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## Gurupurab Proposed to be Declared “World Pedestrian Day”

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### Why in News

Recently, Punjab Police has proposed to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways that the birth anniversary (Gurpurab) of **Guru Nanak Dev** be declared as ‘**World Pedestrian Day**’ to spread awareness on road safety.

In 2021, Guru Nanak’s 552<sup>nd</sup> Gurpurab will be celebrated on 19th November.

### Key Points

- **About:**

To spread **the message of oneness and to break barriers across faiths by engaging in spiritual dialogues**, Guru Nanak Dev, travelled far and wide during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

It is believed that during those times, when early modes of transport were limited and were mostly restricted to boats, animals (horses, mules, camels, bullock carts), Guru Nanak Dev, **along with his companion Bhai Mardana**, undertook **most part of his journeys on foot**.

- **Journey of Guru Nanak Dev:**

- From Mecca to Haridwar, from Sylhet to **Mount Kailash**, he **visited hundreds of interfaith sites** related to **Hinduism**, Islam, Buddhism, and Jainism throughout his journeys (also called udaasis).
- At some sites, **gurdwaras were constructed to commemorate his visit**. Later his travels were documented in texts called ‘**janamsakhis**’.
- These sites are now spread across nine nations as per current geographical divisions — **India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, China (Tibet), Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan**.



### Significance of the Proposal:

- It highlights the government's commitment towards **“Right to walk” or pedestrian rights**. It will encourage citizens' participation to introduce the **‘Save Pedestrian’** pledge for giving pedestrians the first right on the roads.
- A community which safeguards **its pedestrian is treated as developed and contributes to sustainable development goals**.
- On an average, **at least a thousand pedestrian deaths** are reported in Punjab alone each year.

### About Guru Nanak

- He was born in 1469 at Talwandi Rai Bhoi village near Lahore.
- **Sikhism was established by Guru Nanak** and subsequently led by a succession of nine other Gurus.
- His teachings attributed to that **there is only one God**, and that **all human beings can have direct access to God** without rituals or priests.
- His teachings denounces the caste system and teaches that **everyone is equal, regardless of caste or gender**.
- He introduced the concept of **god- that is ‘Vahiguru’**, an entity that is shapeless, timeless, omnipresent and invisible. Other names for God in the Sikh faith are Akal Purakh and Nirankar. He advocated the **'Nirguna' (devotion to and worship of formless divine) form of bhakti**.
- He died in **1539 at Kartarpur, Punjab** (Now Pakistan).
- **Guru Granth Sahib**, the holiest book of the Sikhs, contains 974 poetic hymns composed by Guru Nanak.

Source: IE