


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 10, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced that the foundation would be laid for the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar river interlinking project before July next year.**

FIRST PHASE TO COST ₹7,677 CRORE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The new link canal will be 256-km long ➤ The project will benefit Karur, Trichy, Pudukottai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts ➤ The 1st phase of the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-phase project will link Mayanur barrage in Karur and South Vellar in Pudukottai district ➤ The proposed link will benefit a total culturable command area of 20,249.27 hectares
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- ✓ The link canal will originate near Mayanur barrage in Karur district, which was inaugurated in 2004 by former chief minister J Jayalithaa.
- ✓ The canal will transfer the surplus Cauvery water under phase-1 and is estimated to cost ₹7,677 crore
- ✓ The proposed 255.6 km link canal would irrigate more than 50,000 acres of land in Karur, Trichy, Pudukottai, Sivanganga, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts.
- ✓ The CM also announced that the foundation stone for the ambitious Mettur Surplus Water Scheme will be laid in March-April
- ✓ The project will be completed within a year at a cost of ₹615 crore
- ◆ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – launched the old age pension under the state government’s social security pension scheme to 5 lakh more people this fiscal year on November 9**

- ✓ The CM also announced that the upper ceiling of fixed assets value to avail of the scheme will be increased from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh so that a larger section of society gets benefitted by the scheme
- ✓ Currently, the monthly pension of ₹1,000 each is given to people who are 60 years and above, destitutes and those living below the poverty line
- ✓ As per the present norms, their fixed assets should be less than ₹50,000
- ✓ The government earlier issued an order sanctioning old age pension to 5 lakh new eligible pensioners for the year, which would cost the exchequer ₹618 crore annually.
- ✓ With the Centre partially sponsoring the pension scheme, the Tamil Nadu government was providing pension to 12.52 lakh beneficiaries till September 2019

◆ **The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) - has issued termination orders for 4 road projects in Tamil Nadu citing delay in land acquisition by the state government.**

- ✓ The total cost of the scrapped projects is ₹4,929 crore.
- ✓ The concerned projects involves the four laning of the Villupuram-Puducherry section (₹998.7 crore), Puducherry-Poondiyanakuppam section (₹1,294.5 crore), Poondianakuppam-Sattanathapuram section of NH 45 A (₹2,153.4crore) and two-laning of Meensurutti-Chidambaram section of NH 227, which was estimated to cost ₹482 crore.
- ✓ Four-laning of the 180km stretch of Villupuram-Nagapattinam NH 45 A was taken up in four phases under the Centre's Bharatmala Pariyojana.
- ✓ NHAI awarded the projects to the contractors in March 2018 under Hybrid Annuity Mode.

NATIONAL

◆ **PM Narendra Modi - inaugurates the passenger terminal building of the Kartarpur corridor on the Indian side, also known as Integrated Check Post, in Gurdaspur on November 9**



- ✓ PM Modi, who wore an orange turban for the occasion, flagged off the first jatha of 562 pilgrims to the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan through the newly built Kartarpur corridor
- ✓ It included former PM Manmohan Singh and his wife, chief minister Amarinder Singh and his MP wife, Union ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and Som Parkash, former Punjab cabinet minister Navjot Singh Sidhu and Akali Dal leaders Parkash Singh Badal, his son Sukhbir and daughter-in-law Harsimrat, an Union minister.
- ✓ On the occasion, the PM Modi was conferred the Qaumi Seva award by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC).

Pilgrims' progress

The Kartarpur Corridor saw the first batch of over 550 Indian pilgrims travel to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, 20 years after the idea was proposed. The events that led to the landmark deal between India and Pakistan:

February 1999:

The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor was proposed by the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he took a bus ride to Lahore as a part of a peace initiative with Pakistan

2000: Pakistan agreed to allow Sikh pilgrims from India to visit the shrine visa-free (and without passport) by constructing a bridge from the Indian side of the border to the shrine



Sikh pilgrims waiting for the inauguration at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib. ■ AFP

August 2018: Then Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu attended Pakistan PM Imran Khan's swearing-in ceremony in Islamabad. Upon return, he said that Pakistan would open the corridor on Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary

November 2018:

India's Cabinet approved the Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak to the Pakistan border. In the same month, Prime Minister Imran Khan laid the foundation stone of the corridor on the Pakistan side

November 2019:

