



## PM offering to Ajmer Sharif Dargah

### Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister **presented a 'chadar'** to Minorities Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju to **offer** at the **Ajmer Sharif Dargah** of [Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti](#) on the occasion of 'Urs'.

- The Urs festival is an **annual festival** held at Ajmer in Rajasthan which **commemorates the death anniversary** of Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti.

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### Key Points

- **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](#).

- **Chishti Order (Chishtiya):**

- Chishtiya Order was **founded in India by Khwaja Moin-Uddin Chishti**.
- It emphasised the **doctrine of the unity of being with God** (waḥdat al-wujūd) and members of the order were also pacifists.
- They **rejected all material goods** as distractions from the contemplation of God.
- They abstained from connection with the [secular state](#).
- **Recitation of the names of God**, both **aloud and silently (dhikr jahri, dhikr khafi)**, formed the cornerstone of Chishti practice.
- The Chishti teachings were carried forward and popularized by **disciples** of Khwaja Moin-Uddin **Chishti like Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki, Fareduddin Ganj-e-Shakar, Nizam uddin Auliya and Naseeruddin Charagh**.

## Sufism

- Sufism is **a mystical form of Islam**, a school of practice that focuses on the spiritual search for God and shuns materialism.
- It is a form of Islamic mysticism which **stresses on asceticism**. There is a lot of emphasis on devotion towards God.
- In Sufism, **self discipline** is considered an essential condition to gain knowledge of God by sense of perception.
- Unlike orthodox Muslims which emphasise on external conduct, the Sufis **lay stress on inner purity**.
- Sufis believe **service to humanity** is tantamount to service to God.

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