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## 1. UP Sambhal violence: what is the row around the Shahi Jama Masjid

### Overview



**Sambhal Masjid Controversy:** Three people were killed in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district amid stone pelting and torching of vehicles recently, as a team of surveyors reached Chandausi town to carry out a second survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid.

The survey was ordered by a local court, after a petition claimed a temple had been demolished to build the mosque in 1526. The order was passed by the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division), Sambhal at Chandausi, Aditya Singh.

Within hours of filing the petition, the judge appointed an advocate commissioner and directed him to carry out an initial survey at the mosque, which was done the same day. The court also directed that a report of the survey be filed before it by November 29.

### What is the Jama masjid in Chandausi?

The Jama Masjid "is a protected monument", notified on December 22, 1920 under Section 3, sub-section (3) of Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904. It has been "declared as Monument of National importance and figures on the website of ASI, Agra circle Moradabad division" in the list of centrally protected monuments.

### Who has filed the case?

A total of eight petitioners have filed the case in the Sambhal court. These include advocate Hari Shankar Jain, who is also a lawyer in the Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath dispute; Advocate Parth Yadav; and Mahant Rishiraj Giri, the mahant of the Kalki Devi temple in Sambhal. Other petitioners are Noida resident Ved Pal Singh; Sambhal residents Rakesh Kumar, Jitpal Yadav, Madanpal, and Deenanath.

### What does the petition say?

The plea claims there is a "centuries old Shri Hari Har Temple dedicated to Lord Kalki in the heart of city of Sambhal which is being used forcibly and unlawfully" by the Jama Masjid Committee.

The petition says that "Sambhal is a historical city and holds unique significance deeply rooted in Hindu Shastras, according to which it is sacred site where an incarnation of Lord Vishnu known as Kalki manifest in the future, a Divine figure yet to make an appearance".

"Kalki is believed to be tenth and last incarnation of Lord Vishnu, destined to arrive in Kalyuga. His descent is believed to herald the end of the dark and tumultuous Kalyuga ushering in the next age, known as Satyuga," says the plea under the heading "historical facts".

The petition says that that "Hindu scriptures confirm that in ancient times a unique 'Vigrah' consisting of Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva emerged and due to this reason, it is called 'Shri Hari Har' temple. It says that "Shri Hari Har temple of Sambhal was made by Lord Vishwakarma Himself in the beginning of the universe".

It further says that Babar invaded India in 1526 AD and "destroyed a number of Hindu temples to show the might of Islam to make the Hindus feel that they are subjects of Islamic ruler".

The plea says that "in 1527-28 Hindu Beg, the Lieutenant of Babar Army partly demolished Shri Hari Har temple at Sambhal" and that "the Muslims occupied the temple building to use the same as mosque".

The petitioners say that the monument is protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and under section 18 of the Act, the public has the "right of access to protected monument".

It says that the public "has right of access to the subject property in accordance with Rule 5 of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules,1959.

#### **What have the petitioners said about the ASI?**

The plea says that the "ASI has failed to have control over the subject property and they are not taking any action". "The Officers of ASI are silent spectator and they have succumbed to the pressure exerted by members of Muslim community," it says.

#### **What relief have the petitioners sought from the court?**

The plea has asked the court to pass an order allowing the petitioners the "right of access into Shri Hari Har Temple/alleged Jama Masjid".

They have asked the court to pass an order commanding the defendants (mosque committee, Union government, ASI) "to make appropriate provisions for giving access to the members of public within" the mosque.

The petitioners have also sought from the court an order in the nature of "permanent injunction restraining the defendants, their officers, workers and every person acting under them from creating any hurdle or obstacle in entering the Plaintiffs and the members of the public into" the structure.

#### **What has the Muslim side said?**

Reacting to the survey of the Jama Masjid, Samajwadi Party MP from Sambhal, Ziaur Rehman Barq, said, "Outsiders have attempted to disrupt the communal harmony of the district by filing a petition of this nature in court. The Supreme Court has already stated that, according to the Worship Act of 1991, all religious places that existed in 1947 will remain in their current locations. Jama Masjid in Sambhal is a historic site where Muslims have been offering prayers for several centuries. We have the right to appeal to the high court if we do not receive a satisfactory order from the local court."

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

## 2. International Cooperative Alliance

### Introduction

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is the global organization that unites, represents, and serves cooperatives around the world.

Founded in 1895, London, England during the 1st Cooperative Congress it is one of the oldest and largest non-governmental organizations, representing 1 billion cooperative members globally.

With approximately 3 million cooperatives across the planet, the ICA serves as the apex body for the cooperative movement, providing a global platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and coordinated action. It is the leading voice for cooperatives, advocating for their interests and supporting the sharing of expertise across the sector. The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) has over 306 member organizations across 105 countries.

Its members include both international and national cooperative organizations representing a wide range of economic sectors, such as agriculture, banking, consumer goods, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry & services.

