

## Removal of Sikh Names from Central Adverse List

### Why in news?

The Centre has removed names of 312 Sikh foreign nationals involved in anti-India activities from its blacklist/the Central Adverse List.

### What is the Central Adverse List?

- The Ministry of Home Affairs maintains a list officially named as the Central Adverse List.
- It has more than 35,000 names on it.
- It includes the names of individuals who supported the Khalistan movement in 1980s and 1990s but left India to take asylum in foreign countries.
- These are those who were in favour of a separate Sikh state and had opposed the [Operation Blue Star](#).
- Many of the Sikhs on this list fled India to escape the authorities and acquired foreign nationality and took asylum outside India.
- This list is not restricted to Punjab or the Khalistan movement alone.
- It has names of those individuals who are suspected to have links with terrorist outfits or have violated visa norms in their previous visit to India.
- The list also includes the names of those persons who have indulged in criminal activities or have been accused of sexual crimes against children in their respective countries.

### What is the purpose?

- It is a step taken by the Indian government to maintain internal security.
- This list is constantly used by all Indian Missions and Consulates to stop the individuals named in it from entering India.
- This is done by not granting visa to such persons.
- The list is also used to keep serious offenders outside India as a person may commit a crime in the native nation and then apply for an Indian visa to escape prosecution.

### How is the list maintained?

- The list is maintained by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs with inputs from all the state governments.
- Various intelligence agencies constantly review this list and add new names

to it.

- Central intelligence agencies as well as the state-level intelligence contributes to the information, determining the inclusion of a person in this list.
- Since law and order is a state subject, the state police is also utilised for intelligence gathering in order to update the list.

### **What does the recent decision mean?**

- Most of the Sikh nationals in the list have remained outside the country since the 1980s and have not visited their families since then.
- With the names being removed, they can now visit India and meet their families here.
- They could also get access to consular services as well as an Indian visa.
- This list had a multiplier effect in denying visas as the family members of the persons on this list were also denied visas to other countries.
- Such a practice will no longer be carried forward.

**Source: Indian Express**

