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## HC Orders to Protect 17th century Agra Monument | Uttar Pradesh | 28 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Allahabad High Court** provided interim protection to a **17th-century heritage site, the Hammam in Agra**, and instructed the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and state authorities to **prevent any damage to the monument**.

### Key Points

- **Protection of Heritage Site:**
  - A **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** was filed seeking protection for the **Hammam of Ali Vardi Khan in Agra**, citing the imminent threat of demolition by "illegal and unauthorized persons."
  - The Hammam, located in Chipitola, Agra, was confirmed by an ASI survey in October 2023 to have been built in 1620 AD.
- **Court Directions for Preservation:**
  - The High Court directed the Commissioner of Police, Agra, the ASI, and the **Uttar Pradesh State Archaeology Department** to ensure the monument is not damaged.
  - The Commissioner of Police was instructed to deploy sufficient police forces to safeguard the structure.
- Under **the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**, the ASI and state authorities have a **duty to protect the 400-year-old Hammam**.

### Shahi Hammam

- It is a **Mughal-era bathhouse** located in Chipitola, Agra, **constructed by Alivardi Khan in 1620**.
- Once part of a larger inn complex, the hammam served not only as a **bathing facility** but also as a **cultural and social center**.