PM Modi flagged off the first batch of Indian pilgrims

- ✓ The Kartarpur corridor links two important Sikh shrines — Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur and Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur in Pakistan.
- ✓ India and Pakistan completed the 4.7 km corridor to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of the founder of the Sikh faith on November 12.
- ◆ **Cyclone Bulbul – crossed coast and made landfall in Sagar Island in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal around 8.30pm on November 9 before swerving northeast towards Khepupara in Bangladesh.**
 - ✓ Bulbul approached the Bengal-Bangladesh coast across the Sunderbans delta at a speed of around 120-130kmph, generating a wind speed of 130-140kmph.
 - ✓ It eventually hit Sagar Island with a wind speed of 110-120kmph.
- ◆ **For the first time, a 'Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India' developed by CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) - to assess environmental damage was released in Hyderabad**
 - ✓ The atlas consists of 45 maps of metals, oxides and elements present in top and bottom soils across India
 - ✓ These maps help in assessing the contamination by industries or other polluting sources.
 - ✓ To develop the maps, the globe was divided into 5,000 cells of 160 km by 160 km each.
 - ✓ Of it, India has 122 cells with the first cell being Kanyakumari and the last cell is in Arunachal Pradesh
 - ✓ The work was commenced in 2007 and completed in 2011
 - ✓ In one glance using the Atlas, the regions with high and low concentrations of a metal will be known
 - ✓ P.K. Govil, retired chief scientist at NGRI, headed the project.
 - ✓ Keshav Krishna and V.M. Tiwari are two other authors of the atlas.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

◆ **A five-judge Supreme Court bench - handed over the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid disputed land for construction of a Ram temple on November 9 in a unanimous verdict.**

The Reasoning

- Hindus and Muslims had a competing right over the disputed site, but Hindus showed better evidence of their continuous worship at the disputed structure for centuries
- No evidence produced by Muslims to indicate their possession of disputed structure was exclusive and that offering of namaz was exclusionary of Hindus
- Muslims have never been in possession of outer courtyard. Inner courtyard has been a contested site with conflicting claims of Hindus and Muslims. But, there has been no abandonment of mosque by Muslims as namaz was offered till December 1949
- Sunni Wakf Board failed to establish ownership through adverse possession or possession through wakf (dedication by user)

Photo: Sunil Kataria



People belonging to different faiths celebrate outside the SC on Saturday after the verdict was announced

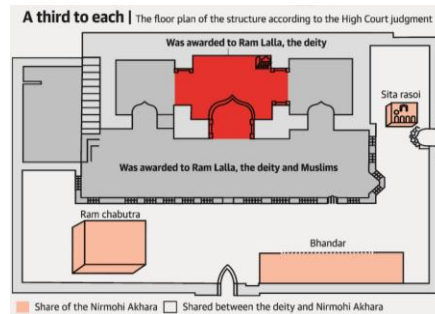
Next Steps

- Centre, which had acquired the 1,487 square yards disputed land along with 2.77 acres of disputed structure and 67 acres of adjacent land, will decide the allotment of the land for temple
- Land for mosque could be allotted by the Centre from the total acquired area or by the state government
- In deciding nature of the use of the land, the Centre to constitute a trust in three months, under the Acquisition of Certain Areas at Ayodhya Act, 1993, with board of trustees. Centre will also frame a scheme for functioning of the trust as well as on matters relating to management of trust, construction of temple and other incidental issues
- Possession of the disputed site and allocation of 5 acres land to Muslims for construction of a mosque will have to be done simultaneously
- Nirmohi Akhara, whose claim to shebait (priestly) rights on the deity has been rejected, to be given appropriate representation in the Trust
- No litigation over disputed sites of worship at Kashi and Mathura. Governments to follow Religious Places (Special Provision) Act, 1991, which mandates maintenance of status quo of the character of the disputed sites as it existed in 1947. Only Ram Janmabhumi-Babri Masjid was excluded from the ambit of this law

“The allotment of land to the Muslims is necessary because though on balance of probabilities, evidence regarding claim of Hindus to the composite whole of the disputed property stands on a better footing than the evidence adduced by Muslims, but Muslims were dispossessed upon desecration of mosque on 22/23 December 1949, which was ultimately destroyed on 6 December, 1992 —Supreme Court bench

