



# Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Dispute

## Why in News?

A [Supreme Court](#) bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna is set to hear the case on [Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura](#).

- It is among the oldest temple-mosque conflicts in India, with **Hindus seeking to reclaim places of worship** they allege were converted into mosques during invasions by Muslim rulers.

## Key Points

### ▪ Background of the Dispute:

- Mathura, considered the birthplace of Lord Krishna, had a **temple built in 1618**.
- The Hindu side alleges that the **temple was demolished in 1670 by Mughal ruler Aurangzeb to construct the Shahi Idgah Mosque**.
- The Hindu side claims the mosque **contains Hindu religious symbols and features**, including a lotus-shaped pillar and an image of the deity Sheshnag.
  - Also contends that the mosque was built on a part of the 13.37-acre land **belonging to the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust** and has **filed a suit seeking the mosque's relocation**.
- **The Shahi Idgah Mosque Committee and the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board** argue that the mosque does not stand on disputed land.

### ▪ Key Developments:

#### ◦ Court-Monitored Survey:

- On 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the **Allahabad High Court** ordered a **court-monitored survey** of the Shahi Idgah Mosque.
- The court appointed a commissioner to oversee the survey, based on claims that signs of the site's past as a Hindu temple exist on the mosque premises.

#### ◦ Supreme Court Intervention:

- The Committee of Management, Trust Shahi Masjid Idgah, filed a petition **challenging the High Court's order for the survey**.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the Supreme Court stayed the High Court's order for the survey, citing vagueness in the Hindu side's application.

### ▪ Arguments:

#### ◦ Hindu Side's Position:

- They demanded that the High Court conduct an original trial, similar to the [Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case](#).
- The Hindu side has urged the Supreme Court to allow the High Court to determine the modalities for the commission survey.

#### ◦ Mosque Committee's Position:

- The committee argues that the High Court's order for a survey is invalid as the suit is barred under [the Places of Worship Act, 1991](#) which prevents changes to the character of religious places as of 15th August 1947.
- The committee has also challenged the High Court's 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023, order transferring all dispute-related cases from the Mathura court to itself.



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