

News

The Delhi High Court orders the Center to form an Ajmer Sharif Dargah Management Committee within three months.



The administration informed the court that the sanctum sanctorum will not be captured by CCTV cameras installed in the Dargah.

In the case of Syed Meharaj Miya v. Union of India and Ors, the Delhi High Court on Thursday ordered the Central government to designate members of the Ajmer Sharif Dargah Committee within three months.

The 13-century shrine's management is the responsibility of the Dargah Committee, which has been inactive since 2022. The Nazim and Assistant Nazim, who are nominated by the Central government, make decisions regarding the Dargah in the committee's absence.

Today, Justice Sachin Datta gave the government instructions to speed up the member appointment process.

"Let the process be expedited and members appointed as expeditiously as possible, preferably within 3 months," the Supreme Court stated.

On Thursday, the Central government told the High Court that the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine will not be captured by the CCTV cameras being installed at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah.

Amit Tiwari, the government's Central Government Standing Counsel (CGSC), stated that cameras are being deployed to deter theft, harassment, and pickpocketing.

The Court stated in its order that ***"it is clarified [by the CGSC] that the installation of CCTV cameras will not capture the sanctum sanctorum but only the public approach routes and passages leading up to the sanctum."***

Syed Meharaj Miya, the Dargah's hereditary Khadim, has filed a plea with the court.

The Ajmer Sharif Dargah is managed and opened and closed by Khadims, who are its hereditary guardians. But Miya's locus to file the plea was questioned by the government.

In his appeal, Miya has contested the CCTV cameras' installation and asked the Union of India for instructions on how to form the Dargah administration committee.

He said that the religious site's reputation was being harmed by a number of purported financial irregularities in the office bearers' current operations at the Dargah.

The plea said, ***"That the aforementioned anomalies in the Dargah Committee's finances are extremely alarming and would be adversely affecting the trust and confidence of devotees/pilgrims of Sufi Saint Khawaja Sahib from across the world irrespective of faith, religion, caste, creed, ethnicity, color, or race who generously donate and deposit monetary funds either online or during their regular visit to the Dargah Ajmer***

Sharif."

The High Court dismissed the case after recording the Central government's response and issuing instructions for the committee's establishment.

It did, however, provide Khadim the option to make a new plea should another cause of action emerge.

The petitioner was represented in the case by senior counsel Shadan Farasat and advocate Chayan Sarkar.