- ✓ The bench used its inherent powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to direct the Centre/UP government to allot five acres at a prominent place in Ayodhya for construction of a mosque to the U.P. Central Sunni Waqfs Board.
- ✓ The verdict weighed in favour of deity Ram Lalla because the Hindu parties could produce better evidence to substantiate their right over the entire 2.77 acre disputed land
- ✓ The bench ordered framing of a scheme and its implementation through a trust, to be set up by the Centre, within three months for construction of the temple and its management
- ✓ The judges declared that the demolition of the 16th century Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992, was “an egregious violation of the rule of law” and “a calculated act of destroying a place of public worship”
- ✓ The court concluded that the Muslims were ousted from the 1,500 square yards of the mosque through acts of damage during communal riots in 1934, desecration in the intervening night of December 22-23, 1949, when idols were placed inside the mosque, and finally, the demolition of the mosque in 1992.
- ✓ The bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi, CJI-designate Sharad Arvind Bobde and Justices Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer took just 23 days to author a common judgment running into 929 pages.
- ✓ The bench had earlier reserved its verdict on October 16

- ✓ The SC set aside the September 30, 2010, verdict of the Allahabad high court, which had divided the core disputed area of 1,487 square yards, included the disputed 2.77 acres of plot, into three equal parts and allotted one part each to Ram Lalla (the area under the central dome of the demolished mosque), Nirmohi Akhara (outer courtyard including Ram Chabutra and Sita Rasoi) and the rest to Sunni Waqf Board.



- ✓ The Supreme Court's unanimous Ayodhya judgment broke three conventions followed in the SC for 70 years — a judgment always bears the name of the author, he/she alone reads it in open court and the main judgment isn't accompanied by an "addenda"
- ✓ Though CJI Ranjan Gogoi read out the judgment, it did not carry the author's name
- ✓ In the Ayodhya case, the judgment had 17 chapters from 'A' to 'Q' with the 116 page addenda attached to the 929-page unanimous verdict

Peek into the past

In 2010, the Allahabad High Court, with a majority decision of 2:1, ruled that the 2.77 acres of land in Ayodhya would be divided three-ways — one-third for the Sunni Waqf Board, one-third for the Nirmohi Akhara and one-third to the party for 'Ram Lalla' or infant Ram. A look at the chronology of events that led to the verdict and what followed after it, and the key plaintiffs in the case

Plaintiffs in the case

Suit	Date	Plaintiff	Case
I	January 13, 1950	Gopal Singh Visharad, a worshipper	Wanted declaration that he is entitled to worship Lord Ram without hindrance and that the idols should never be removed
II	December 5, 1950	Ram Chandra Paramahans, also a worshipper	Similar declaration to protect right of worship, but suit was withdrawn in 1990
III	December 17, 1959	Nirmohi Akhara	Demanded possession of property and removal of official receiver
IV	December 17, 1961	U.P. Central Sunni Wakf Board	Declaration that area be declared mosque, delivery of possession and removal of idols
V	July 1, 1989	Ram Lalla Virajman, Ram Janmasthan, Triloki Nath Pandey	Idol and Janmasthan, both claiming to be the deity, and represented by 'next friend', wanted a declaration that the property belonged to them

What did the judges say?

Was the mosque built in 1528 for Babur by Mir Baqi, his commander? Was it built after demolishing a Hindu temple there?

■ Who constructed it and when, were not proved. Traveller William Finch, who was in India in 1608-11, recorded that he saw the 'Fort of Ram' being worshipped by Hindus as the god's birthplace. Joseph Tieffenthaler, who visited Oudh sometime between 1766 and 1771, mentions that 'Emperor Aurangzebe' demolished 'Ramcote' and built 'a Mohammedan temple with three domes'. So it was probably built between the two time periods
- **Justices Sudhir Agarwal and Dharam Veer Sharma**

■ The disputed structure was built as a mosque by or under the order of Babur. However, no temple was destroyed to build it, but could have been constructed on the ruins of a much earlier Hindu structure
- **Justice Sibghat Ullah Khan**

When did the idols come up at the spot? Were they being worshipped there from time immemorial?

■ No, the idols were placed for the first time beneath the central dome in the inner courtyard on the night of December 22-23, 1949. Prior to that, the idols were in the outer courtyard
- **Justices Sudhir Agarwal and Dharam Veer Sharma, Justice Sibghat Ullah Khan**

Is this the birthplace of Ram?

