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Why is Har Gobind Khorana on Today's Google Doodle?

Google India has paid tribute to **Har Gobind Khorana** by creating a **Google Doodle** on 9th January 2018. He is featured in today's Google Doodle because 9th January 2018 will mark her **96th Birth Anniversary**. Google frequently releases an image, gif or an interactive animation on their homepage to mark certain big or small events in History. These are popularly known as '**Google Doodles**'. These doodles are designed by young illustrators & artists. You can definitely be asked a Question based on these important personalities in many of the Government exams like IBPS Clerk, SSC CHSL, SSC CGL, etc. So here's all you need to know about **Har Gobind Khorana** to score in your exam!

Har Gobind Khorana - An Introduction

Mary Ann Evans was born on **9th January 1922**. He is one of the main contributors who helped demonstrate how genetic information is translated into proteins. Being the youngest child of a village patwari (agricultural tax clerk), did not deter him from studying hard. Har Gobind Khorana had a great transformation from *a student, to professor, to researcher, to a Nobel Prize Winner*. His work has been an inspiration to many generations & will motivate many more!

Personal Life of Har Gobind Khorana

- Har Gobind Khorana was born in Raipur, Punjab (now Pakistan).





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- He studied at the D.A.V. High School in Multan & later obtained a M.Sc. degree from Punjab University in Lahore.
- In year 1945, at the age of 23, Har Gobind Khorana went to **University of Liverpool** to complete his PhD with the help of Government of India Fellowship Programme.
- Once he completed his Ph.D., he went to **Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule** in Zurich to learn with a famous researcher, **Prof. Vladimir Prelog**.
- Soon after, he moved to **Columbia University** in New York, USA.
- Khorana married Esther Elizabeth Sibley in 1952. They had 3 children - Julia Elizabeth, Emily Anne & Dave Roy.
- He died on 9 November 2011 in Massachusetts.

Har Gobind Khorana - Career & Work

- Khorana extensively worked in the field of **genetics and DNA**.
- During this period, he researched with **Marshall W. Nirenberg** and **Robert W. Holley**.
- They discovered that the **order of nucleotides** in our DNA **determines which amino acids** are built. These **amino acids form proteins** - which carry out essential cell functions in the body.
- Khorana and his team had established that the mother of all codes, the biological language common to all living organisms, is spelled out in three-letter words: each set of three nucleotides codes for a specific amino acid.
- He later made a second scientific breakthrough when he **constructed the first synthetic gene**.
- Har Gobind Khorana became a citizen of America & was awarded with the National Medal of Science.



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- He served as MIT's (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Biology and Chemistry, Emeritus and was a member of the Board of Scientific Governors at the reputed Scripps Research Institute.

Har Gobind Khorana - Awards & Recognition

- The University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Government of India (Department of Biotechnology), and the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum had jointly created the **Khorana Program** in **2007**.
- The main motive of the Khorana Program was to build a seamless community of scientists, industrialists, and social entrepreneurs in the United States and in India.
- But, the biggest achievement for Har Gobind Khorana was the **Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine** that he shared with Marshall W. Nirenberg and Robert W. Holley in **1968**.

This Google Doodle on Har Gobind Khorana is illustrated by - Rohan Dahotre

This was the brief but informative history of Har Gobind Khorana. Know more about similar such GK articles by clicking on the links given below!





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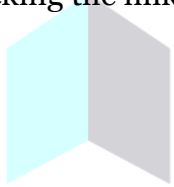
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