Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day

Why in News?

Recently, The Haryana government has announced that **July 31st** will be a **gazetted holiday** in honor of [Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day.](#)

Key Points

- **Holiday Declaration**: The Haryana government has declared **July 31st,** as a gazetted holiday to observe **Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day.**
- **School Closures**: This declaration results in the closure of all government and private schools throughout the state, including in Gurgaon and Faridabad.
- **Public Holidays Announcement:** In December of the previous year, the Haryana government announced the public holidays for 2024, which included the closure of all public offices, schools, and colleges on **July 31, 2024,** to honor **Shaheed Udham Singh** and other martyrs.
- **Significance of Shaheed Udham Singh**: Shaheed Udham Singh is recognized for avenging the [Jallianwala Bagh massacre](#) by assassinating its mastermind, [Michael O'Dwyer.](#)

Udham Singh

- Born in **Sunam** in Punjab's **Sangrur district** in **1899,** also referred to as **Shaheed-i-Azam Sardar Udham Singh** which means '**Great Martyr'.**
- He is regarded as one of the foremost revolutionaries of the **Indian Freedom Struggle.**
- Following the **Jallianwala Massacre** on **13th April 1919,** he got profoundly involved in revolutionary activities and politics. He was deeply influenced by **Bhagat Singh.**
- He joined the **Ghadar Party** in **1924** to organize overseas Indians with the purpose of overthrowing colonial rule.
- In **1927,** while returning to India with associates and weapons to carry out revolutionary activities, he was arrested for **illegal possession of firearms** and sentenced to five years in prison.
- On **13th March, 1940,** Singh shot **Michael O'Dwyer** instead of **General Dyer** at a meeting of the **East India Association and the Royal Central Asian Society** at **Caxton Hill.**
- He was sentenced to death and was hanged on **31st July, 1940** at **Pentonville Prison in London.**

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