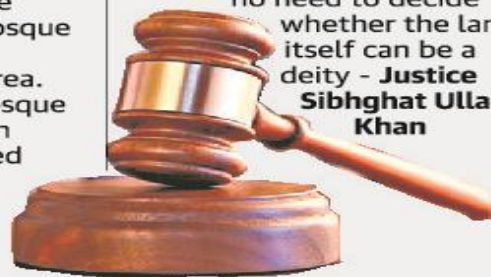
■ The area under the central dome is indeed the birthplace of Lord Ram as per the belief and faith of Hindus
- **Justices Sudhir Agarwal and Dharam Veer Sharma**

■ The belief existed for a long time, but until the construction of the mosque it was not related to a specified spot in the area. However, after the mosque came up, Hindus began identifying the disputed premises as the exact birthplace of Ram
- **Justice Sibghat Ullah Khan**

Are Ram Lalla and Ram Janmasthan (the deities) juridical persons? Can they hold property and be represented by a 'next friend'?

■ Yes, the idol and the land are both juridical persons and are capable of holding property. Also, the deity is a perpetual minor whose interests can be represented by a 'next friend'. The land is also believed to be divine and is worshipped by the faithful
- **Justices Sudhir Agarwal and Dharam Veer Sharma**

■ No doubt, the idol is a deity capable of holding property. But it is not proved that prior to the construction of the structure, this was believed to be the birthplace of Ram. Therefore, there is no need to decide whether the land itself can be a deity - **Justice Sibghat Ullah Khan**



- ✓ To solve the century old case, four failed mediation attempts were undertaken till now – in 2003 by Kanchi Shankaracharya, in 2017 by CJI JS Khehar, again in 2017 by spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Shia Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi and in 2019 by a three-member panel consisting of exjudge F M I Kalifulla , ace mediator Sriram Panchu and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
- ✓ The centre had earlier acquired the entire 67.73 acres of land including the 2.77 acres of the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid premises in 1993

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ Mercury - is putting on a rare celestial show on November 11, parading across the sun in view of most of the world

- ✓ The solar system's smallest, innermost planet will look like a tiny black dot as it passes directly between Earth and the sun on November 11
- ✓ The entire 5 -hour event beginning on 6pm IST will be visible, weather permitting, in the eastern US and Canada, and all Central and South America.
- ✓ The rest of North America, Europe and Africa will also be able to observe the event.

- ✓ Asia and Australia will not be able to observe the spectacle.
- ✓ Unlike its 2016 transit, Mercury will pass practically dead centre in front of our star.
- ✓ Mercury's next transit isn't until 2032, and North America won't get another viewing opportunity until 2049
- ✓ Earthlings get treated to just 13 or 14 Mercury transits a century.
- ✓ Mercury is 4,800km in diameter, compared with the Sun's 1.4 million km
- ✓ Mercury will cut a diagonal path left to right across the Sun, entering at bottom left (around the 8 hour mark on a clock) and exiting top right (around the 2 hour mark)

SPORTS

- ◆ **Tejaswini Sawant – clinches a quota for the 2020 Tokyo Games after finishing fourth in women's 50m rifle 3position final in the Asian shooting championship at Doha**



- ✓ She had won gold in 50m rifle prone event at the World Championships in 2010

- ◆ **Abhimanyu Mishra - became the youngest International Master (IM) in the world on November 8**



- ✓ Abhimanyu, an American boy with Indian roots, bettered Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa's record of being the youngest IM by 17 days at 10 years 9 months and 3 days
- ✓ Praggi had become an IM on May 30, 2016
- ✓ Abhimanyu had achieved his maiden IM norm at the Chess Max Academy GM norm tournament in August this year
- ✓ During the course of that event, Abhimanyu --- at 10 years, 7 months and 3 days -- had surpassed Praggi's record of being the youngest-ever IM norm holder by 15 days.
- ✓ Abhimanyu --- who has an ELO rating of 2411 --- achieved his third and final IM norm at the Chess Max Academy 1st Fall GM Invitational in New York.

- ◆ **Sweden's Thomas Dennerby - was appointed head coach of the Indian women's team for the U-17 World Cup**



- ✓ The 60-year-old UEFA Pro Diploma holder had earlier guided Sweden women's national team to a third-place finish in the FIFA World Cup in 2011, and a quarterfinal spot in the 2012 London Olympics.
- ✓ His last assignment was with the Nigerian women's national team, coaching the Super Falcons to the 2019 FIFA World Cup.
- ✓ He also helped the Nigerian women win the AWCON 2018, and was awarded the 2018 Coach of the Year in Nigeria.
- ✓ Sweden are currently placed 5 in the FIFA ranking, while Nigeria are at 36.

