Amir Khusrau

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 25th edition of Jahan-e-Khusrau, the annual music festival that commemorates the Sufi poet-musician Amir Khusrau at Delhi's Sunder Nursery.

- Amir Khusrau, a renowned poet, singer, and musician, is celebrated for his ***Sufi Kalams***.
- **Born on -** December 27, 1253, in Patiyali in the present-day Etah district of ***Uttar Pradesh.***
- **Parents -** Khusrau's father came to India from Central Asia in the early 13th century, as the ***Mongol hordes*** of Genghis Khan ravaged Islamic Transoxiana (ancient region of central Asia).

  Transoxiana corresponding to the parts of Kazakhstan,Turkmenistan , Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

- Khusrau became a professional poet at age 20, and served as one until his death.
- He started out in the service of princes and nobles, before becoming a permanent fixture in the court of the Delhi Sultan.
- **Works** - He is the ***first Muslim poet*** to incorporate Hindi words into his poetry.
- Khusrau made lasting contributions to Indian classical music and qawwali.
- He is also credited for developing Hindavi, a precursor to modern Hindi and Urdu.
- The poet often referred to himself as an "Indian Turk".
- Khusrau served at least 5 Sultans
  1. Muizuddin Qaiqabad,
  2. Jalaluddin Khalji,
  3. Alauddin Khalji,
  4. Qutbuddin Mubarak Shah, and
  5. Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq and many other powerful patrons over 5 decades.
- He also contributed to the Persian-Hindi lexicon with his *Khalikbari* dictionary.
- **Disciple of** - The Chishti Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya.
- **Titles -** He was affectionately called ***'Hind ka Tota' (The Parrot of India)*** for his fluency in multiple languages, including Hindi, Hindawi, and Persian.
- Amir Khusrau is also known as the '***father of Hindi Khari Boli'.***
- He is seen as a father figure for North India's syncretic Ganga-Jamuni culture.
- Sultan Jalaluddin Khalji bestowed upon Khusrau the title of 'Amir'.
- The medieval historian Ziauddin Barani wrote in Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi that Jalaluddin held Khusrau "in great esteem", and Khusrau "served as keeper of the Qur'an" in his

court.
- Khusrau's ghazals and qawwalis are today sung in both sacred and secular contexts, at Sufi dargahs and Bollywood musicals.
- His most popular compositions include Chhaap Tilak, Zehal-e-Maskeen, and Sakal Ban Phool Rahi Sarson.
- **Died in -** 1325, and his tomb is located next to the tomb of his spiritual guru in the ***Nizamuddin Dargah*** in Delhi.

References

1. The Indian Express | Khusrau
2. News 18 | Jahaan-e-Khusrau

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