

# Temple Existed At The Site Of Gyanvapi Mosque Says ASI Reports

## Why In The News?

- The Archaeological Survey Of India (ASI) In Its Scientific Survey Report On The Gyanvapi Mosque Complex Has Concluded That **“There Existed A Hindu Temple Prior To The Construction Of The Existing Structure”** At The Site.
- The Report Was Submitted To The Court Last Month In A Sealed Cover. Its Copies Were Given On January 25 By The Court To **Hindu And Muslim Litigants** In Matters Related To The Dispute Over The Site.
- The ASI Was Tasked By The Varanasi District Court In July 2023 To Conduct A Scientific Survey Of The Mosque And Ascertain If It Was **“Constructed Over A Pre-existing Structure Of A Hindu Temple”**.



## Key Takeaways

- The Pre-existing Structure Was Probably Destroyed In The 17<sup>th</sup> Century, During The **Reign Of Aurangzeb**. The Report Mentions A Loose Stone With An Inscription Engraved On It Which Recorded The Construction Of The Mosque During Between The Years **1676 And 1677**.

- As Per Report During The Survey, A Total Of **34 Inscriptions Were Recorded**, Inscriptions In **Devanagari, Grantha, Telugu And Kannada Scripts** With Names Of Deities Found.
- Parts Of The Pre-existing Temple Were Reused For The **Expansion Of The Mosque And Construction Of Sahan**. The Survey Included An Examination Of Pillars And Pilasters (Rectangular Columns) In The Corridor Which Indicated That They Were Part Of The Pre-existing Temple.
- The **Central Chamber And Main Entrance** Of The Pre-existing Structure Are Part Of The Existing Structure. According To The Report, The Pre-existing Temple Had One Big Central Chamber And At Least One Chamber To The North, South, East, And West, Respectively.
- The Report Noted That **Pillars From The Pre-existing Temple Were Reused To Make Cellars** In The Eastern Part Of The Platform Cellars And The Platform Were Constructed In Front Of The Mosque To Accommodating A Large Number Of People For Prayers.

