindu areas of worship

■ **1949:** Government declares site “disputed” after idols of Rama are found inside mosque

■ **1984:** Hindu groups led by **Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)** pledge to rebuild temple

■ **1989:** VHP lays temple foundations close to mosque

■ **1991:** Pro-Hindu **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** comes to power in Uttar Pradesh

■ **1992:** VHP and BJP supporters tear down mosque. About 2,000 people die in nationwide rioting

■ **2003:** Archaeological survey reports evidence of temple beneath mosque, but Muslims dispute findings

■ **2009: Liberhan Commission** blames BJP leaders for role in mosque demolition

■ **2010-11:** High Court rules site should be split between religious groups, but Supreme Court suspends verdict following Hindu and Muslim appeals

■ **Aug 2019:** Supreme Court begins daily hearings on Ayodhya dispute after mediation efforts fail

■ **Nov:** Supreme Court grants site to Hindu group for building of temple, with separate plot of land for mosque 25km away

■ **Aug 5, 2020** Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** lays foundation stone of new temple



Proposed design of new Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir (“Rama birthplace temple”)