



Veer Baal Diwas

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister of India has declared that **26th December** shall henceforth be marked as **“Veer Baal Diwas” to pay homage to the courage of the “Sahibzades”**, four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, the last Sikh guru.

- While all four were martyred, the date has been chosen as **it was the day observed as the martyrdom day of the Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh**, who were killed at the tender age of six and nine in Sirhind (Punjab) by Mughal forces.

Key Points

- **About Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh:**
 - Sahibzada Jorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh are **among the most revered martyrs in Sikhism**.
 - A combination of **Mughals soldiers besieged Anandpur Sahib on the orders of emperor Aurangzeb (1704)**.
 - The two sons of Guru Gobind Singh were captured.
 - They were offered safe passage if they became Muslims.
 - They both refused, and so they were sentenced to death and were bricked alive.
 - These two greats preferred death instead of deviating from the noble principles of Dharma.
- **About Guru Gobind Singh:**
 - The last of the ten Sikh Gurus, Guru Gobind Singh was born on **22nd December 1666** in Patna, Bihar.
 - His birth anniversary is based on the **Nanakshahi calendar**.
 - He became the Sikh guru at the age of nine, following the demise of his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru.
 - He was assassinated in 1708.
- **Contributions:**
 - **Religious:**
 - He is known for his significant contributions to the Sikh religion, including the **introduction of the turban to cover hair**.
 - He also **founded the principles of Khalsa or the Five ‘K’s**.
 - The **Five K’s** are kesh (uncut hair), kanga (wooden comb), kara (iron or steel bracelet), kirpan (dagger) and kachera (short breeches).
 - These were the five articles of faith that a Khalsa must always adorn.
 - He also **laid down many other rules for the Khalsa warriors** to follow like abstaining from tobacco, alcohol, halal meat, etc. The Khalsa warrior was also duty-bound to protect innocent people from persecution.
 - He **named Guru Granth Sahib, the religious text of the Khalsas and the**

Sikhs, as the next Guru of the two communities.

◦ **Martial:**

- He **fought against the Mughals in the battle of Muktsar in 1705.**
- In the **Battle of Anandpur (1704)**, the Guru lost his mother and two minor sons who were executed. His eldest son also died in battle.

◦ **Literary:**

- His literary contributions include the **Jaap Sahib, Benti Chaupai, Amrit Savaiye, etc.**
- He also **wrote the Zafarnama** which was a letter to the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

[Source: TH](#)

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