AYODHYA – A CHRONOLOGICAL REPORT

A MOSQUE IS BUILT



1528
Mir Baqi, a general of Mughal emperor Babur, builds Babri Masjid at Ayodhya; Hindus claim the mosque was built after razing a big Ram temple



THREE CENTURIES LATER...

1856-57 | Either before or after the 1857 revolt, the British divides the disputed structure into two equal halves by putting iron railings to segregate worship areas for Hindus and Muslims to stop them from quarrelling. Muslims used the inner portion while Hindus used the outer portion

1877 | The British open another door towards north to facilitate entry of Hindus to worship at Ram Chabutara and Kaushalya (Sita) Rasoi

FIRST LEGAL BATTLE

Jan 29, 1885 | Mahant Raghubar Das files suit to construct a temple at Ram Chabutara

Dec 24, 1885 | Faizabad sub-judge refuses permission saying construction of temple at Ram Chabutara would amount to laying down foundation of riot between the two communities. Das appeals against the sub-judge's decision

Mar 18, 1886 | Faizabad district judge FEA Chamier says it is unfortunate that a mosque was built on land Hindus consider sacred but since the incident happened 356 years ago, there was no option but to maintain status quo now

Nov 1, 1886 | Court of judicial commissioner, Oudh, Justice W Young, dismisses appeal against district judge's decision

20TH CENTURY TWISTS & TURNS

1934 | Hindu-Muslim riots in Ayodhya damage domes of the mosque; British imposes a fine on Hindus and reconstruct damaged domes

Dec 22-23, 1949 | Idols of Ram placed under the central dome
Muslims stop offering prayers at the mosque

Dec 29, 1949 | Faizabad additional city magistrate Markendeya Singh passes orders attaching the disputed property and gives it in receivership of Priya Datt Ram, chairman of municipal board



FIRST SUIT IS FILED, MORE FOLLOW

Jan 16, 1950 | Gopal Singh Visharad files first suit as a devotee seeking protection of his right to worship Ram Lalla and seeks a restraint order on authorities from removing the deity from under the central dome

Dec 5, 1950 | Paramhans Ramchandra Das files Suit No.2, seeking reliefs similar to Gopal Singh. (This suit was dismissed as withdrawn on Sept 18, 1990 by Allahabad HC)

De 17, 1959 | Nirmohi Akhara files Suit No.3, seeking shebait (priestly) rights at the disputed site and to manage the Ram Janmabhoomi site

Dec 18, 1961 | UP Sunni Central Board of Waqfs files Suit No.4 seeking declaration that Babri Mosque belongs to Muslims and had been a place for



offering prayers since 1528. (On May 25, 1995, it added another prayer seeking handover of the property by removing unauthorised construction – i.e. makeshift temple)

Jan 6, 1964 | Faizabad civil judge consolidates four suits and makes suit filed by Waqf Board as the leading suit with consent of parties

Oct 20, 1970 | Row over receivership passing to KK Verma after death of Priya Datt Ram sees locks placed on one the gate of the disputed site

Jan 25, 1986 | Advocate Umesh Chand Pandey files plea seeking removal of locks to allow public to have darshan of deity (From 1949, only two or three priests were allowed to perform puja; public was not allowed to enter the inner dome)

Feb 1, 1986
Faizabad district judge K N

Pandey orders opening of lock at 16:15 hours. Within minutes, locks are opened and the dispute gets national attention

1987 | UP govt files an application in Allahabad HC seeking withdrawal of the suits from district court to HC

Jul 1, 1989 | Deity Ram Lalla through next friend, Deoki Nandan Agarwala files Suit No.5. This claims Ram temple stood at Ayodhya since Vikramaditya's time and alleges it was destroyed by Mir Baqi in 1528 to build the mosque. It seeks possession of the entire disputed site for building Ram temple. (After Agarwala's death, T P Verma became next friend before himself being replaced by Triloki Nath Pandey)