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) first expanded into the Asia-Pacific region with the establishment of the Regional Office & Education Centre for South-East Asia in 1960. This was the result of discussions that had taken place at various ICA Congresses starting in 1948, aimed at bringing the national cooperative movements of developing countries closer to the global cooperative network. The discussions also explored how cooperation could be a tool for social and economic development in these countries.

In 1954, the ICA's 19th Congress held in Paris passed a resolution highlighting the responsibility of established cooperative movements, particularly in developed countries, to support the cooperative pioneers in underdeveloped countries. The resolution emphasized the role of cooperation in fostering economic growth in these regions and recommended drawing up an actionable program to facilitate the spread of cooperation and provide the necessary financial assistance.

### 2024 ICA Global Conference

The 2024 ICA Global Conference will mark a historic milestone as it takes place in India for the first time in the event's 130-year history! The conference will be held in New Delhi, bringing together cooperators from around the globe to explore the role of cooperatives in shaping a collective, peaceful, and prosperous future for all.

The conference theme, "Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All," highlights the people-centered, purpose-driven, and progress-oriented nature of cooperatives.



### **Role of India in the Development of ICA-Asia Pacific (ICA-AP)**

India has been a central figure in the development and success of the International Co-operative Alliance Asia-Pacific (ICA-AP). From the inception of ICA's regional office in New Delhi in 1960, to its continued influence in the global cooperative movement, India has not only been a key member but also a driving force in shaping cooperative models that have had a profound impact across the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Establishment of the ICA Regional Office in India**

In 1957, at the behest of ICA, Dr. G. Keler, a Swedish cooperative expert, conducted an exploratory tour across several Asian countries, including India. His mission was to assess the region's needs for cooperative development and evaluate the potential for ICA's intervention. Dr. Keler visited countries such as Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Burma, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, and South Korea, where he engaged in discussions with key stakeholders, including cooperative organizations, governments, and United Nations agencies.

Based on his findings and the consultations that followed at the Kuala Lumpur Conference in 1958, ICA decided to establish its Regional Office and Education Centre in New Delhi, India, marking a crucial step in fostering cooperative development across both South and East Asia.

India's role as the host nation for the ICA regional office was not only significant due to its geographical location but also because of its commitment to cooperative principles. This decision paved the way for India to become a cornerstone in the evolution of ICA-AP and its activities in the region.

### **Official Inauguration of the ICA Regional Office & Education Centre**

On November 14, 1960, the ICA Regional Office and Education Centre (ICA ROEC) was officially inaugurated in New Delhi by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. Nehru was a strong advocate for the cooperative movement and recognized its potential to support India's rural development. His involvement was symbolic of the deep connection between India's socio-economic goals and the cooperative model.

In his inaugural address, Nehru emphasized the importance of cooperation for achieving national self-reliance and social equality. His vision for India aligned closely with ICA's goals, reinforcing the role of cooperatives in promoting socio-economic development and equity. Nehru's leadership during India's freedom struggle and his focus on fostering unity in the post-colonial era underscored his support for cooperatives as vital instruments of social change.

### **Evolution of ICA-Asia Pacific and India's Role**

Initially, the ICA ROEC operated as two separate institutions – the Regional Office and the Education Centre – with their own leadership structures. However, in 1963, the two entities were merged to form a single institution known as the ICA Regional Office and Education Centre. This restructuring allowed for better coordination and streamlined operations, setting the foundation for future expansion.

In 1970, the head of the institution was designated as the Regional Director, and the office continued to evolve. Over the years, ICA-AP's scope broadened to cover all of Asia and the Pacific, and by 1990, the organization was renamed the International Cooperative Alliance Asia-Pacific (ICA-AP) to reflect its expanded mandate.

The ICA-AP office in New Delhi has remained the central hub for ICA's operations in the region, overseeing capacity-building initiatives, offering technical assistance, and advocating for cooperative-friendly policies. India has consistently played an influential role in guiding the growth and strategic direction of ICA-AP, helping cooperatives thrive across diverse sectors.

### **Governance Structure of ICA-AP**

ICA-AP operates within the larger framework of ICA's global governance structure, which includes various bodies designed to ensure effective collaboration and decision-making among member organizations in the region:

**Regional Assembly:** This is the highest policy body, where all ICA member organizations participate. It is responsible for guiding the regional office and discussing regional and global issues, making recommendations to the ICA General Assembly.

**Regional Board:** The Regional Board supports the implementation of policies and decisions made by the Regional Assembly, ensuring that ICA-AP's goals are effectively pursued.

**Sectoral and Thematic Committees:** These committees focus on specific areas such as agriculture, finance, housing, and sustainable development. Their work is central to addressing regional needs and promoting cooperative solutions.



India's participation in these bodies has ensured that its interests are well-represented and that it continues to lead efforts in shaping the cooperative movement in the region.

### **India's Contribution to ICA-AP and the Cooperative Movement**

India's cooperative movement is deeply ingrained in its socio-economic fabric, reflecting the values of unity, mutual aid, and collective prosperity. The ancient Indian principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – "the world is one family" – has been a guiding force behind the cooperative movement in India, emphasizing solidarity and mutual support.



