# Ram Mandir-Babri Masjid issue

## Why in news?

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Chief Justice of India said the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suits were a matter of ‘sentiments and religion’ that were best resolved amicably, preferably without intervention by the courts.

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## What the CJI has said?

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- In 2010, the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court had passed an order, directing the site occupied by the Babri Masjid before its demolition **should be divided three ways equally** among Muslims, Hindus and **Nirmohi Akhara** group of Hindu Sadhus.
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- On 22$^{nd}$ March 2017, the three-judge bench heard a petition by a BJP MP challenging the 2010 ruling to split the disputed land.
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- The Supreme Court suggested an out-of-court settlement since its a matter of religion and sentiments.
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- CJI said the court will ask any person to mediate who is acceptable to all sides. He even said that he himself is ready to mediate.
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- However, at least 5 earlier attempts at resolving the decades-old quarrel through negotiations have not been successful.
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## What’s the dispute?

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- It is about a plot measuring 2.77 acres in Ayodhya that houses the Babri

mosque and Ram Janmabhoomi.
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- This particular piece of land is considered sacred among Hindus as it is believed to be the birthplace of Lord Ram.
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- Muslims argue that the land houses Babri mosque, where they had offered prayers for years before the dispute erupted.
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- The controversy is over whether the **Babri mosque was built on top of a Ram temple** after demolishing or modifying it in the 16th century.
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- Muslims, on the other hand, say the **mosque was built by Mir Baqi in 1528 and that Hindus took control over it in 1949,** when some people placed idols of Lord Ram inside the mosque
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## What are some of the important incidents happened?

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- In 1853, he **first recorded incident of violence** over the holy site takes place during the reign of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah of Awadh. Nirmohis, a Hindu sect, claim that a Hindu temple had been destroyed during Babur's times to build the mosque.
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- In 1984, Hindu groups form a committee to spearhead the construction of the Ram temple at the Janmabhoomi site.
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- In 1990, Volunteers of the VHP **partially damage the mosque.** The then PM intervenes and tries to resolve the issue through negotiations, but these fail.
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- **On 6 December 1992,** a large crowd of Hindu karsevaks (volunteers) demolished the 16th-century Babri Mosque in the city of Ayodhya. The demolition occurred after a political rally at the site turned violent.
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- This leads to some of the most deadliest riots across the country, leading to the deaths of more than 2,000 people.
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- The central government, headed by P V Narasimha Rao, sets up a commission of enquiry under Justice M S Liberhan on December 16.
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- In February 2002, in an attack on a train from Godhra in Gujarat, believed to be carrying karsevaks to Ayodhya, at least 58 people are killed.
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- Riots erupt across the state and over 1,000 people are said to have been killed during the riots.
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- The High Court orders the Archaeological Survey of India **(ASI) to excavate the site** to determine if it was earlier a temple.
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- The ASI begins the survey to determine whether a temple existed on the site.
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- It finds evidence of the presence of a temple under the mosque. Muslim organisations dispute the findings.
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- In 2010, the Allahabad High Court pronounces its judgment on the four title suits relating to the dispute and said that the disputed land be divided into three parts equally.
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**Source: Business Standard**

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