

Delhi HC to hear PIL on police surveillance of protesters

The Delhi High Court will hear a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging alleged intrusive police surveillance of protesters.

The PIL challenges the legality of blanket photography, videography, and surveillance towers used by police at protest sites.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Delhi High Court** agreed to hear a **Public Interest Litigation** (PIL) on Friday, **July 17, 2026**.
- The PIL challenges the alleged "**unconstitutional police surveillance**" of **protesters**, including those from the Cockroach Janta Party.
- The plea specifically targets **blanket photography**, videography, and the operation of a permanent **surveillance tower** at protest sites.
- The protest site mentioned in the PIL is **Jantar Mantar** in **Delhi**.
- The plea was filed by former **JNU Students' Union** president **Aishe Ghosh**.
- The PIL questions the legality of "indiscriminate" surveillance by the **Delhi Police**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Right to Protest** is a **fundamental right** under **Article 19(1)(a)** (freedom of speech and expression) and **Article 19(1)(b)** (freedom to assemble peaceably and without arms) of the Indian Constitution.

The Supreme Court in the **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India** case (**2017**) recognized the **Right to Privacy** as a fundamental right under **Article 21**.

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is a legal tool allowing individuals or groups to approach courts for the protection of public interest, introduced in **India** in the **1980s**.

High Courts in India have the power to issue various **writs**, including habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, and certiorari, under **Article 226** of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court in the **Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan** (MKSS) v. Union of India case (**2018**) affirmed the **right to protest peacefully** as a fundamental right.

Jantar Mantar in **Delhi** is a historical observatory and a designated site for **protests and demonstrations** in the capital.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Delhi HC to hear PIL on police surveillance of protesters' fundamental rights.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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