

Turban Day Act

The Turban Day Act is a Canadian Act the bill of which was introduced by Diljeet Singh Brar, the MLA of Burrows as a private member bill. The bill was passed in the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in Canada unanimously with no opposition. The act makes the 13th of April of every year a Turban Day. The turban is officially recognised as a component of Canada's diversity and culture on this day. The topic has a high chance of being asked as a UPSC Prelims International Relations Question or as a Current Affairs Question, as it has been in the news recently.

About Turban Day Act

The Turban Day Act had been introduced as a private member's bill in the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. On March 24th 2022, the Bill received its first reading, followed by a second reading on April 7th and the third reading on May 26th. On June 1st, it received the Royal Assent. Despite the fact that the New Democratic Party (NDP) is the primary opposition party in the Manitoba legislature, the Bill passed unanimously. Each year, April 13th is to be recognised across Manitoba as Turban Day, according to the Act. It goes on to say that the turban is significant not only as a religious symbol of ultimate faith for the Sikh community but also as a statement of respect and dignity. Providing the turban official status would also help to raise awareness about the bigotry that Sikhs still suffer in Canada, according to the Act.

Significance of 13th April

The birth of the Khalsa Panth is commemorated on Baisakhi or Vaisakhi, which occurs on April 13th or 14th every year. On this day in the year of 1699, the 10th Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh, established the Khalsa Panth amongst his adherents at Anandpur Sahib. Baisakhi is an important event commemorating the founding of the Khalsa Panth.

Significance of Turban Day Act

Despite contributing significantly to Canada's growth and being a vital member of society, Sikh Canadians continue to experience racism and discrimination on a variety of levels, therefore a day that formally recognises the turban as a component of Canada's multiculturalism and diversity was long overdue. Sikhs make up only 1.4 per cent (about five lakhs in number) of Canada's population, but they hold important positions in the government and political institutions. Canada is still the most popular immigration choice for Punjabis, not just Sikhs. Turban Day now being an officially recognised day will help Canadian Sikhs increase their awareness of the role and importance of the Turban and rule out any confusion or misconceptions. This will in the long run reduce acts of violence and racism against them.