

## **Maharashtra: 108-Year-Old Man Dies Just Before SC Takes Up His 1968 Land Dispute Case**

*Sopan Narsinga Gaikwad's legal battle began in 1968 after he found that the land he had purchased had been mortgaged to a bank in lieu of the loan taken by the previous owner.*

[FPJ News Service](#)**Updated:** Thursday, August 03, 2023, 11:47 AM IST

Mumbai: The slow pace of the judicial system and the inconvenience it causes to lakhs of people has once again come to light in a unique case involving a 108-year-old man from Maharashtra who passed away just days before the Supreme Court admitted his appeal in a land dispute case he had been pursuing since 1968. The case had remained pending for 27 years before the High Court before being dismissed in 2015.

Sopan Narsinga Gaikwad's legal battle began in 1968 after he found that the land he had purchased had been mortgaged to a bank in lieu of the loan taken by the previous owner. Gaikwad went to a local trial court to demand that the loan money be recovered from the previous owner and that he should be declared the sole owner of the property.

Court ruled in Gaikwad's favour, but decree reversed in 1987

After 14 years of hearings, the court ruled in Gaikwad's favour on September 10, 1982, however the decree was reversed in 1987 after the opposite party appealed the decision in the High Court. Gaikwad filed a second appeal in 1988, which remained pending for nearly 27 years and was later dismissed by default in 2015.

Gaikwad passed away

Gaikwad reportedly had not heard about the court's judgement due to his rural residence and the onset of Covid-19 pandemic, causing a delay in filing an appeal. His lawyer filed an appeal in the SC on his behalf, who agreed to set a hearing on July 12, however, Gaikwad passed away before the hearing.

“He had expired before the court took up the matter on July 12, but the information about his demise from the rural area came just after the hearing. He will be now represented through legal heirs,” said the petitioner's lawyer. The opposite party has been given eight weeks by the judges to submit a response.

### **Bihar: Land ownership case finally gets closure after 108 years**

*The case dragged on and in 1947, the family members of Nathuni Khan went to Pakistan after the partition.*

[Law Kumar Mishra](#)**Updated:** Friday, May 20, 2022, 09:15 PM IST

A title suit to decide the ownership of a 3-acre land in Koilwar, Bhojpur district of Bihar was finally settled by the local court 108 years after it was filed in 1914.

Additional District and Sessions Court Judge Shweta Singh, who was appointed directly from the bar in August 2018, decided the case in favour of Atul Singh. The land in question was purchased by his great grandfather, Darbari Singh.

Darbari Singh had purchased the said land from the family member of a landowner Nathuni Khan, who passed away in 1911. After his demise, the remaining family members entered into a legal dispute regarding the land ownership due to which a 9-acre plot, which also included the 3-acre that was

purchased by Darbari Singh, was seized by the British officials who were ruling the country at that time.

The case dragged on and in 1947, the family members of Nathuni Khan went to Pakistan after the partition.

The case was filed by Darbari Singh after which his son, Shivvrat Narayan Singh, came into the picture. Post the death of Shivvrat, his son, Badri Narayan Singh continued contesting the case. In all, the case saw the appearance of members spanning four generations.

The judge, Shweta Singh (42), had come in for praise from the locals for taking the pain of reading through hundreds of case files, many of which were ravaged by time and moths.

## **India's oldest prisoner walks out of jail at 108**

TNN | Jun 18, 2011, 12.37 AM IST

LUCKNOW: In 1987, when he was 84, Brij Bihari went on a killing spree. All his life, he had cherished one dream: to be mahant of Maharajganj's Jagannath temple. Towards that end, he had lived a life of celibacy, remained a staunch vegetarian, prayed every day. But when that didn't happen, in ripe old age, he plotted to kill. Four people were dead when he was through. Until Friday, Bihari, now 108 years old as per prison records, had been incarcerated in Gorakhpur jail from the time of his arrest. At 7.15pm, the country's oldest prisoner was freed. He was shifted to

