



Trial Essential to Define 'Religious Character of Place of Worship': Allahabad HC

The **Allahabad High Court's** recent stance in the [Gyanvapi case](#) suggests that the [Places of Worship Act, 1991](#) does not clarify “**religious character of any place of worship**” and can only be determined in a trial, based on documentary and oral evidence, on a case-to-case basis.

- The Places of Worship Act, 1991 bars the conversion of religious sites into places of worship for a different religion or sect.
 - It also mandates preserving the religious identity of any place of worship as it stood on **15th August, 1947**.
- The Gyanvapi case is a legal battle concerning the **ownership and religious identity of Varanasi's Gyanvapi complex**, housing both a mosque and a temple.
 - Hindu plaintiffs argue that the entire area, including the mosque site, was originally a temple dedicated to **Swayambhu Lord Adi Vishweshwar**.
 - They claim that this temple, once on the **Gyanvapi plot**, was demolished by Emperor Aurangzeb in 1669.
- Neither the government nor the Supreme Court has presented a clear stance on this issue to date.

Read more: [Places of Worship Act, 1991](#)

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