

INDIA

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# TODAY

THE COMPLETE NEWSMAGAZINE

## Solutions to Ayodhya

Eminent artists, architects, writers and artisans present some creative solutions to the Ayodhya deadlock in an attempt at stimulating a concerted public response towards a peaceful resolution.





# EK JHARNA

COMMEMORATES INDIAN SPIRITUALITY AND SCIENCE



(Above) Model of the monument;  
and the working drawings



**T**his Jharna symbolises the future of India. The poetic aspect of the whole structure is represented by the petals of the flower in bloom in white. This flower could be the rose of paradise and the lotus of enlightenment. Some petals are missing, an unfinished dream.

Two aspects are evoked in this structure symbolising the future of India: (i) A poetic aspect inspired by a flower in bloom. (ii) A narrative aspect. The flower in bloom has petals missing. Its petal-like dish is a symbol of the technology of tomorrow. The power generated by the photovoltaic cells circulates the water, a symbol of self-reliance. The missing petals, the symbol of an incomplete ideal that needs to be fulfilled.

*The narrative of the Jharna.* The petal-like dish lined on the inside with photovoltaic cells has a series of slits at its centre. The precise location of these slits has been carefully computed from gross astronomical data. Under the dish, there stands a short stone pillar capped by a quartzite. On selected days, the rays of the sun will fall on the crystal and make it glow. The upper level has a round sacred water pond over the battery chamber. From here the water pours through to the level below in a sacred gesture of pouring water onto the earth. This water is filtered and re-circulated by a pump powered by the photovoltaic cells.

The dish is provided with slits in such a way that, on special days, the tip of the pillar below the dish catches the light and glows. There are many other beams of light also passing through the slits but most shall fall in the pond around the pillar. The first impression will be of a crystal lit from within.

The crystal will light up on as many occasions as required: Id, Diwali, Republic Day, Ram Navami, Buddha Jayanti and Christmas.

The waterfall is the most

important symbol of the structure. Water is sacred to all the faiths in India and it is essentially a cleanser for the faithful of every denomination.

It is most important to dedicate the site to the future of India where a rare combination of spirituality, science, worship and engineering combine to reflect the subcontinent's enormous cultural complexity. It is the tragedy of the Indian people that they can be collectively roused to very destructive levels. These two aspects of the Indian people go hand in hand as do the *Yin* and *Yang*, or the negative and positive. If we appeal to the negative we achieve our own destruction. Let this *Jharna* appeal to the creative, the spiritual and the scientific within us.

The *Jharna* heals us and symbolises compassion.

The idea for this structure has to pass through five stages to be realised.

1. The birth of an *idea* and its approval from the community.
2. *Scrutiny* by a multi-disciplinary team of scientists who specialise in: Astronomy (Nehru Planetarium), to determine declinations and expected errors in the movement of the sun and earth; Cartography (Survey of India), to determine the exact latitude of the site; Photovoltaics (BEL), to generate energy; Optics, to determine the acuity, focus, and spread of the image; Structural Science, to provide the non-deforming and non-degradable base to make this possible. The scrutiny and input of these experts will be part of a symbolic contribution made by the scientists of India to this venture.
3. *Outline design* and model tests by observation, computer simulation.
4. *Construction drawings*, to enable the work to proceed on site.
5. *The realisation* or construction of the structure.

The monument commemorates a faith in science and symbolises the ideals of the future of India.