



# Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day

## Why in News?

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

## Key Points

- **Holiday Declaration:** The Haryana government has declared **July 31<sup>st</sup>**, 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 **13<sup>th</sup> 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 **13<sup>th</sup> 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 **31<sup>st</sup> July, 1940** at **Pentonville Prison in London**.