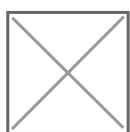


Delhi High Court stays Ajmer Sharif Dargah's CAG audit

Dargah's attorneys contended that the law was broken in ordering the investigation and that they were not informed of the audit's requirements.



The Delhi High Court stated on Monday that it is inclined to halt the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) audit of Ajmer Sharif Dargah.

The Dargah management committee has not yet received the audit's terms, according to **Justice Sachin Datta**.

"I would want to stay for the audit. He makes a very obvious point in his [Dargah advice]. He claims he is entitled to make a representation, but as you [CAG] have not fulfilled the audit's requirements, that opportunity has not presented itself. The Court said, *"You had better hold your hands."*

However, after the CAG counsel requested time to get instructions on the case, the Court listed it for additional consideration on May 7.

When Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti's dargah in Ajmer filed an appeal contesting the CAG audit, the court made this observation.

The attorney for the Dargah said that, according to news reports, President Droupadi Murmu has given his approval for the audit, and two officials have been assigned to the task.

According to Section 20 of The Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers And Conditions Of Service), Act, 1971, the Dargah must be served with the audit terms, which it may contest through a representation, the counsel said.

But the attorney emphasized that the procedure has not been followed.

The two Anjumans (associations) of Khadims, the Dargah's inherited guardians entrusted with overseeing its daily operations, will be audited by the CAG for the previous five fiscal years, according to press reports.

According to the report, the audit was started in response to claims that money from foreign donations and pilgrims' donations during ziyarat—the pilgrimage to locations connected to important Islamic figures—had been misused.