



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 **401st birth anniversary of [Guru Tegh Bahadur \(1621-1675\)](#).**

Who was Guru Teg Bahadur?

- Tegh Bahadur was born in **Amritsar on 21st 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.

Ten Gurus of Sikh Religion

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

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