The cooperative sector in India spans various domains such as agriculture, banking, housing, and rural development. Cooperatives have been instrumental in empowering marginalized communities, providing access to resources, and contributing to rural economic development. India's National Cooperative Movement is one of the largest and most diverse in the world, involving millions of people and numerous sectors.

The Indian government has played an active role in supporting the cooperative model. In 2021, the Ministry of Cooperation was established to strengthen the cooperative sector further. The Ministry's vision is to promote a cooperative-driven economic model that reaches every village, reinforcing social and economic bonds across regions.

### **Types of Cooperatives in India**

Cooperatives in India are diverse, serving a wide range of purposes and sectors. Some of the key types of cooperatives include:

**Consumers' Cooperative Societies:** These provide consumer goods at reasonable prices, eliminating middlemen. Examples include Kendriya Bhandar and Apna Bazar.

**Producers' Cooperative Societies:** These support small producers by providing raw materials and equipment. Examples include APPCO and Haryana Handloom.

**Cooperative Marketing Societies:** These assist small producers in marketing their goods collectively. AMUL, the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, is a prominent example.

**Cooperative Credit Societies:** These offer financial assistance to members by accepting deposits and providing loans at reasonable interest rates.

**Cooperative Farming Societies:** These enable small farmers to benefit from collective farming practices, such as lift-irrigation cooperatives.

**Housing Cooperative Societies:** These provide affordable housing options by purchasing and developing land for members.

### **Conclusion**

India's role in the ICA-Asia Pacific region has been pivotal, not only through the establishment of the ICA Regional Office in New Delhi in 1960 but also as a leader in promoting cooperatives across Asia and the Pacific. The Indian cooperative movement, supported by both the government and civil society, continues to serve as a model for other countries in the region. Through its active participation in ICA-AP, India has helped shape the direction of cooperative development, both regionally and globally, reinforcing the importance of cooperatives as instruments of social and economic development.

As India prepares to host the ICA Global Conference in 2024, its ongoing leadership in the cooperative movement highlights the critical role that cooperatives play in fostering inclusive growth and building a more equitable society.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Organisations

Source: PIB

## **3. How scientists developed pills that can replace injections**

### **Introduction**

A team of researchers has developed ingestible capsules that release a burst of drugs directly inside the stomach or other parts of the digestive system. These capsules can offer an alternative method to deliver drugs such as insulin that, thus far, are typically administered via injections. To develop them, the researchers took inspiration from the way cephalopods like squids and cuttlefish use jet propulsion mechanisms to move underwater, and shoot ink.

The details about development have been mentioned in the study, 'Cephalopod-inspired jetting devices for gastrointestinal drug delivery', published in the journal Nature last week.

The research has been carried out by scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Brigham and Women's Hospital, and drug manufacturer Novo Nordisk.

### Why are these capsules significant?

An MIT led research team has developed a drug capsule that could be used to deliver oral doses of insulin. The capsule contains a small needle made of compressed insulin, which is injected after the capsule reaches the stomach. By testing in animals, the researchers showed that they could deliver enough insulin to lower blood sugar to levels compared to those produced by injections given through skin. They also demonstrated that the device can be adapted to



deliver other protein drugs. "We are really hopeful that this new type of capsule could someday help diabetic patients and perhaps anyone who requires therapies that can now only be given by injection or infusion", claim MIT seniors.

Injections are used to administer hormones, vaccines, antibodies, or cancer treatments. They are used instead of a pill as these drugs are usually made of larger biological molecules. Once swallowed, large molecules are often quickly destroyed by digestive enzymes or the liver, limiting their efficacy and increasing the likelihood of potential side effects.

Despite this advantage, scientists have been trying to find an alternative to injections for a long time. That is because injections can lead to infection, skin irritation, and other side effects. They can also cause discomfort to patients. Pills, on the other hand, are much easier to take compared to injections.

The new capsules are a significant leap forward in oral drug delivery of macromolecule drugs. While many approaches for oral drug delivery have been attempted in the past, they tend to be poorly efficient in achieving high bioavailability [a drug's ability to be absorbed and used by the body. Here, the researchers demonstrate the ability to deliver bioavailability in animal models with high efficiency.

### How were the capsules developed?

The researchers looked at cephalopods such as squids and octopi to develop the capsules. These animals can adjust the pressure and direction of their ink jets. The researchers used the same idea to distribute drugs in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. By jetting medication directly into tissue, they could ensure that more medication is absorbed before the body breaks it down.

The researchers mimicked the jetting action of squids and octopi in two ways. They compressed carbon dioxide or tightly coiled springs to generate the force needed to propel liquid drugs out of the capsule. The gas or spring is kept in a compressed state by a carbohydrate trigger, which is designed to dissolve when exposed to humidity or an acidic environment such as the stomach. When the trigger dissolves, the gas or spring is allowed to expand, propelling a jet of drugs out of the capsule.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Science & Technology

Source: Indian Express