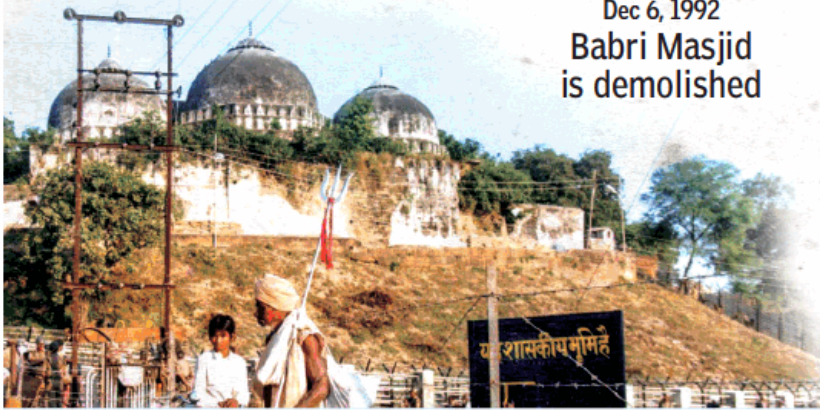
Jul 10, 1989 | Allahabad HC transfers all pending suits on disputed structure from Faizabad district court to itself

A MOSQUE IS DEMOLISHED



Oct 7-10, 1991

The **Kalyan Singh**-led UP government acquires the disputed site (1,487 sq yards) and adjoining areas (a total of 2.77 acres) for "development of tourism and providing amenities to pilgrims in Ayodhya". This is challenged in HC by Mohd Hashim Ansari



Dec 6, 1992
Babri Masjid is demolished

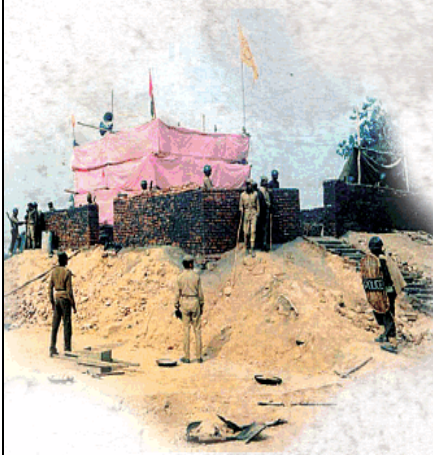
Dec 11, 1992
5 days after demolition, HC quashes acquisition of land by UP government

Jan 7, 1993 | Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Ordinance issued for acquisition of 67.703 acres of land in Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid complex. It was later made into a legislation - Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act, 1993, by which the Centre became the receiver of the disputed site

HIGH COURT DECIDES

Sept 30, 2010 | Allahabad HC bench of Justices S U Khan, Sudhir Agarwal and D V Sharma by majority verdict divide the 1,487 sq yards disputed site into three equal parts with Ram Lalla (deity) getting the portion under the central dome, Nirmohi Akhara getting the outer courtyard area comprising Ram Chabutara, Kaushalya (Sita) Rasoi and Bhandara area and Sunni Waqf Board getting the rest

OVER TO SUPREME COURT



May 9, 2011 | SC bench of justices Aftab Alam & RM Lodha stays operation of HC order on cross-appeals filed by Hindu and Muslim parties challenging three-way division of the disputed site

Sept 27, 2018 | A three-judge SC bench rejects plea of Muslim parties to refer the Ayodhya land dispute to a five-judge bench; says a three-judge bench would hear the cross-appeals against Allahabad HC ruling

Jan 8, 2019 | CJI Gogoi uses his powers as master of roster under SC Rules to refer Ayodhya dispute to a five-judge bench despite judicial order for hearing before

the three-judge bench

Mar 8, 2019 | Five-judge SC bench names three-member panel – ex-judge FMI Kalifulla, mediator Sriram Panchu and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravishankar – to explore possibility of a negotiation. Hindu parties, except Nirmohi Akhara, opposes mediation

Jul 31, 2019 | Mediation panel expresses inability to reach an amicable solution

Aug 6, 2019 | Five-judge bench starts daily hearings

Sept 18, 2019 | SC permits resumption of talks by three-member panel after Sunni Waqf Board shows willingness for broad

consensus achieved by panel in its previous attempt. But it refuses to adjourn day-to-day hearing

Oct 16, 2019 | Panel informs SC about reaching a settlement where Waqf Board agrees to give up claims on disputed land and agrees to construction of temple. Wants other mosques in Ayodhya to be restored and opening of a few mosques under ASI management for offering of prayers. Agrees to building a mosque at an alternative site

Oct 16, 2019 | SC reserves verdict on after hearing lasting 40 days

Nov 9, 2019 | SC paves way for temple at disputed site