

WHAT THE SUPREME COURT SAID

“Hindus established a clear case of a possessory title to the outside courtyard by virtue of long, continued and unimpeded worship

“As regards inner courtyard, there is evidence... to establish worship by the Hindus prior to annexation of Oudh in 1857

“Destruction of mosque and the obliteration of the Islamic structure was egregious violation of the rule of law

“Dividing the land will not subserve the interest of either of the parties or secure a lasting sense of peace and tranquillity

TEMPLE SET IN STONE

FOR RAM LALLA Right of child deity upheld, paving the way for a Ram temple at disputed 2.77-acre site

GOVT TO FORM TRUST The court gives the govt 3 months to come up with a scheme to build the temple

ALTERNATIVE LAND Muslim parties to get 5-acre plot for mosque at suitable, prominent spot in Ayodhya

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court ruled on Saturday in favour of a Ram temple on a disputed 2.77-acre plot in Ayodhya, in a move cheered by hundreds of millions of people around the country although some Muslim parties questioned the verdict and said they may seek a review of the order passed by a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, who retires on November 17.

The construction of the temple at the place several Hindus believe is the birthplace of Ram also ticks off another item on the checklist of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Many people believe the ruling is the beginning of the end of the festering dispute, if not the end itself.

The court told the Union government to set up, within three months, a trust to oversee the construction of the temple.

“The faith of Hindus has been reaffirmed by the Supreme Court verdict. We had faith before the mosque. We had faith during the mosque and we had faith after the demolition of the mosque and there was continuous worship by the Hindus,” said PS Narasimha, who appeared for the child deity Ram Lalla Virajman in the title dispute. “We are grateful to the institution of judiciary for the extraordinary measures for restituting the historical belief,” he added.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board’s secretary Zafaryab Jilani, a lawyer, expressed his dissatisfaction over the verdict. “The Ayodhya verdict holds no value for us. We are dissatisfied with the verdict. It has a lot of contradictions. We will seek a review.”

Zufar Faruqi, the chairman of the UP Sunni Waqf Board, struck a different note: “I, as the chairman of the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board, want to make it clear that the Board will not go in any review of the Supreme Court’s order or file any curative petition.”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who on Wednesday, warned his ministers not to make extreme comments on the judgment, irrespective of which way it went, welcomed the court’s ruling. “The Honourable Supreme Court has given its verdict on the Ayodhya issue. This verdict shouldn’t be seen as a win or loss for anybody. Be it Ram Bhakti or Rahim Bhakti, it is imperative that we strengthen the spirit of Rashtra Bhakti. May peace and harmony prevail,” he tweeted.

Addressing the nation later over the SC order, the Prime Minister said the verdict marked a new dawn and gave a message that even toughest issues can be resolved within the

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■ Bricks with the words 'Shri Ram' engraved on them at the Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas workshop in Ayodhya on Saturday.

DEEPAK GUPTA/HT

MUSLIM LEADERS MAY SEEK REVIEW

NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said on Saturday it was considering seeking a review of the Supreme Court’s decision in the Ayodhya title dispute case that allotted an alternative five-acre land to the Sunni Waqf Board, even as community leaders appealed for calm following the highly anticipated ruling.

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CELEBRATIONS IN AYODHYA AFTER TOP COURT MAKES WAY FOR TEMPLE

AYODHYA: Firecrackers lit up the sky and cries hailing the Hindu god Ram rent the slightly nippy November air in Uttar Pradesh’s Ayodhya on Saturday as hundreds of men and women spilled on to the streets to celebrate the Supreme Court’s decision that cleared the decks for a temple at the disputed site. Cadre from the Vishva Hindu Parishad burst crackers in almost every neighbourhood of the 500,000-strong town.

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FULL COVERAGE »P8-12, 16-17

VERDICT EXPLAINED: REVERSE OF FLAP

SECURITY STEPPED UP ACROSS COUNTRY

NEW DELHI: As SC ruled on Saturday in favour of a Ram temple on the disputed site in Ayodhya, thousands of security personnel fanned out all over the country to deter trouble-makers. Home minister Amit Shah reviewed the security situation at a meeting also attended by NSA Ajit Doval. No violence had been reported as of Saturday night.

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No place for fear, bitterness: Modi

NEW DELHI: Fear, bitterness and negativity have no place in new India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, hours after the Supreme Court delivered its verdict on the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit. In an address to the nation, the PM urged people to put the past behind and move ahead, saying, “This controversy may have affected many generations, but after this decision, we have to make a resolution that now a new generation will start building a new India from scratch.”

Many Opposition parties also hailed the verdict while appeal-

ing for peace even as one party chose to remain silent while another maintained that some parts of the judgment are “questionable”.

The Congress on Saturday backed the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, saying the Supreme Court’s ruling respects faith and has “shut the door” on BJP’s divisive politics. BSP chief Mayawati maintained that the judgment should be respected and Mamata Banerjee’s TMC offered no comment. The CPI(M) took a nuanced stand while pointing at some “questionable premises”.

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136 years on, what the order means for India

NEW DELHI: It is a dispute that has festered over a century, shaped the course of Indian politics and society in more recent decades, and has, en route, caused its share of violence and mayhem. At the end, it came down to five men and a legal text of over 1,000 pages. And it was all about 2.77 acres.

As SC delivered one of the most consequential judgments in India’s judicial history on Satur-

day, history would have weighed heavily on the five judges.

The Ayodhya verdict is significant, not just for its value in providing a sense of resolution, because it is related directly to three fundamental shifts underway in India: the nature of state institutions and its changing relationship with faith; the nature of identity-based political mobilisation; and the nature of inter-community dynamics.

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