Martyrs' Memorial of First War of Independence, 1857

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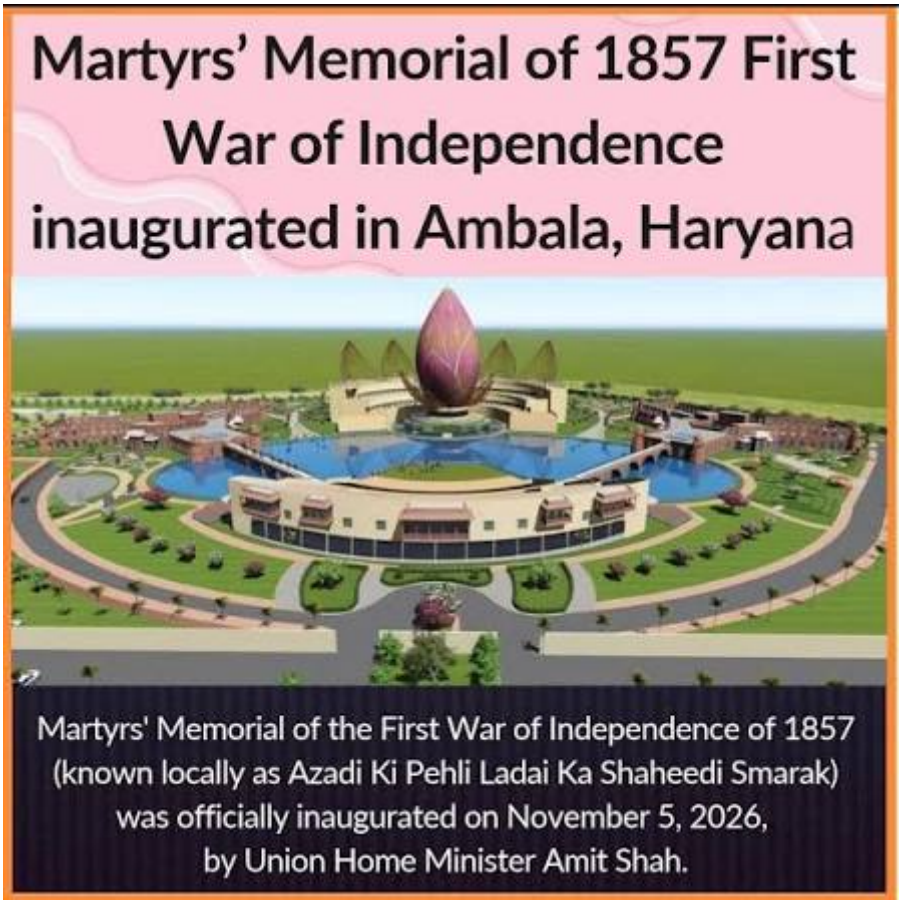
Why in news?

Union Home Minister inaugurated the Martyrs' Memorial of the First War of Independence of 1857 in Haryana's Ambala.

- **New Martyrs' Memorial's Location** – Grand Trunk Road, Ambala Cantonment, Haryana.
- **Purpose** – To honour the sacrifices of freedom fighters and preserve the legacy of the 1857 uprising and inspire patriotism among younger generations and honour the sacrifices of India's freedom fighters.
- **Name** – The new memorial was named "Azadi Ki Pehli Ladai Ka Shaheed Smarak".

Features

- It features a 63-to-65-meter-high, lotus-shaped war memorial tower honouring freedom fighters and martyrs from the 1857 uprising.
- It has been built at a cost of 594 crore rupees across 22 acres in Ambala, Haryana.
- It features 22 galleries combining historical documents, traditional craftsmanship and digital technology.
- The memorial uses virtual reality, holography, interactive projections and light-and-sound presentations to depict the events of 1857.
- It also incorporates Haryana's Phulkari and Sarkanda crafts, a 2,500-seat open-air theatre and a light-and-sound show.
- **Historical significance –** Revolutionary fighters launched an armed struggle against British rule in Ambala Cantonment on May 10, 1857, and the movement subsequently spread across the country, shaking the foundations of the British Empire.
- **Tribute to freedom fighters** – The memorial commemorates the contributions of prominent leaders of the 1857 movement, including Nana Saheb Peshwa, Rani Lakshmibai, Tatya Tope, Begum Hazrat Mahal and other fighters.



First War of Independence of 1857

- It is also known as the Sepoy Mutiny, Indian Mutiny, or Revolt of 1857.
- It was a massive, widespread uprising in India against the rule of the British East India Company.
- Beginning on 10 May 1857 in Meerut as a mutiny of Indian soldiers (sepoys), it rapidly escalated into a mass civilian and military rebellion across northern and central India before being suppressed in 1858.
- While British accounts traditionally termed it the "Sepoy Mutiny," Indian nationalists—most notably V.D. Savarkar in his 1909 book—popularised it as the First War of Indian Independence.

References

1. AIR | HM Amit Shah inaugurates Martyrs' Memorial of First War of Independence of 1857
2. PIB | HM Amit Shah inaugurates Martyrs' Memorial of First War of Independence of 1857

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