



Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day | Haryana | 31 Jul 2024

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**.

Punjab, Gujarat, Haryana Lead in H1N1 Deaths | Haryana | 31 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Punjab, Gujarat, and Haryana have reported the highest number of **H1N1** deaths in India, with **41, 27, and 26** deaths respectively.

Key Points

- **Total Cases:** India has recorded over **7,000 H1N1** cases so far.
- **Top States for Cases:** Delhi (1,563), Gujarat (1,049), and Rajasthan (1,008) have the highest number of cases.
- **Health Ministry Guidelines:** The Health Ministry has issued guidelines on **screening, categorization, laboratory diagnosis, infection control, home care, and clinical management.**
- **Prevention Measures:** Public awareness campaigns emphasize **hand washing, covering the mouth while coughing or sneezing, and avoiding crowded places.**
- **Vaccination:** Vaccination is highlighted as the best preventive measure against influenza.

H1N1

- **H1N1 influenza** causes a **respiratory illness** that can affect the **respiratory tracts of pigs.**
- Humans are at risk of **swine flu**, a **zoonotic disease**, through close contact with infected pigs.
- **Swine influenza viruses** can infect humans if their antigenic properties change due to reassortment with other influenza strains.
- This genetic shift can improve the virus's ability to replicate and spread, making it easier for human transmission.
- Such changes have led to pandemics, as seen in **1918** and **2009**, when the virus gained the ability for efficient **human-to-human transmission.**

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