

Ayodhya Case and Supreme Court of India

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A dispute attracting attention throughout India and pertaining to religion and land use rights over the years, the so-called Ayodhya case, was given a ruling on November 16, 2019. The case concerned the ownership and use of land and around a mosque in Ayodhya, which was sued by several plaintiffs. Therefore, this presentation first presents an overview of the Indian judicial system and subsequently introduces the structure of the judgment. Then, among the matters at issue in the present judgment, the author has examined the issue of the legal personality of the deity and the alleged birthplace of Lord Ram, along with the issue of ownership of the disputed land.

Finally, the author notes a salient issue of the position of this judgment in a diverse Indian society: how inter-religious equality is regarded as a matter of 'constitutional value', as described in the judgment. Many questions must be regarded as to how "judicial independence" as a "basic structure of the Constitution" was treated in arriving at this ruling.