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PM pays tributes to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji on his Shaheedi Diwas

Guru Tegh Bahadur (1 April 1621 – 19 December 1675)



About:

- He was the **ninth** of ten Gurus of the Sikh Religion.
- He was born at **Amritsar** in **1621** and was the youngest son of **Guru HarGobind Singh ji**.
- His term as Guru ran from **1665 to 1675**.
- Sikh tradition states that the guru stood up for the rights of Kashmiri Pandits who approached him to intercede on their behalf with the emperor and ask him to revoke the jizya (tax) and was publicly killed in 1675 on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi for refusing to obey Mughal rulers.
- One hundred and fifteen of his hymns are in **Guru Granth Sahib**.

"Minorities Day" celebration by the National Commission for Minorities.



Context:

Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri presides over the "**Minorities Day**" celebration.

About the celebration:

Commission felicitated 12 covid warriors from all the six notified minority communities in appreciation of their exemplary contribution to the society during pandemic.

About Minorities Rights Day:

- It is organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs
- **Minorities Rights Day is observed every year across the nation on December 18 to protect the rights of minority communities, as a contribution to nation-building, to ensure the security of minorities in their particular language, caste, religion, culture, tradition.**
- **The Minorities Rights Day in India was first observed in 2013.**
- **On 18th December, 1992, the United Nations had declared the Statement on the Individual's Rights belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.**

Status of Minorities in India:

According to the 2011 Census data, minorities constitute 19.30 per cent (23.37 crore) of India's population.

Muslims (14.2 per cent), Christians (2.3 per cent), Sikhs (1.3 per cent), Buddhists (0.7 per cent), Jains (0.4 per cent) and Parsis.

Important Points:

- The **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** was established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Therefore it is a statutory body.
- For the first time in India in 2006, a Ministry of Minority Affairs was set up. This ministry was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

75th National Conference of Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases (NATCON)

Context:

Union **Minister for Health and Family Welfare** virtually addressed the Platinum Jubilee of the **National Conference of Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases (NATCON)**

Developments till now to fight against TB:

- TB has been declared as a notifiable disease in the country. It has improved the identification of TB cases and helped reduce the gap in identifying the missing cases in the country.
- Massive expansion of the diagnostic capacity has been undertaken and currently more than 21,000 microscopic centers are operational across the country.
- Rapid Molecular Testing devices (CBNAAT and Truenat) has increased to more than 3000 devices with at least one in every district of the country.

- At least one molecular diagnostic facility is available in each district and are aiming to decentralize it down to the block level.
- The latest evidence based and injection-free regimen for drug resistant as well as drug sensitive TB has been incorporated.
- The use of Artificial Intelligence was explored in identifying and furthering care of the TB patients.
- Under **Nikshaya Poshan Yojana** financial support to all TB patients has been provided, a step to reduce out of pocket expenses for the patients.
- Free drugs and diagnostics to the TB patients are provided, those who are availing treatment in the private sector.
- Nutritional support is extended to all TB patients for the entire duration of their treatment.
- More than Rs 886 crore has been disbursed to TB patients as Direct Benefit Transfer, for nutritional support.
- The government has immensely invested in TB research.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research and India Tuberculosis Research Consortium are jointly conducting next-generation research on diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, and other such critical areas.
- The government of India is conducting the world's largest National TB Prevalence Survey with a massive sample size of 500 thousand.

About NATCON:

- **The Tuberculosis Association of India** organises the National Conference on Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases (NATCON). Since the year 1939 the Association has organized an annual conference wherein around 500 delegates from all over India assemble and exchange views, research papers and attend seminars on tuberculosis and diseases allied to it. NATCON is organised in collaboration with one or other of the State affiliates of the Association.
- The Tuberculosis Association of India (TAI) has been serving the cause of tuberculosis since 1939.

National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)

- The **National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP)** is the public health initiative of the Government of India that organizes its anti-Tuberculosis efforts.
- It functions as a flagship component of the **National Health Mission** and provides technical and managerial leadership to anti-tuberculosis activities in the country.
- The program has a vision of achieving a "**TB free India**", and aims to provide Universal Access to TB control services.
- The program provides, various free of cost, quality tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment services across the country through the government health system.
- It was launched in the year **1997** as Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP) but it was renamed as **NTEP in 2020**.

Eliminating TB from India by 2025

- In March 2017 the Government of India announced that the new aim with regard to TB in India was the elimination of **TB by 2025**.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), elimination means that there should be less than 1 person with TB for a population of a million people.

Webinar was held between India and Maldives

Context:

A webinar and Expo between India and Maldives were held.

It was organised under the **Department of Defence Production (DDP)**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) through Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Highlights:

- **Theme of the webinar was 'Joint Indo Maldives High Level Defence Engagement'.**
- **This webinar is the part of Aero India 21 series of webinars which is being organised to boost defence cooperation and engagements with friendly foreign countries.**
- **Both sides spoke about close, cordial and multi-dimensional relationships between the countries.**



Important point regarding India & Maldives relations:

- Maldives is located south of India's Lakshadweep Islands in the Indian Ocean.
- Both nations established diplomatic relations after the independence of Maldives from British rule in 1966 .
- India and Maldives are neighbors sharing a maritime border.
- Bilateral relations have been nurtured and strengthened by regular contacts at all levels.
- Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, almost all Prime Ministers of India have visited the Maldives.
- Relations have been friendly and close in strategic, economic and military cooperation.
- The State Bank of India has contributed more than US\$500 million to aid the economic expansion of Maldives
- In April 2006 Indian Navy gifted a Trinkat Class Fast Attack Craft of 46 m length to Maldives National Defence Force's Coast Guard.
- During the COVID-19 crisis of 2020, India extended help to Maldives in the form of financial, material and logistical support.
- Exchange of cultural troupes takes place regularly between the countries. Hindi commercial films, TV serials and music are immensely popular in Maldives.
- The India Cultural Center (ICC), established in Male in which conducts regular courses in yoga, classical music and dance. Indians are the second largest expatriate community in the Maldives.

India is providing 1 Million USD to World Anti Doping Agency

Context:

India has pledged one million US Dollars to the World Anti-Doping Agency's scientific research budget.



About the Development:

- India's contribution is the highest among contributions made by other world governments, including China, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.
- The proposed funding will allow WADA to develop innovative anti-doping testing and detection methods.
- The money will also be used to further strengthen WADA's independent Investigations and Intelligence Department.

World Anti Doping Agency:

- The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the **International Olympic Committee** based in **Canada** to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.
- The agency's key activities include scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code, whose provisions are enforced by the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport.
- The aims of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention and the United States Anti-Doping Agency are closely aligned with those of WADA.
- The highest decision-making authority of WADA is the foundation board having 38 members which is composed equally of IOC representatives and representatives of national governments.
- It delegates work in every country to Regional and National Anti-Doping Organizations (RADOs and NADOs) and mandates that these organisations are compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code.