



## Guru Tegh Bahadur

**For Prelims:** Guru Granth Sahib, Guru Nank Dev and other Gurus of Sikhism, Sikhism.

**For Mains:** Ancient Indian History, Guru Teg Bahadur and his teachings, Sikhism.

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister will give an address from the Red Fort to mark the **401<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of [Guru Tegh Bahadur \(1621-1675\)](#).**

### Who was Guru Teg Bahadur?

- Tegh Bahadur was born in **Amritsar on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1621 to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind**, the sixth Sikh guru, who raised an army against the Mughals and introduced the concept of warrior saints.
- As a boy, Tegh Bahadur was **called Tyag Mal because of his ascetic nature**. He spent his early childhood in Amritsar under the tutelage of **Bhai Gurdas, who taught him Gurmukhi, Hindi, Sanskrit, and Indian religious philosophy**, while **Baba Budha trained him in swordsmanship, archery, and horse-riding**.
- He was only 13 **when he distinguished himself in a battle against a Mughal chieftain**.
- His writings are housed in the sacred text, **'[Guru Granth Sahib](#),'** in the form of 116 poetic hymns.
- He was also an **avid traveler and played a key role in setting up preaching centers throughout the Indian subcontinent**.
- During one such mission, he founded the town of **Chak-Nanki in Punjab, which later became a part of Punjab's Anandpur Sahib**.
- In the year **1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi** under the orders of the **Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb**.

### What is Sikhism?

- The word '**Sikh**' in the **Punjabi language means 'disciple'**. Sikhs are the disciples of God who follow the writings and teachings of the Ten Sikh Gurus.
- Sikhs believe in one **God (Ek Onkar)**. They believe they should remember God in everything they do. This is called Simran.
- The Sikhs call their **faith Gurmat (Punjabi: "the Way of the Guru")**. According to Sikh tradition, **Sikhism was established by [Guru Nanak \(1469-1539\)](#)** and subsequently led by a succession of nine other Gurus.
- The development of Sikhism was **influenced by the [Bhakti movement](#) and Vaishnava Hinduism**.
- The **Khalsa upholds the highest Sikh virtues** of commitment, dedication and a social conscience.
  - The **Khalsa are men and women who have undergone the Sikh baptism** ceremony and who strictly follow the Sikh Code of Conduct and Conventions.
  - They wear the prescribed physical articles of the faith (**5K's: Kesh** (uncut hair), **Kangha** (a

wooden comb), **Kara** (an iron bracelet), **Kachera** (cotton underpants) and **Kirpan** (an iron dagger).

- Sikhism **condemns blind rituals** such as fasting, visiting places of pilgrimage, superstitions, worship of the dead, idol worship etc.
- It preaches **that people of different races, religions, or sex are all equal in the eyes of God.**
- **The Sikh Literature:**
  - The **Adi Granth** is believed by Sikhs to be the abode of the eternal Guru, and for that reason it is known to all Sikhs as the Guru Granth Sahib.
  - The **Dasam Granth** is controversial in the Panth because of questions concerning its authorship and composition.
- **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee:**
  - Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar, Punjab (India), **an apex democratically elected body of Sikhs** residing all over the world was established under a special Act of **Parliament** in 1925 to look after the religious affairs, cultural and historical monuments.

<b>Ten Gurus of Sikh Religion</b>	
<b>Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1539)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He was the first guru of Sikh and the founder of <b>Sikh religion.</b></li> <li>▪ He started the <b>GURU KA LANGAR.</b></li> <li>▪ He was the <b>contemporary of Babur.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Kartarpur corridor</b> was commemorated on the <b>550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary</b></li> </ul>
<b>Guru Angad (1504-1552)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He invented the new script called <b>Guru-Mukhi</b> and popularized and expanded it.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Amar Das (1479-1574)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He introduced the ceremony of the <b>Anand Karaj Marriage.</b></li> <li>▪ He <b>abolished the custom of Sati and Purdah system</b> among the Sikhs.</li> <li>▪ He was a <b>contemporary of Akbar.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Guru Ram Das (1534-1581)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He <b>founded Amritsar</b> in 1577 on the land granted by Akbar.</li> <li>▪ He <b>started the construction of Golden Temple/Swarna mandir</b> at Amritsar.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Arjun Dev (1563-1606)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He <b>composed the Adi Granth</b> in 1604.</li> <li>▪ He led to the <b>completion of construction of Golden temple.</b></li> <li>▪ He was acclaimed as <b>Shaheeden-de-Sartaj.</b></li> <li>▪ He was <b>executed by Jahangir</b> on charges of helping prince Khusrau.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Hargobind (1594-1644)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He led to the transformation of the Sikh Community into a Military community.</li> <li>▪ He led to the establishment of <b>Akal Takht</b> and fortified the Amritsar City.</li> <li>▪ He <b>waged wars against Jahangir and Shah Jahan.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Guru Har Rai (1630-1661)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He was a man of peace thus devoted most of his life in maintaining peace between the Sikhs and Muslims.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Har Krishan (1656-1664)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He was the youngest guru of all and was given the title of Guru at a very early age.</li> <li>▪ He was summoned by Aurangzeb against anti-islamic blasphemy.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Teg Bahadur (1621-1675)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He <b>founded Anandpur Sahib.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He founded a warrior community known as <b>Khalsa in 1699.</b></li> <li>▪ He introduced a new rite "Pahul".</li> <li>▪ He joined Bahadur Shah's as a noble.</li> <li>▪ He was the last Sikh Guru in human form and he passed the Guruship of Sikhism to the <b>Khanda</b>.</li> </ul>

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