

NEW HORIZONS

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THE NEW YORK TIMES INTERNATIONAL MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1992

Hindus Tear Down Mosque, Setting Off a Crisis in India

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India, to begin construction of a temple in the Hindu god Ram, also called Rama, and to destroy the mosque of Baber. Hindu fundamentalists say the mosque was built on a sacred Hindu site, the very spot where Ram was born.

The mosque has been an important holy site for Muslims since it was built in 1528 by the Emperor Baber, who led the Muslim conquest of India.

No longer in use

The mosque was no longer used for prayers, but Muslims had returned to religious control of the building, fearing that it would lead to the displacement of Muslim workers throughout India.

India's Supreme Court ruled last week that there should be no construction of the temple.

Once more, Hindus and Muslims are in conflict.

Some of the Hindu protesters, which were to be built on the land acquired in part by the mosque, and that the mosque itself should remain undamaged.

Several Hindu religious leaders and the state government of Uttar Pradesh, which is run by the Hindu fundamentalist political party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, said at a news conference that they would carry the case to the Supreme Court.

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, who is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, said he would lead a delegation to the mosque to see the damage.

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begin building an immense temple to Ram at precisely 12:28 P.M. today, a time deemed propitious by Hindu holy men.

The Hindus destroyed at least 100 homes in an area of 100 acres and other holy buildings in the area.

Throughout the week, a stream of violence was reported in the region, with a decision in Delhi last week, at a time when the government was trying to bring order to the situation.

On Saturday, Hindu leaders decided to begin the temple's construction on a site in the city of Ayodhya, a town of 100,000 people, which is the site of the mosque.

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