



Allahabad High Court to Hear Plea for Mathura Mosque Removal

Why in News?

The Allahabad high court has fixed a date for hearing a plea regarding the removal of the [Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura](#) , which stands adjacent to the Krishna Janmasthan temple.

Key Points

- The suits filed by Bhagwan Shrikrishna Virajman at Katra Keshav Dev Khewat and 17 others claim that the mosque was built on **13.37-acre land of Katra Keshav Deo temple**.
- History of the Disputed Land:
 - Raja Veer Singh Bundela of Orchha had also built a temple on the same premises in 1618 and the mosque was built by **Aurangzeb in 1670** on the site of an earlier temple.
 - The **Krishna Janmasthan temple in Mathura** is believed to have been built **around 2,000 years ago, in the 1st century CE**.
 - A survey has been ordered due to demands by Hindu representatives for complete ownership of the premises where the Keshava Deva temple was destroyed on the orders of **Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1670**.
 - The area was regarded as [nazul land](#) — non-agricultural state land owned by the Marathas, and then the British.
 - The temple was originally built in **1618** during the **reign of Jahangir** and was patronized by **Aurangzeb's brother** and rival, [Dara Shukoh](#).
 - In **1815**, the **Raja of Benaras** purchased the 13.77-acre land from the **East India Company**.
 - Later, the **Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust** was established.
 - The trust acquired ownership rights over the temple, and in **1951**.
 - The 13.77-acre land was placed under the trust with the condition that it would never be sold or pledged.
 - In **1956**, the **Shri Krishna Janmasthan Sewa Sangh** was set up to manage the affairs of the temple.
 - In 1968, an agreement was signed between the **Sri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sangh and the Shahi Idgah Masjid Trust**, where the temple authority conceded a portion of the land to the **Idgah** as part of the settlement.
 - The current dispute involves temple petitioners seeking possession of the entire piece of land.