



Shiva Temple in Ajmer Dargah

Why in News?

Recently, a **local court in Ajmer ordered notices** to be issued to three parties in connection with a civil suit claiming the **presence of a Shiva temple** within the **dargah of [Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti](#)**.

Key Points

- The suit, filed in September 2024, claims the **existence of a Shiva temple within the dargah** and seeks directions to **resume worship** at the temple.
- Notices have been issued to the **Ajmer Dargah Committee**, the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**, and the [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) in New Delhi, requesting their responses.
- **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti:**
 - Moinuddin Hasan Chishti was **born in Sijistan (modern-day Sistan) in Iran** in 1141-42 CE.
 - After Muizuddin Muhammad bin Sam of Ghor had already defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the Second Battle of Tarain (1192) and established his rule in Delhi, **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti started living and preaching in Ajmer.**
 - His instructive discourses, full of spiritual insights, soon drew the local populace as well as kings and nobles and peasants and the poor from far and wide.
 - **His shrine in Ajmer** has been visited by rulers like [Muhammad bin Tughlaq](#), [Sher Shah Suri](#), [Akbar](#), [Jahangir](#), [Shah Jahan](#), [Dara Shukoh](#) and [Aurangzeb](#).

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organisation for the archaeological research and protection of the [cultural heritage](#) of the nation.
 - [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains \(AMASR\) Act, 1958](#) governs the functioning of ASI.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments etc.
- It was founded in **1861 by Alexander Cunningham- the first Director-General of ASI**. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the “Father of Indian Archaeology”.