

AYODHYA VERDICT: AN OVERVIEW

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THE BACKGROUND

Ayodhya is one of the holy places of Hindus according to their holy books and is the janma and karma bhoomi of Lord Rama. According to local people, there was a temple of Lord Rama and Hindus always do worship of that place since the 12th century.

In 1528, Mir Baqi, Commander of Mughal Emperor Babur, demolished the temple of Lord Rama and he built a mosque named Babri Masjid in honour of Mughal Emperor Babur. After that, Muslims did worship there.

In 1853, the first riots happens between Hindus and Muslims. To stop this riots the British Government comes around and they were trying to solve this matter. They divide the whole area into two-part. 1st is the outer portion and 2nd is the inner portion (Main building of Mosque). They decided that 1st portion which is the outer portion will be used by Hindus and 2nd portion which is the inner portion will be used by Muslims and government ordered to do fencing of that area. People followed that Governmental order.

COURT PROCEEDINGS INITIATED FOR THE FIRST TIME

In 1885, this matter goes into court for the first time. In this case, Mahant Raghbir Das claimed that he is Mahant and located in chabutra. He said he should be permitted to build a temple there for worship. This suit was dismissed. In 1886, a civil appeal was filed against Judgement of the court delivered in 1885. District judge of Faizabad, FER Chamier, decided to visit the

place before passing any order. He later dismissed the appeal. Again, another appeal was filed against the dismissal of the appeal. Court of Judicial commissioner also dismissed the appeal.

After the dismissal of that appeal, there was no legal progress in this case. In 1934, there was another riot took place in Ayodhya and Hindus demolish a portion of the structure of the disputed site. The portion was rebuilt by the British Government.

In 22nd December 1949, at midnight, a group of people went into the mosque and place their idol of Lord Rama. They told everyone that Lord Rama came last night there and sit there. On 23rd December 1949, DM of Faizabad, K. K. Nayar, informed Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh about the matter. FIR was filed and gates of that disputed site were locked on the same day.

On 16th January 1950, this case was filed first time in Independent India. Gopal Singh became the person to file a suit. Gopal Visharad filed a suit against five Muslims, State government and the district magistrate of Faizabad praying for the right to pray and conduct Pooja in the inner portion. On the same day, the civil judge passed an order of injunction and allowed the puja.

On May 25, the second suit was filed by Pramahans Ramchandra das against Zahoor Ahmad and others and it was similar to that of the first suit. Nine years later, on December 17, 1959, Nirmohi Akhara filed the third suit to take over the management from the receiver.

Two years later, on December 18, 1961, Sunni Central Waqf Board along with all those defendants named in the earlier suits, filed the fourth suit in the court of civil judge, Faizabad, praying for the removal of idol and handing over the possession of the land. On March 20, 1963, the court held that the entire Hindu community can't be represented by a few persons. It ordered for a public notice to implead Hindu Maha Sabha, Arya Samaj and Sanatan Dharma Sabha as defendants to represent the Hindu community. During this time several petitions filed for possession of the land. In 1986 Faizabad Court gives permission to Hindus to do Pooja.

On July 1, 1989, a fifth suit was filed by former Allahabad High Court Judge Deoki Nandan Agarwal as "next friend" of Ram Lala Virajman before the civil judge in Faizabad. It prayed that the whole site is handed over to Ram Lala Virajman for the construction of a new temple. In 1989, the Shia Waqf Board also filed a suit and became a defendant in the case. In 1990 BJP

Minister Lal Krishna Advani launches a Rath Yatra in support of the Ram Janmabhoomi moment from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya. By this situation got tensed. In Bihar, Lal Krishna Advani arrested for Rath Yatra. Because of Mr. Advani was a senior leader of the party, the party took back their support from the VP Singh government. On December 1992, thousands of kar sevaks gathered at disputed land and demolished Babri Masjid and on that place they built temporary Ram Mandir. By that once again riots between Hindu and Muslims took place again. There were riots all over India. Millions of people lose their lives in that riot. On 16th December 1992 about the matter of demolition of the masjid, who was responsible and to took after situation Liberhan Committee was appointed.

On April 3, 1993 Acquisition of Certain area at Ayodhya Act' was passed for the acquisition of land by Center in the disputed area. The various writ petition was filed in Allahabad High Court challenging the Act. On October 24, 1994, one writ petition, which was filed by Ismail Faruqi, in that case, the Supreme Court held that "Mosque was not integral to Islam."

STATUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In 2002, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee started Ayodhya Vibhag, whose main objective was a resolution by talking to Hindus and Muslims and come towards the situation. In April 2002, for deciding the ownership right of that land a bench of 3 judges constituted at Allahabad High court. The three judges were Justice Sudhir Agarwal, Justice S U Khan and Justice D V Sharma. Allahabad High Court gives the order to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to investigate the land and tells to submit a report on that. ASI gives report and stated that in the 12th century there was something like the temple and in 1528 on the same area a masjid was built, and time period of 300 years between there is no evidence for that.

Considering all evidence Allahabad High Court delivers historical judgement on September 30, 2010. They divide the whole area into 3 part. 1st was the main building of the land, this part was given to Ram Lala Virajman. 2nd part which includes Sita Rasoi, Ram Chabura and Store Room, it was given to Nirmohi Akhara. And 3rd part rest of all area was given to Sunni Waqf Board. On this judgement, the Supreme Court put stay on May 9, 2011. To build the temple, Subramanian Swamy filed a case in Supreme Court in February 2016. In March 2017

chief Justice J S Khehar advised solving this dispute outside the court by a discussion between related parties.

Till December 2017, there were 32 appeals in Supreme Court against the decision of Allahabad High Court. Supreme Court said that the hearing of this case will start from January 2019. For the hearing of this case, SC composed a bench of 5 judges, Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice S Abdul Nazeer. On 8 March 2019 on this dispute Supreme Court says to settle it by a Mediation penal regulated by the court. On May 2019 Mediation Penal submits their final report in the court. After that in SC 40 days of hearing goes on from 6th August to 14th October. After hearing SC reserves its Judgement but it tells the parties to submit Moulding of Relief.

Nirmohi Akhara was represented by Sushil Kumar Jain, Sunni Waqf Board was represented by Rajiv Dhavan and Ram Lala Virajman was represented by C S Vaidyanathan. Nirmohi Akhara said that from 1934 possession of inner courtyard should be given to them but there was no any document for this with them.

Rajiv Dhavan said that on 6 December 1992. There was a mosque there only that fact should be considered. On 1949 in the middle of the night murti was placed on the masjid which was an illegal act. And from this illegal act, no other party should be benefited from this. C S Vaidyanathan said that there was always temple existed. And since 1949 area is under control of Ram Lala Virajman. So possession of the land should be given to them. Finally, SC gives his judgement and they give this land to Ram Lala Virajman. And ordered to State Government they to give 5 acres to Sunni Waqf Board. Land should be given on the same days to both the party,

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