

Indian PM says no to temple in his name

15th February, 2015



A temple that was built and named to honour India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi might have to be renamed.

Supporters of India's leader had hoped to

inaugurate the Narendra Modi Temple on Sunday in the leader's home state of Gujarat, but they have had to abandon the idea due to Mr Modi's opposition to it. The leader was said to have been horrified by the idea of a temple in his name. His supporters have already unveiled a statue of Modi, which has him in a seated position under the symbol of his political party the BJP. Modi tweeted: "I was appalled. This is shocking and against India's great traditions. Building such temples is not what our culture teaches us."

There is now a discussion going on regarding what to do with the temple and statue. Some supporters have suggested replacing the statue of Mr Modi with the figure of a Hindu god. Others insist Modi's statue remains as the leader is still worthy of being honoured. Paresh Rawal, an edible oil trader who donated the land for the temple, said: "We love Modi and worship him because he is the finest leader we have ever had." Another supporter, Ramesh Undhad, told the AFP news agency: "We believe he is an incarnation of God as after he became chief minister of Gujarat, things changed for the better." Modi suggested people should use their time and resources in working towards a cleaner India.

Sources: Sky.com / BBC.com / IndiaTimes.com

Writing

It is better to have a mountain named in your honour than a road. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

temple / honour / inaugurate / abandon / idea / horrified / supporters / statue / culture / discussion / Hindu god / leader / trader / worship / incarnation / change / better

True / False

- Supporters of India's leader have already inaugurated the temple. T / F
- The temple is in India's capital Delhi. T / F
- Supporters have already unveiled a statue of Mr Modi at the temple. T / F
- Mr Modi said naming a temple after him goes against Indian culture. T / F
- Some people think a statue of a god should replace Modi's statue. T / F
- The person who donated the land for the temple is an oil trader. T / F
- A man told the AFP news agency that Mr Modi wasn't a good leader. T / F
- Mr Modi said people should use their time to grow vegetables. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. honour | a. opposite to |
| 2. inaugurate | b. stays |
| 3. abandon | c. praise |
| 4. appalled | d. concerning |
| 5. against | e. drop |
| 6. regarding | f. greatest |
| 7. figure | g. open officially |
| 8. remains | h. proposed |
| 9. finest | i. statue |
| 10. suggested | j. horrified |

Discussion – Student A

- Should Mr Modi respect the wishes of his followers?
- What kind of building would you like named in your honour?
- Who are buildings in your country named after, and why?
- What do you think of naming buildings after people?
- If someone made a statue of you, what pose would you like?
- Have your leaders changed things for the better?
- What do you think of Modi's suggestion of working for a cleaner India?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Modi?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. A temple that was built and named to | a. India's great traditions |
| 2. they have had to abandon the | b. the figure of a Hindu god |
| 3. supporters have already unveiled | c. a cleaner India |
| 4. This is shocking and against | d. going on |
| 5. Building such temples is not what | e. honour India's Prime Minister |
| 6. There is now a discussion | f. we have ever had |
| 7. replacing the statue of Mr Modi with | g. a statue of Modi |
| 8. he is the finest leader | h. an incarnation of God |
| 9. We believe he is | i. our culture teaches us |
| 10. working towards | j. idea |

Discussion – Student B

- What's the difference between a temple and other places of worship?
- What do you think of Mr Modi's reaction?
- Should the temple be renamed?
- Why do people name buildings after other people?
- What do you think of naming buildings after people?
- Would you prefer a mountain or a road to be named after you?
- What could be the reasons for Mr Modi being horrified?
- Why might the temple naming be against Indian tradition?

Spelling

- uanautregi the Narendra Modi Temple
- they have had to aoadnbn the idea
- iundevel a statue of Modi
- the symbol of his oicplalti party
- against India's great iiarsttod
- not what our rtulceu teaches us
- esrptrupso have suggested replacing the statue
- an eblied oil trader
- teddano the land for the temple
- We love Modi and wihspro him
- he is an acrnioitnan of God
- use their time and eroeusrcs

Answers – Synonym Match

1. c	2. g	3. e	4. j	5. a
6. d	7. i	8. b	9. f	10. h

Role Play

Role A – A new planet

You think it is best to have a new planet named after you. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst to have named after you of these (and why): a charity, an award for children or a frog.

Role B – A charity

You think it is best to have a charity named after you. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst to have named after you of these (and why): a new planet, an award for children or a frog.

Role C – An award for children

You think it is best to have an award for children named after you. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst to have named after you of these (and why): a charity, a new planet or a frog.

Role D – A frog

You think it is best to have a frog named after you. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst to have named after you of these (and why): a charity, an award for children or a new planet.

Speaking – In my name

Rank these with your partner. Put the best thing to have named after you at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| • a new planet | • a road |
| • a mountain | • a prize for children |
| • a place of worship | • a newly discovered frog |
| • a school | • a museum |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.