Gorakhpur district hospital a few days ago when he fell critically ill and doctors said his pulse rate was sinking. Since his conviction along with 15 others in December 2009, Bihari had been alternating between the jail and district hospitals, getting treated for one ailment or another. Mindful of his age and on humanitarian grounds, jail authorities put him on permanent hospital duty. In October 2010, the office of Maharajganj's district magistrate sent a clemency petition to the Uttar Pradesh governor for setting Bihari free. On May 26 this year, Bihari and 10 others held for the four murders were granted bail by the Allahabad high court. But there was the issue of who would bail him out. His closest relatives, his nephews, were also in jail for the same crime. On Friday, Avnish Pandey, the son of his jailed nephew Ghanshyam Pandey, furnished the bail bond, with help from two locals, and ensured the old man's freedom. Ahead of his release, Bihari told TOI his mind still wandered to June 15, 1987. Bihari's target was Bhagwant Pandey's son Ramanujdas, mahant of the Jagannath temple at the time.

Devotees had overruled Brij Bihari's appointment as mahant and Ramanujdas got the job instead. So, Brij and 15 others killed him; three others also died in the fight. Jail inmates knew Bihari's crime was brutal, but he got sympathy because of his age: fellow inmates called him Baba. After he was admitted to district hospital on June 14, Bihari was helped by other patients with his daily ablutions, others ensured he got a steady supply of rice and pulses as he could not chew chapatis. Bihari said he repented his craving for the mahant's job and his act of revenge. He wanted to see his village before he died and was praying to the same God he had killed for, 24 years ago.

## **Did you know that 108 Is Sacred Number In Hinduism?**

**Kakoli Roy** on September 4, 2020

In Hinduism, it is observed that the sacred number is considered as 108. According to the Vedas, the entire existence of the universe is connected almost to the distance. You will find the beads present in a Rudraksha has total the same numbers of beads. So, when a complete meditation according to yoga is after completing the counting of the beads to 108. Both Yoga and Vedas mention the holiness that is present within the number.

“Nadi” is the term that is used in Ayurvedic medicine, in which spiritual flow, physical flow, and the soul of a body are described with the 108 connection to flow. The energy flow throughout the body with the sacred number which connects the three main chakras through the energy channels.

Did you ever check into the features of Upanishads? The Veda was composed after the great epic Mahabharata. Written by Veda Vyas, It is also known as the base of Hinduism that has been divided into 108 parts. Not only that the indication of the holiness is explained but also the total number of Puranas is 108.

We all know about the importance of acupuncture that mentions the 108 points which are similar to the world’s ancient medicinal treatment of Ayurveda. Completeness is observed in the number that helps in healing the diseases. Inspired by the ancient medicines the sacred number has been initiated in treating many diseases when modern medicine was not around.

Krishna has a total of 108 names, which itself indicates the importance of the sacred number in Hinduism. The Lord of Kalyuga, with incarnation to different forms, he is the Avatar of Vishnu and was born to different families.

In the yoga poses a complete set of Sun salutation or Surya Namaskara has a set of movements of the sacred number. When elaborating on Vinyasa, it is completed with postures and stretches which are differentiated into Astanga Vinyasa and Power Yoga. Another ancient form of meditation which helps in developing a healthy body to proper breathing.

Vishnu temples in India are found to be built in the holy number of Hinduism. In the works of Alvars, the name of the temples is present which is known as Divya Desam. It means the place of the lord, Vishnu. Three temples, belonging to the holy number is outside India, and 105 are established in India.

After Vishnu, when the mythology speaks about Lord Shiva when looking in the 54 letters of Sanskrit. The alphabets describe the Shiva-Shakti in two genders that totals up to 108.

To complete 108 Lotus; Lord Rama had given one of his eyes to complete the sacred number which was necessary for the rituals and prayers offered to Goddess Durga. Even today the Durga Puja needs 108 items each as offerings for the puja Known as “Ram’s Akalbodhan”.

In the Hindu religion, the contribution of the sacred number 108 has been established in Vedas and mythology. The importance and necessity still exist in the calendar and activities of Hinduism.